

Town of Canton
Canton School Committee Minutes of the Meeting of September 12, 2019
Canton High School Distance Learning Lab

- A. Call to Order: The meeting of the School Committee is called to order at 6:30 pm.
Motion to go into Executive Session or the purpose of discussing contractual matters
made by Kristian Merenda. Seconded by Maureen Moran. It was voted by roll call 5-0.

Kristin Mirliani	yea
Reuki Schutt	yea
Nichola Gallagher	yea
Kristian Merenda	yea
Maureen Moran	yea

- B. Open Session: Chair Mirliani called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm
Present are:

Kristin Mirliani
Nichola Gallagher
Reuki Schutt
Maureen Moran
Kristian Merenda

Also Present:

Dr. Jennifer Fischer-Mueller, Superintendent
Barry Nectow, School Business Administrator
Colleen Hutchinson, Recording Secretary
Public
Press
Staff

- C. Public Comments/Questions: None
- D. Superintendent's Report: Superintendent Fischer-Mueller reported on the
following events:

Prior to sharing the Superintendent's Report, Superintendent Fischer-Mueller
invited Assistant Superintendent Kinsella to the podium to speak about her recent
resignation. Ms. Kinsella shared that her family must take precedence at this
time. Ms. Kinsella expressed her gratitude to CPS and thanked the Committee for
the opportunity.

Superintendent Activities Highlights

Opening Day: Superintendent Fischer-Mueller rode the bus with students of the Luce and
JFK elementary schools. Students and parents/guardians were excited for the first day
and "Mr. Paul", the bus driver, was a gracious host.

Updates

Assistant Superintendent Kinsella's Recent Decision: Ms. Patricia Kinsella announced to
the CPS staff yesterday that she is resigning as Assistant Superintendent effective

December 1, 2019. Ms. Kinsella's expected departure from the school system was not until June 30, 2020, but the needs of her family prompted an earlier exit.

CPS is tremendously grateful for Ms. Kinsella's work as Assistant Superintendent. She has played a key role in numerous projects and upgrades to our system, including, for example: enhanced data analysis and visualization, the upgraded district website, the next version of Educator Evaluation, support in the advancement of Early Childhood and the elementary literacy program, facilitating hiring processes, attention to issues of equity and most recently, supporting teachers in the redesign of their classrooms to enhance student learning.

Superintendent Fischer-Mueller will continue to work with Ms. Kinsella to prioritize her work over the next couple of months and collaborate with central office administrators, the Cabinet and School Committee leadership to confirm our next steps with administrative staffing.

CPS is deeply appreciative of Ms. Kinsella's impact on our school system and wishes her all the best in her future endeavors.

Donald E. Rodman:

Mr. Rodman was a long time friend of the Canton Public Schools. He passed away Tuesday, August 27. Don Rodman was the husband of the late Marilyn G. Rodman, who passed away in 2013. Mr. Rodman, Founder and President of Rodman Ford Sales, Inc. was a well-known philanthropist whose generosity and support of the Canton Public Schools were unmatched. We thank the Rodman family for their ongoing support of the Canton Public Schools.

Backpack Donations:

CPS is fortunate to receive backpack and school supply donations each year from both Norwood Hospital and Waterfall Hills at Canton. These backpacks are made available to our families in need, in collaboration with Home/School Interventionists and Principals. The Canton Public School community is most appreciative of the generosity of these community partners.

Indicators of Excellence

Opening of School Professional Development:

Educators participated in a variety of professional development options on the second day of their return to school, September 4. Elementary educators worked in building-based PD with Principals preparing to launch their School Improvement Plans. Galvin Middle School and Canton High School educators worked in department-based PD. The PreK-12 departments (visual arts, performing arts, wellness, technology, and world language) worked with educators in their departments across the district.

Two examples of PreK-12 professional learning that took place include:

- Wellness teachers participated in a day of visioning work with a PD consultant that helped them to envision how our wellness classes can support students to learn the essential skills for success in today's world, such as critical thinking, problem solving, communication, and collaboration.
- Visual arts teachers worked together to prepare for the year with a focus on: *How do we welcome all students into our art spaces and foster their growth in the areas of developing craft/technical skills, expressing a personal vision/voice, and demonstrating originality?*

Opening Day for Educators:

Staff was welcomed back to school on Tuesday, September 3. The day began with a warm welcome from the CHS Link Leaders, music from the summer camp band, a warm-up by Mr. Folan and Brii Connor, followed by presentations from Chief Doody, Lt. Rae, Jody Middleton, School Committee Chair Kristin Mirliani and other CPS administrators. Thank you to Brett McCloud for creating the very popular Canton tumbler mugs that we gave away to the staff.

Green Communities Award: Town Administrator, Charlie Aspinwall informed us that the Department of Energy Resources (DOER) Green Communities Division has approved an award of \$206,681 for projects proposed in the town of Canton. Projects included in the award for the school department include: \$69,262, Hanson Elementary School LED lighting; \$62,467, Dean Luce Elementary School LED lighting; and, \$12,312, Canton High School Weatherization. This was a competitive grant generated by Laura Smead, in collaboration with Brian Lynch, our Facilities Director, and Barry Nectow, School Business Administrator.

