

Town of Canton
Canton School Committee Minutes of the Meeting of January 19, 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
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 January 5, 2017. It was voted 4-0.

4 yeas 0 nay

2. Motion to approve Bill Schedule dated January 26, 2017. It was voted 4-0.

4 yeas 0 nay

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

Rodman Early Childhood Center: The children are scientists at the preschool this month as we learn about winter, changes in matter, and melting and freezing. The children are observing snow and ice melting and documenting that process with their words and pictures.

Luce: The Luce recently held their winter concert with the fifth grade chorus, band, strings and mallet madness students all performing extraordinarily for two performances. Students also celebrated *Wacky Wednesday* yesterday with students

displaying their interpretation by wearing mismatched or backwards clothing, colored hair and alike. It was definitely a day of unpredictable appearances.

Hansen: The Hansen held a Winter Concert which featured fantastic performances by our fifth grade chorus, band, strings, and mallet madness students. Also, Ben Franklin performed two shows for our students on Tuesday. The performances taught students about his life and detailed some of his historical achievements.

JFK: Band, strings, mallet club, and Grade 5 chorus put on a spectacular performance for students and families last week. Special thanks to all the teachers for their hard work. Also, Ben Franklin will be visiting the JFK next week and sharing his life story and achievements.

GMS: On January 10th, the GMS held their Winter Concert for the listening pleasure of families and friends. Those in attendance were treated to an evening of amazing performances by members of the chorus, band and string students. The GMS counselors will be hosting the first Parent Coffee of 2017 on Tuesday, Jan. 24 from 7:30-8:30AM in the library. They will be joined by some special guests to discuss the topics of social media and technology use. School Resource Officer Ted Lehan will discuss "Internet Safety & Social Media." Additionally, some GMS students will present some of their favorite apps to use for studying or completing homework.

CHS: The high school community celebrated Coleman Strong Day on Tuesday, Jan. 10. Hundreds of students and staff wore pink Coleman Strong shirts and other pink clothing to show their support for Wellness teacher Kate Coleman, who is battling Breast Cancer. The t-shirt fundraising drive, coordinated by the Canton Character Crew and the Wellness Department, raised \$2,700 for the Coleman family. In addition, the winter athletic teams are deep into their seasons, and our student-athletes are experiencing great success. In particular, the boys swim team is undefeated and wrestling team is close to securing their first Hock Davenport title and finished second at the 20th annual Peckham Tournament held at CHS. Also, in the music world, Mr. Folan congratulated Dan Hathaway and Justin Luk for making it to All-States.

- D. Public Comments/Questions: Maureen Moran – Ms. Moran stated that she didn't think it was appropriate for the principals to be comparing the schools within the Action Plans and when reporting on MCAS scores.
- E. Superintendent's Report: Dr. Fischer-Mueller provided an update on a variety of matters going on throughout the district. The superintendent's report included:

Activities

School Facilities Master Plan. Yesterday, January 18th was the first of three Visioning Days, as part of our process with Dore and Whittier Architects to create a School Facilities Master Plan. Approximately 50 people, representing parents, community leaders, teachers, administrators, School Committee members, and students met from 1pm – 7pm in the CHS Library. During this time the members worked in small groups and the large group to discuss various topics in education and the role of facilities in not only supporting teaching and learning, but nurturing collaboration and inspiring creativity. According to a parent participant, “I thought yesterday's discussions were informative and interesting. Discussing what classrooms and education should and could look like in the future makes me excited about the future!” The next session is Monday, March 13th.

Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT). SBIRT Screenings were coordinated by CHS School Nurse Maureen Campbell, and conducted from December 5th – December 13th. SBIRT is a practice to identify, reduce, and prevent problematic use, abuse, and dependence on alcohol and illicit drugs. According to the Massachusetts Health and Human Services Department, the components of SBIRT include:

- **Screening** – Short, well-tested questionnaire identifies risk
- **Brief Intervention** – Short, structured conversations that feature feedback and options for change
- **Referral** – For in-depth assessment and/or diagnosis and/or treatment, if needed
- **Treatment** – Between 1% and 10% may need some level of treatment

This year's screening included 253 9th grade students. Following the screening, brief conversations with students included reinforcement of healthy choices and strategies to use during potentially challenging situations. The conversations included checking-in with students about adult support available in school. Students were asked if they could name their guidance counselors and if they could name at least one adult that they felt comfortable going to if they needed help. Students easily shared names of guidance counselors, nurses, administrators, and teachers.

After the screenings, students were asked to complete a brief, anonymous survey for feedback on how to improve the screening process. These results will be tallied and discussed among the SBIRT Team. The SBIRT data will be submitted to MA Department of Public Health (with no identifying information) and reviewed with the SBIRT Team.

The success of the SBIRT Screenings is the result of strong leadership and collaboration among many CHS staff members, including:

Nursing Faculty
Maureen Campbell
Christine Trendell

Guidance Interns
Misaline Pompilus
Kaitlyn McNamara
Emily Daly

From our Guidance Faculty
Drew Carty
Katie Leazott
Chris Buss
Heather Keddy
Anne Murray

Technology
Jim Duncan

Administration
Derek Folan, Principal
Kim Clark-Connor, Nurse Leader

Indicators of Excellence
Honors, Awards, and Acknowledgements

CHS – College Board Advanced Placement District Honor Roll

The Superintendent congratulated Canton High School for earning a position on the 7th Annual AP District Honor Roll. According to the College Board, “The annual AP District Honor Roll recognizes districts for increasing access to Advanced Placement course work while maintaining or increasing the percentage of students earning scores of 3 or higher on AP Exams. Honor Roll Districts defy the expectation that expanding access automatically results in a decline in the percentage of exams earning scores of 3 or better. Reaching these goals indicates that your district is successfully identifying motivated, academically prepared students who are likely to benefit from rigorous AP course work.”

