

Town of Canton
Canton School Committee Minutes of the Meeting of September 26, 2019
Canton High School Distance Learning Lab

- A. Call to Order: The meeting of the School Committee is called to order at 7:00 pm by Chair Kristin Mirliani. Chair Mirliani announced that Executive Session was canceled.

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

- B. Public Comments/Questions: None
- C. Student Member: Corinne Stevens talked about the Text Bias and Equity Committee at CHS. This committee is organized by Ms. Ashley at CHS and Ms. Kaminski at GMS. The groups' work is centered on bringing more diversity into texts in English classes.
- D. Superintendent's Report: Superintendent Fischer-Mueller reported on the following events:

Superintendent Activities Highlights

Moms Club of Canton Donation: Ms. Jennifer Pfister delivered supplies for our schools that were collected and donated on behalf of the Moms Club of Canton.

Canton Cafe: Students in the CPS postgraduate program opened Canton Cafe. Staff at the Rodman and CHS can order lunch from the Cafe every Wednesday. The Cafe allows students to practice their independence, budgeting, cooking and communication skills and much more. I suggest you check them out!

Updates

Grade 10 English 2019 MCAS: There was an essay question on last spring's test (March 2019 10th grade English and Language Arts MCAS) that was deemed inappropriate and insensitive.

As a result, in March, the Commissioner of Education for the Commonwealth, Jeffrey C. Riley, determined that the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) would not score this culturally insensitive and inappropriate essay question.

The second phase of the DESE response was a recognition that not scoring this question could have had an “adverse effect” on a student’s performance. After consulting Stanford researchers, DESE determined that students will be afforded the opportunity to retake the November Retest in an attempt to improve their score. The November 2019 MCAS ELA retest will be administered on November 6th, 7th, and 8th.

The primary consideration for improving a student’s score is to preserve their ability to qualify for the John and Abigail Adams and the Stanley Z. Koplik scholarships. Students can sign up to take this November's ELA retest for the purpose of improving their scores.

Students must take all sections of the November ELA paper based retest (*Composition and Reading Comprehension Sessions 1, 2, and 3*), and the higher score will serve as the score of record. If a student does not earn a higher score on the November ELA retest, the spring 2019 grade 10 ELA score will remain the score of record.

Principal Folan and Assistant Principal Fogel described the Commissioner’s response to this issue and the impact on Canton students. Mr. Fogel informed the committee that Canton has 213 students eligible to take the retest. Tomorrow, CHS will be informing families and students if they are eligible for the retest.

Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE): The Town’s Director of Public Health, John Ciccotelli, closely follows the Norfolk County Mosquito Control Project and the risk levels determined by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health and keeps CPS up to date. Risk levels range from remote, low, moderate, high and critical. Canton remains at the moderate risk level. Mosquito spraying on the fields of the Canton Public Schools was increased this year from three treatments to six. Prior to each spraying, the school community is informed.

Indicators of Excellence

Professional Development: PreK-5 educators chose PD concentrations that they will participate in for the four PD sessions this year. The educators were in sessions about Reading Workshop, Writing Workshop, Understanding Mathematical Thinking, Early Childhood, Universal Design for Learning, Mental Health and Learning Environments.

At GMS, teams spent the afternoon preparing for the interdisciplinary units that they will teach during STEAM week Oct 21-25. CHS educators worked within their departments on a variety of professional learning topics that worked toward their department goals of transforming learning for students.

Important Dates and Events

Sept. 27	Dean S. Luce Circus, 7:00-8:00 pm, Luce School
Sept. 30	No School, Rosh Hashanah
Oct. 1	GMS 8 th Grade Trip Parent Meeting, 6:30–8:00 pm, GMS

Oct. 4-24	German Exchange Students Visit
Oct. 9	No School, Yom Kippur
Oct. 11	School Committee Meeting, 7:00 pm, CHS Distance Learning Lab

E. New Business

1. Walsh Dugout Vote of Approval Request: Mr. Mike Loughran requested approval to install dugouts at Walsh Field. Canton Little League is sponsoring this project and the DPW will be doing much of the work. The approximate cost is \$4,000 for each dugout, the total project cost is \$8,000. Mr. Loughran asked CPS for a \$1,000 donation. Mr. Nectow suggested that the donation money could come from either the athletic revolving or field rental account. The committee agreed that this will be an improvement to the field and our teams will benefit from this project.

