

Town of Canton  
Canton School Committee Minutes of the Meeting of September 10, 2020  
Remote Meeting Zoom Webinar

- A. **Call to Order** The meeting of the School Committee is called to order at 7:03 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

B. **New Business**

1. Policy Review: Due to the content and size of the EBC interim policy, it was presented to the School Committee in two sections. Superintendent Fischer-Mueller presented ½ of the Policy EBC-Supplemental for a second read. This policy came from the Massachusetts Association of School Committees (MASC) and is supported by the district's attorney. This entire policy will only be in effect during the pandemic. The policy outlines changes to the following policies: **(File JCA)** Student Assignment to schools, **(File IC/ICA)** School Calendar, **(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. Members requested more time to read through this document and to approach this interim policy as a first read for the whole policy and include the policies below so the entire policy can be adopted as a whole.

The Superintendent also presented the other ½ of EBC Supplemental/Interim policy for a first read. The policies reviewed during this reading were: **(File ID)** School Day, **(File IKE)** Retention/Promotion of Students, **(File IKF)** Graduation Requirements, **(File JIC)** Student Discipline, **(File JK)** Student Conduct, **(File JIE)** Pregnant Students, **(File JL)** Student Welfare, **(File JLC)** Student Health Services and Requirements, **(File JLCC)** Communicable Diseases, **(File JRA)** Student Records, the MOA with local police, **(File JJ)** Co-Curricular and Extracurricular activities, **(Files JJI, JJI-R)** Student Athletics, **(File JH)** Student Absences, **(File KI)** Visitors in Schools, **(File EEA)** Student Transportation, **(File EEAEC)** and **(File EEAG)** Student Transportation in Private Vehicles, **(File EC)** Buildings and Grounds Management, **(File ECA)** Building and Grounds Security.

The superintendent presented policies (**Files IKF, JCA, ID, and EEAEC**) as a first read and possible policy adoption as CPS does not currently have these policies. Policy (**File IHBHE**) Remote Learning, was also presented as a first read. Members requested to bring all policies back for a second at the next School Committee meeting.

2. FY21 Budget Overview: Mr. Barry Nectow presented the FY21 budget as it relates to changes in the budget due to COVID -19. Mr. Nectow reported that staffing needs are what is primarily driving the changes. The expense categories discussed are building maintenance and supplies, equipment purchases, and technology. The amount projected through 9/10/20 is \$2,244,981 and an additional \$650,000 through June 2021 with total COVID-19 related expenditures listed at \$2,894,981 for FY21. \$2,429,265 in funding sources come from the Cares Act, grants, and the operating budget. This leaves a \$465,716 deficit. The savings in the budget from the school closure of March-June and not reflected in this overview. The full FY20 budget recap will be coming soon once the Town closes the book. There was a request for the subcommittee to provide more itemized information at upcoming meetings.
3. School Calendar Update: Superintendent Fischer-Mueller presented an abbreviated school calendar for review and update. The calendar includes the months of September-January. All major federal holidays are observed. 1st day of school is September 16. Every Wednesday is a remote learning day with the first half of the day being synchronous learning and the second half asynchronous. The calendar is followed for students on both the RLP and curriculum. There was a question about Cohort A and the 3 Monday holidays during this period. It was reported that Cohorts A and B days are balanced in the number of school days due to Thanksgiving break and winter holiday. Students attend 170 days. The last day of school is June 18. There are 2 days of school banked for teacher PD.

**Motion to approve the abbreviated 2020-2021 calendar:** 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

### C. Unfinished Business

1. School Reopening Discussion: Superintendent Fischer-Mueller shared the DPH COVID-19 Metrics and Dashboard. Canton is currently in the green. An overview of the school reopening plans was shared again. Every Wednesday is essentially an early release. The first half of the day is synchronous learning and the second half is asynchronous. Staff will be collaborating and buildings will be cleaned. The week of Sept. 21-25, K, Grade 6, Grade 9, and students with special circumstances in Category 1 will be in person. Grade 9, Cohort A will be in on Monday and Wednesday, Cohort B will be in on Thursday and Friday. All other grades will be remote this week. Bus transportation will be available for these grades this week. Building principals will be sharing communication tomorrow. The week of 9/29, all students will be in the hybrid model.

The Remote Learning Pathway (RLP) teachers have been identified. Numbers per grade level breakdown is 6th grade 45 students, 7th grade 54 students, 8th, 40 students, 9th 25 students, 10th 27 students, 11th 41 students, 12th 37 students. There is no Principal assigned to the RLP, all communication for the RLP will be through the Principals of the school the student is assigned to. Request for a singular point of contact for all RLP students. The communications will be sent out tomorrow. Pick up of materials will be at the Rodman building.

