

Town of Canton
Canton School Committee Minutes of the Meeting of September 17, 2020
Remote Meeting Zoom Webinar

- A. **Call to Order** The meeting of the School Committee is called to order at 7:00 pm by Chair Mirliani via a roll call vote. A Roll call vote of 5-0 opened the meeting. Executive Session was canceled this evening.

Kristin Mirliani	yea
Nichola Gallagher	yea
Kristian Merenda	yea
Maureen Moran	yea
Charles Rae	yea

Also Remotely Present:

Dr. Jennifer Fischer-Mueller, Superintendent
Derek Folan, Assistant Superintendent
Barry Nectow, School Business Administrator
Colleen Hutchinson, Recording Secretary
Debbie Rooney, Director of Teaching and Learning
Dianna Mullen, Director of Student Services
Julie Shore, Director of Technology and Digital Learning
Cindy Bonner, Public Health Nurse
Barbara Reardon, Dept. of Public Health Director
Dr. Julie Goodman, Chair, Canton Board of Health
Dave Turcotte, Principal, Canton High School
Sarah Shannon, Principal, GMS
David Brauninger, Principal, Hansen School
Emily DiDonna, Principal, JFK
Yeshi Lamour, Principal, Luce

B. **New Business**

1. Policy Review: Superintendent Fischer-Mueller presented policy EBCFA - Face Coverings, for a 1st read. The proposed policy requires all staff to wear masks covering the nose and mouth. Students in grades K-12 are required to wear masks when on school property, preschool students are strongly encouraged to wear masks. The policy also specifies the type of masks, 2-3 layers. Gaitors, bandanas, masks with vents, and masks that are in violation of the district dress code are not appropriate for the school setting. There was a lengthy discussion about the type of masks, how the district plans to enforce the mask policy and mask exemptions. Members of the Canton Board of Health spoke to the safety reasons for the 2-3 layer mask requirement and in support of the policy. Mr. Rae raised concern with identifying the type of mask due to contradictory information about the efficacy of masks. A request was also made to have an end time to rescind the policy.

Motion to approve policy EBCFA - Face Coverings - with the amended language adding that the School Committee intends to revisit the policy at the end of the calendar year. The policy will remain active until such time as this meeting takes place: Nichola Gallagher

Second: Kristian Merenda

Roll Call Vote: 4-1

Kristin Mirliani	yea
Kristian Merenda	yea
Maureen Moran	yea
Chuck Rae	nay
Nichola Gallagher	yea

Superintendent Fischer-Mueller presented policies **Files EBC Supplemental (emergency plans), IKF (graduation requirements), JCA (assignment of students to school), ID (school day), IHBHE (remote learning), and EEAEC (student conduct on the school bus)** as a second read. There was a lengthy discussion about the words equal and equitable, specific to policy EBC supplemental. The discussion centered around language of ensuring the district is meeting the needs of all students and supporting every child's opportunity vs. distributing resources equally. A request was made to state the names of the policies on agendas in addition to the file index letters. Members requested to bring these policies back for a third read due to the volume of the content in the above policies.

2. HVAC Review: Mr. Barry Nectow presented and reviewed the recommendations in the HVAC equipment and air quality study. The reports were done in all 6 buildings and suggest that all buildings are safe and well maintained and include a series of recommendations. Based on the recommendations, the following actions were agreed upon by the joint labor management committee: All Univentilators throughout the district will be cleaned. All HVAC equipment will be set to maximize fresh air intake in buildings; the setting is commonly referred to as economizer mode. Filters for all HVAC and exhaust equipment will be changed 4 times a year or more if needed. Filters will be upgraded to the best filters available that will not adversely impact the operation of equipment. Exhaust systems will be running 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. HVAC equipment will run 24 hours a day, Monday-Friday and while cleaning the buildings on weekend; the equipment will be turned on 2 hours prior to school occupancy on Monday morning. During the school day and while cleaning on Wednesday and on weekends, windows will be open to allow for maximizing fresh air in buildings Air quality testing will be completed every other month, beginning in November 2020, and issues raised will be addressed immediately. Spaces without mechanical air circulation will be closed down. Spaces with mechanical air circulation equipment and without windows will receive an air purifier; all spaces occupied by nurses will receive an air purifier. All spaces where "close contact" with students take place will receive an air purifier. All rooms occupied by students and staff will receive an air purifier prior to the beginning of the heating season, approximately October 15. 100 air purifiers were ordered but are delayed. Contingency plans are being worked on if the shipment is not in by Sept. 29.

The complete report along with the recommendations can be found on the district website.

C. Unfinished Business

1. School Reopening Discussion: Superintendent Fischer-Mueller shared the DPH COVID-19 Metrics and Dashboard. Canton is currently in the green. Superintendent Fischer-Mueller shared pictures of staff members at work during the first week of school. Every Wednesday is an early release; the first half of the day is synchronous learning and the second half is asynchronous. Staff will be collaborating and buildings will be cleaned. The week of Sept. 21-25, K, Grade 6, Grade 9, and

students with special circumstances in Category 1 will be in person. Grade 9, Cohort A will be in on Monday and Wednesday, Cohort B will be in on Thursday and Friday. All other grades will be remote this week. Bus transportation will be available for these grades this week. The week of 9/29, all students will be in the hybrid model.

There was a reminder that all students will be required to complete a self screener.

The commitment to creating the conditions for learning include safety, teaching and learning, social-emotional supports, structural supports for students, and technology and digital learning systems.

