



Canton School Committee
Open Meeting Minutes
Thursday, September 22, 2022

- A. Call to Order:** Chair Kristian Merenda called for a motion to convene the School Committee meeting. Motion to go into Executive Session made by Laura Arboleda for the purpose of discussing strategy with respect to collective bargaining, Unit A and Unit E, seconded by Kendall O'Halloran. Chair Merenda declared that an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the public body. Will return to Open Session. It was voted by roll call 3-0.

Kristian Merenda	yea
Kendall O'Halloran	yea
Laura Arboleda	yea
Maureen Moran	yea (Remotely Via Zoom, arrived at 5:35 pm, left at 6:00 pm)
3	yeas
0	nay

Absent:

Nichola Gallagher

- B. Open Session:** Chair Kristian Merenda called for a motion to reconvene the Open Session School Committee Meeting at 6:07 pm. Motion was made by Kendall O'Halloran; seconded by Laura Arboleda.

Also Present:

Derek Folan, Superintendent
Sarah Shannon, Assistant Superintendent
Joanne Campbell, Recording Secretary
Danielle Kay, Student Services
Yeshi Lamour, Luce Principal

Absent:

Stephen Marshall, Director of Finance and Operations
Nichola Gallagher
Maureen Moran

Chair Merenda called for a moment of silence for former School Committee member and middle school English teacher, Michael C. Loughrin, a dedicated member of the Canton community who recently passed away.

- C. Superintendent's Report:** Superintendent Folan presented the following District highlights:

Introduction of Ms. Danielle Kay as the Luce Team Chair Administrator. Luce Principal, Yeshi Lamour, shared some highlights of Ms. Kay's background.

9/11 Remembrance: The Canton Public Schools conducted a 9/11 remembrance during the school day Friday, September 9. Specifically, we remember Canton's Mike Uliano, who died in the 9/11 attacks and whose football jersey hangs in the CHS hallway.

CHS Assembly: CHS hosted a CAASA-sponsored event with Chris Herren for all 11th and 12th-grade students on Tuesday this week. Chris shared his story of substance abuse and addiction, as well as some direct and candid discussions about bullying, depression, and the importance of looking after each other.

Access the link to his website [here](#) to learn more of his story.

Hispanic Heritage Month: Hispanic Heritage Month is observed annually from September 15 to October 15. This year's theme is "Inclusivity for a Stronger Nation."

Updates

Vaccine & Flu Clinics: The Canton Board of Health is offering Bivalent Booster & Flu Vaccination Clinics on Saturday, October 15, 2022, 9:00 am – 1:00 pm at the Galvin Middle School (GMS) Cafeteria & Saturday, October 22, 2022, 9:00 am – 1:00 pm at the Canton High School Cafeteria.

Eligibility Requirements Pfizer, COVID-19 Vaccine, Bivalent is authorized for use in individuals 12 years of age and older as a single booster dose administered at least 2 months after either:

- completion of primary vaccination with any authorized or approved monovalent COVID19 vaccine, or;
- receipt of the most recent booster dose with any authorized or approved monovalent COVID-19 vaccine.

Non High Dose Quadrivalent Flu Vaccine is available to individuals 3-years of age and older. Individuals may receive both vaccines on October 15 & 22. Pre-registration is required.

<https://home.color.com/vaccine/register/canton>

Indicators of Excellence

CHS Bleachers: Mr. Folan thanked CHS Athletics Director Danny Erickson, CPS Facilities Director Brian Lynch, Director of Finance and Operations Stephen Marshall, Building Renovation Committee Chair Bob McCarthy, and Town of Canton Building Inspector Ed Walsh for their commitment, attention, design, and strategy for getting the bleachers done for Friday night's football game.

Special thanks to the School Committee, the Select Board, the Building Renovation Committee, and the Town admin team for the financial support and for navigating the variables of construction.

National Arts in Education Week: CPS students and staff have been busy creating works of art across the District in celebration of National Arts in Education week.

Norfolk County District Attorney Event: On September 14, Nurse Leader Lauren Pushard, Counseling Director Dr. Meredith Chamberland and I attended the Norfolk County District Attorney's Office Grants and Programming event. Dr. Dan Muse, Canton's school doctor, presented the Handle with Care program that we are adopting and implementing with the Canton Police Department.

