

Town of Canton
Canton School Committee Minutes of the Meeting of October 4, 2018
Canton High School Distance Learning Lab

A. Call to Order:

The meeting of the School Committee is called to order by Chair Kristin Mirliani at 7:04 pm.

B. Executive Session: Cancelled

C. Open Session:

Present are:

Kristin Mirliani

Michael Loughran

Meg Gannon

Also Present:

Dr. Jennifer Fischer-Mueller, Superintendent

Barry Nectow, Business Manager

Colleen Hutchinson, Recording Secretary

Public

Staff

D. Public Comments/Questions:

None

E. Student Report:

Devin Foster was welcomed to his first meeting. Devin reported on the Hansen and CHS. At the Hansen he observed the responsive classroom technique where students draw pictures of what they learned throughout the day then put the drawings in a bin. At the end of the day, students pull a drawing from the bin and talk about it. Devin also reported that the Jr. Robotics program is growing tremendously. At CHS Devin talked with Ms. Parker who is changing the way of teaching Physics from telling to showing. Devin shared some examples.

F. Superintendent's Report:

Superintendent Jennifer Fischer-Mueller reported on the following events:

Superintendent Activities Highlights

Parent Leaders: The first CAPT meeting of the 2018 - 2019 school year was held on October 3rd. This meeting provides an opportunity to share information about the school system and school-based actions among the elementary schools and GMS, along with the system-wide program, Canton Alliance for Public Education (CAPE). Participants viewed the new district website, presented by Mike Barucci and Patricia Kinsella, and discussed the steps necessary to create websites for their organizations. Ms. Kinsella also provided a preview of the annual brochure and asked the parent leaders to consider possible individuals to contact for quotes to be included in the brochure.

Updates

CAASA Guest Speaker: Tuesday evening, October 2, the Galvin Middle School hosted Dr. Ruth Potee to speak about the adolescent brain and substance. Dr. Potee stressed that prevention is, by far, the best strategy and that education about substance abuse and stress management needs to start in elementary school. The Canton Public Schools are poised

well to continue to address these issues within the health curriculum, as well as support from the staff within Student Services.

Visit by MA School Building Authority (MSBA): On Tuesday, September 25, staff and members of the MSBA Board to a tour of Galvin Middle School. There was discussion about plans defined by our Strategic Framework and the Facilities Master Plan. In addition to details of the Strategic Framework, factual information was shared regarding the ways that the Board of Selectmen and citizens of Canton support their public schools. Although Galvin Middle School is in the running for acceptance into the next cohort of schools being supported by MSBA, visiting members of the MSBA reminded Canton staff and administration that the application depends in large part on the requests being made by districts across the state.

Safety and Security: The Safety and Security Committee met today for the first time in the 2018/19 school year. The committee discussed a variety of topics including two (2) Memorandum of Understandings between the Canton Public Schools and the Canton Police Department. The 2018/19 drill schedule at the schools was reviewed and Sarah Shannon, Principal of Galvin Middle School, reported on their recently run lock down drill. The committee meets on the first Thursday of each month throughout the school year.

Indicators of Excellence

Teaching and Learning: On the September 26 early release day, all staff participated in either professional development or common planning time. At CHS, Principal Folan and his leadership team facilitated professional development around intentional lesson design. The goal is to help teachers take their well-developed unit maps and thoughtfully consider and plan for daily learning experiences to help students understand the material and be successful with the unit outcomes. At GMS, Principal Shannon led her team in some visioning work, asking staff to think about and share the characteristics of a graduating 8th grader. At the three elementary schools, Grade Level Team Leaders facilitated collaborative work with their grade level teams and then used the afternoon for common planning time (more below). And, at the Rodman Early Childhood Program, Donna Kilday and Rich Azulay led their staff in ongoing equity work and planning for their upcoming author study.

Elementary Grade Level Team Leaders: The Elementary Grade Level Team Leaders facilitated their first sessions during the common planning early release afternoon on September 26th. The feedback from both facilitators and participants was excellent.

Breast Cancer Walk: Approximately 200 CHS students participated in the *Annual Breast Cancer Walk* in Boston on Sunday, September 30. This year's group raised over \$11,000 so far. Over the years, the CHS participants in this worthy cause have raised over \$106,000. Several CHS students went up on the Hatch Shell to accept the school's award for raising the 2nd highest amount of money last year.

Important Dates and Events: **School Committee attendance requested

October 8	Columbus Day - No School
October 10	SAT/PSAT/PreACT In school testing, Seniors SAT, Juniors PSAT and sophomores PreACT, 8am - 1pm
October 17	CFED Meeting, 7pm, CHS Library Large Conference Room

October 18	School Committee Meeting, Starts at 7pm
October 19	One Acts - Student written plays and performances 7pm, CHS Auditorium, all are welcome
**November 1	German Exchange Farewell Dinner, 5pm-8pm, CHS Cafeteria Still need a member of School Committee to attend
**November 19	NHS Induction 7pm-8pm, CHS Auditorium Kristin Mirliani will attend

G. Old Business:

Mr. Derek Folan, on behalf of Mr. Danny Erickson who could not be here tonight, brought back the proposal regarding Facilities Fees increases for ice hockey and swimming. The rationale is that the costs of facility usage for these programs have gone up in recent years, but the fees have not. The proposal is for ice hockey to increase from \$250-\$350 and swimming from \$50-\$100. Mr. Nectow reported that he and Mr. Danny Erickson completed a fee analysis. Two analyses were shared: 1) was a look at Canton's fees compared with neighboring towns, 2) was a three year financial analysis of the Athletic Department. Detailed copies of these analyses were made available at this meeting and are available upon request.

