

Town of Canton
Canton School Committee Minutes of the Meeting of September 23, 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 - Unit A and Unit E made by Nichola Gallagher. Seconded by Maureen Moran. It was voted by roll call 4-0.

Kristian Merenda	yea
Nichola Gallagher	yea (left meeting at 6:35)
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
Maureen Moran
Kendall O'Halloran

Also Present:

Derek Folan, Assistant Superintendent
Stephen Marshall, Director of Finance and Operations
Colleen Hutchinson, Recording Secretary
Public
Press
Staff

- C. Interim Superintendent's Report:

Interim Superintendent Highlights

GMS Math Team: Interim Superintendent Folan introduced the Galvin Middle School Math Team. The Math Team is composed of over 50 students in all three grade levels. Coach, Ms. Kelsey Cummings, shared information about the team's successes.

9/11 20th Anniversary: The District held a Moment of Silence on Friday, September 10 at 8:46 am in remembrance of September 11, 2001.

Celebrations During the Month of September:

Substitute Teacher Appreciation Week -- September 6-11 -- Interim Superintendent Folan thanked the substitute teachers in Canton for caring for our students, stepping in as educators, and playing a key role in maintaining the continuity of learning.

National Arts in Education Week -- September 12-18

Hispanic Heritage Month -- Sept. 15-Oct. 15

2021 School Open Houses: Open Houses took place in our schools over the past couple of weeks. All events were very successful and a symbol of our excellence.

Rob Barker Acknowledgement: Mr. Folan attended the September 15 Select Board meeting to honor and thank Mr. Rob Barker for his 20 years of service to the Town of Canton.

Updates

MCAS: The state released its MCAS data on Tuesday, September 21, 2021. The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) noted the dip in scores during a school year deeply impacted by COVID-19.

Champions of Excellence

CHS Athletics: CHS offered a very successful and impactful visit with Dr. Greg Dale for all student-athletes on September 14 & 15. The feedback received was positive.

CHS Student Award: Congratulations to CHS student Mr. Ryan Finn on his Good Citizen Award presented by Canton Fire.

Instrument Demonstrations: Students from the high school recently visited each elementary to demonstrate instruments for 4th and 5th graders.

Important Dates and Events

Oct. 1	Early Release – PreK-12 - PreK-5 Common Planning, 6-12 PD
Oct. 7	School Committee Meeting, 7:00 CHS Distance Learning Lab
Oct. 11	No School – Columbus Day

D. New Business Items:

1. Student Member Introductions: Interim Superintendent Folan and Principal Sperling introduced the 2021-2022 School Committee Student Representatives, Mr. Suraj Ramanathan, Mr. Joshua Ribisi-Chan, and Ms. Hannah Wang. Ms. Madeline Pushard was unable to attend this evening. Mr. Sperling shared background information on each student: All members are seniors.
2. Interim Assistant Superintendent Contract: Interim Superintendent Folan presented the Interim Assistant Superintendent contract for a vote of approval. The terms of the contract were prorated.
Move to approve the contract for Ms. Sarah Shannon, Interim Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning, from 9/13/2021-6/30/2022 with a salary of \$160,140 (prorated): Kendall O'Halloran
Second: Maureen Moran
Vote: 3-0
3. Interim Superintendent Goals and Entry Plan: Interim Superintendent Folan presented his goals and entry plan. He shared information about his involvement in the New Superintendent Induction Program (NSIP). The full report can be found on the School Committee web page under Meeting Materials.
Mr. Folan outlined his phased-in entry plan approach. Phase 1, listening, learning and observing; phase II, analyzing and synthesizing data, sharing feedback & findings; phase III, alignment with district goals and key actions, budgetary matters, and mission, vision, core values.

Interim Superintendent goals include 1. District improvement to develop and implement systems, committees, and teams to effectively monitor and achieve the District goals and key actions to improve student achievement. 2. Develop and implement an enhanced District Communication Plan to maximize all modes of communication to engage the public, inform the community, and celebrate District achievements and excellence. And lastly, Professional Practice: Participate in the New Superintendent Induction Program to develop skills in strategy development, data analysis, and instructional leadership by actively engaging in the first year of the program.

Move to approve the Interim Superintendent's Goals and Entry Plan: Maureen Moran

Second: Kendall O'Halloran

Vote: 3-0

4. School Committee Member Update: Chair Merenda updated the School Committee on the open seat. A joint ad (Select Board and School Committee) was placed in the Canton Citizen. The open seat will run from the time of appointment until Town Election (April). October 16 is the deadline for applications. The Select Board is accepting applications.
5. Policy Review: Interim Superintendent Folan, Chair Merenda, and Ms. Kendall O'Halloran presented the COVID Protocols - Nurse Leader Lauren Pushard reviewed the COVID Protocols for 2021-2022. Ms. Pushard clarified key definitions and other changes. Ms. Pushard explained that the only reasons for quarantine are if you are positive, if you are not vaccinated and a member of the household is positive, and/or if you are a close contact and refuse to test. Home tests are not acceptable. Ms. Pushard explained the three methods of testing would include: (a) Symptomatic Testing, some highlight are: used for students who start to show symptoms of COVID-19 while at school. (If symptomatic before school, the student should stay home and the nurse should be called.) If a student has minimal symptoms (excluding fever or vomiting) and tests are negative, they may remain in school instead of being sent home. (b) Routine COVID-19 Safety Checks (formerly known as Pooled Testing), some highlights include: students and staff can continue to come to school while awaiting test results which come back in 24 hours, being part of a positive pool does not mean your child will need to quarantine or miss school, the positive student will need to be quarantined, but all others will be part of the Test and Stay Program if one is deemed a close contact. (c) Test and Stay: used for students and staff who may have been exposed to a positive person inside or outside of school, if they are not showing symptoms, instead of having to quarantine and miss school, these students and staff will be tested daily with a rapid test while they remain in school as long as they are not symptomatic, students and staff participate in Test and Stay for 7 days after they have been exposed to a positive individual. The District is hopeful to begin COVID Safety Checks (pooled testing) next week. The full report can be found on the School Committee webpage under meeting material. Protocols are aligned with DESE protocols and DPH.

