

Town of Canton  
Canton School Committee Minutes of the Meeting of January 5, 2017  
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  
Barry Nectow, Business Manager  
Brett McCloud, Recording Secretary  
Community Members  
Press

B. Routine Matters

1. Motion to approve Minutes dated December 15, 2016. It was voted 5-0.

5 yeas 0 nay

2. Motion to approve Bill Schedule dated January 12, 2016. It was voted 5-0.

5 yeas 0 nay

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

Rodman Early Childhood Center-The staff and families at the Rodman Early Childhood program participated in a food drive to benefit the Canton food pantry last month. The ECC will also be hosting an Open House for prospective families for the 2017-2018 school year. The open house will be held on January 19th from 5:30-7:00. All are welcome.

Luce - The school community came together in their pajamas for the annual story and holiday sing-a-long just prior to break. All participants got up and did the *Penguin Waddle*. In addition, the students donated \$636.00 to the Canton Food Pantry as part of their Nickels for Nutrition Program.

Hansen - Prior to the Holiday Break, the Hansen ran their second annual 'Filled With Joy' toy drive which was initiated by two Hansen students. For two weeks, donations of new toys were collected and provided to patients at Boston Children's Hospital on December 23. On December 23, students were sent off on their Holiday Break with a school-wide holiday sing-a-long and Pajama Day.

JFK - The entire student body and staff participated in a sing-a-long prior to the holiday break. The students got a big kick when all the teachers and staff went on stage to sing Jingle Bell Rock. Also, Ben Franklin will be visiting the JFK on January 26 to share the story of his life. All grades will be participating

GMS - On December 19, the eighth grade students and staff attended the Chamber Theatre Company's "Encore" production at the John Hancock Theatre in Boston. This theatre group presents "The Monkey's Paw," "The Necklace," "The Legend of Sleepy Hollow," "The Raven," and "The Celebrated Jumping Frog of Calaveras County." Galvin students had read many of these stories in the fall and were able to distinguish similarities and differences between the original texts and the dramatic performances.

CHS - A group of Canton High School students were celebrated in a Boston Globe article for their involvement with Project RISE, a non-profit group that offers friendship and support to refugee families. The students successfully ran a winter clothing and toiletry drive, while also spending time to meet the families who left areas of conflict. Their actions "made a difference" and their words show incredible perspective, kindness and empathy. In addition, the Performing Arts department hosted its annual Winter Concert. The variety of pieces were entertaining, varied and challenging, and the Chorus, Chamber Singers, A Cappella, Orchestra and Band performed well. The concert included a traditional playing and singing of Sleigh Ride with all students involved and the honoring of the late Gary McNamara with the playing of the Canton Fight Song.

D. Public Comments/Questions:

Anne McDonough – Ms. McDonough is a 50 year resident of Canton, and a retired teacher of 40 years (11 with Canton). Ms. McDonough is currently a substitute with Canton Public Schools. Ms. McDonough made comments regarding the substitute rate and the need for better rates to make a reflection on the children's education.

Ellen Donovan – Ms. Donovan thanked SC for their hard work and commitment to the school system. Ms. Donovan asked the reasoning for returning \$63,000 to the town and if it be used to put all schools on the same tier with busses. John Bonanzio answered the question by saying that the money should be returned to the town because the funds were not utilized for their intended purpose. Ms. Donovan also asked how many additional school aids are listed in the proposed budget. Dr. Fischer-Mueller responded by saying, that the proposed budget lists 1 FTE for the elementary school level.

