

Canton School Committee Minutes of the Workshop of June 15, 2021
Canton Public Library, Community Room
786 Washington Street, Canton, MA

Present:

Kristian Merenda, School Committee Chair
Nichola Gallagher, School Committee Vice Chair
Maureen Moran, School Committee Secretary
Chuck Rae, School Committee Member
Kendall O'Halloran, School Committee Member
Dorothy Presser, MASC
Glenn Koocher, MASC
Jennifer Fischer-Mueller, Superintendent
Derek Folan, Assistant Superintendent
Colleen Hutchinson, Recording Secretary

The School Committee participated in a Goals/Roles/Responsibilities Workshop led by members of the Massachusetts Association of School Committees (MASC) Dorothy Presser and Glenn Koocher.

Topics discussed included:

What does Transformational Leadership look like:

- Shared vision
- All a team
- Role model
- Visible at all
- Individualized consideration
 - How to apply
 - Allows all to be a team
 - Transformational mindset

Ms. Presser shared information on attributes of effective School Boards

- Influence Student Achievement
- Attributes
 - Vision of high expectations
 - Focus on accountability
 - Foster strong relationships
 - Use data to monitor progress
 - Lead as a team
- Practices
 - Set goals and monitor progress
 - Varied and purposeful meetings focused on student achievement
 - Self governance
 - PD
 - Strong SC/Supt Relationship

The Committee reviewed the understanding and respect for roles and discussed options to align goals.

- The monitoring of goals is more important than setting the goals
- What is the outcome we are looking for? Not just tasks
- Don't have too many goals

The role of School Committee as it relates to Section B of the policy manual was reviewed. The School Committee is as Municipal Legislature for Schools. Responsibilities include:

- Community Engagement/Relations
- Budget and finance - review and approval vs. provision
- Policy making and approval - broader than just Policy Section B, i.e. contracts, unions MOA, etc...
- Hire/ fire the Superintendent of Schools (and other positions)
- Goals
- Job descriptions

Subcommittee structure and involvement were discussed. The Committee reviewed options such as being liaisons vs. members on some town committees. Some subcommittees discussed were:

- Health & Wellness - can be overseen via policy
- Curriculum - Committee's role is to ask "are we meeting the standards", not the selection of books. Only 2 towns have these committees. General access to what is being taught - how does it relate to student achievement
- Strategic Plan Subcommittee to monitor goals and maintain a commitment to student achievement

To do:

- Set District Goals
- Set School Committee Goals
- Finalize Subcommittee Goals