Move to approve the September 2021 COVID Protocols as written:

Maureen Moran

Second: Kendall O'Halloran

Vote: 3-0

Chair Merenda proposed to hold all future policies for 2nd read to allow the public the opportunity to weigh in. Members agreed. The following policies for a 1st read.

- a. BBAA - School Committee Member Authority, minor proposed pronoun changes
- b. BBB - School Committee Elections, propose to delete policy as language is incorporated into policy BB
- c. BBBA/BBBB - School Committee Member Qualifications/Oath Of Office, propose to adopt MASC with some minor changes
- d. BBBE - Unexpired Term Fulfillment, minor grammatical changes suggested
- e. BCA - School Committee Member Ethics, gender pronouns, commas, grammatical changes

- f. BCB - School Committee Member Conflict Of Interest, suggested removal as language is in policy BBBA

E. Public Comment: None

- F. Director of Finance and Operations Report: Mr. Stephen Marshall reported on the current enrollment status, donations, District Fees, and other business matters. Currently, enrollment shows a net increase of 28 students across all levels. The elementary level had a total increase of 30 students, with the Hansen seeing the largest increase. There was a request to share/review projected numbers at the Hansen and other schools based on new developments in the Town to possibly determine how it is currently or may affect future enrollment numbers. GMS had a total increase of 30 students, while CHS had a decline of 32 students compared to June 2021. The Committee suggested that the District design and implement an exit survey that might give insight into reasons why students leave CPS.

The district accepted a donation from Franklin Public Schools for Envisions curriculum, equivalent to \$6,000, and another from a staff member who donated furniture for the 18-22-year-old program.

Mr. Marshall discussed proposed changes to District fees. Future fees for GMS will be \$55/sport. This year, this fee will not be instituted as it is a piloted program. Mr. Marshall proposed a COVID-19 building rental fee of \$75/hour which accounts for material cost and custodial fee. Mr. Marshall also proposed the reinstitution of all fees that were adjusted due to COVID-19. There was a request to add clarifying language to further explain that the custodial overtime fee for cleaning of buildings will not be charged while the COVID-19 cleaning fee is instituted and that building fees will be prorated for events that do not require 1 hour of cleaning. The full report can be found on the School Committee webpage under meeting material.

Mr. Marshall explained that the family cap will be discussed at a future meeting. This fee structure will be discussed in upcoming finance subcommittee meetings.

The Finance subcommittee is working through the ESSER III survey results and will report back to the full Committee at an upcoming meeting.

Move to approve reinstate the CPS schedule of user fees and school fees, with the caveat of the clarifying and prorated language above: Kendall O'Halloran

Second: Maureen Moran

Vote: 3-0

- G. Teaching and Learning Report: Director of Teaching and Learning, Ms. Deborah Rooney shared teaching and learning updates that included: assessment information, including MCAS dates and plans for benchmark assessments. With the release of MCAS data this year, DESE will not be releasing accountability data due to too many COVID variables.

H. **Consent Agenda**

Motion to approve the consent agenda, with the removal of the September 2, 2021, open session minutes pulled for further review: Maureen Moran

Seconded: Kendall O'Halloran

The Consent Agenda passed unanimously.

The following items were included in the Consent Agenda.

Regular Session Minutes: August 12, 2021,

Executive Session Minutes: August 12, 2021, August 30, 2021, September 2, 2021

AP and Food Service Warrants: September 24, 2021

I. **Sub-Committee, Task Force, and Liaison Post Updates**

1. Ms. O'Halloran reported that the deadline for Town Department and resident submissions for free CCPC applications is Friday, Oct. 8 at 5:00 pm. Projects approved and deemed eligible

will require a full application will be due by Friday, November 19 at 5:00 pm.

2. The next Negotiations subcommittee meeting is Sept. 30, 2021
 3. MPIC members are working with boards across the town to advance projects.
 4. Ms. Moran will reach out to Ms. Gallagher to discuss the possibility of her joining the Attorney review advisory committee to take Mr. Rae's place
 5. Ms. Moran suggested establishing a task force to work on the comprehensive financial review. Ms. Merenda will work on this task force with Ms. Moran.
 6. Mr. Marshall noted that the Robotics Club is hosting an Electronic Waste Drive on October 17 from 10-2.
- J. Other Business: School Committee will host the Farmers Market Community table on October 3, 2021.
- K. Future Business: Next School Committee meeting will be held Thursday, October 7, 2021, @ 7:00 in the Distance Learning Lab at CHS.
- L. Adjournment: Kendall O'Halloran motioned to close the Open Session at 9:11 pm. Kendall O'Halloran seconded. It was voted 3-0.

3 yeas 0 nays

Documents Used During the Meeting:

1. Superintendent's Report dated September 23, 2021
2. Interim Superintendent Goals and Entry Plan
3. Policies: Final draft 2021-2022 CPS Protocols, , BBAA, BBB, BBA/BBB, BBBE, BCA, BCB
4. FY22 Enrollment
5. FPS Envisions Donation
6. AM Furniture Donation
7. Memo School Fees
8. Schedule of Fees
9. Teaching and Learning Update for SC 9/23/2021