

Town of Canton  
Canton School Committee Minutes of the Meeting of April 28, 2016  
Canton High School Distance Learning Lab

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

- A. Call to Order –Reuki Schutt calls meeting to order at 6:45 PM. Motion to go into Executive Session for reasons of contract discussion. Vote by roll call: 4-0

Reuki Schutt  
Kristin Mirliani  
Michael Loughran  
Meg Gannon

- B. Open Session called to order by John Bonnanzio @ 7:05 PM.

Present are:

John Bonnanzio (arrived during executive session)  
Reuki Schutt  
Kristin Mirliani  
Michael Loughran  
Meg Gannon

Also Present:

Jen Henderson, Interim Superintendent of Schools  
Brett McCloud, Recording Secretary  
Staff  
Press

- C. Routine Matters

1. Approve Minutes dated April 7, 2016 as amended. It was voted 4-0-1.

4 yeas                      0 nays                      1 abstain

2. Approve Executive Minutes dated April 7, 2016. It was voted 4-0-1.

4 yeas                      0 nays                      1 abstain

3. Approve Executive Minutes dated April 7, 2016 for public release. It was voted to hold the minutes 5-0.

5 yeas                      0 nays

4. Approve Minutes dated April 14, 2016 (JSA Vote). The minutes were read and also voted for approval. It was voted 4-0-1.

4 yeas                      0 nays                      1 abstain

5. Approve Bill Schedule dated April 28, 2016. It was voted 5-0.

5 yeas                      0 nays

6. Approve Bill Schedule dated March 5, 2016. It was voted 5-0.

5 yeas                      0 nay

- D. Public Comments/Questions: No public comments at this time.
- E. Student Member Report: In student member, Michael Larson's absence, Jennifer Henderson read the student member report.
- F. Superintendent's Report: Interim Superintendent Jennifer Henderson provided an update which included the acknowledgement of The Rodman Early Childhood Center faculty for their preparation to become certified by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC). NAEYC will be sending a trained evaluator for a two-day site visit between the window of May 5-20<sup>th</sup>. Preparation for this survey includes a self assessment over several years in which every detail of preschool programming is evaluated including instruction, facilities, qualifications of the faculty, cultural practice, and developmentally appropriate practice.

The superintendent reported that some of the funding for the 39<sup>th</sup> year of our German Exchange program was contributed through three grants applied for and received by Frau Elsa Nicholovious. Elsa applies for grant funding each year and has been successful in receiving these grants each time she applies.

Superintendent Henderson also noted that High School Seniors, Catherine Song and Mark Clancy, were named the Hockomock Student Athlete Scholars for this year. These scholarships are awarded for excellence in academics and athletics.

The Canton High School has introduced a new athletic program called Unified Track. Unified track is a partnership program of Canton High School students with and without disabilities who are interested in participating in track and field competitions against other Unified Track teams. Canton High School is hosting a meet here in Canton on May 9<sup>th</sup>.

The Superintendent reviewed the results of the Individual Competitions for Global Issue Problem Solving.

**Middle Division - 1st Place  
Advancing to International  
Competition**

Galvin Middle School - Grade 8  
Coach: Vijay Addanki  
Team Member:  
Anvitha Addanki

**Middle Division - 2nd Place**  
Galvin Middle School - Grade 7  
Coach: Madhuri Valluri  
Team Member:  
Harshitha Valluri

**Junior Division - 1st Place  
Advancing to International  
Competition**  
Galvin Middle School - Grade 6  
Coach: Dawn Capraro  
Team Member:  
Julia Capraro

**Middle Division - 2nd Place  
Under Consideration by FPSPI for  
Advancing to International  
Competition - Advancing to  
International Competition**

Galvin Middle School - Grade 8  
Coach: Vijay Addanki  
Team Members:  
Anvitha Addanki  
Shourik Choudhury - CHS - 9th Grade  
Abinaya Gargy  
Justin Luk  
Harshitha Valluri - GMS - Grade 7  
Samuel Walter  
Tiffany Ye

Ms. Henderson mentioned that the District Improvement Plan Goals for 2015-16 and submitted for 2016-17 budget for approval included a major focus on social emotional issue

resources and funding. She was asked at that time whether there was a significant increase in these issues in Canton or throughout the country. In fact, a focus on social emotional issues is impacting all districts throughout the country. Additionally, there was concern from the Wellness and Counseling staff about social emotional issues in our own Canton student population. Below you will find an excerpt from the recent Position Paper posted by the Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents. Ms. Henderson believes this report emphasizes many of the issues that have been discussed and which require resources.

