

Town of Canton
Canton School Committee Minutes of the Meeting of November 3, 2016
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 Michael Loughran at 7:10 PM.

Present are:

Michael Loughran
Reuki Schutt
Kristin Mirliani
Meg Gannon

Also Present:

Dr. Jennifer Fischer-Mueller, Superintendent of Schools
Brett McCloud, Recording Secretary
Barry Nectow, Business Manager
Community Members
Press

B. Routine Matters

1. Motion to approve Minutes dated October 20, 2016. It was voted 4-0.

4 yeas 0 nay

2. Motion to approve Executive Minutes dated October 20, 2016. It was voted 4-0.

4 yeas 0 nay

3. Motion to approve the Executive Minutes dated October 20, 2016 for public release. It was voted to hold.

4 yeas 0 nay

4. Motion to approve Minutes dated October 20, 2016. It was voted 4-0.

4 yeas 0 nay

5. Motion to approve Bill Schedule dated November 10, 2016. 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:

1. Luce: The 5th grade students performed in the annual Luce School Circus on Friday, October 21st. All students K-5 had the opportunity, throughout that week, to learn circus tricks during their physical education classes. The Luce community is also currently collecting items for the Canton American Legion Auxiliary Overseas Project and working with CHS student Tess Grady to restock the shelves of the Canton Food Pantry.

2. Hansen: The Hansen staff wanted to thank Lt. Woodbury from the Canton Fire Department for meeting with our Grade 3 students to present on fire safety last week. The Hansen School is also collecting donations of leftover or extra Halloween candy that will be donated to children currently at Dana Farber. The drive has already filled two huge boxes and is showing no signs of slowing down.
3. JFK: The JFK community will be collecting items for the Canton American Legion Auxiliary Overseas Project. Students in grades 2 and 4 visited the Audubon Society to explore wildlife, participate in a nature hike, and observe artist's work.
4. GMS: On Thursday, October 20th, French students participated in an African drumming workshop in the library. Classes got a chance to practice using dejembe drums from Mali. Moussa Traore conducted the workshop. Students were able to learn more about traditional musical instruments from French speaking Africa. All students and faculty were also invited to participate in a workshop after school. Students at GMS are required to read 2 books during their summer break. Approximately 200 GMS students achieved Advanced Summer Reader status by reading 4 or more books. To celebrate their accomplishment, students were treated to a fun assembly where their achievements were recognized and they participated in fun and rewarding activities.

D. Public Comments/Questions: No public comments.

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

1. Entry Plan. As of this evening, 380 people have completed the online entry plan survey. The survey will close on November 23. Three parent forums remain, including Galvin Middle School parents on November 10, at 7PM in the GMS library, Canton High School parents on November 15, at 7PM in the CHS library, and parents of young children November 22, at the Canton Public Library, 6PM-7PM.
2. Canton Housing Authority. On October 24th I met with the Executive Director, Mark Roy. Mr. Roy provided me with a brief history of his work with the Canton Housing Authority. Together, we reviewed census data on the Town of Canton and the percent of economically disadvantaged families and school-aged children over the years. Currently, there are 384 economically disadvantaged students in the Canton Public Schools (11.6% of the total enrollment). Mr. Roy and the Canton Housing Authority manage only 12.7% of the students in the economically disadvantaged subgroup.
3. CAPT and CAPE Officers. Last Friday, October 28, I met with the parent leaders of CAPT and CAPE. This meeting included a discussion around my entry plan questions, followed by a presentation and discussion with Mr. Nectow about guidelines for fundraising and grants, and school district business practices. I deeply appreciate the generosity of CAPTs and CAPE, and am grateful for our collaboration in continuing to support students and teachers while aligning to school district policies and state regulations.
4. School Facilities Master Plan. This afternoon we met with Dore and Whittier Architects. The purpose of this meeting was to review the project's specs and discuss the timeline. Mr. Nectow and I will keep you posted on the progress of this project.
5. Showing Our Appreciation. Earlier today, Central Administration hosted an appreciation luncheon for all staff working in the Rodman Administrative Building. This was our opportunity to acknowledge the hard work of the staff and thank them for their commitment to providing excellent service and support to all our schools.

6. Indicators of Excellence

German Exchange. On Wednesday, October 26, students, parents, host families, and members of the community gathered to wish the 25 German Exchange students farewell. The celebration included German students sharing stories about their experience, which included visiting CHS classes and field trips to Plimoth Plantation, the State House, and the Museum of Science. Thank you, to Elsa Nicolovius, Johanna Haver and Heidi Olson for their commitment in making this exchange so successful.

High School Quiz Bowl. We have a team going to WGBH to participate in the High School Quiz Bowl on Sunday, November 13th. The goal is to select 16 school teams that will advance to the televised competition in January 2017. Heidi Olson, World Language Coordinator, will again be the advisor for this team.

Elementary Parent Conferences. The first set of parent conferences at the elementary schools took place last week. The focus was on the twenty-first century learning skills. Information was sent to each parent along with an explanation of the skills. Our goal is to have these learning standards PreK-12 as they are the foundation for all learning. Please see the attached documents, which include the letter sent home to parents/guardians and an overview of the learning skills and their importance.

