

Town of Canton
Canton School Committee Minutes of the Meeting of October 18, 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 7:06 pm.

B. Executive Session:

C. Open Session:

Present are:

Kristin Mirliani
Michael Loughran
Meg Gannon
Nichola Gallagher

Also Present:

Dr. Jennifer Fischer-Mueller, Superintendent
Barry Nectow, Business Manager
Colleen Hutchinson, Recording Secretary
Public
Staff

German Exchange Students Welcomed: School Committee Chair, Ms. Kristin Mirliani, welcomed this year's German Exchange students. Ms. Elsa Nicolovius introduced the two German Exchange teachers, Monika Wobben and Volker Erdmann. Ms. Nicolovius spoke about this year's calendar of events and explained that the goal of the exchange is to perfect the student's knowledge of the English language.

*Chair Mirliani made a statement regarding the recent decision to remove prayer and religious rituals from any school ceremony. Chair Mirliani explained that Superintendent Fischer-Mueller's decision was made after consultation and research with School Committee leadership and the district's attorney to ensure we are in compliance with the law. This was not just a legal decision, but also ensures that all students feel supported and welcomed at school ceremonies. Chair Mirliani said she heard from multiple students who said that the prayer made them feel uncomfortable at graduation. There was no public discussion at a school committee meeting since there was no policy change.

D. Public Comments/Questions:

None

E. Student Report:

Ms. Srimayi Chaturvedula spoke about her visits to JFK and GMS. At JFK, Principal McMahan started a program called *Kennedy Reads Together*. This program has every JFK staff member and student reads the same book, Fenway and Hattie. Principal McMahan said that this activity fosters educational discussion and unifies the JFK community. This activity ends with an author Q&A held at JFK. During Srimayi's visit GMS, Principal Shannon emphasized that increasing student voice is her goal. To this end, she started having lunches with 12-15 students and the students are encouraged to

talk about what they like about school and what they don't. Principal Shannon went on to tell Srimayi that our students are why we are here and they are the most important.

F. Superintendent's Report:

Superintendent Jennifer Fischer-Mueller reported on the following events:

Superintendent Activities Highlights

CAASA: During the monthly meeting on October 15 there was discussion of applying for a Drug-Free Communities (DFC) grant. The goal of this grant would be to ensure the sustainability of CAASA through the years. DFC grants are awarded for five years with a maximum of 10 years up to \$125,000 per year. A smaller group of CAASA members will pursue the possibilities of applying for this grant.

New Superintendents Induction Program (NSIP): The third year of the NSIP includes three day-long content meetings and five half-day small group meetings. The first content day on October 4, included a review of accomplishments in the first two years and the advancement of work focusing on teaching and learning. On October 11, the first small-group meeting was held where discussion was about common challenges among the superintendents and addressing specific professional dilemmas.

Marilyn Rodman Fund: The Rodman family, through the Marilyn Rodman Fund for the Arts, has agreed to sponsor all CHS visits to the Audubon this year. This resource affords students the opportunity to visit a gallery/museum and/or make observations as they walk along a nature trail. Staff will find ways to integrate visits into the curriculum for the most impactful, engaging, and positive experience for students. Sean Kent, Audubon's Education Director, has been a wonderful resource to the Canton Public School Community.

Updates

Town Master Plan: Laura Smead, Canton's Town Planner, is facilitating the creation of the Town's Master Plan. According to Ms. Smead, "The Canton Master Plan is a *community-driven* plan that articulates our shared, long-range vision for the town's future and lays out the steps to reach that vision." The intent is to create an organic and comprehensive document that will serve the community for the next 10 - 20 years. Parents were encouraged to attend this forum on Thursday, October 25, 6:30pm at the Canton Public Library Community Room.

Indicators of Excellence

Coach Recognition: Dave Bohane, CHS head football coach, was named Coach of the Week by the New England Patriots. Coach Bohane received recognition on Tuesday, October 16 by former Patriot, Andre Tippett.

