

Town of Canton
Canton School Committee Minutes of the Meeting of July 13, 2017
Canton High School Distance Learning Lab

A. Call to Order: The meeting of the School Committee is called to order by Michael Loughran at 7:00 PM.

B. Open Session:

Present are:

Michael Loughran
Meg Gannon
John Bonnanzio
Reuki Schutt

Also Present:

Dr. Jennifer Fischer-Mueller, Superintendent
Barry Nectow, Business Manager
Brett McCloud, Recording Secretary
Public
Staff
Press

C. Public Comments/Questions: No public comments.

D. Superintendent's Report: Dr. Fischer-Mueller provided an update on a variety of matters going on throughout the district which included:

Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education, Mitchell Chester, passed away June 26, 2017. Commissioner Chester served as the state's leader in education since 2008. Under Commissioner Chester, Massachusetts students consistently performed well on international measures of achievement and some of the state's public schools are seen as the finest in the country.

Former Deputy Commissioner Jeff Wulfson is serving as the Acting Commissioner. Dr. Jennifer Fischer-Mueller included his message from the department's weekly update:

Message from Acting Commissioner Jeff Wulfson:

This has been a difficult week here at the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. With Mitchell Chester's passing, we lost not only an inspirational leader, but a great friend, colleague, and mentor. Thank you to everyone who reached out to us with messages of encouragement and support and

to all those, locally and nationally, who paid tribute to his lifelong contributions to education. As Secretary Peyser said, we were blessed to have had Mitchell with us.

At his family's request, this week's burial service was private. Condolence cards for his wife, Angela Sangeorge, and his children can be sent care of Helene Bettencourt here at ESE, and we'll make sure that they get to the family. Contributions in Mitchell's memory can be made to Habitat for Humanity, the Southern Poverty Law Center, or a scholarship fund that will be announced at a public memorial service that is being planned for August or September.

Mitchell is gone, but the important work he led, the work that all of us are engaged in, goes on. Here at ESE, we are committed to honoring his memory by pursuing that work with renewed dedication. At the same time, the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education will soon begin the thoughtful and deliberate process to select the Commonwealth's 24th education commissioner. As acting commissioner, I will do my best to keep you informed and provide any assistance you need. Please do not hesitate to contact me.

Superintendent Activities

School and District Leadership Workshop - Immediately following the close of school, June 26th and 27th, district and school-based administrators participated in a two-day workshop, Facilitative Leadership, with Gene Thompson-Grove. Over the two days, administrators studied the skills and characteristics of effective leaders and practiced applying their learning in a variety of scenarios.

Annual Cabinet Retreat - After the Leadership Workshop, the Cabinet continued with a three-day summer retreat, June 28th, 29th and 30th. The focus of the retreat was advancing the draft District Strategic Framework and developing Program and School Improvement Plans. Drafts of these documents will be shared with the School Committee with a request for School Committee approval early next fall.

School Facilities Master Plan - On June 15th, members of the Canton community were welcomed to a presentation from Dore & Whittier on the progress with the Facilities Master Plan. The meeting included an update of the work with the Visioning Committee and the preferred options identified by the Working Group. The Dore & Whittier team led the group in an activity to gather feedback on the different options and address any questions community members had about the study to date. The Working Group met yesterday, Wednesday, July 12th, to review the work to date to be sure that the Dore & Whittier team has all the information they need to finalize their report. There is a plan for a formal presentation of the draft Facilities Master Plan to the School Committee on September 7th. The Facilities Master Plan will be discussed with the community and an outline of

immediate next steps will be provided. The working group will request approval of the School Committee on September 28th.

Updates

Registration - New student registrations for 2017-18

CHS +9

GMS +3

Luce +8

Hansen +10

JFK +6

District Total: +36 students

12 of the 36 are new kindergarten students

Course Reimbursement - Educators are encouraged to advance their knowledge and, as defined in our Unit A Collective Bargaining Agreement, are reimbursed for \$1,250 of their college course tuitions. Below is a breakdown of some of the information about course reimbursements for FY17.