BU Vaping Workshop: CPS participated in ground-breaking research funded by the American Heart Association to Boston University. Boston University is seeking to partner with school districts to implement a pilot trial for vaping. Mr. Folan, CHS Principal Jeff Sperling, GMS Principal Jon Mulhern, Nurse Leader Lauren Pushard, Wellness Coordinator Adam Hughes, and our School Resource Officers attended an information session to learn more about BU's pilot trial for cessation intervention directed toward high school youth.

Important Dates and Events

Sept. 26	No School, Rosh Hashanah
Oct. 5	No School, Yom Kippur
Oct. 6	School Committee Meeting, CHS DLL, 6:00 pm
Oct. 10	No School, Columbus Day
Oct. 20	School Committee Meeting, CHS DLL, 6:00 pm
Oct. 21	Early Release, PreK-12, Professional Development

D. Teaching and Learning Report: Assistant Superintendent Sarah Shannon shared information about Professional Learning Councils (PLC) and the new Learning Council Catalog. This revised edition captures a new philosophy of the council with input from staff and includes expanded thinking and practices to empower professional development. The theme for 2022-23 is “getting to high quality teaching and adult learning.” The PLC hopes to remove barriers for participation and offer more hands-on learning and hopes to include teacher led classes. Success will be measured with exit surveys and data collection. Information can be found on the website under staff-professional learning.

E. New Business:

1. **Updated COVID Protocols:** Nurse Leader Pushard reviewed updated COVID Protocols and requested a vote of approval for the updates. These include:
 - i. Discontinuing disbursement of at home rapid tests;
 - ii. discontinuing pool testing;
 - iii. quarantining for exposure with no symptoms will be discontinued; however, masking for 6-10 days after exposure will continue to be required;
 - iv. Masking will still be required in the Nurses’ Office;
 - v. Covid Dashboard will remain active, and testing sites can be found on the website.

Chair Merenda asked for a motion to adopt the updated COVID Protocols. Kendall O’Halloran made the motion and Laura Arboleda seconded. It was voted:

Kristian Merenda	yea
Kendall O’Halloran	yea
Laura Arboleda	yea

3	yeas	0	nay
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The Updated COVID Protocol was approved by a vote of 3-0.

2. **Transportation Update:** Superintendent Folan provided a transportation update stating that the adjustments made have improved, but problem areas are still pronounced and are unacceptable. Administrators continue to make changes, particularly for the St. John’s routes, C5 and C19. Mr. Folan offered his apologies for these issues. An email updating instituted as well as proposed changes to bus transportation is expected to go to the community on Friday, September 23rd. There was discussion about the bus company, First Student’s, role in resolving these issues. School Committee members were troubled by the inconsistency and complacency of the bus company and suggested an executive escalation at First Student to address a seeming failure of their

standard operating procedures and best practices. Chair Merenda asked to see First Student's guidelines to gain a better understanding of why these breakdowns are happening. Superintendent Folan will do the groundwork and return to the committee with an update.

3. **Superintendent Goals:** Superintendent Folan introduced his goals for the 2022-2023 school year, asking for a vote of approval for the following goals:

1. Increase the percent of students scoring in the meeting or Exceeding achievement range by 5% in an effort to get back to pre-COVID scores.
2. Conduct an analysis of its organizational structure, specifically around Human Resources, and develop a plan for restructuring and improvement.
3. The Superintendent will attend all sessions and complete all assignments for the New Superintendent Induction Program for Year 2. This will include monitoring for reaching goals from weekly meetings with experienced mentors and coaches.

Mr. Folan will report his action items to the committee and expects to bring updates to the School Committee throughout the year.

Chair Merenda called for a motion to approve the Superintendent Goals as presented. Laura Arboleda made the motion and Kendall O'Halloran seconded the motion.

It was voted:

Kristian Merenda	yea
Kendall O'Halloran	yea
Laura Arboleda	yea

3 yeas 0 nay

The 2022-23 Superintendent Goals were approved by a vote of 3-0.

