

Town of Canton
Canton School Committee Minutes of the Meeting of June 18, 2020
Remote Meeting due to COVID-19 School Closure
Zoom Live Stream

- A. Call to Order: The meeting of the School Committee is called to order at 7:02 pm by Superintendent Fischer-Mueller. Executive Session was canceled tonight.

Kristin Mirliani
Nichola Gallagher (arrived at 7:07 pm)
Kristian Merenda
Maureen Moran
Charles Rae

Also Remotely Present:

Dr. Jennifer Fischer-Mueller, Superintendent
Barry Nectow, School Business Administrator
Colleen Hutchinson, Recording Secretary
Julie Shore, Director of Technology and Digital Learning
Debbie Rooney, Director of Teaching and Learning
Debra Bromfield, Director of Student Services
Derek Folan, CHS Principal

- B. Reorganization: Superintendent Jennifer Fischer-Mueller welcomed new member Chuck Rae and welcomed back reelected member Nichola Gallagher. Superintendent Fischer-Mueller immediately opened the floor for nominations for School Committee Chair.

1. Motion to re-appoint Kristin Mirliani for School Committee Chair made by Kristian Merenda, seconded by Maureen Moran. It was voted by roll call vote, 4-0.

Kristin Mirliani	yea
Kristian Merenda	yea
Maureen Moran	yea
Charles Rae	yea

Chair Mirliani opened nominations for members to serve as Vice-Chair and Secretary.

2. Motion to appoint Kristian Merenda for the position of Vice-Chair by Maureen Moran. Seconded by Chuck Rae. It was voted 4-0.

Kristin Mirliani	yea
Kristian Merenda	yea
Maureen Moran	yea
Charles Rae	yea

3. Motion to appoint Nichola Gallagher for the position of Secretary by Kristin Mirliani. Seconded by Maureen Moran. It was voted 5-0.

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

- C. Public Comment: Mr. Damien Aufiero spoke about equity and inclusion practices within CPS. He shared that the schools have a responsibility to culture youth, to teach children to correct injustices and lead by example. Mr. Aufiero asked the School Committee to outline steps they will conduct or have conducted to complete a comprehensive review of curriculum materials and pedagogical practices to reflect an anti-bias education. Mr. Aufiero also asked what steps human resources is taking to diversify staff.

Ms. Kendall O'Halloran congratulated Ms. Schutt on her tenure. She was pleased to see the conversations at the last meeting and the conversations and discourse that took place. She expressed how pleased she was with the JFK Principal hiring process. She challenged the committee to focus on the children and honesty moving forward. Welcomed new member Chuck Rae. She spoke about her quest for the School Committee seat and her pleasure in running her campaign and working with the community.

Ms. AnnMarie Silvasy would like to suggest that the schools have a town hall or similar platform for parents and guardians about going back to school in the fall with precautions. There are many parents, including herself, who are quietly standing by who need and should be heard and included in the decision making process. More than just a survey. Her children are ready to go back to school and she is not the only parent who feels this way. Just about every parent she encounters feels this way. Remote learning did not work successfully. If remote learning were to continue into the fall, there are many parents who will choose to formally home school. Understands there are many moving parts in the process and guidelines to be followed but there is still discretion for the Canton Public Schools and parents should be involved. Going back to school means going back to school. Kids eat in the cafeteria, go to gym, etc. If there are any parents still nervous let them have a remote option. Not one size fits all solution to anything. A town hall of parents should happen sooner rather than later. Parents should be part of the conversation, a special meeting inclusive of parents and guardians.

D. Superintendent's Report:

Town Election: Both appointed members will serve on the School Committee for a three-year term. Superintendent Fischer-Mueller said she is looking forward to working with both Mr. Rae, Ms. Gallagher, and the entire School Committee as we continue to achieve the common goal of improving educational opportunities and excellence for our students.

Thanks to the following students who volunteered at the polls on Tuesday.

Joshua Cohen

Kelly MacDonald

Stephanie Ondiwa

Lily Hazam

Jesse Baez

Adam Elkadi

David Riviere

Parent Survey: Earlier this week, parents received an email where they were invited to complete an anonymous family [survey](#) to provide feedback about recent remote learning experiences for their children.

Updates

Summer Academic Opportunities: Resources for summer reading, math and online academic options for elementary students. Resources include a Barnes and Noble summer reading

program, Canton Public Library resources, grade level specific math games and more. The complete letter can be found [here](#).

High School Science MCAS 2020-2021: The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) came out recently with an update that pertains to High School MCAS requirements. The State is adjusting the Science competency determination for current high school students. Any 11th grader who has not yet passed a science MCAS, and current 10th and current 9th graders who were not able to take their Science MCAS this Spring will not be required to take a Science MCAS ***as long as they have obtained a passing score in the appropriate science course***. Current 8th graders will be the next class for whom the competency determination will return to the original requirements. We anticipate additional information about MCAS testing requirements for 2020-21 and Accountability measures in the near future.

Fall School Improvement Plans: The next step in this process is for principals to present their full school improvement plan for the Fall. More information will be forthcoming about when the Fall SIP's will be presented.