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

Superintendent's Activities:

Hansen School Ribbon Cutting - A ribbon-cutting ceremony was held on December 19<sup>th</sup> to honor all the people that helped make the Hansen School addition project a success. As reported in the Canton Citizen on December 29<sup>th</sup>, this project was funded by a \$4.1 million debt-exclusion override, allowing the district to replace four (4) modular classrooms with eight (8) permanent classrooms. This project is a great example of the strength and value of the collaboration among the town and school departments and leadership. Participants at the ceremony included: Chairman of the School Committee John Bonanzio and Vice Chairman Michael Loughran, Hansen School Principal David Brauning, Chairman of the Board of Selectman Bob Burr and Vice Chairman Mark Porter, Chairman of the Building Renovation Committee Robert McCarthy, and members of the Canton Public Schools administration, Brian Lynch, Barry Nectow, Debra Bromfield, Jennifer Henderson, and myself. Dr. Fischer-Mueller thanked Brett McCloud for all her work in making arrangements for the event.

Facilities

School Facilities Master Plan - The Working Group will meet next Wednesday, January 11<sup>th</sup> to finalize the agenda for the three Visioning Days – January 18<sup>th</sup>, March 13<sup>th</sup>, and May 24<sup>th</sup>. Dore and Whittier will provide an update to the School Committee following the first Visioning Day, possibly February 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Indicators of Excellence

Title I Distinguished Schools - On Wednesday, February 1, 2017, the Hansen School will be honored as one of Massachusetts' Title I Distinguished Schools. Principal Brauning and School Committee Chair Bonanzio will accept the commemorative certificate at the ceremony held at the State House. All School Committee members are invited to attend the ceremony to celebrate the Hansen School's accomplishment. The district's legislative delegates have also been invited.

JSA - About 50 Canton students attended the JSA Fall Congress and performed very well in the debates and discussions. James Polsgrove won two Best Speaker gavels, while Chris Milne, Colin Messinger, and Nicole Mason each earned a Best Speaker gavel. Rachel Vatelina received a gavel for winning a Social Media contest, and Dillon Anderson won a full scholarship to the JSA Georgetown summer school program. Dr. Fischer-Mueller introduced a number of students and their team leader Jeremy Comeau. The superintendent congratulated all the Canton students who participated in the Fall Congress.

Ongoing Educator Evaluation Administrators Professional Learning Community - Administrators met on December 20<sup>th</sup> for their monthly work together. They continue to focus on calibration to create a shared standard of effective teaching in Canton classrooms. The focus in December was on identifying indicators of great student learning and what looks like in the classroom.

Living Our Core Values. The district core values call for Respectful and Responsible Relationships and an Inclusive and Engaged Community. Living these core values daily is what helps us reach our vision of developing students who are curious learners and compassionate citizens. It is critical that instructional materials provide multiple perspectives and present all people in a respectful manner. A small group of department chairs are currently meeting with Jayne Moore and Jen Henderson to ensure that we are continually assessing our texts and novels, using an anti-bias lens. While the group is just at the administrative level at this point, the evaluation of texts and novels will include teachers later this month.

Documenting and Communicating Student Learning. The elementary Standards Based Report Card PLC continues to meet monthly to discuss ongoing changes to the report card. We received both teacher and parent feedback regarding the most recent changes to the English Language Arts section of the report card and over the next two months we will continue to work on these sections. The Kindergarten teachers will meet at their March common planning to reassess the social and emotional learning section of their report card, given the increased attention to those areas as foundational skills.

Summer Programs. The administration has begun the process of recruiting staff for our Canton Academy summer program. Additionally, later this month marketing for the BRIDGE summer program to support students' transition to the high school will begin.

#### Important Dates and Events

January 6<sup>th</sup> - Hansen Winter Concert 10:20AM

January 9<sup>th</sup> - Luce Winter Concert 10AM

January 10<sup>th</sup> - JFK Winter Concert 10AM

January 10<sup>th</sup> – GMS Winter Concert 6:30PM  
January 11<sup>th</sup> – CPACSS Meeting  
January 11<sup>th</sup> – Early Release GR PreK-12  
January 16<sup>th</sup> – No School – Martin Luther King Day  
January 17<sup>th</sup> – GMS Small Ensemble Night (CHS Auditorium) 7PM  
January 18<sup>th</sup> – CFED Monthly Meeting

F. Old Business:

1. FY17 Full Day Kindergarten: Barry Nectow presented the town's allocation for Full Day Kindergarten and current expenses for FY17. Mr. Nectow proposed that the amount being returned to the Town in FY17 should be \$62,986. Reuki Schutt agreed with Mr. Nectow's requests and the School Committee concurred.