4. **School Committee Operating Protocols:** Chair Merenda presented the School Committee Operating Protocols. This document offers a concise and complete framework for School Committee members to use as a reference. It can be used as a part of the onboarding process and as a resource for following procedure. It was noted that these protocols are not policy, but rather a guide for members to review.

Chair Merenda called for a motion to approve the July 18, 2022 version of the School Committee Operating Protocols as presented. Kendall O'Halloran made the motion and Laura Arboleda seconded.

It was voted:

Kristian Merenda	yea
Kendall O'Halloran	yea
Laura Arboleda	yea

3 yeas 0 nay

The School Committee Operating Protocols were approved by a vote of 3-0.

5. **Policy Section C 1st Read:** Vice Chair O'Halloran, Ms. Arboleda and Superintendent Folan presented Policy Section C for a 1st read to allow the committee the opportunity to hear and make suggestions regarding the Superintendent role. Minimal changes were made to the older version:

- i. the Superintendent job description was removed in favor of adding it to the CPS job manual;
- ii. standardizing language to parallel entire manual

The Committee agreed to move it to a second read.

F. Public Comment: Members of the community spoke of challenging personal experiences with continued tardy bus operations and concerns about the lack of communication and follow-up.

Theresa Wilson-in person
Jen Langell-in person
Radoslava Ivanova-virtual
Concerns included:

1. naming these concerns as a bus crisis, seeing no sense of priority, and expectations of when reliable school bus service will be restored;
2. communications issues including lack of response from Administrative offices;
3. stresses some students experience when buses are late to school–ie. missing the beginning of the school day/morning recess; breakfast, etc.
4. some parents feel it necessary to drive their children to school which is disrupting their day as well;
5. asking for a timeline for resolution of all bus issues, and offering to help with this resolution.

G. Director of Finance and Operations Report: Superintendent Folan provided a residency recertification update. Recertification compliance includes three sets of documents–first in kindergarten, then as the student enters middle school and finally as the student goes into high school. Currently, CHS is 100% compliance; the middle school is 90% compliant. Superintendent Folan is confident that it will get to 100%.

H. Consent Agenda:

1. Regular Session Minutes: August 25, 2022, September 1, 2022 Workshop, September 8, 2022
2. Executive Session Minutes: September 8, 2022
3. Warrants: September 23, 2022

Chair Merenda asked for a motion to approve all minutes and Warrants as stated above. Kendall O’Halloran made the motion and Laura Arboleda seconded the motion. It was voted:

Kristian Merenda	yea
Kendall O’Halloran	yea
Laura Arboleda	yea

3	yeas	0	nay
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The Consent Agenda items were approved by a vote of 3-0.

I. Update of Sub-Committee, Task Force and Liaison Posts:

Ms. Arboleda reported that the first meeting of SWAC will be taking place in the next couple of weeks. The Policy Subcommittee continues its work on Policy updates.

Ms. O’Halloran noted that ads went in the paper last week for Content and Communications and expects the next set of ads will be for Fall Sports. CCPC, in the best interest of the town, will be taking some time this year to review and reestablish its purpose and goals.

Chair Merenda noted that union negotiations are ongoing and that she will provide an update on the document for the Superintendent evaluation at the next meeting. Ms. Merenda, on behalf of Ms.

Gallagher, gave a reminder that the next “Charting the Course” workshop will be held Saturday, September 24th. Completion of this course is required for any new School Committee member and every three years after that.

Superintendent Folan commented on the success of the Senior Breakfast. He announced that Chief Rafferty has agreed to chair CAASA, with Mr. Folan as the Vice-Chair. Together they will meet for goal setting to develop more robust volunteerism. Ideas are welcome.

J. Other Business: None

K. Future Business The next Open Session meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 6, 2022, @ 6:00 pm.

L. Adjournment

Chair Kristian Merenda called for a motion to adjourn the Open Session School Committee meeting at 8:13 pm. Motion made by Kendall O’Halloran and seconded by Laura Arboleda. It was voted 3-0:

Kristian Merenda	yea		
Kendall O’Halloran	yea		
Laura Arboleda	yea		
3	yeas	0	nay