

Canton School Committee  
Canton, MA

February 16, 2017	7:00 Open Session	Canton High School Distance Learning Lab
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*The Canton Public Schools strives to develop students who are competent and creative thinkers, curious and confident learners, and compassionate citizens.*

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

A. Call to Order

B. Routine Matters

1. Approve Minutes dated February 2, 2017
2. Approve Executive Minutes dated February 2, 2017
3. Approve Bill Schedule dated February 23, 2017

C. Student Member Report: Student member, Nino Ruggeri, will report on the school events and activities happening around the district.

D. Public Comments/Questions

E. Superintendent's Report: Dr. Fischer-Mueller will provide an update on a variety of matters going on throughout the district.

F. New Business

1. Community Reduction of Waste Network (Team CROWN): Team CROWN, will provide a short presentation on their efforts to reduce waste and educate the public on how to reuse efficiently.
2. Rodman Building: Dr. Fischer-Mueller will provide information on the CHARMS program currently hosted in the Rodman Administration building and Mr. Nectow will review next steps regarding future rental agreements.

3. Municipal Modernization Act: Barry Nectow will present an overview of the Municipal Modernization Act and its impact of Canton Public Schools.

G. Business Manager's Report: Barry Nectow will provide an update on business items.

H. Sub-Committee Reports

1. TEC- Dr. Fischer-Mueller/John Bonnanzio
2. CPC – Reuki Schutt
3. BRC- Michael Loughran
4. Wellness- Meg Gannon
5. Finance – Reuki Schutt/Meg Gannon
6. Policy – Kristin Mirliani

I. Future Business – Next Meeting Thursday, March 2, 2017

J. Other Business

K. Adjournment

## ABOUT US



**Team C.R.O.W.N. (Community Reduction of Waste Network)** is a Junior Division Community Problem Solvers Team in the town of Canton. Team C.R.O.W.N. works with the community including students, teachers, families, and community leaders to help reduce the amount of waste in the town of Canton. We intend to have events to raise awareness on how waste is harmful, not only to the environment but also to everyday life and persuade people to reduce waste. We hope to help reduce wastage of resources like paper, water, electronics, plastic, glass, etc. and teach people in our town how to reuse efficiently. We hope to extend this to our neighboring towns as well.



Waste is rapidly increasing its negative effect on humans, other living organisms, and the environment. If we continue to waste more, we not only increase pollution in the world, but also deplete natural resources. Research shows that compared to other nations, the United States has a record of generating waste at an alarming rate. According to Clean Air Council Waste Facts and Figures, the United States is home to only 4% of the global population, but is responsible for more than 30% of the planet's total waste generation. In addition, due to the waste ending up in oceans, rivers, lakes, etc. more than a million seabirds and hundreds of thousands marine mammals die each year. Even in our community we see lot of waste being generated, sometimes just thrown out as litter and sometimes collected in garbage containers in schools, playgrounds, parks and near water sources.



As waste is rapidly increasing its negative effect on humans, other living organisms, and the environment, we believe that all of us should try to reduce waste in our everyday life. How might we, Team CROWN, encourage waste reduction in our community so that we can create a cleaner environment by reducing pollution to conserve the natural resources for future generations in the United States of America in 2016 and beyond?



## *Environment*

Disposing of waste has huge environmental impacts and can cause serious problems. Waste, if rotted or burnt, may smell or generate methane gas, which is explosive and contributes to the greenhouse effect and causes global warming and holes in the ozone layer.



## *Transportation*



Waste might need large vehicles to transport it to the landfills and other treatment centers. This may result in huge transportation expenses and also might ruin the roads which are used for transportation by ordinary citizens.

## Physical Health



Waste if not treated properly can cause the contamination of drinking water supplies. In Woburn, Massachusetts contaminated drinking water caused a cluster of leukemia cases in children. Waste if not reduced or treated properly can cause lot of physical health issues like asthma, cancer, reduced growth potential and other diseases.