G. New Business

1. Rodman Early Childhood Tuition: Donna Kilday presented the recommendation for FY18 Rodman Early Childhood Center tuition. Ms. Kilday requested a 3% increase to the program tuition, bringing the tuition to \$2,534 (for 2 day), \$3,800 (for 3 day), \$5,068 (for 4 day) and \$6,335 (for full week). Reuki Schutt motioned to approve the requested 3% increase to the tuition rates. The motion was seconded by Kristin Mirliani. It was voted 5-0.

5 yeas 0 nay

2. High School 2016 MCAS: As a continuation of the review of student learning data, High School Principal, Derek Folan presented the 2016 MCAS results and action steps for this year. Mr. Folan reported on the MCAS results and that the High School was very close to meeting their targets. Highlights of Mr. Folan report include that 99% of the ELA performed at advance or proficient with no failures, 90% scored advance or proficient on Mathematics, and 90% scored advanced or proficient on Science. All of the statistics re up from last year. Going forward the English department will be striving to move more students into a higher level of achievement. The Math department will be addressing the performance and growth of students in the high needs category. The science department will also be striving to move more students into a higher level of achievement.
3. Superintendent's Proposed FY18 Budget Presentation: Dr. Fischer-Mueller presented the FY18 Budget recommendations to the School Committee. The Superintendent explained the itemized budget requests by line and explained the reasoning behind all budget items. The Canton Public Schools FY18

Budget Request integrates free full day kindergarten and contractual obligations, and also maintains quality with supplies/services and FTEs (1.64%, \$625,536). The proposed budget will also address areas in need of improvement and enhancement (1.53%, \$582,474) and further supports programs and services (.5%, \$189,288). The budget request will reflect an increase of 7.38% for a total of \$2,807,618. Dr. Fischer-Mueller requested a vote on or by January 19th so the finalized budget request can then be sent to the Town Finance Director and Finance Committee on January 20th. After much discussion and recommendations from the School Committee, Dr. Fischer-Mueller explained that all items that are not included on this year's budget will be part of a multi-year plan. John Bonnanzio raised concern of the need for more administrative staff, and requested it be added to the budget request for discussion. Mr. Bonnanzio also requested the breakdown of budget percentage by school. Barry Nectow will provide the information at the next meeting.

4. CHARMS: Dr. Fischer-Mueller presented the proposed amendment to the CHARMS Collaborative agreement regarding the surplus funds following the dissolution of CHARMS. Mike Loughran motioned to approve the proposed amendment to the CHARMS Collaborative agreement. Meg Gannon seconded the motion. It was voted 5-0.

5        yeas                      0        nay

5. Substitute Teachers 2016/17: Assistant Superintendent, Jennifer Henderson provided an overview of data regarding the use of substitutes so far in the present school year and actions taken to address the issues regarding substitutes. Ms. Henderson reported that there is a shortage of substitute teachers district wide. Actions taken will include, removal of Friday Professional Development, planning ahead for Professional Development hours that may occur, decrease the number of participants in Vertical Alignment and creating alternate days, and fully utilizing teacher volunteers for coverage of preps at the secondary level. With these changes and researching all aspects, including market analysis, and surveying surrounding towns, the administration will re-assess all data at the end of the year.

H. Business Manager's Report: No additional report.

I. Sub-Committee Reports

1. TEC- Dr. Jennifer Fischer-Mueller/John Bonnanzio – Nothing to report
2. CPC – Reuki Schutt – Nothing to report
3. BRC- Michael Loughran - Nothing to report
4. Wellness- Meg Gannon - Nothing to report

