

Town of Canton
Canton School Committee Minutes of the Meeting of August 27, 2020
Remote Meeting Zoom Webinar

- A. Call to Order: The meeting of the School Committee is called to order at 7:02 pm by Chair Mirliani via a roll call vote. Chair Mirliani noted that the Committee just held an Executive Session. A Roll call vote of 5-0 opened the meeting.

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

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, new Director of Student Services
Julie Shore, Director of Technology and Digital Learning

Chair Mirliani began with an acknowledgment of a deep divide in the community. She thanked all community members who have reached out to the School Committee over the past few weeks. She asked for kindness and understanding of varying viewpoints.

B. Unfinished Business:

1. School Reopening Update: Superintendent Fischer-Mueller provided a professional development overview in which 211 educators participated in over the summer. PD topics included technology, literacy, Socratic seminar, and new teacher orientation. The DPH COVID metrics and dashboard information was also reviewed. Superintendent Fischer-Mueller made the recommendation of:
September 16 - Remote Learning 2.0, K-12
September 29 - Hybrid in-person instruction
Dir. of Student Services working with families with Students with Special Circumstances.

A full description of the continuum and the Remote Learning Pathway (RLP) were shared. Remote 2.0 was described as a full day of school, consistent schedule, devices for staff and students, grade level standards and curriculum, graded, participation, attendance, live teaching. The hybrid will offer all the characteristics of Remote Learning 2.0 plus students will benefit from having a connection with their class teacher and peers every day, in person learning 2 days per week, and on and off screen opportunities. The RLP will be structured as a full year, fully remote alternative option, students will follow a full school schedule throughout the day, all subject areas will be designated times, including specials, movement breaks, and opportunities for socialization will be incorporated, screen time will be developmentally appropriate, Canton educators will be teaching the curriculum. The registration link for the RLP will go out on Friday morning and will be due Monday

by 5 p.m. Sample schedules will be included.

Mr. Nectow provided HVAC, transportation, and cleaning updates. He shared that HVAC consultants have been hired and the work is scheduled to be completed by September 11. He will be notified of problematic issues as discovered during site visits and issues affecting safety will be acted on immediately.

Beginning Monday, 8/31, the transportation department will be reaching out to families that did not respond in prior surveys. Bus routes will be published in Canton Citizen and on the District website on Thursday before the reopening date. Mr. Nectow also reported that summer cleaning is complete in all buildings, storage units and dumpsters are on site at all buildings, the room cleanouts are in process, the cleaning and operations plan is complete and the cleaning supplies and protective equipment have been purchased and are available at all schools.

There was a request to take breaks between topics for Q & A. There was a concern raised about the difficulty of messaging families accurately and how to move forward without an MOA with CTA. CHS hybrid model continues to pose challenges. The plan is still being worked on with BOH, CHS, and Administration. The GMS hybrid model schedule is being finalized with the leadership team. Strong support from School Committee members for students and staff to be back in school. Support for transition grades, K, 6 & 9, to be phased in first. Building safety is of utmost importance to all.

C. Public Comment:

Catherine Hoberg	Spoke in support of teachers and the hybrid model. Wants more clarification on what models will look like.
Amy Eagles	Teacher and parent, seeking Clarification of hybrid plan. Supports phased in approach.
Karen Wright	Raised logistics questions around remote learning and what metrics will be used to go in between models.
Jennifer Nagle	School reopening. Urged for kids and staff to be in school in the hybrid model on 9/16.
Kendall O'Halloran	Supports students all in model when Canton in green or yellow with concession hybrid model start on 9/16 then phase in to full.
Naomi Akan	Teacher and parent. Supports hybrid but concerned with building safety therefore in support of remote start.
Katie Healey	Teacher perspective. Wants systems in place to begin school safely. Supports collaboration and kindness.
Jill Cimildoro	Read a letter from <i>A Community for CPS Hybrid Start to School</i> .
Jacqui Bonwell	Raised mental health impacts of students. Support of hybrid start with a transition to full.
Evelyne Elie	Parent in support of students back in school.

Clarification was sought around the work that is to be done during the time frame from 9/16-9/29, from remote to hybrid. It was explained that this time will be used for bus routes to be determined, HVAC safety inspection projects to be completed, and schedules to be finalized. The eight days will be full days of instruction and younger children will have the opportunity to see their teachers without their masks on.

Students on IEP and 504 plans had the opportunity to participate in parent forums this week with the Dr. of Student Services and her staff. Students with the highest needs are being identified. Criteria and guidelines from DESE technical advisory will assist in the identification of students for remote, hybrid, or all in models of instruction. Student Services staff will be talking with families about their recommendations. Students' accommodations will be met in all models.

There was a discussion of how to capture families who may be part of pods. At this time, the district is not able to support the grouping of students based on pods that have been established in the communities.

Motion to approve the phased in approach recommendation of the Superintendent's timeline below:

September 16 - Remote Learning 2.0, K-12

September 29 - Hybrid in-person instruction

Dir. of Student Services working with families with Students with Special Circumstances.

Motion: Chuck Rae

Second: Nichola Gallagher

Roll Call Vote: 5-0

Nichola Gallagher yea

Kristin Mirliani yea

Kristian Merenda yea

Chuck Rae yea

Maureen Moran yea

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

D. Routine Matters:

1. Approve Executive Minutes dated August 17, 2020

Move: Nichola Gallagher

Second: Chuck Rae

Roll Call Vote: 5-0

2. Approve Executive Minutes dated August 20, 2020

Move: Nichola Gallagher

Second: Maureen Moran

Roll Call Vote: 5-0

3. Approve Minutes dated August 20, 2020

Move: Nichola Gallagher

Second: Kristian Merenda

Roll Call Vote: 5-0

4. The announcement that the AP and Food Service warrants dated August 28, 2020, have been approved.

E. Sub-Committee Reports

1. CPC - Kristin Mirliani - nothing new to report.
2. BRC - Chuck Rae - nothing new to report
3. Wellness- Chuck Rae - nothing new to report.
4. Finance - Maureen Moran/Nichola Gallagher - nothing new to report.
5. Policy - Kristian Merenda – Meeting held. COVID policies will be presented at the next meeting.
6. PRHC – Nichola Gallagher - Looking for a new volunteer webmaster.

F. Future Business: Next School Committee Meeting will be held Thursday, September 3, 2020, at 7:00 pm.

G. Other Business: Request to have more communications out to the community and more public relations response.

H. Adjournment: Nichola Gallagher motioned to close Open Session at 9:38 pm. Chuck Rae seconded. It was voted by a roll call vote 5-0. 5 yeas 0 nays

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