

Town of Canton
Canton School Committee Minutes of the Meeting of November 12, 2020
Remote Meeting Zoom Webinar

- A. **Call to Order** The meeting of the School Committee is called to order at 7:01 pm by Chair Mirliani via a roll call vote in Executive Session 4-0.

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

Also Remotely Present:

Derek Folan, Interim Superintendent
Barry Nectow, School Business Administrator
Colleen Hutchinson, Recording Secretary
Debbie Rooney, Director of Teaching and Learning
Julie Shore, Director of Technology and Digital Learning
Dianna Mullen, Director of Student Services
Michelle Gobbi, Business Analyst

B. **Unfinished Business**

1. **FY22 Capital Budget**: Mr. Nectow presented the FY22 Capital Budget for a vote of approval. The full Capital Budget summary can be found on the website under the Agenda/Meetings/Reports tab. There were discussions about some specific line items. The decision to lease vs. buy technology was revisited. Mr. Nectow will continue to explore. Changes can be made to the budget up until the time it goes to Fincom for approval. Ms. Moran made a request to fund the ukuleles for district elementary schools at the request of \$5028. There were discussions about what line item to pull the money from while still maintaining parity among schools and departments. The total cash capital budget is \$800,000.

Motion to approve the FY22 Cash Capital Budget with the adjustment of \$5,028 moved from line item 54 to line item 56: Nichola Gallagher

Second: Maureen Moran

Roll Call Vote: 4-0

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

Debt capital line items were reviewed. There are 3 items in the budget. The electrical load study is being reviewed by the Facilities Director. It may be able to be done in house. The unit ventilator at the Hansen will have the capacity for AC, GMS will have heating and air circulation only.

Motion to approve the FY22 Debt Capital Budget totaling \$596,000: Nichola Gallagher

Second: Maureen Moran

Roll Call Vote: 4-0

Kristin Mirliani	yea
Kristian Merenda	yea
Nichola Gallagher	yea

Maureen Moran yea

C. Interim Superintendent's Report
Interim Superintendent Highlights

Rodman Reads: The Rodman Preschool held the 6th annual "one book, one school" celebration during Family Literacy Month. Each child receives a copy of the book and home learning activities to support vocabulary development.

Food Services: Recognition for Food Service Director Martha Lawless and her Food Services team. They have adapted to new experiences, new protocols, new food preparation and new delivery systems to keep all students well-fed.

Luce Visit: Thank you to all the teachers and staff for their hard work.

Updates

GMS Family Update and Fundraiser: Ms. Shannon will be sharing more information about Brady and the Go Fund Me in her newsletter this weekend should other families outside of the Galvin like to participate.

CHS Girls Soccer: Through the collaborative, supportive and creative work of the Hockomock League Athletic Directors, the League created an avenue for Canton and Foxboro to play a singular bracket next Thursday, with an opportunity to play the winner of the Hock Cup.

Lucy Calkins Literacy: There are five essential skill areas in which students need to make progress as they develop reading proficiency: phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary and comprehension. As a part of our early adopter work last year, it was determined that phonemic awareness and phonics needed more attention.

Professional development with DESE began and the district is implementing Multi-tiered Systems of Support (MTSS) across grades to ensure that students have the supports that they need, especially when they need more than the core curriculum provides. As the district builds out our MTSS plan, additional programs and supports that need to be included will be identified. The discussion of decoding vs. cueing was discussed. Although students can use cues to figure out a word, overall, decoding is the better approach.

Winter Athletics: The Massachusetts Department of Environmental & Energy Affairs recently released its guidelines for winter sports. Now, MIAA sport committees will examine and approve modifications to play. These modifications will be reviewed by the Sports Medicine Committee and the MIAA Covid Task Force. Finally, the Board of Directors will review for approval.

DESE Data Survey: Last week, DESE Commissioner met with superintendents and asked all districts to complete a structured learning time data survey. CPS completed the survey and

turned it in as required. The data survey asked districts to record the learning experience of Grade 1, 4, 7 and 10. There is an examination of remote learning experiences and asynchronous structures. There is accountability during “at home” experiences in the hybrid model. The asynchronous experience is in the afternoon on Wednesdays.

Inclement Weather/Snow Days: The Commissioner made the declaration that snow days and inclement weather days may be remote learning days. It is a local decision. These days, remote learning is an option but will be handled on a case-by-case basis, placing great consideration on the conditions for teaching and learning for both staff and students.

Communication: Families are reminded to contact the teacher or principal directly if they have any questions, concerns or commendations.

Thanksgiving: The District will be sending out the state’s guidance around Thanksgiving. Families and staff are advised to adhere to the travel advisories and follow the protocols accordingly.

