

Town of Canton
Canton School Committee Minutes of the Meeting of February 16, 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 John Bonnanzio at 7:05 PM.

Present are:

John Bonnanzio
Reuki Schutt
Michael Loughran
Meg Gannon

Also Present:

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

B. Routine Matters

1. Motion to approve Minutes dated February 2, 2017. It was voted 4-0.

4 yeas 0 nay

2. Motion to approve Executive Minutes dated February 2, 2017. It was voted 4-0 to approve and hold executive minutes.

4 yeas 0 nay

3. Motion to approve Bill Schedule dated February 23, 2017. It was voted 4-0.

4 yeas 0 nay

C. Student Member Report: No student report

D. Public Comments/Questions: No public comments

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:

Superintendent's Activities

MSBA - Wednesday, February 15th, Mr. Nectow and Superintendent Fischer-Mueller attended the Massachusetts School Building Authority Board Meeting. The purpose of the MSBA Board meeting was to formally approve school districts

engaged in their process, including, Statement of Interest applicants, invitations to Feasibility Studies, recommendations for Preferred Schematic Designs, invitations to Project Scope and Budget, and, specifically for Canton, authorization to Execute Project Funding Agreement for Accelerated Repair. The favorable vote confirms the Hansen School roof project total projected budget to be \$1,740,000 with an estimated maximum Facilities grant of \$730,947, which is approximately a 42% reimbursement.

Delayed Opening and Snow Days - In regards to the recent school cancellations and delayed openings, the Superintendent wanted to ensure the public that with each weather event Dr. Fischer-Meuller is in conversation with Danny Teague of the DPW and the Facilities Director, Brian Lynch, Chief Doody, and many area superintendents. There are multiple variables at play in the decision to cancel or delay the start of school, including, input through the night from Town personnel and ongoing forecasts from highly reputable sources on the timing of a storm and its impact.

School Tours - On Monday, February 6th, Selectman Mark Porter and School Committee member, Reuki Schutt, joined a group of Canton administrators on a tour of the Hanscom Middle School in Lincoln and Joseph Estabrook Elementary School in Lexington. These visits provided the opportunity to see examples of newly designed schools that support the changes in teaching and learning that align with the changes in the world. Instruction is shifting away from one teacher standing in the front of the room lecturing with students' desks and chairs neatly arranged in rows, to working stations that support differentiated instruction and collaborative spaces for more student-centered activities. Dr. Fischer-Mueller thanked Principals Jeff LaBroad and Erich Ledebuhr for their hospitality, and the Dore and Whittier team for arranging the visits.

Canton Families Embracing Diversity (CFED) - Wednesday, February 15th, CFED welcomed keynote speaker Dr. Malika Jeffries, Associate Professor of Chemistry at Boston University. The CHS Chamber Singers and Jazz Ensemble enhanced the event, along with students sharing poems. Dr. Fischer-Mueller thanked CFED, specifically Sasha Martone and Cynthia Holcombe, for making this inspiring event possible.

Follow-Up

Professional Development Questions - Prior to the February 2nd School Committee meeting, Chairman Bonnanzio posed some questions about professional development in CPS. Assistant Superintendent Henderson presented the responses to all of the questions. The provided information can be found in her Memo in the document titled "additional information for February 16, 2017" posted on the Forms Page on the School Committee Website.

Indicators of Excellence

U.S. Presidential Scholars Program – Dr. Fischer-Mueller congratulated Eric Solomon for being selected as a candidate for the United States Presidential

Scholars Program. According to the letter announcing Eric's honor as a candidate, the Presidential Scholars Program recognizes "graduating seniors for their accomplishments in many areas: academic success, leadership, and service to school and community." Applications are due February 28th.

National Merit Scholar – Dr. Fischer-Mueller congratulated Dasol Lee, a CHS senior, for being named a National Merit Finalist. According to their website, "The National Merit® Scholarship Program is an academic competition for recognition and scholarships that began in 1955. High school students enter the National Merit Program by taking the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT®)—a test which serves as an initial screen of approximately 1.6 million entrants each year—and by meeting published program entry and participation requirements." Principal Folan commented, "This is a great honor for Dasol, her family and CHS."

Library-Media Specialists Professional Learning Community - Twice each year, the five Library-Media Specialists meet together as a professional learning community. On January 20th, this group of the five met with April Goran, Tech Integration Administrator, Jayne Moore, Elementary Curriculum and Instruction Administrative Coach, and Jen Henderson, Assistant Superintendent. This learning community focuses on the promotion of literacy across the district, wireless opportunities for students, summer reading, grant options and discussion of additions to their library in the form of books, electronics and maker spaces. At this meeting, the group also began the discussion of a one book-one school program for next year.

Fifth Grade Science Think Tanks - Jen Henderson, Assistant Superintendent and Jayne Moore, Elementary Curriculum and Instruction Administrative Coach met with some of the fifth grade teachers and two elementary principals to take a deeper look at the necessary learning involved in and coverage of the third – fifth grade science standards. This group is attempting to focus on hands on activities and real life application to assure transfer of knowledge. The group will continue to meet over the next several months.

