

Town of Canton
Canton School Committee Minutes of the Meeting of September 2, 2021
Canton High School Distance Learning Lab

Members of the public were also able to view a live stream of the meeting via
<http://cantoncommunitytv.org/>

- A. Call to Order: The meeting of the School Committee is called to order at 6:06 pm. Motion to go into Executive Session to conduct strategy around contract negotiations with nonunion personnel - Interim Assistant Superintendent, and strategy with respect to collective bargaining - CTA and Hansen School Nurse made by Nichola Gallagher. Seconded by Maureen Moran. It was voted by roll call a 4-0.

Kristian Merenda	yea
Nichola Gallagher	yea
Maureen Moran	yea
Kendall O'Halloran	yea

- B. Open Session: Chair Merenda called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm.

Present are:

Kristian Merenda
Nichola Gallagher
Maureen Moran
Kendall O'Halloran

Also Present:

Derek Folan, Assistant Superintendent
Colleen Hutchinson, Recording Secretary
Public
Press
Staff

- C. New Business Items: *Chair Merenda pulled the following two new business items out of order from the agenda to accommodate guests and the flow of the meeting.*

1. Acknowledgement of Dr. Jennifer Fischer-Mueller: Interim Superintendent Folan, members of the School Committee, and the community recognized and thanked Dr. Jennifer Fischer-Mueller for her service to CPS. Senator Timilty read a citation from both the House of Representatives and the Senate. BOS Chair, Mike Loughran, read a citation. Members of the CTA, past and present, expressed their thanks. Former School Committee members expressed their appreciation for the Dr. Fischer-Mueller accomplishments on behalf of the school community.
2. School Committee Member Replacement: In accordance with policy BBBE Chair Merenda discussed strategy with respect to an unexpired term fulfillment. Member Chuck Rae resigned from the Committee on August 25, 2021, for personal reasons. Ms. Merenda read a statement from Mr. Rae. The Committee agreed there was a need to fill the vacancy. This seat would be an interim seat until April. The Committee will work jointly with the Select Board to review applicants and appoint a new member. A posting will be in the Canton Citizen in the coming weeks. It was agreed that Ms. Merenda and Ms. Gallagher will be the members of the task force to work with the Select Board.

D. Superintendent's Report

Interim Superintendent Highlights

First Day of School: Thanks to the hard work and preparation of principals, administrators and staff, Day 1 went so smoothly and it allowed everyone to concentrate on building relationships and rebuilding community in our schools. Once our Kindergarten and preschool students start next week, CPS will have 3,134 students in our buildings.

Grade 9 Orientation: This event took place on August 25. Link Leaders and Educators' efforts offered a warm welcome and built a sense of belonging for the new students from the start.

Grade 6, 7 and 8 Tour Nights & K-1 Open Houses: Grade 6, 7 and 8 had an opportunity to meet staff, move throughout the building and open their lockers. K-1 Open Houses were well attended.

Welcome to CPS: On Monday, August 31, staff returned to work in the buildings. Special thanks to School Committee Chair Kristian Merenda who delivered poignant and heartfelt remarks to the staff. Mr. Folan launched our #ChampionsofExcellence theme and the important tagline: Creating a Culture of Achievement, Equity, Inspiration and Joy. The week prior, a comprehensive educator orientation was held for two days. Thank you to Debbie Rooney and Julie Shore for coordinating the event, and for School Committee Kendall O'Halloran for offering a welcome to our new staff.

CAASA Backpacks: The Canton Alliance Against Substance Abuse (CAASA) and the CHS Student Wellness Advisory Group (SWAG) partnered last spring to work on a Backpack Project for 4th and 5th graders across the District. Funded through grant money allocated to CAASA and coordinated by SWAG, the project came to fruition just in time for the start of school.

Updates

Vaccine Clinics and Home Self Screener Message: A big thank you to Lauren Pushard for coordinating the August 17th Vaccine Clinic where 40 people attended and were vaccinated. The 2nd dose clinic will be held on September 9th from 4:00-7:00 in the Rodman gym.

More information will be forthcoming regarding testing in schools. Please see [this letter](#) Ms. Pushard sent to families this week.

Indicators of Excellence

Canton Summer Music Program: This program ran for one week, August 16-20, and was offered to 5th-9th grade students. This year marked year twelve of the annual program. There were 42 students and 24 mentors who participated in the program.

