

Town of Canton
Canton School Committee Minutes of the Meeting of February 17, 2022
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 5:02 pm. The Committee met for the purposes of participating in a District Calendar Task Force Workshop.

Present are:

Kristian Merenda, School Committee Chair
Nichola Gallagher, School Committee Vice Chair, and DCTF Co-chair
Maureen Moran, School Committee Clerk
Kendall O'Halloran, School Committee Member
Laura Arboleda, School Committee Member (arrived at 5:14)
Derek Folan, Interim Superintendent
Stephen Marshall, Director of Finance and Operations
Sarah Shannon, Interim Assistant Superintendent
Deborah Rooney, Director of Teaching and Learning
Dianna Mullen, Director of Student Services
Julie Shore Director of Technology and Digital Learning
Colleen Hutchinson, Recording Secretary
Kelly Hung, DCTF Co-chair

- B. The Committee convened the School Committee meeting at 6:04 pm.

Also Present:

Public
Press
Staff

- C. Student Member Report and Student Advisory Committee Introductions: Suraj Ramanathan met with Principal Brauning at the Hansen he shared activities taking place such as STEAM club, Great Kindness Challenge, and upcoming events including the Fun Run and the Boosterthon. CHS is celebrating Black History Month, looking forward to the Spring concert and other events.

- D. Interim Superintendent's Report:

Interim Superintendent Highlights

100th day of school: February 9 celebrated the 100th day of school.

Kiara Cerutti: Less than two weeks after joining the exclusive 1,000 point club, CHS senior Kiara Cerruti broke the CHS Girls Basketball career scoring record. Cerruti needed only 13 points to surpass Eileen Morneau's 1057 points- which was set back in 1996. Kiara's coach, Jimmy Choquette, joined the 100-win club this past week and has his team poised for a great state tournament.

Teacher Appreciation Game: During the CHS Boys Basketball game on February 8, 28 teachers were honored in a pre-game event.

Events/Acknowledgements This Month

School Bus Driver Appreciation Day: February 23 marks School Bus Driver Appreciation Week.

President's Day: Monday, February 21 is President's Day. This day is viewed as a day to celebrate all U.S. presidents, past and present.

Updates

Athletics: Girls Ice Hockey team is once again Hockomock League Champions. Boys Ice Hockey team -- currently riding a 16-game winning streak -- and our Girls Swim team were both crowned Hockomock Davenport Champions.

PD Early Release: February 11th was a District-wide PD day. K-2 teachers engaged in professional learning with TLA consultant Dr. Giordana Basta entitled: *Shifting the Balance: Unpacking Shifts 3 & 4*, which focused on the science of reading and ways to improve instruction when teaching phonics and high-frequency words. Grade 3-5 teachers engaged in professional learning with TLA consultant Jen Yaeger focusing on small group instruction. and GMS and CHS educators engaged in professional learning by department -- as outlined in school improvement plans.

MCAS: The 2022 Spring MCAS testing window opens on Monday, March 28. For specific spring testing dates by school, grade and subject were shared.

Champions of Excellence

JFK Moana Jr. Production: Congratulations to the students and staff involved in the production of Moana Jr. this past weekend.

Hansen STEAM Club: The first week of the Hansen STEAM Club's Winter session was named the "Launch Party." Students were challenged to build a rocket that would fly without being touched.

CHS Alumni Achievements: CHS Alum Edy Massif recently had a segment on the Drew Barrymore show with another Canton Grad, Dan Sheehy, who is the Script Supervisor for that show.

Canton alum Ben Wiseman was in LA for the Super Bowl as the Logistics Coordinator for the NFL Honors and also attended the awards show before the game.

Important Dates and Events

Feb. 21	District Office Closed, President's Day
Feb. 21-25	No School - February Vacation
March 4-5	GMS Musical, CHS Auditorium, 7:00 pm
March 7-11	World Language Week and Civics Week
March 8-10	Kindergarten Registration, Online. Registration Information
March 10	School Committee Meeting, CHS DLL, 6:00 pm
March 11	No School, Staff PD -- GMS ½ Day PD

- E. **Teaching and Learning Report:** Wellness Coordinator Ryan Gordy shared details about the work and initiatives of the CPS Wellness Department. Students Suraj Ramanathan, Avery Piantedosi, Julius Hicks and Shannon McGrann joined to share their wellness experiences, what wellness classes they have taken, and how wellness has shaped them. Mr. Gordy presented the wellness wheel which addresses topics such as social, financial, spiritual community, emotional, environmental and physical. The Wellness classes operate under Shape America Standards. Mr. Gordy shared those standards across the grade levels. For additional information and a full report, see the School Committee webpage, Meetings/Agendas/Minutes.

