

**Canton School Committee
Thursday, November 2, 2023
Open Meeting
Minutes**

A. Call to Order: Chair O'Halloran asked for a motion to call to order the Thursday, November 2, 2023 School Committee Open Session Meeting at 6:03 pm. Maureen Moran made the motion; Kimberly McCourt seconded. Roll Call vote was unanimous at 4-0 and recorded as follows:

Laura Arboleda	yea
Kimberly McCourt	yea
Maureen Moran	yea
Kendall O'Halloran	yea
4 yeas	0 nays

Attendees: Laura Arboleda (virtually)
Kimberly McCourt
Maureen Moran
Kendall O'Halloran

Absent: Kristian Merenda

Guests: Zoya Gildenberg, School Committee School Advisor
Josh Fogel
Justin Thibeault, Ai3
Adele Sands, LeftField
David Buccelli-CPS Facilities Director

B. Student Member Report: School Committee Student Advisor, Zoya Gildenberg, shared Dean S. Luce Elementary School updates. During her visit to the Luce, Ms. Gildenberg was impressed with the SEL structure that offers a safe and welcoming environment to all students. She commented on the priorities of the school in building cultural-emotional relationships prioritizing cultural identities. This was quite evident in the cafeteria where the flags of each country representing students at the Luce. By offering full representation, Ms. Gildenberg praised the strong cultural awareness of Luce personnel, the evolution of the sense of belonging, and its impact on young students.

C. Teaching and Learning Report: Mr. Josh Fogel shared a 2023-2024 Assessment Schedule. Testing dates for grades 3-8 and Grade 10 in English Language Arts, Math and Science dates are prescribed by the State and are already scheduled. DESE has made some changes that impact the Spring 2024 MCAS testing in the area of Science, Technology and Engineering, and Social Studies/Civics. New testing is expected to be more engaging, focus more on depth, and emphasize the "doing of science." Grades 5 and 8 were chosen to participate in a pilot of the revised STE MCAS. Two sessions of testing will be offered-1 will consist of traditional questions and one will consist of new, innovative interactive performance tasks. It is important to note that ONLY the scores from the traditional "operational" MCAS questions. While specific dates for

each grade and school are yet to be identified, Mr. Fogel offered windows of time for these exams. Beginning this academic year, DESE is also requiring a MCAS Grade 8 Civics field test. This test will be administered sometime between April 29 and June 7, 2024.

All ACCESS testing will be scheduled between January 4 and February 9, 2024.

Mr. Fogel also announced AP Exam dates as prescribed by the State. Building Principals will announce these dates shortly.

D. Superintendent Report: Superintendent Folan presented District progress, highlights, and accolades.

Champions of Excellence

GMS Student Forum: Yesterday, School Committee Members Ms. O'Halloran, Ms. McCourt, Principal Jon Mulhern and I met with 14 Galvin Middle School students at the annual GMS Student Forum. The forum provides students an authentic opportunity to share their experiences at GMS, celebrate the strengths, offer ideas for improvement, and reflect on their learning. They also had the unique chance to share ideas and hopes for the Galvin Middle School Project. As usual, student voice is simply outstanding and the forum provided great insight into the GMS student experience. Thank you to all involved. The CHS student forum is scheduled for November 15th.

SEMASC: The CHS Student Council attended the Southeastern Massachusetts Association of Student Councils (S.E.M.A.S.C.) Fall Leadership Conference on October 27 at Walpole High School, connecting with about 25 school districts in Massachusetts. The conference theme was "Commit to Your Community" and centered around connection and collaboration. Attendants participated in a variety of student-led workshops, with CHS students Lucas Massih, Emma Cummings, Sarah Conard, and Aaron Scibelli presenting a workshop about effective leadership skills and strategies. Representing Canton's Student Council were the following members: Siya Bais, Sarah Conard, Leah Condon, Emma Cummings, Kelsey DeLello, Tara Geoghan, Lila Kennedy, Mercia Kolokithas, Lucas Massih, Aaron Scibelli, and Viviana Truglia.

CHS Athletics: Tournament Time! Congratulations to all of our fall athletic teams who have qualified for the MIAA tournament. The playoffs kick off today with No. 8 Field Hockey hosting Westborough at 5 p.m. No. 3 seed Volleyball competes on Friday at home at 6 p.m. A special shoutout to the Volleyball Team for completing the regular season 20-0 on Senior Night. No. 13 Football plays at Tewksbury on Friday at 7 p.m. No. 19 Girls Soccer plays on Monday, November 6 at Westwood. The Cross Country teams are competing this weekend, and the Cheerleading Team competes at the Hockomock Championships on Sunday.