Move to increase Facilities Fees for ice hockey and swimming as specified above: Michael Loughran

Second: Meg Gannon

Vote: 3-0

H. New Business:

1. GMS Out of State Travel: Paperwork was submitted by Mr. Matthew Snipe requesting approval for Grade 7 students to travel out of state to Montreal, Quebec from April 14-16, 2019. Students will attend a French class in Montreal and create a scrap book as a French culture project.

Move to approve GMS out of state travel for Montreal trip: Meg Gannon

Second: Michael Loughran

Vote: 3-0

2. German Exchange Program approval: Mr. Derek Folan requested approval of the German-American Partnership Program from April 5-23, 2019. Mr. Folan said this program is transformative for students and this year students will only miss seven days of school.

Move to approve German Exchange Program: Meg Gannon

Second: Michael Loughran

Vote: 3-0

3. Out of State/Overnight Travel: Ms. Leasa Suckau and Mr. Derek Folan requested approval for overnight and out of state travel for German Exchange students to visit NYC from October 28-30, 2018. Ms. Suckau is a new teacher at CHS this year. She said she is impressed with the programs participation from student, staff, parents and

the community. She came here from Germany and shared some of her travel experiences.

Move to approve German Exchange Trip to NYC: Meg Gannon
Second: Michael Loughran
Vote: 3-0

4. MCAS Presentation: Ms. Patricia Kinsella and Ms. Deborah Rooney presented an initial analysis of the MCAS data. Tonight's presentation was centered on the big picture. There was some discussion about the types of tests each grade level took and changes being made in the upcoming years. The district was placed in the highest category "meeting target" range. The only higher category is "schools of recognition". The growth data was very strong in all schools with almost all students scoring in the two highest categories. We have outperformed the state in all grades across all subjects. Charts were shared that compared Canton to neighboring towns. Overall, the district did better than last year. Next steps: family reports mailed home next week, family information sessions being held at schools, further educator and administrator analysis of data, and a sub group will come back to a future meeting with more in depth data analysis.
5. CPCC: Mr. Barry Nectow discussed two CPCC projects. The first project is to repair and refinish the two basketball courts at the JFK elementary school. Specifications include repairing all cracks, refinishing and relining both courts and new fencing surrounding the courts. Parks and Recreation did not want to co-sponsor. The projects total cost is: \$54,943.

Move to approve the CPCC project for JFK basketball courts:
Michael Loughran
Second: Meg Gannon
Vote: 3-0

The second project is a proposal to repair or replace the existing bathroom facility at Walsh Field with a handicap accessible bathroom and storage building. The proposal includes funds to create walkways to the building from the other fields of the complex. Parks and Recreation did not want to co-sponsor. The total project cost is: \$255,875

Move to approve the CPCC project for Walsh Field bathroom complex: Michael Loughran
Second: Meg Gannon
Vote: 3-0

Paperwork for projects will be submitted tomorrow on behalf of School Department.

6. Contract Vote: Contract not ready, no discussion or vote.

I. Business Manager's Report:

1) Mr. Nectow reported that everyone is on the busses that requested; the wait list has been lifted. Transportation and bus routes are improving every week. The late bus was added 3 days per week at GMS and CHS. The sign ups are very high at GMS; will monitor and assess if we need additional capacity. 2) In keeping in line with Safety and Security drills, yesterday the GMS ran a very successful lockdown drill, with intruder. 3) Property at North Street will need a new trustee. The adjacent condo is to be sold on the 15th. The trustee representing the schools is a former school committee member Elizabeth Salisbury. We will need a new volunteer to be assigned at the next meeting.

Committee will need to contact the previous trustee to request her resignation. Kristin will follow up.

H. Routine Matters:

1. Approve all Minutes dated September 20, 2018.
HOLD for next meeting since Chair Mirliani was not present at last meeting, therefore could not vote, 2 members absent; no quorum.
2. Approve Bill schedule dated October 11, 2018
Move: Michael Loughran
Second: Meg Gannon
Vote: 3-0

I. Sub-Committee Reports:

1. CPC – Nichola Gallagher– Absent
2. BRC – Mike Loughran – next meeting on October 17th, nothing new to report.
3. Wellness - Meg Gannon – the subcommittee met today. At the suggestion of Nurse Leader Terri Saunders, the committee discussed changing the philosophy of the wellness committee from a nutrition focus to a mental health focus. Work will begin with GMS to gather ideas for the new format.
4. Finance - Reuki Schutt/Meg Gannon - Nothing to report
5. Policy - Kristin Mirliani – Nothing to report
6. PRHC – Nichola Gallagher- Absent

J. Future Business: Next School Committee Meeting will be held Thursday, October 18, 2018 @ 7:00 in the Distance Learning Lab.

K. Other Business:

L. Adjournment: Time: 8:16 p.m.
Move to adjourn Open Session: Michael Loughran
Second: Meg Gannon