Robotics Team Honored

The Superintendent congratulated the Canton High School Robotics Team for receiving the Inspire Award at the January 8th Lexington tournament. The Canton Robodogs made it to the finals in the tournament, which included 21 teams. The Superintendent thanked Leo Nelson and Kathleen Healy, for their time coaching such an inspired and committed team of engineers.

Student Honored – Making Strides Cancer Walk

Shawn Burns is a 9th grade student who participated in the Making Strides Cancer Walk with the boys’ cross-country team. Shawn was acknowledged by Channel 7 News and awarded a gift card for his successful fund raising efforts, generating \$1,200 for the cause. The Superintendent congratulated and thanked Shawn for his generosity and commitment to helping people in need.

Education Week's Quality Counts Rates Massachusetts Best in Nation

On January 4, 2017, *Education Week* released the 21st edition of its annual Quality Counts report on state education systems and for the third year in a row listed

Massachusetts first in the nation in overall quality. The Commonwealth was also top in the nation on two of the indices that went into the overall ranking: K-12 achievement and the publication's Chance for Success Index, which considers outcomes from early childhood through adulthood (Commissioner Chester, Weekly Update, January 6, 2017).

Professional Development. On Wednesday, January 11th, there was a Professional Development Early Release Day. The sessions provided on that day focused on three of our four district goals. Sessions included the following:

- *Energy: What we Need to Know and What our Students will Learn* presented by Teachers 21 education consultant Katie Clarke to the fourth grade faculty.
- *Making It Count* - a presentation provided to our Food Services staff.
- *Kids Who Keep Us Up at Night: Noticing and Supporting Social Learners Across the School Day* presented by Katy Shamitz, founder of Skills for Living. This presentation was provided to all Ed Assistants, ABA tutors and Speech-Language Pathology Assistants.
- *Titlewave, Lightbox and Destiny: A Presentation for Library Media Specialists* provided by Anthony Ferranti from Follett Publishing.
- *Emergency Protocols and Other Critical "Things"* presented by Dr. Dan Muse, Emergency Medicine and District Physician. This presentation was provided to our district nursing faculty.
- *Social and Emotional Development and Mindset* presented by Nate Folan, Trainer, Author and Consultant in Interactive Learning Experiences. This presentation was provided to all preschool and grades K, 1 and 2 faculty.
- *Overview of the Next Generation Test Design* presented to all grades 3-5 faculty.
- *Backwards Design and the New Science and Technology Standards* presented by Katie Clarke, Teachers 21 Consultant, to the middle school science faculty.
- *Google Doc Training and Using Data to Drive Instruction* provided to the middle school faculty.
- *Student Based Learning Curriculum and Backwards Design Unit Development* provided to the high school faculty.

The class *Race, Gender and Sexuality: Talking About What We're Afraid to Talk About* had its last session for the winter term. This professional development opportunity is offered to all Canton faculty.

Collaborative Problem Solving, another after school professional development opportunity began again today, January 19th. This is the winter term and this course will again be offered in the spring.

The district STEAM Professional Learning Community members have been invited to participate on panels and set up exhibit booths at two upcoming events.

Complete data trends and action plans for each individual school is available in the additional materials on the Canton Public Schools Website, under School Committee Minutes. Kristin Mirliani asked Superintendent Fischer-Mueller whether she thought the decline was caused by the implementation of the journeys program. Dr. Fischer-Mueller does not believe there to be a correlation between the two.

Assistant Superintendent, Jennifer Henderson also spoke of the Science Standards. The standards are changing the way students learn science for the better. Movements of standard by DESE are making it very different and a major adjustment for teachers and students. There is no more fill in the blanks and students are learning real life application and learning is performance tasked. This new approach will create students who are better able to approach real life situations instead of memorizing information for testing purposes.

2. Canton High School Guidance Department: CHS Guidance Director, Dr. Meredith Chamberland presented how the guidance department supports students in the college process. Dr. Chamberland explained the student programs, parent and family programs, guidance seminar program, and student and family counseling available to students. Dr. Chamberland reported that the college guidance process starts in grade 6 and is designed to teach the students about the college selection process, to determine their career paths and what is needed to achieve their goals.
3. Canton High School Program of Studies: CHS Principal, Derek Folan, presented an overview of the 2017-18 Canton High School Program of Studies. Mr. Folan reviewed any new offerings and changes to the Program of Studies. The School Committee thanked Mr. Folan and the CHS Guidance Department for the overview and hard work that goes into the program of studies each year.
4. Policy: Kristin Mirliani presented the first read for Student Complaints and Grievances Policy (File #JII) and Fees, Fines and Charges Policy (File # JQ). A second read with the minor changes made will be available at the next meeting, where a request for a vote will be made.

H. Business Manager's Report: Barry Nectow did not have an additional report.

I. Sub-Committee Reports

1. TEC- Dr. Fischer-Mueller/John Bonnanzio – Nothing to report
2. CPC – Reuki Schutt – Not present for report
3. BRC- Michael Loughran - Nothing to report