For all schedules and tournament updates, links to tickets and live streaming, click on the [CHS Athletics Blog](#).

Cantonstock: MUSICCOUNTS! and the Canton Performing Arts Department proudly present Cantonstock 2023 on November 4 12:00-4:00 p.m.

Cantonstock is the annual music extravaganza showcasing hundreds of student musicians representing all performing ensembles in the Canton schools, and is the primary fundraiser for

MusicCounts, the volunteer, non-profit group dedicated to supporting performing arts in Canton Public Schools. In addition to a variety of performances, there will be **games, food, raffles**, and lots of **fun** for the whole family. There is a \$1 entry fee for non-performers.

Visit the MusicCounts! website at: www.MusicCountsInCanton.org

Performance schedule

Performance timeslot	Outside (gym if raining)	Auditorium
12:00-12:30	Mallet Madness Grade 5 Chorus	Grades 6-12 Strings
12:30-1:00	Grades 6-12 Chorus	
1:00-1:30	Grade 5 Band	
1:30-2:00	CHS Contemporary Music Workshop CHS A Capella	Grade 4-5 Strings
2:00-2:30	Jazz Band	Grade 4-5 Parent/guardian Strings Workshop
2:30-3:00	Tri-M Induction Ceremony	
3:00-3:30	Tri-M Induction Ceremony	Grades 6-8 Band
3:30-4:00		CHS Band CHS Pops Orchestra

STEAM Week: October 16-20 was the designated MA STEM Week, and STEAM Week in Canton. Students experienced a variety of STEAM related activities and learning opportunities throughout the week. This year's theme remained "See yourself in STEM".

At CHS, we launched STEAM week with our Robotics Teams attending the Canton Farmers Market with a Kids & Bots activity and the E-Waste drive. The CHS Art Club hosted an Origami workshop (open to all high school students) on Thursday, October 19th after school.

At GMS, students engaged in STEAM related activities during their art and engineering classes.

At elementary level students engaged in the engineering design process through a Mystery Science lesson. In the activity, *Bobby Dropper*, students try to save a falling bobby pin from a crash landing by inventing a paper device to slow the fall. They worked like inventors, learning from their failures — and learning that failures are part of the invention process! Our art teachers also supported STEAM week with activities that included color mixing, shape collages, and learning about anatomy, reflections and symmetry through art work.

Champions of Wellness Road Race: The Champions of Wellness 5k is taking place on Sunday, November 19th. If you have not already done so, I encourage you to sign up and/or come out

and cheer on the runners. Here is the [LINK](#) to register. We have 127 runners signed up. As a bonus, there will be a Kids Fun Run for any children of adults who are signed up.

Acknowledgments

Veteran's Day: Veterans Day is a federal holiday in the United States observed annually on November 11, to honor military veterans of the United States Armed Forces. Please join me in celebrating the service of all United States military veterans including Canton Public School's own.

- Nick Fitzgerald, CHS Assistant Principal was a Captain from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. He served for 4.5 years at Fort Wainwright, Alaska; Camp Edwards, South Korea; and Fort Knox, Kentucky.
- Justyn Pelchat, GMS Technology Specialist, served in the Army SGT for 8 years. He was stationed in Newport Naval in the Army's 443rd Civil Affairs Battalion USACAPOC(Civil Affairs and Psychological Operations Command). Specialty: 25C Radio Operator and 25U Signal Support Specialist. He deployed to Operation Enduring Freedom -Horn of Africa 2013-2014 as the Battalion's S6(signal) NCOIC (Non-Commissioned Officer In-Charge).
- Katie Healey, CHS Science/Robotics Teacher, graduated from the US Coast Guard Academy and served in the Coast Guard on active duty for 10 years and as a reservist for three years. Lt. Healey served as the Operations Officer on the Coast Guard cutter COWSLIP in Portsmouth, VA, and the Executive Officer (2nd in command) on the Coast Guard cutter RED BEECH in New York City. She was also the Commanding Officer of her reserve unit, Vessels New Bedford, and she served on the Coast Guard cutter BITTERSWEET in Woods Hole, MA.
- Eric Kascavitch, CPS School Resource Officer (SRO), enlisted in 2003 after high school. He spent eight years in the Army serving as a medic at the rank of Sergeant and was stationed at Fort McCoy Wisconsin, Fort Sam Houston in Texas and Fort Benning in Georgia. Eric spent five months in Kuwait. From Kuwait, he was deployed to Iraq during Operation Iraqi Freedom from August 2006 until October 2007. He was honorably discharged in 2012.
- Paul McKnight, Hansen Elementary School Principal enlisted in 2000, and after completing basic training at Fort Benning, GA., served for 6 years as an infantryman in the 1st / 181st Infantry Battalion in the Massachusetts Army National Guard. In June of 1997, he received the Army Achievement Medal.

