

Town of Canton
Canton School Committee Minutes of the Meeting of March 2, 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
Kristin Mirliani
Meg Gannon

Also Present:

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

B. Routine Matters

1. Motion to approve Minutes dated February 16, 2017. It was voted 3-0-1.

3 yeas 0 nay 1 abstain

2. Motion to approve Bill Schedule dated March 9, 2017. It was voted 4-0.

4 yeas 0 nay

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

Rodman Early Childhood Program: On Thursday, March 2nd the Early Childhood program celebrated Read Across America Day with guest readers from the district. The children enjoyed hearing many stories written by Dr. Seuss.

Luce: During February vacation Luce students were challenged to read for at least 300 minutes. Since "each book that they read puts smarts in their heads, cause brains grow more thoughts, the more they are fed." One hundred and seventeen students met or exceeded this challenge. Also, in honor of Read Across America Day and Dr. Seuss's birthday all students in grades K-2 received a book from Mrs. Peter that they are able keep and add to their personal collections. These

books all focused on scientific principles or investigation. In addition, the third grade team continues to implement our WIN (What I Need) Block where students rotate among staff in small groups focusing on the development of reading strategies, write response in math, fact finders, creative writing and critical thinking.

Hansen: The fifth grade students put on three amazing Flashback performances. These events raise money to support the funding of the end of year Grade 5 trip to Camp Wing. The Hansen School also celebrated Black History month with daily celebrations of the achievements African Americans have made throughout history as part of our morning announcements.

JFK: Third graders have been working on an information science unit on Forces of Motion. They have been using paper to create strong bridges, learned about friction through guided discovery of cardboard slides, and learned how magnets have a pull and push force. The first graders are learning what it means to make an opinion. They are learning how to make a topic sentence with strong reasons for opinions and how to write a closing. So far, students have written opinion pieces on their favorite sport/activity, and will be learning how to write opinions about literature read in class through their author study of Ezra Jack Keats.

GMS: The annual grade eight band, orchestra and choral students have taken field trips to Canton High School for a Step-up Day. The students were able to meet the different music departments and rehearse with their high school counterparts. They were introduced to the different programs the CHS Music department offers and what may interest them as high school students. The 2017 Winter Session of the Galvin Middle School After School Clubs is currently hosting the biggest turnout yet, with a record of 16 clubs such as solar cars, broadcast club, American sign language, girls and boys basketball, creative writing, and art workshop. There are approximately 175 participants across the clubs with many students participating in more than one club per week. The addition of another late bus during the week will no doubt add to the club success in the future. Finally, the school play, *School House Rocks*, took place on Friday and Saturday night at 7:00 in the Canton High School auditorium.

CHS: Canton High School is looking forward to the upcoming Spring Musical *Hairspray* on March 16, 17 and March 18. The cast and crew includes a large number of students and musical numbers. CHS also salutes all of its student-athletes and teams from the winter season. In particular, swimmer Sebastian Melendez repeated as a two-event state champion, and wrestlers Anis Chakir and Eddie Marinelli qualified for New Englands. Finally, both the girls and boys hockey teams advanced last night in the MIAA tournament.

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:

Commonwealth Conversations 2017: Bringing Beacon Hill Back to You. On February 28th, the Hansen School hosted the South Shore Town Hall Forum for a large group of Massachusetts Senators, including Senator Keenan, Senator Rush, Senator Ross, Senator O'Connor, and Senator Timilty. The Hansen School cafeteria was full of citizens from communities of the South Shore, including Canton, Quincy, Dedham, Needham, and Weymouth. Dr. Fischer-Mueller thanked Ms. O'Brien's first grade class for leading the National Anthem and Donie O'Mahony for his outstanding work preparing for the event.

CAPT/CAPE Presidents. Nick Pirelli from Canton Parks and Recreation joined the monthly CAPT meeting to discuss the department's program offerings for children. Mr. Pirelli and the parent leaders talked about the success of many of the summer programs and how these programs are a great opportunity for children and help meet a need for parents and guardians in the summer. The group also discussed the current programs offered by CAPTs across the schools on Early Release Days. This is a conversation that will continue, so as to better understand how to meet the needs of more students and families on Early Release Days.

Read Across America. Each year, on March 2nd, Dr. Seuss' birthday, the preschool and elementary schools place special emphasis on the joys of reading and being read to. The Cat in the Hat visits along with other readers from our community.

Indicators of Excellence

Student Art Work. Joyce Stenmon, the K-12 Visual Arts Coordinator is proud to announce that the work of 20 CHS student artists will be on display this weekend (March 3rd, 4th, and 5th) at the Artists Studio and Gallery at Patriot Place, Foxboro MA. Dr. Fischer-Mueller congratulated all the artists!

