

Town of Canton  
Canton School Committee Minutes of the Meeting of October 1, 2020  
Remote Meeting Zoom Webinar

- A. **Call to Order** The meeting of the School Committee is called to order at 7:00 pm by Chair Mirliani via a roll call vote. Chair Mirliani announced that the Committee is just returning from Executive Session where a roll call vote of 4-0 opened the meeting.

Kristin Mirliani	yea
Nichola Gallagher	yea
Kristian Merenda	yea
Maureen Moran	yea
Charles Rae	absent

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, Director of Student Services  
Julie Shore, Director of Technology and Digital Learning  
Dave Turcotte, Principal, Canton High School  
Sarah Shannon, Principal, GMS  
David Brauninger, Principal, Hansen School  
Emily DiDonna, Principal, JFK  
Yeshi Lamour, Principal, Luce  
Donna Kilday, PreK-2 Early Childhood Coordinator

B. **New Business**

1. Policy Review: Superintendent Fischer-Mueller presented the following policies for a vote of approval

**Motion to approve policy EBC Supplemental - Interim Policy on COVID**

**Related Issues:** Nichola Gallagher

**Second:** Maureen Moran

**Roll Call Vote:** 4-0

Kristin Mirliani	yea
Kristian Merenda	yea
Maureen Moran	yea
Nichola Gallagher	yea

**Motion to approve policy IKF - Graduation Requirements - with the reference to MASC removed:** Nichola Gallagher

**Second:** Kristian Merenda

**Roll Call Vote:** 4-0

Kristin Mirliani	yea
Kristian Merenda	yea
Maureen Moran	yea
Nichola Gallagher	yea

There was a discussion about revisiting this policy in January 2021 to explore the possibility of bringing Canton High graduation requirements up to the level of the MASC policy.

**Motion to approve policy IHBHE - Remote Learning - with language change of clients to students on page 2 of the policy:** Nichola Gallagher

**Second:** Maureen Moran

**Roll Call Vote:** 4-0

Kristin Mirliani	yea
Kristian Merenda	yea
Maureen Moran	yea
Nichola Gallagher	yea

**Motion to approve policy JCA - Assignment of Students to School:** Nichola Gallagher

**Second:** Kristian Merenda

**Roll Call Vote:** 4-0

Kristin Mirliani	yea
Kristian Merenda	yea
Maureen Moran	yea
Nichola Gallagher	yea

There was a brief discussion about changing the language of *their* to *his/her/their*. The motion was made without the language change as members felt *their* was gender-neutral.

**Motion to approve policy ID - School Day:** Nichola Gallagher

**Second:** Maureen Moran

**Roll Call Vote:** 4-0

Kristin Mirliani	yea
Kristian Merenda	yea
Maureen Moran	yea
Nichola Gallagher	yea

**Motion to approve policy EEAE - Student Conduct on the School Bus:** Nichola Gallagher

**Second:** Kristian Merenda

**Roll Call Vote:** 4-0

Kristin Mirliani	yea
Kristian Merenda	yea
Maureen Moran	yea
Nichola Gallagher	yea

Policy File: IJNDB - Acceptable Use Policy - was presented for a 1st read. The proposed new policy will replace the current policy in its entirety. There was a brief discussion about staff using their personal devices. It was confirmed that staff are not expected or required to use their personal devices, however, if they choose to, they must abide by the policy guidelines while using the District online resources, internet, data systems, and social media sites. Members requested a 2nd read. This policy will be presented again at the next School Committee meeting.