Updates

GMS Community Forum No. 2 and Upcoming Forums: We held a successful Community Forum on October 25. Here is a [LINK](#) to the recording. Community Forum No. 3 will be Monday, Nov. 13 at 7 p.m. in the GMS Cafetorium; Community Forum No. 4 will be held on Wednesday, Nov. 29 at GMS. To learn more about the Galvin Middle School Building Project, click on this [LINK](#).

Safety Drills: Thanks to the coordination of our building leaders, our School Resource Officers and Canton Police, and the Canton Fire Department, we have completed our first round of fire drills, shelter-in-place drills and lockdown drills. We still need to conduct a lockdown drill at the Early Childhood program. We appreciate everyone's cooperation and our continued attention to safety.

DESE Family Engagement Summit: I had the opportunity to attend a Superintendent's Roundtable at the DESE Family Engagement Summit. It was extremely helpful to hear some of the best practices to engage families who are new to the community, may need language support, may need transportation or family services. They emphasized the importance of knowing the "lived experiences of those in your District," and providing intentional outreach. This work aligns with our Core Values of Community Engagement and Equity.

Student Representative, Emma Cummings, invited the community to "follow her down the Yellow Brick Road" at the CHS presentation on "The Wizard of Oz," scheduled for Nov. 17-19. Tickets are on sale now!

Ms. Moran asked that notes from the most recent Forum (10/25) be provided to School Committee members. Mr. Folan assured the committee that Ms. Hutchinson will provide notes from the 10/25/23 forum.

Important Dates and Events

Nov. 4	Cantonstock, Canton High School, 12 pm - 4:00 pm
Nov. 7	No School, Professional Development
Nov. 10	No School, Veterans Day Observed
Nov. 16	School Committee Meeting, CHS DLL, 6:00 pm
Nov. 17	Early Release, Parent Conferences, PreK-8
Nov. 17, 18 & 19	CHS Fall Play, Wizard of Oz, 7:00 pm 11/17, 4:00 pm 11/18, 2:00 pm 11/19
Nov. 19	Champions of Wellness 5K, CHS, 9:00 am
Nov. 22	Early Release, Thanksgiving Break
Nov. 23 & 24	No School, Thanksgiving Break

E. New Business:

1. **CPS Facilities Director Introduction:** Superintendent Folan welcomed the new Facilities Director, Mr. David Buccelli. Mr. Buccelli gave a brief overview of his education and career highlights and thanked the District and town of Canton for the opportunity to succeed in this role.
2. **GMS Building Project Progress Update:**Mr. Justin Thibeault, Ai3 representative, provided an update on the GMS Building Project. He reviewed the Project Schedule, announcing that a fully executed copy of the PDP was submitted on time. The MSBA has accepted this submission and is currently under review. The PSR (final preferred schematic option) will be submitted by the end of January

2024. The PSR will include decisions regarding grade configuration and whether or not an auditorium will be included in the new building.

Mr. Thibeault recapped Community Forum #2 held on October 25th, indicating there was good engagement and activity from those present. Attendees completed a "post-it" exercise completing the question, "What is on your mind about grade configuration?" Eight main categories emerged: peer-to-peer interactions, Bussing, Traditions, Lunch/recess, Club/Programs; Transition time, Capacity at Elementary Schools, Academic Programming. After some small group table conversations, Mr. Thibeault talked through each of the categories, and asked the group to rank these considerations as the District makes the grade configuration decision. Peer to peer interactions emerged as the main consideration. Finally, there was a live poll asking participants if they were open to the idea of a 5-8th grade configuration. The poll results (Yes-28, No 9, unsure -6) are meant to inform the School Committee as they make their decision.