Canton High School Robotics Team. Thanks to the inspiration and commitment of CHS Engineering and Robotics teacher, Katie Healey, the robotics program continues to grow at Canton High School. This season, there are two competitive teams made up of 34 students. Both teams compete in the FIRST Technical Challenge (FTC) and are in the process of final preparations for the MA State FTC Championship, which will be held on Saturday, March 4th at Natick High School. The Canton *Robodogs*, is a veteran team currently in its 5th year. They are helping to mentor a new rookie team, the Canton *GearHounds*. Some of the season highlights include:

1. Both teams serving as hosts for the first scrimmage (Nov 10th) and first Qualifier (Dec 4th) in the State of Massachusetts

2. The *Robodogs* actively expanding their outreach program resulting in the formation of 3 FIRST Lego League Teams (4th to 8th grade students) and presenting at the Booz Allen Hamilton “*Ideas Festival*”
3. The *GearHounds* winning the INNOVATION Award at the State Qualifier at Ursuline Academy on Feb. 11th
4. The *Robodogs* winning the INSPIRE Award at the Lexington State Qualifying, Jan. 8th

The State Competition on Saturday will decide which of the 5 teams from Massachusetts will advance to The East Super Regional Competition at the University of Scranton in Scranton, PA from March 17 to 19.

Canton Robodogs - Team 6040:

Thomas Cahill
Kelsey Jay
Jack McCabe
Noah Wolf
Yuheng Dong
Matthew Gaughan
Peter Milne
Aba Achildiyev
Meg Banerjee
Chris Milne
Matthew Larsen
Jack Healey
Jona Sutton
Katie Vail
Skyler Jabbour
Muhammad Sambo
Jenny Wolicki

Canton GearHounds - Team 11723:

Tim Gong
John Gong
Justin Diep
Aidas Jakubenas
Brady Waterman
Edmund Wong
Carlo Batitay
Theo Bollenbach
Calvin Lennon
Justin Luk
Kyle Cohen
Kyle Seto
Matt Mahon
Samuel Walter
Oliver Le
Elizabeth Seto
Dante River

GMS MathCounts. Dr. Fischer-Mueller congratulated the Galvin Middle School MathCounts Team for winning the ***Best Team Award*** at this year’s MathCounts Metrosouth Chapter Competition!

Students:

Akshay Kumar
Harshitha Valluri
Jack Hernon
Nam Pham
Aaron Mar
Alison Ye
Lauren Hernon

Semonti Choudhury

Willian Du
Liam Benson

Coaches:

Madhuri Valluri
Mantosh Kumar

Akshay Kumar won 1st Place and Nam Pham won 3rd Place! Also, in the countdown round, Akshay Kumar won 1st Place, Nam Pham 2nd Place, and Jack Heron 3rd Place! With this performance, the GMS Team qualified for the state competition in March.

South Africa Expedition. From February 12th to 26th, 13 students traveled to South Africa to assist with an expedition coordinated by *Earthwatch International*, studying the critically endangered White Rhinoceros, in hopes of contributing to the development of strategies for conserving the species. Students were trained in research tasks such as conducting transects in search of rhino hotspots, recording behavioral observations, and assessing vegetation diversity. They also took time to get to know students their age from the local town of Mogwase, and surprised them with the gift of school supplies donated by the Canton community. Reserve and scientific staff had the highest of praise for the Canton team - for their enthusiasm as learners, and for their commitment as volunteers. Even when the expedition was interrupted midway by the arrival of a terrible storm, the students remained focused, and rather than bemoan the disruption, they wanted to do all that they could to help the reserve recover from it. The staff were so impressed, they even invited Canton to return on an annual basis. In the end, the students had the privilege of seeing many rare species in their natural habitat, and learned a great deal about the complex challenges facing rhino conservation, while being excellent ambassadors for the U.S., and the Canton Public School system. The trip's organizers are grateful for the support of the parents, School Committee, school administration, faculty and staff, and the Canton community at large in making the journey possible for our students. The Superintendent stated that she is very proud of the students, their conduct and achievements throughout the expedition. Dr. Fischer-Mueller also thanked the chaperones, teachers Rebecca Stang and Joel Chamberlain.

Students:

Dillon Anderson
Izabella Bankowski
Melissa Barrett
Thomas Cahill
Benjamin Cohen
Tyler Duffy
Jack Healey
Grace Lehane

Colin Messinger
Addison Mirliani
Perla Montan
Renee Semple
Jacob Sockett

Chaperones:

Rebecca Stang
Joel Chamberlain

Museum of Fine Arts (MFA) Field Trip. Thanks to the support of the Rodman Fund for the Arts, three CHS teachers treated students to a field trip to the MFA on Friday, February 17th. Teachers Michelle Mendez, Cynthia Carmichael and Joanne Teliszewski worked with the MFA Gallery Instructors, to provide a rich

experience for the students. One of the MFA Gallery Instructors, Linda Wolk, commented on her experience with the Canton High School students in a follow-up email to Ms. Mendez, “Thank you, Michelle, for bringing your art classes to the MFA today. All 3 Gallery Instructors were impressed with their looking skills, observations, comments and interest. I had many wonderful observations such as “I really liked the tones used” and “those flowers look as if they were done on a computer.” *I could tell that they are getting a wonderful education in their art classes; they made technical observations that most students do not see. It was a delightful hour and we hope the rest of your day went well (emphasis added).”*

Professional Development. Wednesday, March 1st was an Early Release Professional Development and Common Planning Day. Nate Folan, completed his final presentation to the third - fifth grade educators on experiential practice and growth mindset related to social and emotional development. At the middle school, educators focused on common assessments and the Bulldog block, and the high school educators worked on backwards design and curriculum mapping.