- \$125,000 is available for course reimbursements
- 41 Unit A members spent their entire course reimbursement of \$1,250.00
- 167 Unit A members (60% of 279 total members) requested course reimbursement
- 20 Unit A members applied their course reimbursement to graduate school to work on their Masters for professional licensure
- Common requests for course reimbursement included receive graduate credits for Skillful Teacher, Project Based Learning and High Expectations for all Students
- After approving all requests up to the \$1,250 level, the remaining \$3,000 (of the \$125,000) was distributed to educators whose expenses exceeded the \$1,250.

Canton Academy - Ed Amico, Director of the Canton Academy reports that 35 different classes (elementary and middle level) will be running with over 400 participants this year. There continues to be an extended-day program attached to Canton Academy for families who need childcare services following the morning sessions. There are 110 students in grades 6-8 participating and about 300 students grades K-5. The district is committed to making Canton Academy a true opportunity for every Canton student, therefore, no one is turned away due to economic challenges and this year they are also providing additional supports as needed for some students on IEPs.

Donations Supporting our Summer Programming - Don Rodman has again

generously donated tickets to two shows in Boston. Last night Mr. Amico took 25 Canton Academy middle school students to the show *Wicked*. The students participating in BRIDGE will attend *Blue Man Group* on their last day of summer programming. Dr. Fischer-Mueller thanked Mr. Rodman for his continued support of the arts and Canton students!

Update on Professional Staff

	Number	
FY17 Retirements	5	
FY17 Resignations	7	
FY17 Non-Renewals (including One-Year contracts)	7	
Positions Filled for FY18	FTE	Location
Math Teacher	0.6	CHS
Science Teacher	0.6	CHS
English Teacher	0.4	CHS
World Language Teacher	0.4	CHS
Social Studies Teacher	0.2	CHS
Performing Arts Teacher	0.2	CHS
Science Teacher	1.0	GMS
Math Teacher	1.0	GMS
Music Teacher	1.0	GMS
Health Teacher	0.4	GMS
Grade 3 Teacher	1.0	JFK
Kindergarten Teacher	1.0	JFK
Grade 5 Teacher	1.0	JFK
Special Education Teacher	1.0	JFK
Health Teacher	1.0	JFK
Grade 1 Teacher	1.0	Hansen

Math Specialist	1.0	Hansen
Health Teacher	0.4	Luce
Special Education Teacher	1.0	Luce
Kindergarten Teacher	1.0	Luce
Grade 5 Teacher	1.0	Luce
Music Teacher	0.2	Luce
Special Education Teacher	1.0	Rodman
Visual Arts Coordinator	1.0	District
Performing Arts Coordinator	1.0	District
Positions Still Vacant	FTE	Location
Art Teacher	1.0	CHS
Art Teacher	0.4	CHS
Math Teacher	0.4	CHS
History Teacher	1.0	CHS
Health Teacher	0.4	CHS
Grade 4	1.0	JFK
Nurse Leader	1.0	District

PreK – 12 Performing Arts Coordinator - Dr. Fischer-Mueller announced the appointment of Catherine Eckersley to the position of PreK-12 Performing Arts Coordinator for the 2017-18 school year. Catherine will replace Ida Pappas who served in the coordinator position for 3 ½ years. The music and theatre program has made such tremendous strides over the past several years and the Superintendent expressed her excitement to have Catherine lead the next phase of the program's improvement.

Ms. Eckersley received her Bachelor of Music at Ohio University in Athens, Ohio, and completed her Masters in Educational Leadership at Bridgewater State College. She then continued her graduate studies in Music Education at the University of Massachusetts. Catherine has worked in a variety of positions for the last seven years, including teacher of general music and chorus at the preschool level and high school experience in Fall River, Somerset and Taunton.

Ms. Eckersley completed her administrative licensure program in the Somerset Berkley Regional Schools. In Somerset, she assisted in organizing the Musictown Festival, participated in the New England Show Choir Festival, was the Drama Coach, and participated in cross-curricular professional committees, including curriculum writing and the Data Management Team.