3. **Preview Considerations for the Upcoming GMS Community Forum**: Members of LeftField and Ai3 discussed considerations for the next Community Forum to be held on November 13, 2023. Ai3 expects the District to make a decision on grade configuration. School Committee members suggested that more polling, particularly on grade configuration, as well as feedback from other forums be made available to the community. Other suggestions included having a preliminary floor plan available for community review, insuring the community has on-line access to all comments from previous Community forums before Forum #3, and encouraging consideration for an auditorium, despite its ineligibility for MSBA reimbursement.
4. **Food Allergy Management Policies - 1st Read**: Chair O'Halloran shared the most updated draft of policies JLCEA and JLCEA-R, Food Allergy Management, for a 1st read. She indicated that, in an effort to separate policy from procedures, MASC representative, Mr. Jim Hardy, had advised that the policy include only the ***Preface to Food Allergy Management Policy***, and an integration of **Sections JLCEA and JLCEA-R**. It was decided that legal references be included in the policy as well. As part of regulations for procedure, it was suggested that they be included in the Staff Handbook as exhibits to allow cross reference to the plan. Subcommittee members agreed that there should be a notation to contact the school nurse for a printed copy of the Parents and Students Responsibilities regarding allergy management and that the Parents and Students Responsibilities should be in the District Handbook as an appendix.
School Committee members discussed allergy management in each of the school cafeterias. Mr. Marshall noted that on-line training is required of all food service workers and electronic lunch cards have pop-up, specific allergy notifications allowing workers to review each student's food choices to ensure allergens are not present.
Ms. Moran proposed inviting Ms. Lawless to a future School Committee meeting to engage in a conversation regarding needs for further financial support.

5. **FY25 Capital - 1st read:** Mr. Marshall presented the most updated FY25 Capital Budget to the committee for a 1st read. Reviewing each request, Mr. Marshall offered justifications for the requests being moved forward and rationale for those declined. He noted that, considering budgetary constraints, the District is prioritizing the most serious issues. He also reported that not all backup information was available at the time of this report, but assured the committee supporting paperwork would be forthcoming.

A question was raised regarding sponsorship of the scoreboard in the gym. Mr. Marshall indicated that the scoreboard (already having a sponsorship sign on it) had moved as is from the previous gym after completion of renovations.

Ms. Moran requested further information on the following items:

1. Luce Doors-she understood some doors were recently replaced and still under warranty. She requested verification of warranty for these doors.
2. An inventory of CPS technology for educators, staff and students and a plan for repurposing anything that may still have a life. She also asked for a plan for recouping funds for damaged or lost inventory from staff/ students. Mr. Fogel indicated that this inventory is almost ready and will be presented shortly.
3. CHS Art Laptops-more information on what they are and how they are unique from other laptops. Mr. Marshall understood from the Art Department that current laptops are not meeting the needs of art students.
4. Safety and Security-Ms. Moran asked Mr. Folan to forward Chief Rafferty's Safety Plan. Mr. Folan will share report as well as feedback from building members regarding safety and best practices and noted the signage
5. Hansen Interior Door Shades-Ms. Moran recalled an allocation 2 years ago to install interior door shades on all Hansen windows. She asked for clarification on what was completed. Mr. Marshall stated he had walked the building and noted that there were no shades on some of the classroom windows. These windows will be covered with shades.
6. Ms.Moran asked that all Custodial equipment requests be moved to Furniture and Fixtures for consistency.
7. Library Furniture-Ms. Moran asked for clarification of library furniture purchases and that Mr. Marshall designate year of work on this-ie year 1 of 2; year 2 of 2;
8. Classroom based Instruments- \$100k has been spent on instruments since 2019. Ms. Moran would like an inventory that includes what has been purchased, where it is now and expected lifetime use of each instrument. Mr. Marshall did note that band/orchestra now includes fifth graders who had to be outfitted with instruments.
9. Allocations for furniture-Ms. Moran is looking for where 2022 allocations might be. Mr. Marshall stated that some carpet and soft chairs were stored in a container and had to be discarded due to mold; other furniture was moved around from the lobby in the building to other spaces within the same building.
10. GMS requests: Ms. Moran wanted to be sure requests from GMS were being acknowledged. She noted concern that the new building will not be inhabitable for at least five years and wants to be sure the current building has all it needs to accommodate current students. Mr. Marshall acknowledged that he had had a conversation with Mr. Mulhern who thought the building was in good shape and not requiring further capital monies.