German Exchange Students: Superintendent Fischer-Mueller welcomed exchange students from Germany to Canton High School on Monday, October 15. This year marks Elsa Nicolovius' 40th year hosting German students in Canton. This program's success is due to Ms. Nicolovius' commitment and enduring energy, as well as ongoing support from host families in Canton. Thank you, to everyone involved in making this such a transformational experience for students.

Supporting Every Student: October 15, was the first game of the Unified Basketball team. Unified sports are an important part of a student's public schools experience. Superintendent Fischer-Mueller noted that it is critically important that the Canton Public Schools provide meaningful experiences for all students. As described by the Special Olympics, "Team sports bring people together. Special Olympics Unified Sports® teams do that, too and much more." Unified sports joins individuals with and without

intellectual disabilities to participate together and experience the power of sports. Thank you to all the CHS educators supporting this valuable and inspiring program.

Canton Families Embracing Diversity (CFED): CFED met for the first time this year on Wednesday, October 16. The purpose of CFED is "... to advocate for resources and policies in collaboration with and in support of the Canton Public School system to enhance the educational experiences for all students by promoting diverse academic and enrichment programs." Superintendent Fischer-Mueller expressed her appreciation of the partnership with CFED.

Important Dates and Events:

October 24	<u>Early Release - K-5 Parent Conferences (afternoon)</u>
October 25	<u>K-5 Parent Conferences (evening)</u>
October 25	Canton Master Plan Public Workshop, Canton Public Library, Community Room 6:30-8:30pm
November 1	<u>School Committee Meeting, CHS DLL</u> 7:00pm
November 3	<u>Cantonstock</u> , All music ensembles perform, grades 4-12, CHS 12:00pm - 4:00pm
November 6	<u>Election Day - No School Students</u>
November 12	<u>Veterans Day - No School</u>

G. Old Business: None

H. New Business:

1. Out of State Travel Request: Mr. Derek Folan introduced JSA members who requested approval to attend the JSA Fall Congress in Providence, RI from December 1-2, 2018. Students, Emma Howlett, Nina Gilmore and Jack Hernon spoke on behalf of the group. Mr. Mike Loughran asked how many students were attending. The final deadline is October 27. *Mr. Loughran agreed to approve the request with the stipulation that Superintendent Fischer-Mueller will give final approval once the final numbers are in.*

Move to approve German Exchange Trip to NYC: Michael Loughran

Second: Nichola Gallagher

Vote: 4-0

2. Paul Revere Heritage Commission (PRHC) Presentation: Ms. Nichola Gallagher and Ms. Julia Volfson presented a slide show highlighting Educational Technology and the benefits of having edTech Center as part of the Paul Revere Heritage Site. The site would have hi-tech museum exhibits and programming and would allow visitors to be active learners and participants. The space would be welcoming and afford visitors the opportunity to explore the story of Canton, celebrate diversity, emphasize problem solving and much more. The intention is to connect the past to the living

present. Ed Tech has a broad customer base including students in grades K-12. Ms. Julia Volfson provided examples EdTech, including virtual reality labs and how it is accessed in education. The EdTech center would be governed by an Advisory Board. They are building a task force and invite participation. Mr. Loughran requested additional time to read over the presentation documents. Ms. Gallagher agreed to continue to keep the committee up to date on future developments.

3. Question 3 Vote: School Committee Chair, Ms. Kristin Mirliani, lead a discussion regarding ballot Question 3. This referendum would keep in place a current law that protects transgender people from discrimination in places of public accommodation. A yes vote would keep this law to protect transgender rights, a no vote would repeal. School Committee has added transgender to protective classes in all policies. Mr. Loughran added that CPS creates an inclusive environment and noted that our letterhead footer includes transgender as a protective class.

Ms. Christine Smith, a parent of three CHS graduates, one of whom is transgender, spoke in support of Question 3 and asked for the committee's endorsement of Question 3. Ms. Smith noted since the law has been on the books in MA for two years, there has not been any uptick in public safety incidents. Ms. Smith expressed that supporting Question 3 would ensure that all of her children would have the same right to go through life without fear of discrimination. Ms. Smith informed the committee that safety officials, including MA Chiefs of Police Association and several other groups have endorsed yes on three.