- F. **Public Comment:**

Kristen Isaacs	In Person	spoke in support of making masks optional
Adam McCarthy	In Person	spoke in support of parents having the choice to do what they feel is right for their children. In favor of giving the right to choose
Bill MacDonald	In Person	spoke in support of making masks optional
Catherine Hoberg	In Person	thanked the Committee, briefly spoke about the GMS makeup day option, suggested a wellness day, supports the Committee on whatever decision is made with regard to masking
Lisa Goode	In Person	spoke in support of lifting the mask mandate
Kevin Martinek	In Person	spoke in support of lifting the mask mandate
Leanne Scarola	In Person	spoke in support of lifting the mask mandate
Elise Cedrone	In Person	spoke in support of lifting the mask mandate
Erin Sullivan	In Person	spoke in support of lifting the mask mandate

G. New Business:

1. COVID-19 Updates: Mr. Folan reviewed the DESE face coverings memo and shared his recommendations regarding masks. Ms. Merenda explained that the policy subcommittee met to review the updated MASC face coverings policy EBCFA. Mr. Folan read a statement. Mr. Folan explained that following DESE and DPH guidelines in the past have served the District well. Mr. Folan made the recommendation to make masks optional for CPS effective February 28, 2022. There are 3 scenarios where masks are/will still be required: school buses per federal regulation, CPS nurse offices as a medical facility, and 5 additional days following a 5-day quarantine from a positive COVID case other than when eating, drinking or outside. MIAA has aligned with DESE and DPH guidelines. Mr. Folan read a letter from the school physician Dr. Muse that supports the termination of the mask mandate. Chair Merenda shared the proposed draft Canton face coverings policy. The policy is language reads that masks are optional and contains additional details including a bullet/statement stating that the school community will contribute to a culture of respect, tolerance and inclusivity for individual choices. Preschool children are still strongly recommended to wear masks, however, it is not required. Pool testing is opt-in and will continue, at home, opt-in Antigen test kit distributions will still be occurring until April.

Motion to approve the CPS policy EBCFA as written: Kendall O'Halloran

Seconded: Laura Arboleda

Vote: 5-0

2. Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS): Mr. Ryan Gordy shared the results of the YRBS for GMS and CHS. All students were surveyed on 12/9/2021. 463 GMS students and 755 CHS students completed the survey. Comparisons were made with the 2017 and 2019 data. Questions in both GMS and CHS surveys pertained to school culture, bullying, mental health, alcohol, marijuana and vaping. The CHS survey contained questions about sexual activity, dating violence, driving behavior. Action steps to mitigate bullying were shared. Information about counseling options both within school and outside of schools was shared. Other interventions and action steps were discussed. The Wellness Department works with Minding your Mind, Active Minds and Kyle Cares and the Student Wellness Advisory Committee (SWAG) explores, educates, and improves the overall wellness and social-emotional learning of students at CPS. The next steps include sharing the slide deck and both school reports with families and community, there will be a presentation to

CAASA, reports will be discussed at School Council Meetings. It was recommended to review the correlation of the YRBS results to restorative practices and tie practices in. Additionally, it was suggested that there is a need to educate parents on what restorative practices are and how they can affect/relate to the behaviors surveyed in the YRBS. The full report can be found on the School Committee webpage, Meetings/Agendas/Minutes.