Mr. Nectow reviewed the actual and projected COVID-19 related costs. The COVID related staffing costs are \$1,700,000. The total COVID related costs are \$4,594,981. Expense variables being watched are utilities, transportation, and tuition. There is a \$2,000,000 shortfall. The district is working with the Town Finance Director on a proposal on how to cover the shortfall. The FY20 budget savings are put into cash which is available through appropriation. Mr. Nectow will present his quarterly report with specific details at an upcoming meeting. Ms. Shore indicated there will likely be future savings in the Capital budget due to the need for the district to jump to a 1:1 district this year due to the pandemic. Superintendent Fischer-Mueller explained that Educational Assistants are being used to support teachers and classrooms while in the Hybrid Model. There was a request for more RLP staffing information.

The first survey of the year will be sent on October 9th for staff, students, and families. The survey will be conducted based on the conditions for learning shared above.

Elementary, Middle, and High school hybrid schedules were shared by Principals.

Elementary School Principals shared that there will be collaboration across all three schools. There will be an intentional focus on social emotional learning, mask and movement breaks, transition times for handwashing, academic flex block/what I need (WIN) blocks to be used for academic enrichment/intervention, additional content focus (i.e. science), or outdoor learning. Wednesdays will focus on science and social studies. Lunch and recess will be staggered. Time on learning questions was raised and will continue to be monitored and discussed.

Principal Shannon, GMS, shared that the schedule created had to accommodate both the RLP and the Continuum. Ms. Shannon shared objectives that included, rigor, movement breaks, extra time for movement in the building while adhering to social distancing, the balance of time for academics, screen time, specials, and social emotional well being. Each academic block is 60 minutes. Holding all 7 periods in one day was an earlier option. However, after further investigation, it was determined that the academic instruction time would end up being about 30 minutes. Ms. Shannon explained that this was not enough time to get into rigorous instruction. The longer, 60 minute block, allows for more project based learning. Recess was incorporated into the schedule. The scheduling committee added a community block to the schedule. This block is designed to be an SEL focus and community building. This block also allows for team building, interdisciplinary projects, assemblies, google drive work, homework assignments, and more. The work assigned during the on demand learning block is the work that needs to be done prior to and/or

following direct instruction with a teacher. This time is also used for students to attend band/chorus/orchestra. This will be an important time during the day for students to do work. Ms. Shannon explained that this schedule is a starting point and there is room for change. Ms. Shannon explained that as things shift, the schedule can be adjusted. There was a lengthy discussion about content hours in the 5 core subject areas and staffing for the on demand learning blocks. Ms. Shannon explained that the on demand learning block is designed to be independent work, but there will be EA's and other adults available to ask questions. Members requested that the district continue to increase opportunities for content area instructional hours. There was also a discussion about the GMS math curriculum/pre-algebra. Concern was raised with regard to the short notice parents were given about the change. Ms. Shannon explained that the curriculum is much the same and students will be learning the same standards as the previous pre-algebra math and will be as equally prepared for algebra 1.

Principal Turcotte shared that he held a webinar last week where he shared the details of the CHS schedule. The schedule was formed with the help of a working group. The beliefs and values that helped to create the schedule were the health and safety of all, the depth and breadth of CHS instructional offerings while creating equitable experiences for students on the Remote Learning Pathway and the Continuum and fostering connections to student's well being. The schedule Mr. Turcotte presented allows for the preservation of course offerings, for the transitions that would be needed for cohorts to travel safely throughout the building, every class to meet every day, students in the building each morning, and for CHS to pivot if/when needed between hybrid and remote. Connections with students will be a priority. Adjustments will be made as needed and the focus will be on getting more children in the building for longer periods. Instructional hours will continue to be monitored and reviewed.

The full presentation and PowerPoint for tonight's presentation is on the School Committee webpage under Meetings/Agendas/Minutes.

D. Public Comment

Maryann Sapanara	Questions about the HVAC report. Will follow up with Mr. Nectow.
Mary Ellis	School Instruction and Learning Hours. Asked why the hours of instruction for her 7th grader are only 4.2 and 4.75 a day which isn't in compliance with the DESE requirement of 5.5 hours a day.
Catherine Hoberg	Requested update on MOU, enrollment, calendar, staffing, GMS schedules, instructional hours and technology topics. Requested not use acronyms i.e. SEL during presentations.

E. Routine Matters

1. Approve Executive Minutes dated September 10, 2020

Move: Nichola Gallagher

Second: Kristian Merenda

Roll Call Vote: 5-0

2. Approve Executive Minutes dated September 10, 2020

Move: Nichola Gallagher

Second: Kristian Merenda

Roll Call Vote: 5-0

3. The announcement that the AP and Food Service warrants dated September 18, 2020, have been approved.

F. Sub-Committee Reports

1. CCPC - Kristin Mirliani - meeting next week
2. BRC - Chuck Rae - meeting in mid-October.
3. Wellness- Chuck Rae - nothing new to report
4. Finance - Maureen Moran/Nichola Gallagher - nothing new to report
5. Policy - Kristian Merenda – nothing new to report
6. PRHC – Nichola Gallagher - nothing new to report

- G. Future Business** Next School Committee Meeting will be held Thursday, October 1, 2020, at 7:00 pm. May put another meeting on the calendar for next week.

H. Other Business

- I. Adjournment** Nichola Gallagher motioned to close Open Session at 10:52 pm. Kristian Merenda seconded. It was voted by a roll call vote 5-0.

Kristin Mirliani	yea
Kristian Merenda	yea
Maureen Moran	yea
Nichola Gallagher	yea
Chuck Rae	yea