Toxins generated by waste can cause indoor air problems and chemical sensitivity. Living in a contaminated home not only affects normal life, but also can cause serious psychological illnesses.



Waste around the playgrounds can discourage the students and others to use them reducing the amount of recreational opportunities for everyone. Since some of this waste such as improperly disposed needles like in Brockton, Massachusetts can discourage the parents to send children to the playgrounds.



Waste can be very expensive to treat properly. If small businesses create too much waste, then they may not have enough money to treat the waste properly. This may cause the small businesses to go out of business.



LAW&JUSTICE

If law enforcement officials catch either people or businesses disposing waste illegally, they may fine them and if it is more serious, offenders can end up in the courts for trial. This may cause the offenders to have trouble with law and justice.

## *Arts & Aesthetics*



If there is a lot of waste disposed in the town in improper ways, towns will no longer look good aesthetically. This may cause potential house buyers to stay away from the area because of its aesthetics. This may result in the towns becoming poorer.



Waste landfills can reduce the amount of land available for agriculture and housing, which are the basic needs. If we continue to generate waste, then future generations will have difficulty in obtaining basic needs.

# CANTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Dr. Jennifer Fischer-Mueller  
*Superintendent of Schools*



Debra L. Bromfield  
*Director of Student Services*

Jennifer A. Henderson  
*Assistant Superintendent  
for Curriculum and Instruction*

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Barry S. Nectow  
*School Business Administrator*

To develop students who are competent and creative thinkers, curious and confident learners, and compassionate citizens.

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**TO:** Jennifer Fischer-Mueller, Superintendent of Schools  
Canton School Committee

**FROM:** Barry Nectow, Business Administrator *BW*

**SUBJECT:** Municipal Modernization Act

**DATE:** February 11, 2017

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This past summer, the Governor sponsored a law called the Municipal Modernization Act. The primary goal of the act is to simplify the critical task of financial management for municipal officials and target other areas of municipal management for modernization. The act was signed into law in August 2016.

The act includes several changes that simplify financial management specifically for public schools. This memo addresses two of those changes:

1. Establishment and management of Special Education Stabilization Funds;
2. Allows boards to designate one of its members, or town manager/administrator, to review/approve bills/warrants.

## **Special Education Stabilization Funds**

By way of background, for the last several years, there have been two articles in the Town Meeting warrant related to the Special Education Stabilization fund. One article for a transfer of funds into the account and the other for withdrawals from the account. As a normal course of business, Jim Murgia submits many articles for inclusion in the warrant, including both of these articles. If the School Committee asks FinCom for a transfer into or a withdrawal out of the account, then additional language would be added to the warrant with FinCom's recommendation.

The last time School Committee added to or withdrew funds was FY15, when we withdrew \$95,000.

The Municipal Modernization Act addressed the establishment of Special Education Stabilization funds. Most towns don't have one, so the new law makes it easier to establish and add to and withdraw funds. Instead of taking requests to Town Meeting, which is the current practice in Canton, the law allows additions and withdrawals with School Committee and BOS approval.

As I mentioned above, Jim Murgia submitted the two articles in the draft warrant. Paul Derensis, Town Counsel to Canton, reviewed the draft warrant with the Town Administrator, Charlie Aspinwall.

Mr. Aspinwall asked if the School Department would like to adopt the methodology in the Municipal Modernization Act, rather than stay with the current method of asking for Town Meeting to vote for additions and withdrawals for the account.

Deb Bromfield and I believe adopting the new legislation is in the best interest of the School Department.

**Warrant (Bill Schedule) Process Change**

The Municipal Modernization Act provides for changes in how municipalities can approve warrants. The basic change would be for the committee to appoint one SC member to approve bill schedules rather than every member of the committee. The approving member would then report actions to the full SC at the next meeting. It's a change in practice, but it would allow the business office flexibility in the timing of paying invoices.

As an example, the SC designee could sign a warrant during the early part of the week and report the action to the SC at its next regularly scheduled meeting. The change in timeline could allow invoices to be paid by the business office in a more timely manner.