3. CCPC Survey: The Canton Community Preservation Committee (CCPC) is surveying the community to help guide its funding priorities. There is a QR Code and a link available to complete the survey. The document can be found on the School Committee webpage, Meetings/Agendas/Minutes.
4. District Goals Updates: Mr. Folan discussed the following district goals:
 - the staff survey results will be shared soon. A new professional learning counsel has been developed by Interim Assistant Superintendent Shannon. The District continues to gather interest relative to professional learning options.
 - Staff is working on a grade 5 Social Studies unit, including Civics. Ms. Rooney, Ms. Abrams, Mr. Natale and Mr. Connor are working together to develop lessons for this unit.
 - Ms. Rooney has drafted a Curriculum Program Review process. This plan will be presented formally at a future meeting. Several disciplines are being developed now for PreK-12 including math, social studies, and world languages, in an effort to examine best practices, instruction, assessment, and structures. Will be looking to determine where enhancements are needed and what needs to be tweaked. This is a multiple-year process starting with a new subject each year. Math is ongoing, social studies has started this year, then world language will be next. The plan is to do a deep dive this summer. The schedule and the exact process will be shared soon.
5. Superintendent Contract: Chair Merenda shared that with the completion of the formative review, the Committee has made the decision to appoint Mr. Derek Folan as the Superintendent, contingent on completing contract negotiations.

Motion to approve the appointment of Mr. Derek Folan to the role of Superintendent contingent upon successful contract negotiations.: Nichola Gallagher

Seconded: Laura Arboleda

Vote: 5-0

- H. Director of Finance and Operations Report: Mr. Marshall provided an update on the work of the Comprehensive Financial Review Task Force. Mr. Marshall explained that the recommendation is to move the work out of the task force and into the finance subcommittee's purview. The task force recommendation is to do an RFP to hire an outside consultant, to develop a long-term 5 year Capital Plan. The recommendation is for this work to be managed by the finance subcommittee. The work of the task force is complete and now the finance subcommittee will explore the process of the Capital Plan. Ms. Gallagher requested clarification as to the next steps. Mr. Marshall felt that the finance subcommittee can vet out some of the details before bringing them to the full committee for approval, next steps, and possibly a more detailed scope. Timelines were discussed. Mr. Marshall advised that the contracted work of a 5-10 year Capital plan should be aligned to the Strategic Plan and it should get started as soon as possible.

- I. Consent Agenda:

Motion to approve the consent agenda with the correction to the warrant date. The warrant being approved this evening is dated February 18, 2022, not February 4, 2022:

Maureen Moran

Seconded: Kendall O'Halloran

The Consent Agenda passed unanimously: 5-0

The following items were included in the Consent Agenda:

Open Session Minutes: January 20, 2022, February 3, 2022

Executive Session Minutes: February 3, 2022

The Warrant approved this evening was February 18, 2022

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

- CAPT and CAPE met yesterday. An overview of the budget will be shared with members. Ms Moran will schedule dates. Ms. Gallagher will also join
- MPIC update has invited the Committee to attend a meeting in April to review areas of collaboration and synergy
- CDEI hosting a Black History Month Event, 2/28 at the public library and via zoom, at 7:00 pm. Ms. Gallagher shared some events/activities taking place during this event
- DCTF has been meeting regularly. All recommendations will go to the full committee for further discussion
- Communications ads are bumped back slightly to be aligned with school presentations during upcoming school committee meetings

K. Other Business: Ms. Gallagher said it is critical for the Committee to foster an environment of respect for one another. Ms. Gallagher referenced CPS policy BDF with regard to the composition of task forces. Ms. Merenda explained that the policy subcommittee is reviewing all policies. Ms. Merenda talked about best practices with regard to creating committees and task forces per BDF and that the current CPS policy BDF is standard and aligned with the MASC policy. A template will be developed to provide clarity regarding task force assignment, length of time, reports to be produced etc...

L. Future Business: Next School Committee meeting will be held Thursday, March 10, 2022, @ 6:00 pm in the Distance Learning Lab at CHS.

M. Executive Session: Kendall O'Halloran motioned to enter into Executive Session at 9:58 pm for the purpose of conducting contract negotiations with nonunion personnel, Interim Superintendent. Nichola Gallagher seconded. It was voted 5-0.

Ms. Moran then motioned to also enter executive session to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining, Unit A and Unit E, and AFSCME Units. Kendall O'Halloran seconded. The Committee will not return to Open Session. It was voted 5-0.

Documents Used During the Meeting:

1. Superintendent's Report dated February 17, 2022
2. Wellness ppt Presentation
3. CCPC Survey Flyer
4. MASC Face Coverings policy (EBCFA)
5. Canton DRAFT Face Coverings policy(EBCFA)
6. 2/17/22 Vaccination Rates
7. GMS YRBS Report
8. CHS YRBS Report
9. YRBS ppt 2021