### **Framing the Problem**

The nature of this problem has changed. Children in schools today are dealing with an increase in everyday stressors such as peer relationships, academic pressure, and social media resulting in feelings of anxiety, depression, and emotional stress and in some cases a motivation to develop and execute a suicide plan. Evidence also suggests a higher incidence of children exposed to trauma (e.g. involvement with DCF or court system, family substance use disorders, unemployment, etc.). This changing problem is further exacerbated by the acute lack of psychiatric hospitals and crisis centers. The lack of resources in this time of critical need has extended the waiting time for students in need of psychiatric intervention. These students remain in school and the school often becomes the “default” for the mental health system. Recent changes in the student discipline regulations have often required schools to maintain students who do not possess the social emotional skills to be successful or even to negotiate the stimulation of the traditional school environment.

The report goes on to describe necessary resources and actions including the following recommendations for school districts, several of these for which Ms. Henderson believes Canton Public Schools have taken as first steps.

1. Build social emotional learning into the core values of the district, the action plans for district improvement and make it a core strand in the district professional development plan.
2. Integrate social emotional learning within the educator evaluation system through the goal setting process and the teacher feedback following classroom observations.
3. Identify both formative and summative assessment tools to monitor the health of the school climate and the success of the social emotional learning program.
4. Survey districts to identify highly effective programs, curricula, partnerships, training and professional development. The results of this survey could form the foundation of a bank of resources and eliminate the practice of districts working in isolation.

### **Finally, Ms. Henderson reported on the upcoming events, which include the following:**

- Friday, April 29: Canton High School will be hosting the New England Math League Meet for the second year in a row, on Friday April 29 at 3:30 pm. Teams will be arriving from all of the New England states.
- Monday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>: Math Workshop for Parents and Guardians of K-2 students at 6:30 p.m. at the Hansen.
- Tuesday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>: Not My Kid presentation by the Canton Police Department at 7:00 in the CHS library.
- Tuesday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>: Math Team Dinner (School Committee invitation) at 7:00 p.m.
- Thursday, May 5<sup>th</sup>: Internet Safety presentation by the Canton Police Department at 7:00 in the GMS library.
- Wednesday, June 1<sup>st</sup>: Canton Public Schools Student Artwork will be on display at the Probate and Family Courts. This display has been titled Children Matter. It will be open to the public but a special invitation has been extended to the artists, their

families, government officials and School Committee members for the Open Reception on Wednesday, June 1<sup>st</sup> from 4:30 – 6:30 p.m.

G. Old Business:

1. Pre-ATM Update: The Committee was updated on the pre-Annual Town Meeting that occurred on Monday, April 28<sup>th</sup>. The committee was notified that the school district articles will be addressed at the end of Town Meeting. The School Committee will hold short meetings prior to ATM to discuss warrant articles. These meetings will be posted. John Bonnanzio recommends that if community members are available, they should attend these meetings. In addition, Reuki Schutt asked that the May 12<sup>th</sup> School Committee meeting be cancelled. Jennifer Henderson agreed to look at the agenda and notify the Committee the next day.
2. Second Read and Vote on Two Policies: The Committee conducted a second read on the policies related to Bomb Threat and Reduced Tuition for Town Employees for the Rodman Early Childhood Center. After discussion Reuki Schutt motioned to include the Bomb Threat Policy in the Canton Public Schools Policy Handbook. Kristen Mirliani seconded the motion. It was voted 5-0.

5 yeas 0 nay

Reuki Schutt also motioned to include the Reduced Tuition for Town Employees for the Rodman Early Childhood Center. The motion was seconded by Kristin Mirliani. It was voted 5-0.

5 yeas 0 nay

3. Vote on Out of Town Travel: The telephone open session vote in support of the out of town travel for JSA to attend the Spring State Convention in Stamford, CT was read into the record during routine business. The approved minutes of this April 14<sup>th</sup> phone meeting are available for viewing.

H. New Business

1. Future Problem Solvers Out of State Travel Request: Superintendent Henderson requested permission for Future Problem Solvers to attend Internationals at Michigan State University from June 1-5, 2016. Reuki Schutt motioned to approve the Future Problem Solvers out of state travel. Kristin Mirliani seconded the motion. It was voted 5-0.

