

Town of Canton
Canton School Committee Minutes of the Meeting of September 3, 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. Chair Mirliani noted that the Committee just held an Executive Session. A Roll call vote of 5-0 opened the meeting.

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, new Director of Student Services
Julie Shore, Director of Technology and Digital Learning
Daniel Erickson, Athletic Director
Dave Turcotte, CHS Principal
Donna Kilday, PreK-2 Early Childhood Coordinator

Chair Mirliani held a moment of silence for CHS School Psychologist, Ms. Lisa Whelan who passed this week after a long illness.

Chair Mirliani also noted that last week, for the first time, we hit our Zoom capacity of 500 attendees. Chair Mirliani reminded families that all recordings are available on the website the morning after the meeting.

B. **New Business**

1. CHS Athletics Approval: Athletics Director, Daniel Erickson and CHS Principal, Dave Turcotte requested three approvals related to CHS Athletics commencing while school is in session remotely. Mr. Erickson affirmed that BOH endorsed the plans presented this evening. All sports will be outside, with no more than 50 spectators and 25 kids per team. Approved fall sports are golf, cross country, soccer, and field hockey. Soccer and field hockey will have rule modifications. The first day for sports would be 9/21.

Motion to approve the start of CHS Interscholastic sports to operate

while school is remote: Nichola Gallagher

Second: Kristian Merenda

Roll Call Vote: 5-0

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

Kristin Mirliani yea

Mr. Erickson requested a temporary change to the transportation protocols and practices to allow licensed drivers to drive themselves or a sibling to away games and for parents to be allowed to drive students to away games. It was confirmed that this change in policy was reviewed by the MIAA legal council. The full presentation and PowerPoint for tonight's presentation is on the School Committee webpage under Meetings/Agendas/Minutes.

Motion to approve the temporary change in the transportation policy for away games: Nichola Gallagher

Second: Kristian Merenda

Roll Call Vote: 5-0

Kristian Merenda yea

Maureen Moran yea

Nichola Gallagher yea

Chuck Rae yea

Kristin Mirliani yea

Mr. Erickson requested an adjustment to the user fee this year from \$195/sport to \$160/sport in addition to the elimination of any gate fees.

Motion to approve the adjustment to user fees from \$195/sport to \$160/sport and the elimination of gate fees: Nichola Gallagher

Second: Kristian Merenda

Roll Call Vote: 5-0

Kristian Merenda yea

Maureen Moran yea

Nichola Gallagher yea

Chuck Rae yea

Kristin Mirliani yea

2. Policy Review: Superintendent Fischer-Mueller presented Policy EBC-Supplemental for a first read. This policy came from the Massachusetts Association of School Committees (MASC) and is supported by the district's attorney. This policy will only be in effect during the pandemic. The policy outlines changes to the following policies: Student assignment to schools (**File JCA**), School calendar (**File IC/ICA**), Special education (**File IHB**) Special Instructional Programs and Accommodations (Programs For Children with Special Needs), (**File IHBA**) Programs for Students with Disabilities, (**File IHBAA**) Observations of Special Education Programs and (**File IHBF**) Homebound Instruction, and (**File JL**) Student Welfare, and Homebound Instruction: (**File IHBF**). Members requested to bring this supplemental policy back for a second read at the next School Committee meeting.

C. Unfinished Business

1. PreK Reopening Plans: Ms. Donna Kilday provided an update on the Rodman Preschool Reopening Plans. Ms. Kilday explained that the plans were adjusted based on guidelines from the Director of Student Services and the Business Administrator. This year, the inclusive program will not run at the Rodman. The Rodman Preschool will comply with the legal obligations to meet the needs of students ages 3-5 with special needs. Deposits for community peers will be refunded. There are currently approximately 30 students. Preschoolers will start on 9/21 in 7 classrooms. There will be some remote components to this year's program. There was a question about

the possibility of expanding the Rodman. This was explored in recent years as part of the master plan. Although it is possible, it is expensive. The full presentation and PowerPoint for tonight's presentation is on the School Committee webpage under Meetings/Agendas/Minutes.

Motion to approve the modification to the Rodman Preschool model for this year which included no community peers, therefore no tuition will be collected, community peer deposits will be returned: Nichola Gallagher

Second: Kristian Merenda

Roll Call Vote: 5-0

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

2. School Reopening Discussion: Superintendent Fischer-Mueller announced that there is an agreement in principle with the CTA. DPH COVID-19 Metrics and Dashboard were shared. Canton is currently in the green. Staff returned on September 1 and have had the opportunity to participate in many professional development sessions including technology, COVID-19 safety protocols, social emotional development, educational equity, and annual mandated trainings. The reopening of schools phased in approach is as follows:
 - September 16 - Remote Learning 2.0, and/or Remote Learning Pathway (year long) start for K-12.
 - September 29 - Hybrid in-person instruction for all grades
 - The building team chairs and student liaisons will be working with families with Students with Special Circumstances.

There is a shared understanding with CTA of the need to support children in transition grades given the usual spring orientation experience that was lost. As a result, on September 21, all students in grades K, 6, 9, and students with special needs in category 1 will be all in for one week. Principals will be sharing the details in upcoming communications as the design is being developed. Mr. Folan shared that 536 students registered for the Remote Learning Pathway (RLP). Canton teachers will be teaching these classes and there will be both synchronous and asynchronous learning. Staffing is being finalized. Target date of September 14 & 15 for material sharing and technology deployment. Principals will be communicating details with their families.