Adult Program Garden: Students and staff of the 18-22 year old program planted a garden on the CHS campus this year. A huge thank you to Paul Fitzgerald, CHS Adjustment Counselor,

who built the planters, and to Shanna Belenky, Christine Daly, and their students who harvested and maintained the garden.

SPARK Program: Thank you to Ms. Heidi Olsen for her work in bringing this innovative, virtual after-school program to Canton. The SPARK program, developed and coordinated by the Goethe Institut and UMASS/Boston, promotes world language learning and interdisciplinary studies (STEM) in our elementary and middle schools. This program is free of charge for Canton elementary and middle school students and is sponsored by the Goethe Institut and the Association of Teachers of German (AATG). Teams of two UMASS/Boston German undergraduate students will be teaching students via Zoom.

Important Dates and Events

Sept. 2	School Committee Meeting, Canton High School, DLL, 7:00 pm
Sept. 6	No School, Labor Day
Sept. 6-10	Substitute Appreciation Week
Sept. 7	No School, Rosh Hashanah
Sept. 8	First Day of School, Kindergarten
Sept. 13	First Day of School, PreK
Sept. 14	Rob Barker Retirement Acknowledgment at BOS, former School Committee Member, Nichola Gallagher attending.

E. **New Business Items:**

1. **Introduce New Administrators:** Interim Superintendent Folan and members of the Administrative team introduced new CPS Administrators.
2. **Hansen School Nurse:** Interim Superintendent Folan requested a vote of approval for the Hansen School Nurse appointment per policy BBA-E (3).
Move to appoint Ms. Bethany Glennon as the Hansen School Nurse:
Nichola Gallagher
Second: Maureen Moran
Vote: 4-0
3. **Interim Assistant Superintendent Appointment:** Interim Superintendent Folan presented Ms. Sarah Shannon as his recommendation for the Interim Assistant Superintendent. Mr. Folan discussed Ms. Shannon's professional knowledge and experience which make her a fit for this leadership position. Mr. Folan explained that Ms. Shannon would continue 2 days per week at the GMS. Mr. Folan suggested that Dr. Mike Green fills in as Interim Principal at GMS. Ms. Moran outlined her reasons, as required by law, in declining to support Mr. Folan's recommendation: the decision to eliminate direct, teacher-led instruction of pre-algebra in the seventh grade at the beginning of the 2020-2021 school year; decisions about time on learning in core classes last year; the time in last year's schedule devoted to on-demand learning (ODL) and community

block; the staffing of on-demand learning and students' access to teachers during this time; and the movement to project-based learning (PBL) without much education of parents and School Committee, or community buy-in.

Move to appoint Ms. Sarah Shannon as the Interim Assistant

Superintendent: Nichola Gallagher

Second: Kendall O'Halloran

Roll Call Vote: 3-1

Maureen Moran nay

Nichola Gallagher yea

Kendall O'Halloran yea

Kristian Merenda yea

Motion passed by a majority vote

4. District Goal and Action Plans: Interim Superintendent Folan presented the 2021-2022 District Action Plans for review. The CPS Strategic Framework was shared. Individual district goals, goal statements, and action plans were shared. The complete report can be found on the School Committee webpage under the Meetings/Agenda/Minutes. Mr. Folan explained that these goals feed into the School Improvement Plans. Ms. Moran requested that the word *possible* be added to the Equity Audit as we do not know the cost.

Move to approve the District Goals and Action Plans: Nichola Gallagher

Second: Maureen Moran

Vote: 4-0

5. Review of 2021-2022 District Appendix: Interim Superintendent Folan, Ms. Julie Shore, and Ms. Dianna Mullen reviewed revisions to the 2021-2022 District Appendix, following a review by the District's Student Services Attorney. Ms. Mullen explained that policies are embedded in the appendix and that the Appendix is aligned with MA regulations and law. The student Service Attorney, Cat Lyons, vetted all revisions. Most revisions were formatting and flow-related. Director of Technology, Ms. Julie Shore, discussed and gave details on the following new technology guidelines and documents for families: School Issued Devices Agreement, Optional Repair, and Loss Coverage, and the Device Guidelines & Procedures. The optional loss coverage would be \$30/year for families. All repairs would be done in-house. If families chose not to opt-in, they would be responsible for repairs/replacement if needed. Each of these documents can be found on the School Committee webpage under the Meetings/Agenda/Minutes.

Move to approve the 2021-2022 District Appendix with revisions: Nichola Gallagher

Second: Maureen Moran

Vote: 4-0

6. Policy Review: Interim Superintendent Folan, Chair Merenda, and Ms. Kendall O'Halloran presented the following policies for review.