Facilities

MassDEP Drinking Water Program. As mentioned in the Superintendent’s Report of July 2016, the Canton Public Schools is voluntarily participating in the Commonwealth’s Assistance Program for Lead in School Drinking Water Program. The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) and the Massachusetts Department of Public Health is partnering with the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, to implement the program. UMass is providing technical assistance and laboratory analysis services to measure the levels of lead and copper in the water. We are very grateful for the services and expertise provided to us by this program and the support from John Ciccotelli, Canton’s Director of Public Health. Please see the accompanying report providing fuller detail regarding our participation in this program.

Important Dates and Events

March 3rd & 4th GMS Musical “*School House Rock*” 7PM
March 3rd (5-9PM), 4th (1-9PM) and 5th (12-6) CHS Visual Arts Dept Exhibit at Patriot Place
March 6th – 10th – GMS *Pawsitivity Week*
March 7th – 9th 2017/18 Kindergarten Registration
March 10th (5-8PM), 11th (12-6PM), 12th (2-4PM) *Artists in Bloom @ Pequitside Farm*
March 11th (11-2PM) GMS Girls STEM Symposium
March 15th CFED Monthly Meeting 7PM
March 16th, 17th, & 18th CHS Musical *Hairspray* 7PM
March 8th – Online registration for summer recreation programs and camps opens at midnight, visit <https://www.cantonrec.com/info/default.aspx>

March 31st – Annual TEC Legislative Breakfast, 8AM – 10:30AM, hosted by the Needham Public Schools at James Hugh Powers Hall, Needham Town Hall, Highland Street, Needham
March 31st - CAPE Spelling Bee

F. Old Business

1. School Improvement Plan: Superintendent Fischer-Mueller requested a vote of approval for the School Improvement Plans that were provided at the previous school committee meeting. Reuki Schutt motioned to approve all the School Improvement Plans. The motion was seconded by Meg Gannon. It was voted 4-0.

4 yeas 0 nay

G. New Business

1. Luce Building Waiver: The Dean S. Luce CAPT requested a vote of approval to waive rental fees for the yearly Luce School Carnival. This yearly, routine request allows each elementary school to waive one rental fee per year. Reuki Schutt motioned to approve the request for waiving of fees for the Luce Carnival. Motion was seconded by Kristin Mirliani. It was voted 4-0.

4 yeas 0 nay

2. Out of State/Overnight Travel: A request for possible out of state/overnight travel for the Robotics Team to attend World Championships in St. Louis, MO, was presented. Reuki Schutt motioned to approve the out of state/overnight travel. Kristin Mirliani seconded the motion. It was voted 4-0.

4 yeas 0 nay

3. FY18 Capital Plan: Barry Nectow proposed and requested a vote of approval on an item to be added to the previously approved FY18 Capital Budget. Mr. Nectow proposed that \$100,000 be added to the budget for the previously overlooked HVAC repair and maintenance budget. After discussion, Reuki Schutt motioned to approve the \$800,000 Cash Capital request that includes the HVAC repair and maintenance budget. Meg Gannon seconded the motion. It was voted 4-0.

4 yeas 0 nay

H. School Committee Meeting Schedule: Dr. Jennifer Fischer- Mueller presented the School Committee Meeting Schedule for the 2017-18 School Year and requested a vote of approval. After discussion, Reuki Schutt moved to approve the School Committee Meeting Schedule for the 2017-18 School Year. Meg Gannon seconded the motion. It was voted 4-0.

4 yeas 0 nay

I. Business Manager’s Report: Barry Nectow reminded the School Committee of their meeting with FinCom on Wednesday night, March 8 at 7 PM. John Bonnanzio asked that a few members be there for support during the School Committee presentation. Mr. Nectow also mentioned that there was one response to the School Bus bid. Next month there will be a request to approve the proposed bid.

J. Sub-Committee Reports

1. TEC- Dr. Fischer-Mueller/John Bonnanzio – No report
2. CPC – Reuki Schutt – No report
3. BRC- Michael Loughran – No report
4. Wellness- Meg Gannon– No report
5. Finance – Reuki Schutt/Meg Gannon– No report
6. Policy – Kristin Mirliani – No report

K. Future Business – Next Meeting Thursday, March 23, 2017

L. Other Business

M. Adjournment – Reuki Schutt motioned adjourn at 8:05 PM. It was seconded by Meg Gannon. It was voted 4-0.

4 yeas 0 nay