Early Release Professional Development - On Wednesday, January 1st, the district participated in professional development with returning speakers Katy Shamitz and Dr. Nadja Reilly. This is Ms. Shamitz' third visit to the district this year with a specific focus on social and emotional learning, Tier One instructional strategies and Universal Design. Nadja Reilly, PhD., is a clinical psychologist with specialization in School Climate and Social and Emotional Learning. She is also the Associate Director of the Freedman Center for Child and Family Development. Dr. Reilly spoke to the preschool and elementary faculty about self regulation in young children.

Math Night - On Monday, February 6, parents and guardians of elementary students grades 1-4 arrived at the Luce Elementary for Math Night, the third in a series of four workshops presented to parents in order to better understand how to support their children with math skills. The elementary math specialists

Maryanna Biedermann, Susan Brass and Kerri Falzone conducted the workshops.

PPG Grants - Working in cooperation with Katherine Touafek, School to Careers Partnership, Canton Public Schools faculty was awarded a total of \$15,050 of grants to be directed to STEAM efforts within the schools. Each teacher was eligible for a maximum of \$1,000.00. The PPG Aerospace - Cumming Microwave Avon site awarded the grants. Grant criteria required that the money be directed to a full class of students, be STEAM related and have an impact on students' consideration of STEAM careers. All schools, including the Rodman Early Childhood Center submitted grants proposals.

Ensuring Every Student Succeeds: Setting Ambitious Expectations - The Elementary and Secondary Spring Convening Conference was attended by all of the principals, the Assistant Superintendent and the Elementary Curriculum and Instruction Administrative Coach on Wednesday, February 15th. The DESE sponsors one conference each year with more than 150 districts in attendance. The event brings together teams of administrators who attend multiple workshops throughout the day. This year's convening focus was the Resetting Expectations for Student Success.

School Improvement Plan (SIPs) - In accordance with MA regulations, Principals work with their School Councils to create School Improvement Plans aligned to the District goals. The SIPs may be multi-year plans that are updated annually. This is year two of Canton schools' two-year plan. The timing of this year's plans is different than in the past, due in large part to the variation in our reporting of students' performance on MCAS and PARCC. At the next meeting, Dr. Fischer-Mueller will be asking for the School Committee's vote of approval of the plans.

Upcoming Events

February 20th - February 24th – School Vacation Week

February 28th - CHS Parent Course Selection Night (Grade 8 Parents 6-7:15 p.m.; 9,10 and 11 Parents 7:30-8:30 p.m.)

March 1st - Early Release PreK-12 for Professional Development and Common Planning

March 3rd & 4th - GMS Musical 7PM

F. Old Business: No Old Business

G. New Business

1. Community Reduction of Waste Network (Team CROWN): Team CROWN, provided a short presentation on their efforts to reduce waste and educate the public on how to reuse efficiently. The fourth grade presenters included Ben Howe, Pranav Addanki, Aiden Canny, Nishka Baduamanda , Andrew McInnis, Isabella Siu, Ishita Jaiswal, and Russell Shea. Each student presented and the group would like to keep the School Committee updated on the progress of their project.

2. Rodman Building: Dr. Fischer-Mueller provided information on the CHARMS program currently hosted in the Rodman Administration building. Barry Nectow also reviewed next steps regarding future rental agreements. Mr. Nectow reported that they will possibly be looking for short term renters in the spaces to have flexibility for use of the space after the building study is complete.
3. Municipal Modernization Act: Barry Nectow presented an overview of the Municipal Modernization Act and its impact of Canton Public Schools. There were two parts to the Municipal Modernization Act. Mr. Nectow reported on the Establishment and Management of Special Education Stabilization Fund. The use of the stabilization fund would now only require two School Committee votes and one Selectmen vote, instead of waiting until town meeting. Reuki Schutt motioned to approve the new legislation. Meg Gannon seconded the motion. It was voted 4-0.

4 yeas 0 nay

Mr. Nectow also proposed a new protocol for signing the bill schedule. The new protocol would require only a designee or backup designee to sign the bill schedule. This would be replacing the currently policy that requires three members to sign at the School Committee meeting. Michael Loughran motioned to adopt the business manager's suggestion to nominate a designee and backup designee to approve the bill schedule. The motion was not seconded.

- B. Business Manager's Report: Barry Nectow provided an update on business items including the Hansen roof project. The MSBA gave the last vote needed to move forward. The next step is to bid the project out and take the budget to town meeting. Mr. Nectow also reported that the cash capital request will have to be increased by \$100,000 for the addition of HVAC repair costs that are not in the current request.

Reuki Schutt also motioned to reschedule the School Committee meeting on May 11, 2017 to May 8, 2017. It was seconded by Meg Gannon. It was voted 4-0.

4 yeas 0 nay

C. Sub-Committee Reports

1. TEC- Dr. Fischer-Mueller/John Bonnanzio
2. CPC – Reuki Schutt – Ms. Schutt requested when the School Committee would like to see CPC presentation.
3. BRC- Michael Loughran
4. Wellness- Meg Gannon
5. Finance – Reuki Schutt/Meg Gannon
6. Policy – Kristin Mirliani – Not present

7. Building Use – John Bonnanzio – Mr. Bonanzio requested that this sub-committee be added again.
- D. Future Business – Next Meeting Thursday, March 2, 2017.
- E. Other Business
- L. Adjournment – Reuki Schutt motioned adjourn at 9:00 PM. It was seconded by Meg Gannon. It was voted 4-0.

4 yeas 0 nay