

Town of Canton  
Canton School Committee Minutes of the Meeting of December 1, 2016  
Canton High School Distance Learning Lab

The back-up support documents for each agenda item are arranged in the order listed below.

A. Open Session called to order by at 7:05 PM.

Present are:

John Bonnanzio  
Michael Loughran  
Reuki Schutt  
Kristin Mirliani  
Meg Gannon

Also Present:

Dr. Jennifer Fischer-Mueller, Superintendent of Schools  
Brett McCloud, Recording Secretary  
Barry Nectow, Business Manager  
Community Members  
Press

B. Routine Matters

1. Motion to approve Minutes dated November 17, 2016. It was voted 5-0.

5        yeas                      0        nay

2. Motion to approve Bill Schedule dated November 24, 2016. It was voted 5-0.

5        yeas                      0        nay

C. Student Member Report: Student member, Nino Ruggeri, reported on the school events around the district. Nino's report included:

1. Luce: The Luce school students have nearly completed their goal of collecting 1,000 pounds of food for the Food Pantry enabling them to "Restock their Shelves." Students in grades 1, 2 and 4 visited with author Kate Hanscom to learn about the process of writing a book. In a follow up thank you, Ms. Hanscome described the students as "engaged, respectful and energetic."
2. Hansen: Last Wednesday, the Student Council voted to hold a 'Wacky Wednesday' before heading off to the Thanksgiving break. It was a lot of fun seeing the creativity of the students and staff. Additionally, the Bridgewater State University EarthView program visited with our students in Grades 3-5. Students entered a large inflatable globe to learn about world geography.
3. JFK: The JFK had close to 450 participants take part in the "Bring your Special Person to Breakfast" last week. It was a great community building experience. Also, a representative from the United States Post Office spoke to all grades about the value of letter writing/written communication. It was a very fun and entertaining program focused on stories about writing to

favorite athletes and thank you cards to Grandparents. At the end of the presentation, A few children were invited on stage to unveil a new Holiday themed stamp (Winter Windows).

4. Galvin: The Galvin Middle School had one of the most successful school spirit days, the Wednesday before Thanksgiving break. The students (and Bulldog mascot!) cheered frantically during our 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Student-Staff Volleyball Game. This year's version was a thriller with the staff team edging out our student team in the final game 15-14 to win the friendly competition 2 games to 1. Also, the *Facing History and Ourselves* program was presented to all grade 8 students on Tuesday, November 22<sup>nd</sup>. These students have been studying genocides of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Students were captivated by Mrs. Janet Applefield, a survivor of the Holocaust, and her story of survival and hope. Also Judith Black performed the story "It Happened Here" – the story of one Jewish family's Holocaust experience, as told through the eyes of their teenage daughter.
5. CHS: Canton High School's Drama Club put on a spectacular and very funny fall play -- Epic Proportions. It was great to see an amazing set, lighting and sound and stellar performances. The production showcased the great work of the students and staff, and it was the ceremonial first show for new theatre teacher and director Katie Brobst. Canton also kicked off its Thanksgiving break with a pep rally that involved performances, music, games and tons of school spirit.

D. Public Comments/Questions:

1. Katherine Holberg – 3 Charles Drive – Commented on the concerning DESE Report Card statistics at the JFK. Ms. Holberg also thanked the school committee for their hard work and dedication to the school system.

E. Superintendent Report: Dr. Fischer-Mueller provided an update on a variety of matters including:

1. Entry Plan: The online survey and parent forums for the superintendent's entry plan are complete. The superintendent will begin processing the data while finishing up the discussions with staff at each of the schools. Dr. Fisher-Mueller is on schedule to report emerging themes to School Committee within the next few weeks. The Superintendent also thanked the hundreds of people who took the time to respond to the survey and/or attend the forums.
2. Canton Families Embracing Diversity (CFED): A meeting was held on November 16th. Many of the attendees joined this meeting after viewing the We Are Canton exhibit. CFED was very appreciative of the large presence of school and district administrators at this meeting.
3. Medical Emergency Response Plan (MERP): The MERP team met with Chief Doody to plan a future Tabletop Drill. The team included Chief Charles Doody, Chief Ken Berkowitz, Lt. Chuck Rae, Jennifer Fischer-Mueller, Jennifer Henderson, Debra Bromfield, Barry Nectow, Kim Clark-Connor, James Spillane.
4. Snow Emergencies: Dr. Fischer-Mueller, Barry Nectow and Brian Lynch met with Mike Trotta and Daniel Teague of the Canton Department of Public Works to discuss snow emergency strategies. Dr. Fischer-Mueller will be sending all families a letter which will outline the various forms of communication used when it is necessary to delay or cancel school due to weather.