Important Dates and Events

Sept. 16	Instrument Rental Night, 6:00-8:30 pm, CHS Cafeteria
Sept. 17	CHS Athletic Night, 7:00 pm, CHS Auditorium
Sept. 18	Grades 2-5 Open House, 6:00 pm, Dean S. Luce School
Sept. 19	GMS Open House, 6:00 pm, GMS
Sept. 24	CHS Open House, 6:30 pm, CHS
Sept. 26	School Committee Meeting, 7:00 pm, DLL
Sept. 30	No School, Rosh Hashanah

E. New Business

1. Student Representative Introductions: Principal Folan welcomed and introduced the new School Committee Student Representatives for the 2019-2020 school year, Fatimah Alyaquob, Corinne Stevens and Michael Dorcelus. Mr. Folan shared a brief bio of each student including their extracurricular interests and activities. Ms. Fatimah Alyaquob spoke about her involvement as a Link Leader and the changes she suggested for transfer student orientation. Fatimah was pleased to have a voice in making changes and worked closely with Ms. Cavanaugh and Ms. Sullivan to implement these changes.
2. New Administrative Staff Introductions: Ms. Debbie Rooney introduced Ms. Sara Donovan as the new PreK-5 STEM Coordinator. Ms. Donovan has 24 years of teaching experience and previously worked as an Instructional Technology Teacher at GMS as well as an elementary teacher in grades 2,3 & 5. Principal Folan welcomed and introduced Mr. Josh Fogel and Ms. Kelly Cavanaugh as the new CHS Assistant Principals. Mr. Fogel previously worked at Mansfield High School as Assistant Principal. Ms. Kelly Cavanaugh changed position from Dean of Students to Assistant Principal. Ms. Julie Fogel is the new CHS Team, she was unable to attend due to illness. Ms. Fogel previously worked as the CPS Out of District Coordinator.
3. Summer Professional Development: Ms. Rooney shared a summary of this summer's Professional Development offerings. There were eight options for PD offered over the summer, five sessions were taught by CPS educators and sixty staff members participated in all. Childcare was offered to participants for the first time. Topics included: Learning Environments, Elementary Literacy PD and STEAM PD. Teacher feedback was very positive. Ms. Bridget Wade and Ms. Nancy Durang talked highly of their PD experience this summer. they were glad to have a choice in PD, and they are excited about the new literacy approach.
4. Superintendent Evaluation: School Committee members presented Superintendent Fischer-Mueller's evaluation. The Superintendent was evaluated based on four standards and her ratings were: Instructional Leadership - exemplary, Management & Operations - exemplary, Family and Community Engagement - proficient, & Forming a Professional Culture - exemplary. The Superintendent's overall rating was exemplary.
5. Enrollment: Mr. Nectow updated the School Committee on the enrollment numbers throughout the district. The district overall is +27 students. GMS saw the biggest increase this year with +45 students. Brief discussion as to why enrollment dropped in grade nine, members agreed it was likely due to private school entry. Another question as to why an increase in enrollment in grade twelve. Unclear why this was. The complete Enrollment Analysis document may be found on the website under the School Committee tab.
6. FY19 Quarterly Financial Report: Mr. Nectow presented the FY19 fourth-quarter financial report. Mr. Nectow reported that overall the district finished the year in good shape and is in a good position to guard against unforeseen expenses. For exact numbers please see the complete FY19 4th Quarter report on the School

Committee webpage. The district qualified for Circuit Breaker Extraordinary Relief and received \$439,170. The use of revolving funds offsets in FY19 was \$2,010,654. Members asked for a walkthrough of the Revolving Accounts at an upcoming meeting. Correction noted on page three of the report, the last sentence of revolving accounts paragraph should read \$2,481,252, not \$22,481,252. Grant money received for FY 19 totaled \$1,277,000, the total grant spending for FY19 was \$1,234,827.

7. Request for a Vote of Approval for Disposal of Surplus Property: Mr. Nectow requested approval to dispose of surplus material.

Move to approve the disposal of surplus Journeys material and CHS

History material: Reuki Schutt

Second: Nichola Gallagher

Vote: 5-0

- F. Old Business: None

- G. Business Manager's Report: Mr. Nectow reported that the work on the JFK basketball courts began this week. He also reported that he has kicked off the Capital and Operating budgets and hopes to have them submitted to the town by December 31, 2019. Permanent bus passes will go out to families tomorrow, the late bus will start on Monday (M, W, Thu).

- H. Routine Matters:

1. Approve Minutes dated August 22, 2019

Move: Reuki Schutt

Second: Nichola Gallagher

Vote: 5-0

2. Approve Executive Minutes dated August 22, 2019.

Move: Reuki Schutt

Second: Nichola Gallagher

Vote: 5-0

3. Approve Minutes dated August 30, 2019

Motion: Reuki Schutt

Second: Nichola Gallagher

Vote: 5-0

4. Approve warrant dated September 20, 2019

Move: Reuki Schutt

Second: Nichola Gallagher

Vote: 5-0

- I. Sub-Committee Reports

1. CPC - Nichola Gallagher - Met recently with Superintendent Fischer-Mueller, Kristen Phelps, Barry Nectow and Reuki Schutt to discuss specific goals.

2. BRC - Kristian Merenda Wellness - Meeting next week.
3. Wellness- Maureen Moran - Met recently with Ryan Gordy and Elizabeth Nightingale and scheduled this year's quarterly wellness subcommittee meetings.
4. Finance - Reuki Schutt/Maureen Moran - Nothing to report at this time, will be scheduling upcoming meetings soon.
5. Policy - Kristin Mirliani – Nothing to report, meeting tomorrow.
6. PRHC – Nichola Gallagher - They have chosen the new designer and had the first site visit last night.

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Chair Mirliani proposed adding a new subcommittee to review possible changes to the district calendar with regard to holidays and school start dates. Ms. Maureen Moran will oversee this new subcommittee.

- J. Future Business: Next School Committee Meeting will be held Thursday, September 26, 2019 @ 7:00 in the Distance Learning Lab at CHS.
- K. Other Business: No report
- L. Adjournment: Reuki Schutt motioned to close Open Session at 8:28 pm. Nichola Gallagher seconded. It was voted 5-0.

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5 yeas 0 nays