Important Dates and Events

June 22	Hansen 5th Grade "Clap Out", 11:00 am (refer to the school website, Weekly Happening Update, for more detailed information.)
June 22	JFK 5th Grade Promotion Ceremony, 9:30 am (refer to the school website, Weekly Happening Update, for detailed information)
June 23	Luce 5th Grade Promotion Ceremony, 10:00 am -12:00 pm (refer to the school website, Weekly Happening Update, for detailed information)
June 23	Last Day of School, PreK-12, Early Release
June 25	Virtual School Committee Meeting, 7:00 pm

E. Unfinished Business:

1. Juneteenth Space Request: Chair Mirliani informed the public that the organizers of this event notified her that they postponed the event so they can present a safety plan approved by the Board of Health, CPS and CPD. This will likely occur sometime in Phase 3. In the meantime, they will be doing a Youtube live stream event tomorrow and will post the link on the Everything Canton page.
2. FY21 Capital and Operating Budget: Superintendent Fischer-Mueller and Mr. Nectow recommended FY21 budget reductions. As a result of the Town's one million dollar budget reduction, the schools are asked to reduce by an additional \$333,000 for FY21. Details and recommendations of Capital and Operating budgets were discussed. History: October the Cash capital was approved at \$750,000, in April schools were asked to reduce by \$250,000 as a result of the assessment of local revenues lower due to COVID 19. Cash Capital reductions suggested within line items of building repairs,

program improvements, and furniture and fixtures. No reductions in safety and security, informational technology, or literacy resources. The full report may be found on the website under the School Committee tab/meetings, minutes, reports.

Motion to vote Cash Capital reductions as stated in the full report totaling \$100,000: Nichola Gallagher
Seconded: Maureen Moran
Roll Call Vote: 5-0

Operating Budget reductions outlined include the reduction of 1 FTE 3rd grade teacher at the Luce, 1 FTE CHS SLPA and 1 FTE CHS Special Educator. These positions were either due to smaller class sizes and/or positions the school determined they would be ok without. The position of the District Data Specialist will be replaced with a stipend and the Prek-5 Humanities Coordinator will not be funded in this proposed budget. There was an addition of an FTE Home School Nurse Interventionist that is currently funded by a grant but needs to be pulled back into the budget and an add of district-wide software to ramp up the online resources since many of our free trials will expire and we may need them in the future. Members discussed other options to keep Humanities Coordinator in the budget, after some discussion about other options, this recommendation stands. All recommendations and the final budget will be sent to the Town for consideration by the Finance Committee. The full report may be found on the website under the School Committee tab/meetings, minutes, reports.

Motion to vote Operating Budget reductions as stated in the full report totaling \$233,000: Maureen Moran
Seconded: Kristian Merenda
Roll Call Vote: 5-0

3. School Closure and Reopening Update
School Closure and Reopening Update:
Superintendent Fischer-Mueller and Mr. Nectow shared school reopening information. Anticipate moving to Phase 3 on June 29. Most of the drop off and pick up at schools is complete. Fifth grade promotion celebrations are scheduled and ready to go and were modeled after the CHS graduation and parade. The decision of reopening is in the hands of Governor Baker, Commissioner Riley, health organizations, the Town of Canton COVID-19 working group, and the School Committee. The district is in constant communication with all stakeholders. The district has bought sufficient safety equipment and submitted 3-month estimates to OSD for the Fall. Still waiting on guidance from DESE regarding the extended school year. Parent survey shows a high interest for in-person services, BOH currently reviewing safety plans, staff will receive training prior to opening with CFS and BOH. Possibly a 50/50 remote in person plan. Canton Academy is operating this summer beginning on 7/6/20 at the Luce. Waiting to hear from OOD Schools still. Cole Harrington's safety plan has been submitted to the BOH. Camps approved and ready to go. Foodservice pick up and deliveries will continue throughout the summer. The final reopening comprehensive guidelines are expected in mid/late July. After the Commissioner's and Governor's guidelines are released, the district will push out all new information.

F. Business Manager's Report: None

G. Routine Matters:

1. Approve Executive Minutes dated June 10, 2020
Move: Kristian Merenda
Second: Nichola Gallagher

Abstain: Chuck Rae
Roll Call Vote: 4-0-1

2. Approve Minutes dated June 11, 2020

Move: Maureen Moran
Second: Kristian Merenda
Abstain: Chuck Rae
Roll Call Vote: 4-0-1

3. Food Service Warrant dated June 19, 2020, signed and approved by Ms. Maureen Moran.

H. Sub-Committee Reports

1. CPC - Nichola Gallagher - nothing new to report.
2. BRC - Kristian Merenda - nothing new to report.
3. Wellness- Maureen Moran - nothing new to report.
4. Finance - Maureen Moran - nothing new to report.
5. Policy - Kristin Mirliani – nothing new to report.
6. PRHC – Nichola Gallagher - Ms. Gallagher was voted as Vice-Chair of this subcommittee.
7. Ad Hoc Calendar Advisory - Maureen Moran - nothing new to report.

Chair Mirliani announced that subcommittee members need to be reassigned. The committee agreed to do this at the next meeting.

Ms. Moran shared that she attended a webinar about finance and school committees during pandemic and times of crisis. She felt it was very informative. She will forward the information to other members.

I. Future Business: Next School Committee Meeting will be held Monday, June 22, 2020, at 5:30 pm. for Annual Town meeting, then Thursday, June 25, 2020, at 7:00 pm.

J. Other Business: None

K. Adjournment: Kristian Merenda motioned to close Open Session at 8:30 pm. Maureen Moran seconded. It was voted by roll call vote 5-0.

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

5 yeas 0 nays