Move to approve the installation of dugouts at Walsh Field and \$1000 donation: Reuki Schutt

Second: Nichola Gallagher

Vote: 5-0

2. K-5 Literacy Presentation: Ms. Debbie Rooney presented an overview of the K-5 Literacy plans. The district will be moving toward a balanced literacy approach to reading and writing. Balanced Literacy approaches allow for a long instructional block each day spent with children working in small groups, with a partner or independently and a small portion of the time spent with the teacher providing whole group instruction. This first year, Early Adopters will begin implementing a balanced literacy approach through the workshop model of instruction for both reading and writing. They are using the Calkins Units of Study as a guide. They will continue to use the guided reading materials from Journeys as one resource for that part of reading workshop. The work of the Early Adopters this year will help to determine the best next steps for literacy instruction for Canton.

All other elementary educators will continue to use Journeys this year.

Next year, all other elementary educators will begin the transition away from Journeys and into Reader's and Writer's Workshop. Educators who participated in the Writing Workshop concentration this year will begin Reading Workshop next year. Educators in other concentrations will choose their focus on reading or writing with guidance from their building principal and reading specialist.

3. Review Policies: Chair Kristin Mirliani announced that the policies on the agenda will not be presented this evening. They will be discussed at a future meeting.
4. CCPC Preliminary Application: Mr. Barry Nectow requested a vote of approval to submit a preliminary application to CCPC for the GMS Basketball Courts. The project will include resurfacing, posts, backboards, and rims. The preliminary estimate is \$36,750. School Committee will contribute 10% of the total cost.

Move to approve the submission of a preliminary application to CCPC for the GMS basketball courts: Nichola Gallagher

Second: Maureen Moran

Vote: 5-0

F. Old Business: None

G. Business Manager's Report: 1.) Mr. Nectow reported that the Memorial Field visitor bleachers are complete. 2.) The Luce Slide went out to bid, but there were no bidders. Mr. Nectow will rethink how to restructure the next bid into the marketplace. 3.) Mr. Nectow updated the committee on the Student Opportunities Act. It is a \$1.5 Billion (\$2.2 Billion with inflation) Investment in Public Education with a 7 year phase in period. It will significantly help school districts serving a high percentage of low-income students, yet all school districts will benefit. The Act implements policy updates designed to maximize the impact of new funding in improving student outcomes and closing opportunity outcomes. The bill will first go to the full Senate, after vetting by the Senate Ways and Means Committee, then to the House for a similar vetting process, then to the Governor. The legislature hopes to wrap it up by the end of the calendar year.

H. Routine Matters:

1. Approve Minutes dated September 12, 2019

Move: Nichola Gallagher

Second: Reuki Schutt

Vote: 5-0

2. Approve Executive Minutes dated September 12, 2019.

Move: Nichola Gallagher

Second: Maureen Moran

Vote: 5-0

3. Mr. Nectow reported that the warrant dated October 4, 2019, was reviewed and signed by Maureen Moran.

I. Sub-Committee Reports

1. CPC - Nichola Gallagher announced that the preliminary request deadline is October 4, 2019.
2. BRC - Kristian Merenda - Mr. Nectow attended the last meeting to report on the status of projects.
3. Wellness- Maureen Moran - All four wellness meetings have been scheduled. There was a discussion as to whether parents should be notified about the vaping crisis and ban. Committee members agreed that something should go out to parents regarding the recent vaping developments.
4. Finance - Reuki Schutt/Maureen Moran - Meeting next week.
5. Policy - Kristin Mirliani – Nothing to report.
6. PRHC – Nichola Gallagher - Continuing to move forward.
7. Ad Hoc Calendar Advisory - Maureen Moran requested a vote of approval to develop an advisory committee to gather information from other districts to begin work on this subcommittee.

Move to approve the Ad Hoc Calendar Committee: Nichola Gallagher

Second: Kristian Merenda

Vote: 5-0

- J. Future Business: Next School Committee Meeting will be held Thursday, October 10, 2019 @ 7:00 in the Distance Learning Lab at CHS.
- K. Other Business: No report
- L. Adjournment: Nichola Gallagher motioned to close Open Session at 8:24 pm. Kristian Merenda seconded. It was voted 5-0.

5 yeas 0 nays