5 yeas 0 nay

2. Before and After School Provider Chosen: Barry Nectow presented information regarding the contract for provision of before-after school childcare at the Luce Elementary School. A search team that included Robie Peter (Luce School Principal), Allison Hoff (Luce Team Chair) and Mr. Nectow, interviewed the possible candidates. After interviews and discussion Mr. Nectow recommended Kidsboro as the new before- after school program at the Luce. He proposed a three year contract for approval from the School Committee. Reuki Schutt moved to approve the new Kidsboro contract. Kristin Mirliani seconded the motion. It was voted 5-0.

5 yeas 0 nay

3. Survey Results for Freshmen Interest in Athletics: Jennifer Henderson provided a summary of the results “entering” freshmen interests in Fall, Winter and Spring Athletics.

After review of the survey, Ms. Henderson suggested that a Freshman Volleyball team be added to the already existing JV and Varsity teams. Ms. Henderson and Barry Nectow explained there would be minimal costs to adding the new team, most towns also have freshman teams and they would be traveling by bus with the JV and Varsity teams. Reuki Schutt questioned whether we should have freshmen teams for all sports. After further discussion Reuki Schutt motioned to approve the addition of a Freshman Volleyball team. Michael Loughran seconded the motion. It was voted 5-0.

5 yeas 0 nay

In addition, Michael Loughran suggesting making the athletic team sign ups available to the 8<sup>th</sup> grade students at the end of the school year, so the teams and coaches may prepare for the upcoming fall seasons. Superintendent Henderson will bring this question forward to the Athletic Director and High School Principal.

4. Residency Recertification Process: The Committee reviewed the Residency Recertification letter that has been distributed to fifth and eighth grade students every year. This letter requires all students who are entering the sixth and ninth grades in Canton Public Schools to provide current residency requirements. After discussion Reuki Schutt motioned to approve the distribution of the letters. Kristin Mirliani seconded the motion. It was voted 5-0.

5 yeas 0 nay

- I. Business Manager's Report: Barry Nectow will provide the Third Quarter Topline Report which is available to the public. Mr. Nectow believes we are in a good position for the end of the year. Mr. Nectow also reminded the public of the Transportation Applications that are available now. They have been sent out to homes and are available in the Administrative Offices. The deadline for the bus applications is May 27, 2016. The applications will be accepted after May 27, 2016 until June 17, 2016 with a late fee. If you do not return your application by June 17, the student will not be put on a bus until October 1, 2016.
- J. Sub-Committee Reports: The subcommittees were reported on and new representation was decided on.
  1. TEC- Jennifer Henderson – There is a meeting coming up in May. John Bonnanzio was added as a School Committee representative to this sub-committee. The new Superintendent Jennifer Fischer-Mueller will be replacing Jennifer Henderson at the end of the school year on this board and will be the voting member of the Board.
  2. CPC – Mike Loughran – Meeting on Monday to discuss proposals that Mr. Loughran was not able to attend. Going forward for the 2016-17 School Year, Reuki Schutt will be the representative for this sub-committee.
  3. BRC- John Bonnanzio – Nothing to report. Michael Loughran will be the new representative for this sub-committee.
  4. Wellness- Kristin Mirliani – The Youth Risk Presentation and Bullying Plan were introduced. Going forward Meg Gannon will be the representative for this sub-committee.
  5. Finance – Reuki Schutt – Nothing to report. Meg Gannon will be added to this sub-committee with Ms. Schutt.
  6. Building Use – John Bonnanzio – Nothing to report and John Bonnanzio will stay as representative for this sub-committee.
  7. Policy – Kristin Mirliani – The two policies were introduced in Old Business. Kristin Mirliani will remain as representative of this sub-committee.
  8. CHARMS Collaborative– Jennifer Henderson – CHARMS to be removed from the sub-committees and moved to Superintendent's report.
  9. Town Administrator Committee – Michael Loughran – After conducting interviews of six candidates it was narrowed down to three that will move forward in the final round on May 3<sup>rd</sup>. This sub-committee will also be absolved.

K. Future Business –Next Meeting Thursday, May 26, 2016

L. Other Business – No other business.

M. Adjournment – Kristin Mirliani motioned to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Reuki Schutt. Meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM. It was voted 5-0.

5 yeas

0 nays