- EBCFA - Face Coverings - Mr. Folan discussed updates which include the description of the type of masks in paragraph 3 and the notation that the next review of this policy will be on October 7.

Move to approve EBCFA: Nichola Gallagher

Second: Maureen Moran

Vote: 4-0

- BDFA - School Councils - Chair Merenda explained that School Committee reviews the School Improvement Plans, but the approval lies with the Superintendent. Handbooks also require review by School Committee and approval by the Superintendent.

Move to approve the BDFA with minor grammatical edits: Nichola Gallagher
Second: Maureen Moran
Vote: 4-0

- BA - School Committee Operational Goals
- BAA - Evaluation Of School Committee Operational Procedures
- BB - School Committee Legal Status
- BBA-E - School Committee Powers And Duties
- BBA - School Committee Powers And Duties

Move to waive the 1st read on the following policies BA, BAA, BB, BBA, BBA-E: Nichola Gallagher
Second: Maureen Moran
Vote: 4-0
Move to approve policies BA, BAA, BB, BBA, BBA-E: Nichola Gallagher
Second: Maureen Moran
Vote: 4-0

F. Public Comment: None

G. Director of Finance and Operations Report: None

H. Teaching and Learning Report: Director of Teaching and Learning, Ms. Deborah Rooney shared teaching and learning updates that included: Summer Curriculum Projects, Math Program Review, CHS and GMS History, CHS World Language, CHS English Writing, CHS Visual Arts, GMS, and Elementary Performing Arts, GMS PBL Unit development. The complete report can be found on the School Committee webpage under the Meetings/Agenda/Minutes.

I. Consent Agenda

Motion to approve the consent agenda as presented: Nichola Gallagher
Seconded: Kendall O'Halloran

The Consent Agenda passed unanimously.

The following items were included in the Consent Agenda.

Regular Session Minutes: July 8, 2021, July 16, 2021, Workshop Minutes of July 16, 2021, July 21, 2021
Executive Session Minutes: July 8, 2021, July 16, 2021,
AP and Food Service Warrants: August 27, 2021

J. Sub-Committee, Task Force, and Liaison Post Updates

Chair Merenda reviewed a document titled SC Sub Committee and Liaison Assignments. This document outlines the roles and responsibilities of each committee and the stakeholder names for such. The complete document can be found on the School Committee webpage under the Meetings/Agenda/Minutes.

- A new task force named Content and Communications will be spearheaded by Ms. Kendall O'Halloran.
- Chair Merenda explained that there are 2 actual subcommittees: Policy and Finance

- Negotiations are run similar to the above subcommittees, however only meet as contracts are scheduled to be renewed.
- Advisory committees and task forces are for one-time-specific tasks
- Liaison assignments are appointments to joint commissions with the Town, where a member of the Committee is a voting member.
- Mr. Stephen Marshall has been assigned to the Sustainability Committee.
- Ms. Moran will serve at the Liaison for CAPT, CAPE, CPACSS, and School Councils.
- Ms. Gallagher will be the MASC steward
- District Planning and Evaluation design will be overseen by Chair Merenda and Ms. Gallagher.

1. Finance - Nichola Gallagher/Maureen Moran - meeting next Tuesday to discuss ESSER funds. A survey went out to families and these results will be reviewed at the upcoming meeting.
2. BRC - new member to be named
3. Wellness - new member to be named

K. Other Business: The language on the School Committee website has been updated. Chair Merenda encouraged the community to check it out.

L. Future Business: Next School Committee meeting will be held Thursday, September 23, 2021, @ 7:00 in the Distance Learning Lab at CHS.

M. Adjournment: Nichola Gallagher motioned to close the Open Session at 10:31 pm. Kendall O'Halloran seconded. It was voted 4-0.

4 yeas 0 nays

Documents Used During the Meeting:

1. Superintendent's Report dated September 2, 2021
2. 2021-2022 District Goals and Action Plans
3. CPS Goals Slide Deck
4. 2021-2022 District Appendix
5. School Issued Device Agreement
6. Optional Repair and Loss Accidental Coverage
7. CPS Device Guidelines and Procedures
8. Policies: EBCFA, BDFA, BA, BAA, BB, BBA-E, BBA
9. Teaching and Learning Update for SC 9/2/2021
10. SC Subcommittee and Liaison Assignments