2. Responsible Use Policy (RUP) Guidelines: Superintendent Fischer-Mueller presented the CPS RUP Guidelines for the school year 2020/2021. Superintendent Fischer-Mueller explained that the RUP for students is different from the AUP for staff. The difference centers around higher standards for students. The AUP will be presented at an upcoming meeting. The RUP Guidelines will accompany the handbooks and will be put on the website and shared with families.
3. Canton Public Schools Student Handbooks and COVID-19 Manual: Superintendent Fischer-Mueller, Assistant Superintendent Folan, and building Principals presented the proposed changes to the Student Handbooks and the new COVID-19 Appendix. Mr. Folan explained that the COVID-19 Appendix includes all protocols, procedures, and policies that relate to the pandemic. Mr. Folan explained that the district appendix, which previously stood alone, is now integrated into each school's handbook.  
Superintendent Fischer-Mueller acknowledged that the district continues to work on consistency among handbooks. All changes to the handbooks are highlighted. There was a request to look at the detention and discipline policies among elementary schools.  
Both GMS and CHS reported that the handbook changes were mostly for clarity and some notable changes in the dress code. There was a brief discussion about civil rights violations.

**Motion to approve the individual school handbooks, with spelling corrections as needed:** Kristian Merenda

**Second:** Nichola Gallagher

**Roll Call Vote:** 4-0

Kristin Mirliani	yea
Kristian Merenda	yea
Maureen Moran	yea
Nichola Gallagher	yea

4. Enrollment: Superintendent Fischer-Mueller and Mr. Nectow updated the School Committee on district enrollment numbers. The enrollment numbers include the Remote Learning Pathway (RLP) numbers. The K-12 net enrollment is 65 fewer students than were reported in March 2020. There are 70 less in PreK given the fact that there are no community peers this year. The total enrollment is 2652. The data with regard to where students withdrew was shared. Mr. Nectow informed the Committee that this information is hard to track as we do not always get the information from families when they leave the district. There are 9 more withdrawals at this time in 2020 vs. this time in 2019. There was a request to look at withdrawal trends over the past five + years.
5. CPCC Proposal: Mr. Nectow presented the CCPC pre-application form. He proposed that the focus for this year be on the Dean S. Luce upper playground. The total amount for the Luce playground replacement is \$270,322. If this project were approved, the work will likely be done next summer.

**Motion to approve the Dean S. Luce playground for the FY22 CPCC project:** Nichola Gallagher

**Second:** Maureen Moran

**Roll Call Vote:** 4-0

Kristin Mirliani	yea
Kristian Merenda	yea
Maureen Moran	yea
Nichola Gallagher	yea

### C. Unfinished Business

1. FY21 Budget Review: Mr. Nectow and Superintendent Fischer-Mueller presented the FY21 budget and the options to present to the Select Board. Mr. Nectow stated that the COVID expenses shortfall is currently \$1,650,000. Two options were presented to the Committee to cover the shortfall. **Option 1**: \$250,000 Fincom Reserve transfer (requires Fincom Approval), \$250,000 Special Education Reserve transfer (requires Select Board and School Committee approval), \$582,636 State Aid, \$567,364 Free Cash transfer. Option 1 requires a Special Town Meeting for free cash to be certified beforehand. **Option 2**: \$600,000 Fincom Reserve transfer (requires Fincom Approval), \$550,000, Special Education Reserve transfer, (requires Select Board and School Committee approval), \$5000,000 School Department Revolving accounts (athletics, building rental, PreK revolving). The funds from the Special Education transfer would be replenished through appropriation at the May 2021 Annual Town Meeting.

Option 2 offers a savings cost to the Town of Canton by way of not holding a Special Town Meeting. There is no opportunity cost to moving right now or waiting until May.

It was confirmed that there are no new FTE positions this year, only fills for staff who left the district and/or 1 year COVID related positions.

**Motion to approve Option 2, as stated above, as the funding option to address the budget deficit:** Nichola Gallagher

**Second:** Maureen Moran

**Roll Call Vote:** 4-0

Kristin Mirliani	yea
Kristian Merenda	yea
Maureen Moran	yea
Nichola Gallagher	yea

2. School 2020/2021 Reopening Discussion: Superintendent Fischer-Mueller shared the DPH COVID-19 Metrics and Dashboard. Canton is currently in the yellow. Superintendent Fischer-Mueller reminded the Committee that there is a combination of numbers that drive the decision with regard to where the district is on the continuum model. The district is paying close attention to this matter. Currently in Hybrid model.