Catherine is looking forward to expanding the program to include the preschool students, further developing the Chamber Singers and high school chorus, and continuing the Performing Arts Department's very strong presence in our community.

Indicators of Excellence

Boys and Girls State - Girls and Boys State is an American Legion Program that develops young leaders and promotes active citizenship. This year, Girls and Boys State was held at Stonehill College, June 17 – 23. During the week, students learned about our government and democratic values.

The following students represented Canton High School at this year's Boys and Girls State:

Boys State: Matthew Larsen and Geoffrey Bonnanzio

Girls State: Molly Colburn, Addison Mirliani, Julia Quinn and Kataleya Conard

Congratulations to all our student representatives!

Important Dates and Events

Substitute Orientation – August 16th

New Educator Orientation – August 23rd and 24th

Opening of School for Staff – August 30th

E. New Business

1. Naming of Wrestling Mat: Dr. Jennifer Fischer-Mueller requested a vote of approval for a wrestling mat to be named for Thomas Bartosek, a former CHS Science teacher, wrestling coach, and founder of CHS wrestling. Mt Bartosek was entered into the National Wrestling Hall of Fame this year. John Bonnanzio motioned to approve the new wrestling mat and any subsequent mat to be named for Tom Bartosek. It was voted 4-0.

4 yeas

0 nay

2. Disposal of Surplus Property: Barry Nectow provided a report of surplus property for disposal and requested a vote of approval for all items to be disposed of in accordance with School Committee Policy. Reuki Schutt motioned to approve the request for disposal. Meg Gannon seconded the motion. It was voted 4-0.

4 yeas 0 nay

3. Policy 1st Read: Debra Bromfield provided a 1st read for the policies Equal Educational Opportunities Policy (File #JB), Bullying Prevention Policy (File #JICFB), and Student Complaints and Grievances Policy (File # JII that were updated by legal counsel. Reuki Schutt requested that the policies that are to be replaced be provided for record. Debra Bromfield will provide these older policies for the School Committee and Policy 2nd Read.

4. Authorized MSBA Documents: Barry Nectow requested a vote of approval for the School Committee regarding a process for signature of MSBA documents. John Bonnanzio motioned to name Michael Loughran as the designee to sign documents. Reuki Schutt seconded the motion. It was voted 4-0.

4 yea 0 nay

5. Business Manager's Report: Barry Nectow reported that there will be a small plaque representing the contributors to the tennis court project installed on the fence of the courts soon.

F. Routine Matters

1. Approve Minutes dated June 8, 2017. John Bonnanzio motioned to approve. Meg Gannon seconded the motion. It was voted 4-0.

4 yeas 0 nay

2. Approve two Bill Schedules dated July 6, 2017. Reuki Schutt motioned to approve. Meg Gannon seconded the motion. It was voted 4-0.

4 yeas 0 nay

3. Approve two Bill Schedules dated July 13, 2017. Reuki Schutt motioned to approve. Meg Gannon seconded the motion. It was voted 4-0.

4 yeas 0 nay

4. Approve Bill Schedule dated July 20, 2017. Reuki Schutt motioned to approve. Meg Gannon seconded the motion. It was voted 4-0.

4 yeas 0 nay

G. Sub-Committee Reports

1. TEC- Nothing to report
2. CPC – John Bonnanzio attended an organizational meeting on June 28th
3. BRC- Nothing to report
4. Wellness- Nothing to report
5. Finance – Nothing to report
6. Policy – Nothing to report
7. PRHC – John Bonnanzio will be reporting on the Paul Revere Heritage Commission going forward.

H. Future Business – Next Meeting Thursday, August 17, 2017 at 7:00 PM.

I. Other Business – No additional business.

J. Adjournment – Reuki Schutt motioned adjourn at 8:10 PM. The motion was seconded by Meg Gannon. It was voted 4-0.

4 yeas 0 nay