Indicators of Excellence

UV Lights: UV lights were installed last week in the CHS rooftop unit. These lights provide another layer of virus protection.

Will Gefteas -- MIAA Student-Athlete of the Month: Congratulations to CHS junior Will Gefteas, who was named the MIAA Student-Athlete of the Month.

Cantonstock: Cantonstock took place this weekend. Thank you to Mr. Daniel Hulsman for moderating this event.

Important Dates and Events

Nov. 10	End of Term 1, CHS and GMS
Nov. 18	Early Release, Parent Conferences, PreK-8, afternoon and evening
Nov. 19	Parent Conferences, PreK-5, evening
Nov. 23	Parent Conferences, CHS, evening
Dec. 3	School Committee, 7:00 pm
Dec. 11	End of Marking Period, Elementary Schools

D. New Business

1. **COVID Update:** Interim Superintendent Folan provided a COVID-19 update. The Governor came out with new guidance and updated metrics that messaged that students should be all-in “if feasible.” Canton is currently in the green given the new metrics. At this time, the hybrid model is serving students in Canton and there has

been no COVID transmission in schools. Mr. Folan acknowledged that in person experience is best, however, the district must balance this with safety guidelines and meet the CPS safety protocols. The district is beginning to explore the feasibility study for in-person learning. Local health officials have been contacted to gain their input. The district will be reaching out to families and staff. There was a request that any future surveys be framed in a way that allows responses to be shared with School Committee members. Transportation is a big area of concern as safety guidelines here have not changed. Superintendents are looking for strong medical guidance to lower the 6 ft distancing guidance. Mask breaks and lunch are an area to be examined with distancing less than 6ft. With no reduction of social distancing, all in would be difficult and costly as more staff would be needed. At this time, there is no additional space in buildings to get K-2 all in while still keeping other grades in hybrid. Additionally, the RLP is full. The safety of students and staff is always at the forefront of all decisions. Members requested to be informed of all options regardless of obstacles and/or financial implications.

2. CCPC Application: Mr. Nectow presented the CCPC Luce Playground Application for a final vote of approval. The total cost of the CPA funded request is \$270,322. The school department will contribute \$13,516 (5%) of the project.

Motion to approve the final CCPC Luce Playground Application: Nichola Gallagher

Second: Kristian Merenda

Roll Call Vote: 4-0

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

3. Disposal of Surplus Property: Mr. Nectow requested a vote of approval to dispose of surplus technology property that will be donated to a recycler.

Motion to approve the Disposal of Surplus Technology: Maureen Moran

Second: Nichola Gallagher

Roll Call Vote: 4-0

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

- E. **Business Managers Report** Mr. Nectow reported that the air quality tests showed slightly elevated levels of Co2 in 2 classrooms at GMS and 1 modular classroom at JFK. The HVAC technician is looking into these action items. No other action cited in any other room in the district. The next round of testing is in January.

- F. **Public Comment** None

G. **Routine Matters**

1. Approve Executive Minutes dated November 5, 2020

Move: Kristian Merenda

Second: Maureen Moran

Roll Call Vote: 4-0

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

2. Announcement that the warrants dated November 13, 2020, were signed and approved.

H. **Sub-Committee Reports**

1. CCPC - Kristin Mirliani - nothing new to report
2. BRC - Chuck Rae - absent
3. Wellness- Chuck Rae - absent
4. Finance - Maureen Moran/Nichola Gallagher - nothing more to report
5. Policy - Kristian Merenda – nothing new to report
6. PRHC – Nichola Gallagher - nothing new to report

I. **Future Business** Next School Committee Meeting will be held Thursday, December 3, 2020, at 7:00 pm.

J. **Other Business** Ms. Moran inquired about the grade 9 Chromebooks, Ms. Shore expects them to be delivered in a few days. Ms. Moran brought back GMS schedule questions regarding community block for 68 minutes 2x's per week and the ODL block. She questioned whether this was the best use of teacher and student time. Ms. Moran requested that Ms. Mullen present an IEP & 504 update to the committee at an upcoming meeting. Ms. Mullen asked Ms. Moran to send her items she would like to see discussed. There was a request made for an updated school calendar encompassing the full school year.

K. **Adjournment** Nichola Gallagher motioned to close the Open Session at 8:28 pm. Maureen Moran seconded. It was voted by a roll call vote 4-0.

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

Documents used during the meeting:

1. Interim Superintendent's Report dated November 12, 2020
2. FY22 Capital Summary 11.9.2020
3. Town of Canton Community Preservation Committee FY2022 CPA Application Form
4. Disposition of Surplus Property form completed by Mike Wentland Date: October 23, 2020