There was a lengthy discussion about RLP staffing. It was confirmed that teachers on the RLP are current, certified Canton teachers. There are 2 sections per grade level in K-5, GMS has 2 sets of teams. One position is being filled tomorrow. Classes are being offered across the board. Hours of instructional time and start and end times will be the same for students on the RLP. Long term subs will be coming in to fill in for teachers on the RLP. Specific information will be provided shortly.

Time on learning questions and class/school schedule questions were posed by members. Time on learning will remain the same, even with Wednesday's being part being synchronous and one part asynchronous. Specific hours of collaboration and PD will be counted up and shared at a later date. Clarification and more specific timeframes requested for students' schedules. Questions about how much time families are expected to put into each discipline. Ms. Moran raised concern that families and the School Committee are still looking at draft schedules. Ms. Gallagher said that the committee has been informed as to when this information will be communicated and she raised concerns with the line of questioning. Concerns raised regarding the core content area time on learning hours. Chair Mirliani asked Committee members for patience and flexibility as Administrators work through the DESE guidelines and new issues present as a result of the pandemic. She asked members to present questions in a respectful manner.

BCO stands for band, chorus, and orchestra. The question was raised as to what students are doing during this time if they are not in BCO and clarity for what on-demand learning time is and what students are learning at this time. Clarification was also requested as to why the high school is having 2 half days and not full days. It was explained that parents wanted to maintain levels at the high school, therefore the models approved in consultation with the BOH affords the highest level of safety for staff and students during transitions as well as being able to offer all courses to students while still offering some version of in person. Principal Turcotte offered a webinar this evening for families.

Building operations updates were shared. There are signs, decals, and plexiglass being installed throughout the district. Tents will be used as auxiliary option space at each school. HVAC work has been completed. Draft reports due next week and will be shared with the public.

Mr. Nectow also shared transportation updates provided. Routes will be in Citizen next week and on the website. Temporary bus passes will be distributed and permanent ones distributed once school starts. Families will not be able to ride 2 buses ie. picked up in one location and dropped off in a different location. A student must be dropped off and picked up at the same stop.

Ms. Shore provided a Technology and Digital Learning update and a deployment overview. There is a slight delay in some student devices. Do not expect a significant wait. Will update the Committee next week.

Ms. Merenda asked if students will have the same level of coursework, i.e. high honors, foreign language. Superintendent Fischer-Mueller said that Principals will provide this information tomorrow.

Ms. Mullen provided a Student Services update. There are 3 different cohorts of students with special circumstances. Letters have been sent to all families to inform them of the process and considerations for special circumstances cohorts. These considerations were based on DESE guidelines and professional working group guidance. Category 1 students will attend school 4.5 days, Category II is will attend 4 days, Category III will attend school following the district phase in model. Category III is the largest group. Team chairs at each school are reaching out to all families. Progress monitoring will take place during the first few weeks of instruction.

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

#### **D. Public Comment**

Annmarie Silvasy	Asked to reconsider CHS ½ day. Asked about CHS staffing. Asked about metrics and how/when instructional models will change
Kristen Isaacs	Questions about 7th graders pre-algebra
Sheila White	Thanked members for asking clarifying questions. When will schedules be shared? Requested clarity on Remote Learning Pathway communication and schedules.
Ellen Donovan	Suggested calendar modifications, i.e. Cohort A going to school on Wed. on Monday holiday weeks. Requested a survey of teachers who will be remote learning who have children at home. Clarity requested about how many teachers will be teaching from home while students are in the classroom. Class size questions.

#### **E. Routine Matters**

1. Approve Executive Minutes dated September 3, 2020

**Move:** Nichola Gallagher

**Second:** Kristian Merenda

**Roll Call Vote:** 5-0

2. Approve Executive Minutes dated September 3, 2020

**Move:** Nichola Gallagher

**Second:** Kristian Merenda

**Roll Call Vote:** 5-0

#### **F. Sub-Committee Reports**

1. CCPC - Kristin Mirliani - meeting next week.
2. BRC - Chuck Rae - meeting in mid-October.
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 - nothing new to report.

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** Ms. Gallagher acknowledged that she reacted to an opinion. She apologized for any language she used that may have offended anyone.  
Ms. Merenda suggested revisiting the type of subcommittees that we currently have.  
Suggested the possibility of communication and/or curriculum subcommittee.

I. **Adjournment** Nichola Gallagher motioned to close Open Session at 9:42 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