Ms. O'Halloran thanked the administration for their efforts in budget planning, but did ask that the administration provide better context for some line item considerations to the School Committee. Mr. Folan reiterated the process of budgeting indicating it was borne out of professional recommendations, vetting and quality control with principals followed by several reviews before moving forward with the requests.

6. 2024-2025 School Start Date (VOTE): Superintendent Folan proposed a school start date of Wednesday, August 28th for the school year 2024-2025. This date was mutually agreed upon by the CEA and District administration, and well received by the Canton Community. Hearing no questions or requests for further discussion, Chair O'Halloran called for a motion to approve the 2024-25 School Start date as written and presented. Vote was unanimous at 4-0 and recorded as follows:

Laura Arboleda	yea
Kimberly McCourt	yea
Maureen Moran	yea
Kendall O'Halloran	yea
4 yeas	0 nay

F. Public Comment: None

G. Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Operations Report; Mr. Marshall had nothing further to report.

H. Consent Agenda:

1. Open Session Minutes: August 3, 2023, October 19, 2023
2. Overnight and Out of State Travel Approvals:
 - a. CHS Girls Hockey Overnight Trip to Martha's Vineyard - 1/13/24-1/14/24
 - b. GMS Montreal, Canada Out of State Travel - 4/14/24-4/16/24
3. Warrants: November 3, 2023

Chair O'Halloran announced the contents of the Consent Agenda and asked if any member had a need for discussion or a request to remove any of the items. Hearing none, Ms. O'Halloran asked for a motion for approval of the listed minutes, travel requests, and warranty as written and presented. Ms. Moran made the motion; Ms. McCourt seconded. Roll Call vote was unanimous at 4-0 and recorded as follows:

Laura Arboleda	yea
Kimberly McCourt	yea
Maureen Moran	yea
Kendall O'Halloran	yea
4 yeas	0 nays

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

5. Ms. McCourt-nothing to report;

6. Ms. Moran-nothing to report;
7. Ms. Arboleda: nothing to report, but did note that the Policy Subcommittee continues its work to update the Policy Manual by the end of the year;
8. Ms. O'Halloran:
 - i. CCPC-proposal presentations and interviews will begin next week;
 - ii. reminded School Committee members to review Section I of the Policy Manual and forward questions and comments to her;
 - iii. Content and Communications: nothing to report;
5. Stephen Marshall:
 - i. CCPC proposal presentations are scheduled for Nov. 6th;
 - ii. The Sustainability Committee has not convened yet; there is discussion merging it with another subcommittee.
 - iii. BRC meeting-Mr. Marshall was absent for the most recent meeting due to other commitments at CPS.
6. Emma Cummings:
 - i. Attended the MASA Delegates Assembly where she was elected to the Executive Board;
 - ii. Announced a mattress/pillow sale on November 11th and 12th 10am-4pm in the CHS gym to support the Seniors.
 - iii. Tickets for the Wizard of Oz performances scheduled for Nov. 17-19 are now available.(Ms. Cummings is playing the role of Dorothy.)

J. Other Business: None

K. Future Business: The next Open Session meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 16, 2023 @ 6:00 pm.

L. Adjournment: Hearing no questions or requests for further discussion, Ms. O'Halloran asked for a motion to adjourn the Thursday, November 2, 2023 School Committee Open Session Meeting at 8:17 pm. Ms. Moran made the motion; Ms. McCourt seconded. Ensuing vote was unanimous at 4-0 and recorded as follows:

Laura Arboleda	yea
Kimberly McCourt	yea
Maureen Moran	yea
Kendall O'Halloran	yea

4 years

0 nays

Documents Reviewed:

Superintendent's Report November 2, 2023

Teaching and Learning Update-2023-24 Assessment Schedule

Galvin Middle School Building Update November 2, 2023

CPS Food Allergy Management Policy-revised October 17, 2023

FY25 Capital Requests

CPS 2024-2025 School Start Date

Overnight & Out of State Travel Approvals:

CHS Girls Hockey overnight trip to Martha's Vineyard 1.13.24-1.14.24

GMS Montreal, Canada 4.14.24-4.16.24