5. School Facilities Master Plan: The working group met with Dore and Whittier Architects on Wednesday, November 30th. At this meeting the Visioning Days were planned. The first phase of the project is to identify town owned land as potential building sites.
6. CHARMS Collaborative: The South Shore Educational Collaborative (SSEC) has shown interest in taking over the CHARMS program, and in doing so, is seeking to rent the space in the Rodman Building to keep the current program in place. The superintendent will keep the School Committee up to date with any new information.
7. Data Team Professional Learning Communities: Educator teams in grades 1-5 began meeting to discuss trends and patterns in student data and describe student progress. These meetings occur twice a year and provide an opportunity for all teams to work together to discuss growth opportunities and support for every student.
8. Supporting New Educators: On November 22, over 50 new educators, their mentors and building administrators met in a relaxed setting to discuss their entry. The discussions included challenges, experiences, celebrations, and recommendations for ongoing support from the mentors.
9. Ongoing Educator Evaluation Administrators Professional Learning Community: The full group of evaluators (approximately 45) met Tuesday, November 29<sup>th</sup> for their monthly work together as a team of supervisors and evaluators. This was the first meeting for the newest administrators who, prior to this time, had been attending the course, *Analyzing Teaching for Student Results*, as is required for all new administrators. This month's meeting focused on calibration. Evaluators watched tapes of classes, individually evaluated the (non-Canton) teacher against a professional standard, and then discussed their interpretations and evaluations of the lesson. The value of calibration is to develop a common and well-understood high standard of instruction.
10. We Are Canton: The We Are Canton exhibit was a big success. The students and teachers, under Kate Kelly's direction, are already discussing how to make improvements for next year's exhibit. On December 3<sup>rd</sup> the exhibit was displayed at the Canton Public Library for the entire Canton community to view. The superintendent thanked Kate Kelly and her team for creating a rich experience for everyone involved.
11. Read Early Literacy Initiative: On November 30<sup>th</sup> the Rodman pre-school celebrated their Rodman Read Early Literacy Initiative with a family celebration for the whole school. Entertainer, Rick Goldin, a children's musician, performed his show "I Love to Read." Ninety (90) children, their families and the Rodman staff participated. This year's event was directly connected with the pre-school's book *Dancing Feet*, by Lindsey Craig. The Rodman Read Early program focuses on building vocabulary and connecting shared reading at home with school learning. Each family received a copy of the book, *Dancing Feet*. The Superintendent thanked CAPE for funding the event. Dr. Fischer-Mueller also thanked Donna Kilday and all of the Rodman staff for creating wonderful experience for our children and families.
12. Summer 2016 Technology: Summer is a critical time for the CPS Technology Department to complete approved technology capital projects, perform database updates and to prepare for the



an explanation of the scores and reported that all students are offered to take the Advanced Placement Exams.

2. Bullying Prevention and Intervention Plan: Debra Bromfield, Director of Student Services, updated School Committee on the changes for FY17. The changes were reviewed by the School Committee. No questions or comments on the policy. The new policy is addressed in the school handbooks and available online. Dr. Fischer-Mueller reported that there is good work being done across the district to prevent bullying and to create a \_\_\_\_\_environment for the students and staff.
3. Policy 1<sup>st</sup> Read: Kristin Mirliani and Debra Bromfield presented the 1<sup>st</sup> read for *The Ages for School Enrollment and Attendance Policy* to the School Committee. Reuki Schutt motioned to waive the second read and approve The Ages for School Enrollment Policy. Kristin Mirliani seconded the motion. It was vote 5-0.

5 yeas 0 nay

4. Policy 2<sup>nd</sup> Read: Kristin Mirliani and Debra Bromfield will present the 2<sup>nd</sup> Read of the Searches and Interrogations Policy and request a vote from the School Committee. The School Committee discussed the Searches and Interrogations Policy extensively and called upon Principal Folan for his first hand experiences with enforcing the policy. Mr. Folan explained that the policy is absolutely necessary to keep students safe. Michael Loughran moved to approve the Searches and Interrogations Policy with the mentioned amendment of changing the word “canine” to “K-9 dog”. Reuki Schutt seconded the motion. It was voted 5-0.

5 yeas 0 nay

5. Stipends: Barry Nectow presented the proposed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to the Teachers Union, Unit A, Stipends Contract. Mr. Nectow reported on the changes to the contract and explained the reasoning for the changes. After some discussion Reuki Schutt requested further information, including the differences in budget needed to fulfill the new stipend positions and amounts. The information will be provided at the next meeting, where a vote will take place.

6. DESE District and School Report Cards: Superintendent, Jennifer Fischer-Mueller, and Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction, Jennifer Henderson, presented the DESE District Report Card. Dr. Fischer-Mueller explained the scores, Transitional Student Growth Percentiles (SPGs) and how they are compared to other districts. There will be a follow up presentation to these District Report Cards that will address the concerns that have risen from these reports. There was much discussion surrounding this subject and will be continued through further discussion and a presentation at an upcoming meeting.

H. Business Manager’s Report: Barry Nectow provided update on the turf field project. The turf is down and lines are painted. The fill will go down when the field dries up some from the rain. Additionally, the High School gym floor is nearly done. The project is going smoothly and will be back in use on Monday. Mr. Nectow also reminded the School Committee that the Operating Budget will be presented at the next meeting. The Subcommittee will meet on December 12 at 1:00 PM during an open meeting to discuss the Operating Budget.

I. Sub-Committee Reports

1. TEC- Dr. Jennifer Fischer-Mueller/John Bonnanzio - Nothing to report.