Ms. Deborah Rooney spoke about the homeschooling option. Applications for homeschooling are found on the website. The homeschooling option is for students in grades 1-12. Kindergarten is not mandatory in MA, therefore K homeschool plans do not need to be submitted to the district for approval. Parents are responsible for determining the curriculum and providing the instruction. Currently, there are approximately 23 homeschool requests/applications in Canton. Ms. Rooney also discussed teaching and learning. She shared that class assignments and schedules are

targeted to be out by the end of next week. The district will use the Zoom platform. Teachers will deliver content to students via Google Classroom and Seesaw for the younger grades. Supports for Curriculum and Instruction include Nearpod, Newsela, Freckle. There will be Working groups explored diagnostic assessments for grades K-5 and grades 6-12. Assessments will not take place right away. The district will allow students to get acclimated to the school environment and new learning opportunities before diagnosing.

The issue of data privacy concerns was discussed. Ms. Shore explained that the district is a member of The Education Collaborative (TEC) and therefore also members of the Student Data Privacy Consortium (SDPC) and Children's On Line Privacy Protection Act (COPPA). All online tools and software go through a vetting process through the SDPC. There is an agreement between the vendors and the consortium. All fall under the student data privacy protection laws.

Ms. Julie Shore spoke about a variety of PD that took place this week. She also outlined the devices that educators and students will be receiving. Shipping is delayed on several devices. Teachers will use in house devices until the delivery arrives. Student Chromebooks and IPAD's are being configured. A letter is being sent to parents/guardians to prioritize students with no device access at home. Wifi hotspots have been ordered.

Health and Safety changes were made to the COVID-19 protocols: The time to remain fever free shortened from 72 hours to 24 hours within the 10 day isolation period. In consultation with the Canton Health Department, it remains the rationale that whole cohorts will be identified as a close contact. Symptomatic individuals will be in a separate waiting room, 6 feet apart with masks on. The Department of Health guidelines determined that neck bandana and gators do not provide enough protection, therefore will not be allowed. The district will provide students with masks as needed. Mr. Rae went on record to say he does not agree with this recommendation. The self screening tool is available at every building and online. Data is collected via a google form. Building and operations guidelines from DESE do not recommend the use of plexiglass in the classroom. The visitors in the building guidelines include that shared spaces should be used on a rotating basis, social distancing is in effect at all buildings

Mr. Nectow reported that Universal Environmental Consultants completed air quality testing on Wednesday, 9/2 and there were no air quality issues in buildings. BLW Engineers will be completing onsite work by Friday, 9/4, the draft reports will be made available during the week of September 8th. No major issues identified through 9/2. Custodians and Maintenance staff are cleaning Univents and changing filters in all buildings. All reports will be public record and will be made available via the website.

Transportation updates provided outlined that bus transportation will begin on September 21 for grades K, 6 & 9. Bus routes will be published in Canton Citizen and on the District website on Thursday, September 17. Bus passes will be distributed by email (temporary) before the start of school and permanent bus passes will be distributed at schools after reopening. There will be assigned seating on the bus. Family members will be allowed to share a seat. Masks are required on the bus at all times. The district may add bus monitors to ensure compliance with the guidelines.

Cleaning of all buildings is either complete or well underway. PPE and cleaning supplies are available at the schools.

Food service updates were discussed. Curbside meal pick up will continue during hybrid at Canton High School and Hansen Elementary School. The Bulldog van delivery will end on September 14. Beginning Monday, September 21, lunch will be served in school for students in school buildings, and beginning Tuesday, September 29, lunch will be served in school for students in school buildings. To continue to provide students with breakfast and lunch every day at no cost, the summer program will continue to run through December 31, 2020. Each school will have its own food service configuration. Some will be delivered to classrooms, others will rotate through the cafeteria to pick up food.

Excess furniture items from classrooms will be saved in trailers. Most materials and books will continue to be used and kept in the classrooms.

Tents will be provided with at least one tent. Will be multipurpose at the school's discretion.

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

D. Public Comment:

Catherine Hoberg	Asked several clarifying questions regarding the school reopening plans
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E. Routine Matters:

1. Approve Executive Minutes dated August 26, 2020

Move: Nichola Gallagher

Second: Kristian Merenda

Roll Call Vote: 5-0

2. Approve Executive Minutes dated August 27, 2020

Move: Nichola Gallagher

Second: Kristian Merenda

Roll Call Vote: 5-0

3. Approve Minutes dated August 27, 2020

Move: Nichola Gallagher

Second: Chuck Rae

Roll Call Vote: 5-0

4. The announcement that the AP and Food Service warrants dated September 4, 2020, have been approved.

F. Sub-Committee Reports

1. CCPC - Kristin Mirliani - Vote taken to nominate Mr. Kristin Mirliani as the School Committee representative.

Motion to approve Ms. Kristin Mirliani as the CCPC School Committee representative: Nichola Gallagher

Second: Kristian Merenda

Roll Call Vote: 5-0

Kristian Merenda yea

Maureen Moran yea

Nichola Gallagher yea

Chuck Rae yea

Kristin Mirliani yea

2. BRC - Chuck Rae - nothing new to report
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 - forming board members. Looking for a webmaster.

G. Future Business: Next School Committee Meeting will be held Thursday, September 17, 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 9:56 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