Move to approve a School Committee vote of Yes on Question 3:

Nichola Gallagher

Second: Michael Loughran

Vote: 4-0

4. Annual Brochure: Taken off the agenda. Will be presented next week.
5. MCAS Subgroup Data: Ms. Patricia Kinsella and Ms. Deborah Rooney presented MCAS subgroup data. Slide show and additional information may be found on the website under the School Committee tab. Next steps include: in-depth review in schools, conversation with comparable districts, in-depth review of instructional programs, including intervention services, and family information sessions. Focus will be on where we can get better.
6. Contract Vote: Mr. Nectow presented the contract for Unit E for a vote of approval. There are 95 members in Unit E, members include: Educational Assistants, ABA Tutors, COTA's, SLPA's, School Aides and Athletic Trainer. Highlights include: a three year contract with a 2% salary increase (retroactive to 9/1/18) across the board for all members except for Educational Assistants. Educational Assistants instead will incorporate a step structure which will have three steps in first year, four steps in second year and five steps in the third year, \$100 longevity increase and a new evaluation instrument. This contract was ratified by the bargaining unit yesterday, 10/17/18.

Move to approve Unit E Contract: Michael Loughran

Second: Meg Gannon

Vote: 4-0

7. 30 North Street Condominium Trustee: The current trustee for this property is a previous School Committee member; therefore the trust requires a replacement

trustee to be named. Mr. Michael Loughran suggested that the Business Manager, Mr. Barry Nectow be the new Trustee for the 30 North Street Condominium Trust.

Move to approve Barry Nectow as the new Chair for the 30 North Street Condominium Trust: Michael Loughran

Second: Meg Gannon

Vote: 4-0

- I. Business Manager's Report: Mr. Barry Nectow explained that the school department submitted two requests in the CCPC preliminary round; the first being the basketball court and fence at the JFK and the second being the bathrooms at Walsh Field. The deadline for all applications is November 16, 2018. Mr. Nectow also informed the committee of a minor yellow bus accident this week. Police arrived on scene, parents were notified and most importantly, no one was hurt.

H. Routine Matters:

1. Approve Minutes dated September 20, 2018.
Move: Michael Loughran
Second: Meg Gannon
Abstain: Kristin Mirliani
Vote: 3-0-1
2. Approve Executive Minutes dated September 20, 2018.
Move: Meg Gannon
Second: Michael Loughran
Abstain: Kristin Mirliani
Vote: 3-0-1
3. Move to Release Executive Minutes dated September 20, 2018
Move: Michael Loughran
Second: Meg Gannon
Vote: 4-0
4. Approve Minutes dated October 4, 2018
Move: Michael Loughran
Second: Meg Gannon
Abstain: Nichola Gallagher
Vote: 3-0-1
5. Approve Bill schedule dated October 25, 2018
Move: Michael Loughran
Second: Meg Gannon
Vote: 4-0

I. Sub-Committee Reports:

1. CPC – Nichola Gallagher– the Luce slide request will be discussed at the upcoming meeting on November 1. CPC would like the school department to bring additional finances/matching funds to the table when the projects are presented.
2. BRC – Mike Loughran – meeting next week. Will provide have an update on the JFK modulars and other BRC projects at that time.
3. Wellness - Meg Gannon – nothing to report
4. Finance - Reuki Schutt/Meg Gannon – Meeting being scheduled within the next two weeks.
5. Policy - Kristin Mirliani – Nothing to report
6. PRHC – Nichola Gallagher- covered during presentation referenced above.

J. Future Business: Next School Committee Meeting will be held Thursday, November 1, 2018 @ 7:00 in the Distance Learning Lab.

K. Other Business:

L. Adjournment: Time: 8:53 p.m.

Move to adjourn Open Session: Meg Gannon

Second: Nichola Gallagher