Assistant Superintendent Folan expressed the importance of self screening. Infographics were shared.

There was discussion about the unique demands of hybrid teaching. Professional development opportunities in the areas of technology and curriculum support have been offered to teachers both during the first 10 days of school and each Wednesday afternoon by way of collaboration time between teachers.

There were questions about protocols and compliance regarding screening requirements for staff and students/families. Nursing staff is monitoring. Conversations take place between families and nursing staff as needed.

Ms. Rooney informed the Committee that MCAS testing will occur this year. Students in Grades 11 and 12 will have 2 opportunities to take their ELA and Math MCAS in January and May. Students in Grades 10-12 do not need to take STE, if they have a passing grade in a related course. Grade 9 students will take the STE

exam this year or next year. Students in grades 3-8 will take exams in April and May. Additional guidance forthcoming for MCAS Alt.

Mr. Folan provided a Remote Learning Pathway (RLP) update. There will be weekly communication. An RLP Administrator will be hired in the form of a stipend position. A distribution update was provided.

Assessment tools have been identified. These tools will assist staff in determining gaps in student learning and achievement.

Time on learning blocks were discussed. The what I need (WIN) and on demand learning (ODL) blocks were discussed as an opportunity for student enrichment and/or the deepening of previously taught material, not new content.

Ms. Shore discussed the technology and digital learning strengths and challenges with regard to preparing and planning for this school year. There have been procurement and timeline challenges. The district has deployed over 3000 devices thus far. There have been updates to Chromebooks and to Zoom. WIFI extenders are being installed. The tech department continues to work through troubleshooting tickets. Time and attention being given to items within the District's control. Both Zoom and Google Meet are experiencing challenges, teachers are encouraged to use whatever platform is best for them and their students. Training has been and will continue to be provided to teachers.

There was a request to continue to explore options of phasing in the younger grades for all in learning.

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

#### D. Public Comment

Mary Ellis	Signed up but was not present at the time of Public Comment
Sheila White	Ms. Moran read a comment from Ms. White regarding her concerns with technology and connectivity issues at GMS.

Chair Mirliani reminded the Committee that Public Comments are no longer read aloud. One must be present to have their public comment heard.

- E. **Business Managers Report** Mr. Nectow provided a transportation update. Bus capacity limits are within required guidelines and generally running on time.

#### F. Routine Matters

1. Approve Minutes dated September 17, 2020

**Move:** Nichola Gallagher

**Second:** Maureen Moran

**Roll Call Vote:** 4-0

Kristin Mirliani        yea

Kristian Merenda       yea

Maureen Moran        yea

Nichola Gallagher     yea

2. The announcement that the AP and Food Service warrants dated October 2, 2020, have been approved.

#### G. Sub-Committee Reports

1. CCPC - Kristin Mirliani - There was an inquiry about the GMS BBall courts, the project will be bidden out.
2. BRC - Chuck Rae - absent
3. Wellness- Chuck Rae - absent
4. Finance - Maureen Moran/Nichola Gallagher - nothing new to report.
5. Policy - Kristian Merenda – nothing new to report.
6. PRHC – Nichola Gallagher - The first Board of Directors has been appointed.

H. **Future Business** Next School Committee Meeting will be held Thursday, October 15, 2020, at 7:00 pm.

I. **Other Business** Chair Mirliani announced that Superintendent Fischer-Mueller will be taking a 2 month medical leave of absence beginning October 7 - December 2. The School Committee voted unanimously in Executive Session to enter into contract negotiations with Assistant Superintendent Folan for the Interim Superintendent position.

J. **Adjournment** Nichola Gallagher motioned to close Open Session at 10:54 pm. Maureen Moran seconded. It was voted by a roll call vote 4-0.

Kristin Mirliani	yea
Kristian Merenda	yea
Maureen Moran	yea
Nichola Gallagher	yea