Special Olympics Project Unify. Special Olympics Project Unify is an education-based project, funded by the US Dept. of Education that uses the sports and education programs of Special Olympics to activate young people across the country in order to promote school communities where all young people are agents of change fostering respect, dignity and advocacy for people with disabilities. Canton High School and Special Olympics believe that through sports young people can make a difference in friendships, schools and communities. Last year, CHS piloted the addition of a Unified track and field team, where we had 18 participants join the team. After a successful season, it was evident that our school community was looking for more. Unified basketball joined our Unified sports offerings this fall and currently has 22 players on the team. We look forward to continuing the momentum of inclusive opportunities for all our students throughout the school year. The game I attended last week was one of the finest examples of two Core Values of the Canton Public Schools - Inclusive and Engaged Community and Respectful and Responsible Relationships. Congratulations to all the players and thank you to the coaches Shanna Belenky and Martin Lewis.

Professional Development. The final of four classes in *Studying Skillful Teaching: Promoting Motivation, Learning, and Achievement* was completed last week. We had 35 Canton educators participate in this course, which began after the close of school last year. This course, provided by the professional development organization Research for Better Teaching was highly successful and will be run again in the spring. The course was fully funded by our Title II grant focusing on Teacher Quality. Course evaluation comments from participants included the following:

- The "hands-on" instructional techniques were very useful. I have used the feedback techniques to improve the way I grade assignments and then share information with my students.
- Jim was down to earth, informative, entertaining and he really knows what it is like being a teacher. The instructional videos of other teachers were great to watch and analyze.
- The "growth mindset" is just as important and valuable for the teacher's practices as it is for the student's learning (and the teacher learning).
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7. Upcoming Events

November 5 Cantonstock - MusicCounts! Fundraiser, 12PM-4PM

November 8 No School - Election Day
November 11 No School – Veterans Day

November 14 - National Honor Society Induction, 7PM CHS Auditorium

F. Old Business: No Old Business

G. New Business

1. FY17 Q1 Financial Report: Barry Nectow provided an overview of the FY17 1st Quarter Financial Report. No questions or comments. The full report is available in the additional materials section of the School Committee webpage.
2. FY18 Budget Guidelines Draft- Dr. Jennifer Fischer-Mueller presented the draft for the FY18 Budget Guidelines. The guidelines provide guidance for the creation of the next fiscal year's financial plan and are framed by the district vision, core values district goals and conditions. The FY18 Budget Guidelines included:
 1. Continue the high quality of current programs and practices
 2. Maintain conditions necessary to support high quality programs
 3. Provide quality supports so that every educational opportunity is a true opportunity for every student
 4. Strengthen programs across all areas - academic, social, and emotional - in order to maintain and advance high achievement for all students
 5. Support the recruitment, hiring, and retention of quality professionals and staff, across all roles
 6. Meet legal mandates and implement strategically to enhance effectiveness and secure sustainability
3. Policy Second Read- Kristin Mirliani presented the second reads, including updates, for the Home or Hospital Instruction and Homeschooling Policy. There were no further questions or corrections for these policies. Reuki Schutt motioned to approve the Home or Hospital Instruction and Homeschooling Policies. The motioned was seconded by Meg Gannon. The motion was approved 4-0.

4 yeas 0 nay

4. Green Community- Laura Smead, town planner, presented information regarding the green communities designation and grant process. The grant would provide funding to the municipality to support all or a portion of the cost of energy efficiency measures and projects. Ms. Smead reviewed the guidelines and where Canton stands within these guidelines and asked for School Committee support and letters of approval for this project. Reuki Schutt proposed that the School Committee reach out to Brian Lynch, Facilities Director, before voting to write a letter of approval for this project. The vote on Green Communities will be on the November 17 School Committee agenda.
- H. Business Manager's Report: Barry Nectow, business manager, reported on a number of business related items. Mr. Nectow reported that the Roof Project at the Hansen will be beginning next week and the High School gymnasium floor will be refinished. The new surface will be worked on with minimal disruption to sport schedule as possible. Basketball tryouts will be held at the Galvin Middle School and transportation will be provided. Mr. Nectow also reported that the Turf field will be replaced starting on November 9. The field and track will be closed for approximately a month while the Turf is being replaced. Mr. Nectow also commented to the concern of toxicity in the filler used on turf fields. The rubber beads will be wrapped in organic matter and are said to be safe. Finally, Mr. Nectow reported on the Dore & Whittier kick off meet that took place on November 3.

Jennifer Fischer-Mueller asked that a committee member be involved in future meetings about the building study. Michael Loughran suggested that John Bonnanzio be present when the decision was made on who would attend those future meetings.

J. 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- Nothing to report.
5. Finance – Reuki Schutt/Meg Gannon – A meeting has been set for November 4th, 2016 and the new Budget Schedule has been announced.
6. Building Use – John Bonnanzio - Nothing to report
7. Policy – Kristin Mirliani – Nothing to report

K. Future Business – Next Meeting Thursday, November 17, 2016

L. Other Business – No other business.

M. Adjournment – Reuki Schutt motioned to adjourn at 8:16 PM. It was seconded by Meg Gannon. It was voted 4-0.

4 yeas 0 nay