

Town of Canton
Canton School Committee Minutes of the Meeting of October 7, 2021
Canton High School Distance Learning Lab

Members of the public were also able to view a live stream of the meeting via <http://cantoncommunitytv.org/>

A. Call to Order: The meeting of the School Committee is called to order at 7:00 pm by Chair Merenda.

B. Open Session:

Present are:

Kristian Merenda

Nichola Gallagher

Maureen Moran

Kendall O'Halloran

Also Present:

Derek Folan, Assistant Superintendent

Stephen Marshall, Director of Finance and Operations

Colleen Hutchinson, Recording Secretary

Public

Staff

C. Student Member Report: Ms. Madeline Pushard talked about CHS. She expressed her delight with being back at school. She talked about the Coffeehouse, upcoming SAT's, and thanked everyone for all the Senior activities. Madeline thanked the CHS teachers for their care and work in supporting all students.

D. Interim Superintendent's Report:

Teacher of the Year: Mr. Folan, Mr. Sperling and Mr. Pat Connor congratulated Mr. Mike Eromin, CHS Social Studies Teacher, for being named the recipient of the William Spratt Award for Excellence in Teaching Secondary Social Studies, sponsored by the Massachusetts Council for the Social Studies.

CHS Coffeehouse: The CHS Drama Club presented its 3rd annual Fall Coffeehouse. Next up are the One Acts on October 22 as well as our CHS Fall play *CLUE*, scheduled for November 18, 19, 20 at 7 p.m. and November 21 at 2 p.m.

GMS Cross Country: Galvin Middle School has kicked off its Cross Country season. Over 60 students participate each week under the guidance of first-year coaches, Jessica Dineen and Meg Gonzalez.

COVID Remembrance Night: Thank you to Interim Assistant Superintendent Sarah Shannon for attending last night's town-sponsored "Evening of Remembrance". Thank you also to CHS senior Sarah Lopez who volunteered to read a poem, "On Joy and Sorrow" by Kahlil Gibran.

Staff Acknowledgements:

National Coaches Day -- October 6, 2021.

School Custodian Appreciation Day -- October 2, 2021.

Other events: October is National Arts & Humanities Month where the importance of culture in America is recognized

National Bullying Prevention Month also takes place in October as a time to focus and raise awareness on bullying and bullying prevention.

Indigenous Peoples' Day is celebrated on October 11, 2021 to honor the cultures and histories of the Native American people.

Teen Read Week is a national adolescent literacy initiative created in 1998. Its purpose is to encourage teens to be regular readers and library users.

Updates

TikTok Challenges: The GMS and CHS administration sent out a letter to families this week, alerting them to the TikTok Challenges that have been posted on the social media platform. There is zero tolerance for any of these activities as they undermine the values, school culture, the well-being of all -- and the law. Administration is applauding the great, great majority who are doing the right thing in the buildings. CHS Principal Jeff Sperling discussed the matter further.

COVID Safety Checks -- The Canton Nursing Team started its first round of COVID Safety Checks (formerly known as pooled testing) this week. Partnering with the company CIC, the Nursing Team coordinated a successful first round of testing. Nearly 800 school community members are signed up.

Champions of Excellence

Preparing for STEAM Week: There are many district-wide activities taking place in preparation for STEAM week on October 18-22. At the Hansen, Mr. Justin Martin, Hansen Digital Learning Specialist and Hansen Math Specialist, Ms. Nicole Inguanti, for designing a "drive thru" learning opportunity in the upstairs hallway of the Hansen School - STEAM Alley. STEAM is also in action at the preschool. Building math and science vocabulary, creating structures with different materials, part to whole planning.

At CHS, Ms. Healey's students are also hard at work prepping for STEAM week. The Robotics Club will be under the tent at the Sunday Farmer's Market on October 17. CHS Engineering students will be at CHS that same day doing the electronics recycling day.

GMS CAPT Fundraiser: Tomorrow, October 8, is the GMS CAPT organization's single fundraiser of the year- FIT4FUND\$.

CHS Unified Sports: The Canton Bulldogs hosted the Mansfield Hornets on Tuesday night for their home opener Unified Basketball game.

Important Dates and Events

Oct. 11	No School – Columbus Day
Oct. 13	CHS PSAT/SAT Testing Day
Oct. 21	School Committee Meeting, 7:00 pm, Canton High School DLL
Oct. 27	CPACSS: Basic Rights: Understanding the IEP, 6:30-8:30 pm https://fcsn-org.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZwrcuqrqzluHNF9XAND4ulyNFH8RwdQM9p3 <u>BR - IEP Virtual WS Flyer (2).pdf</u>
Oct. 28	CDEI's Global Diversity Event -- Community Connections, 7:00 pm

- E. Teaching and Learning Report: Interim Assistant Superintendent, Ms. Sarah Shannon, shared information about the recent Instructional Leadership Team Retreat held on Thursday, September 30, 2021. This PreK-12 Academic Leadership Team Retreat focused on exploring and our definition of a culture of achievement, identifying indicators of excellence across departments and schools, MCAS data review, and PreK-12 department collaboration. Ms. Shannon shared examples of excellence. After surveying participants, the group decided to meet 4x/year. Ms. Shannon shared that during the early release on October 1 teachers from all grade levels and specialists engaged in a variety of professional development opportunities and collaborative work by building and departments.
- F. New Business Items:
1. MCAS District Overview: Ms. Deborah Rooney and Ms. Sarah Shannon presented a summary of the results of the Spring 2021 MCAS. Results looked at comparisons to the State achievement, results by subgroup, and how we are using this year's data. There is no comparative data for this year, due to lack of data from last year due to COVID. Mostly, CPS achievement results were consistent with prior years. Ms. Rooney broke down the achievement levels and growth in ELA and math for all grade levels. All data is being reviewed and used along with benchmark data to identify students that need interventions. School-based data is being shared with School Councils. There will be a content standard analysis by dept. and grade level. Principals will be providing school-based presentations to families to help families better understand their own school, grade-level, and individual student data. Schools will be doing a deep dive into subgroup data as there are achievement gaps in all subjects for specific subgroups. Reports will be sent home on 10/15. There will be presentations to families. The full report is available on the website under the School Committee tab, meetings/agenda/minutes.
 2. Quarter 4 Financial Report: Mr. Marshall presented the Q4 Financial Report. The FY21 voted school operating budget is \$46,186,271: when increased by FY20 encumbrances of \$2,891,332, the total operating budget for FY21 was \$49,077,603. The FY21 operating budget was also increased by \$370,000 from a Fincom budget transfer related to the formation of the Remote Learning Pathway for a total FY21 operating budget of \$49,447,603. Total FY21 operating budget expenditures, through 06/30/2021, were \$49,293,682; the remaining \$153,922 was returned to the town.
The FY21 operating budget spending and encumbered is comprised of salaries totaling \$41,476,698 and expenses totaling \$7,816,984. Salary expenses made up 84% of the operating budget. The combined total of salaries, out-of-district tuitions, transportation and utilities, totaling \$45,803,751, makes up 93% of the operating budget. Mr. Marshall discussed other revenue sources, ie. grants, donations, circuit breaker and more which totaled \$59,060,596. Although COVID impacted the school department budget, all costs were covered associated with the operating budget in FY21. Mr. Marshall is projecting a 3% increase for tuition and transportation. Revolving funds will need to be rebuilt due to the lack of money coming in for building rentals, parking, etc. The District will likely not be eligible for circuit breaker extraordinary relief funds this year due to special education expenses plateauing. The full report is available on the website under the School Committee tab, meetings/agenda/minutes.
 3. MOA Ratification: Mr. Folan announced the recent CTA MOA was voted unanimously by the School Committee at a recent executive session, then ratified by the Canton Teachers Association. There is a vaccination requirement for educators. Thank you to the CTA leadership and school counsel.
 4. GMS MSBA: Mr. Folan reviewed the current status of the GMS MSBA application, along with anticipated next steps. The SOI is moving forward in the process for consideration for a renovation expansion or a full replacement. This is a multi-step process. The next step is an invitation into the eligibility phase. All stakeholders' input will be gathered. The Committee will meet in an upcoming workshop to delve into additional planning.

5. Communication Plan: Mr. Folan provided an update on the District's communication plan. New communication will include:
- A District Smore Newsletter will be sent twice a month, starting next Thursday, Oct. 14.
 - Twitter -- @Canton_IntSuper
 - Family Forums -- Will be scheduled by the end of the first term.
 - Staff, Student and Family Survey #1 -- By the end of October. Mr. Folan hopes to do about 3 surveys per year.
6. Policy Review: Mr. Folan, Chair Merenda, and Ms. Kendall O'Halloran presented the following policies for a 1st read.
- a. BDA - School Committee Organizational Meeting - minor grammatical changes, and change of language from Secretary to Clerk. Check Town bi-laws regarding what constitutes a majority vote, i.e.: can 2 constitute a majority vote. Change District's annual election to Town's.
 - b. BDB - School Committee Officers - Bullet Recording Secretary under Clerk so the role is not listed as an officer, and consider language change to Recording Secretary/Administrative Assistant to Superintendent, other minor grammatical changes.
 - c. EBCFA - Face Coverings - minor changes reviewed and suggested. Mr. Folan explained that DESE extended the mask mandate to November 1, 2021. Mr. Folan explained that the vaccination rate threshold of 80% is a local decision. The policy will be reviewed at the November 4, 2021 meeting.
- Move to waive the 2nd read of EBCFA:** Nichola Gallagher
Second: Kendall O'Halloran
Vote: 4-0
- Move to approve EBCFA with changes proposed:** Nichola Gallagher
Second: Maureen Moran
Vote: 4-0

G. Public Comment: None

- H. Director of Finance and Operations Report: Mr. Stephen Marshall reported on three CCPC pre-applications: Hansen Playground, \$285,000, Gibson Field lighting, \$200,000, and the GMS basketball courts, \$54,095.

Move to approve the proposed CCPC applications: Kendall O'Halloran
Second: Nichola Gallagher
Vote: 4-0

- Mr. Marshall reviewed the Capital and Operating budget timeline schedule. Capital budgets are due back to the Business Office from Administrators on Oct. 18. Nov. 4 capital budget items will be presented to the School Committee.
- Operating budget kicks off with the Cabinet on Oct. 20. Subcommittee discussion Oct. 25-29. December 16 will be the presentation to SC. January 20 is the proposed preliminary budget to the School Committee.
- The Food Services Dept still offers free meals. Staffing shortage in this department. Difficulty procuring products due to COVID. Results in changes to menus. Working with state and vendors.
- The District received a shipment of clear masks for staff and students.
- Esser III application submitted on October 1.

Motion to pull policies, BBAA, BBB, BBBA/BBBB, BBBE from the Consent Agenda to check that Vice Chair is not hyphenated. Move to approve above B policies with the deletion of the hyphen in the word Vice Chair throughout all policies where applicable:
Nichola Gallagher

Seconded: Maureen Moran
Vote: 4-0

I. Consent Agenda:

Motion to approve the remaining items in the consent agenda outlined below: Nichola Gallagher

Seconded: Maureen Moran

The Consent Agenda passed unanimously. 4-0

The following items were included in the Consent Agenda.

Regular Session Minutes: September 2, 2021, September 23, 2021

Executive Session Minutes: September 23, 2021

AP and Food Service Warrants: September 24, 2021

J. Sub-Committee, Task Force, and Liaison Post Updates:

- Finance Subcommittee meeting upcoming
- Ms. Merenda informed the Committee that there is at least one application for the vacant SC seat. The application period open until 10/16/21
- Attorney Review: Ms. Gallagher will provide feedback. Ms. Moran will proceed with this task force and is shooting for a November 1 targeted date for further updates
- Ms. O'Halloran continues to manage the Content and Communication Advisory Committee with a focus on engagement and visibility
- District Planning and Evaluation process addressed during Mr. Folan's Communication Plan
- Wellness SC seat still open
- The calendar task force is still on hold
- MPIC - Work continues
- BRC - Ms. Merenda is willing to rejoin
- CCPC deadline is tomorrow at 5:00 pm
- CDEI - Eventbrite tickets are available for Thursday night to meet the Committee members
- Sustainability Committee is holding an Oct. 17 electronic waste collection and holding a November 2 event on *talking trash and recycling*. Next meeting on 11/12/21
- CAASA helping to fund the presentation by Chris Herren and the backpacks that were made available for families
- Will be securing a date to swear in the new member at the end of October/beginning of November
- Ms. Moran has reached out to CAPT/CAPE/CPACSS to identify herself as a contact
- Ms. Merenda, Ms. Gallagher, and Mr. Folan are attending the MASC virtual annual training/conference in November

K. Other Business: None

L. Future Business: Next School Committee meeting will be held Thursday, October 21, 2021, @ 7:00 in the Distance Learning Lab at CHS.

M. Adjournment: Kendall O'Halloran motioned to close the Open Session at 10:23 pm. Maureen Moran seconded. It was voted 4-0.

4 yeas 0 nays

Documents Used During the Meeting:

1. Superintendent's Report dated October 7, 2021
2. Policies: BBAA, BBB, BBBA/BBBB, BBBE, BCA, BCB, BDA, BDB, EBCFA
3. Teaching and Learning Update for SC 10/7/2021

4. FY21Q4 Financial Report
5. CPA Pre-applications for Hansen Playground, Gibson Lighting, and Galvin Basketball Courts
6. MCAS Presentation ppt
7. MSBA Memo Update

Action Items:

- SC to visit schools during STEAM week
- Policy BDA - Research if 2 can be a majority of the vote
- Review BDB with regard to Recording Secretary. Pull out of the consent agenda as a 2nd read, add as further discussion.