

Town of Canton  
Canton School Committee Minutes of the Meeting of January 3, 2019  
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 7:00 pm. Chair Mirliani informed the public that Executive Session was cancelled.
- B. Open Session:  
Present are:  
Kristin Mirliani  
Michael Loughran  
Meg Gannon  
Reuki Schutt  
Nichola Gallagher
- Also Present:  
Dr. Jennifer Fischer-Mueller, Superintendent  
Barry Nectow, Business Manager  
Colleen Hutchinson, Recording Secretary  
Devin Foster, Student Representative  
Press  
Staff
- C. Public Comments/Questions: None
- D. Student Report: There was no student report this week due to winter break last week.

Superintendent's Report:

**Indicators of Excellence**

CHS Freshman Chess Champion: Superintendent Fischer-Mueller congratulated Suraj Ramanathan for finishing 13th out of 100 grade 9 participants at the National K-12 chess championship held in Orlando, Florida on December 14-16.

**Updates**

Dean S. Luce Principal Search Process:

After thanking Principal Robie Peter for 32 years of tireless service to the students, staff, and families of the Canton Public Schools, Superintendent Fischer-Mueller explained the upcoming principal search process. Members of the Canton Teachers Association, the Canton Educational Support Personnel Association (Unit E), the Administrative Assistants Union and the Luce CAPT have been asked to participate on the Search Committee. Discussion dates have been scheduled to focus on identifying the qualities and skills necessary for the next Principal. Luce staff discussion dates are January 8 at 7:10am and January 9 at 3:15pm. The Luce parent discussion date is January 8 at 9:00am and 7:00pm. In addition to these discussions, an anonymous survey is available [<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/7G5MYR6>] where staff and parents are invited to share their thoughts. The survey will remain open until Tuesday, January 8, 2019 at 5:00 p.m.

**Superintendent Activities Highlights**

New CPS Website: Superintendent Fischer-Mueller announced the launch of the new website and thanked the Website Transition Committee, April Goran, Joanne Teliszewski, Julie Foley, Julie Shore, Justin Martin, Lauren Mahan, Lisa Hansen, Sarah Donovan, Patricia Kinsella and Mike Barucci for their countless hours and careful work to complete this transition. Assistant Superintendent Patricia Kinsella shared additional

features of the new website via a presentation. There is a link on the homepage of the website to provide information or a suggestion as the new website is launched.

### **Important Dates and Events**

Jan. 7	8th Grade Open House and Showcase, 6-8pm, CHS
Jan. 9	<u>Early Release - PK-5 Common Planning, 6-12 PD</u>
Jan. 11-12	<u>Senior Districts Music Festival</u> For students in grade 9-12 who were accepted for the Senior Districts Music Festival.*The Rodman parking lot will have extra cars and there may be some congestion in the morning as students will be arriving from 8:15-9:00am.
Jan. 14	<u>Hansen 4&amp;5 Grade Winter Concert</u> Families Welcome- 10am Hansen Elementary School
Jan. 15	<u>GMS Grade 6 Winter Concert Public Welcome- 7pm CHS Auditorium</u>
Jan. 15	<u>JFK 4&amp;5 Grade Winter Concert</u> Families Welcome - 10:30am JFK Elementary School
Jan. 16	<u>Luce 4&amp;5 Grade Winter Concert</u> Families Welcome - 10am Luce Elementary School
Jan. 17	<u>GMS Grade 6 Winter Concert SNOW DATE</u>
Jan. 17	Rodman Early Childhood Open House, 6-7pm Snow date: Jan 22, 6-7pm Applications for the lottery are due by Friday, Jan. 25th.
Jan. 17	<u>School Committee Meeting Starts at 7pm</u>

#### E. New Business:

1. **Feasibility Study Presentation:** Dore & Whittier presented the most recent updates to the Feasibility Study. Dore and Whittier concluded that renovating the Rodman Building to serve as the 8<sup>th</sup> grade academy is feasible, however after further consideration and exploration; the district chose not to pursue the Rodman Building as a location for the 8<sup>th</sup> grade Academy. The focus group philosophically agreed with the 8<sup>th</sup> grade academy; however they chose not to move forward with the option of the academy in a separated building given the cost and the fact that that similar programming could be developed at the current middle school. Dore and Whittier shared cost and data for three potential pathways moving forward: 1. Renovate the Rodman Building to keep the current practice of district offices and Pre-K in the building. 2. Keep district offices at the Rodman and decentralize Pre-K into neighborhood schools using modular additions. 3. Keep district offices at the Rodman and decentralize Pre-K into neighborhood schools, integrating them into the existing building and relocate another grade level into modular additions. The district will share their recommendation of how to move forward at the next

School Committee meeting. The full Feasibility Study Report may be found on the website.

Old Business:

1. Superintendent FY20 Operating Budget Request: Superintendent Fischer-Mueller reviewed the FY20 Operating Budget proposal and the request for a 5.45%, \$44,705,401. She explained that in the area of administration and instructional leadership, Canton is in last place based on per pupil expenditure, compared to local communities and state averages. Superintendent Fischer-Mueller emphasized that if we do not improve our administrative infrastructure it could have a detrimental impact on educators and students over time. Top priorities for advancing the Strategic Framework and improving the administrative infrastructure would be the addition of a data manager and instructional support personnel for the elementary school, similar to that of department heads at the middle school and high school. Although the district is behind in administrative spending, the highest priorities being put forward in the proposed FY20 budget are closest to students' needs and most supportive of educators, with increased attention to social emotional needs. There was discussion about not losing sight of our deficit in administrative spending. This year, professional development needs will be met internally and be addressed by our teacher leaders, school based administration and central office. All budget information is available on the website.

**Move to approve the proposed FY20 budget of \$44,705,401:** Reuki Schutt

**Second:** Nichola Gallagher

**Vote:** 5-0

New Business continued:

2. Town Meeting Articles: Superintendent Jennifer Fischer-Mueller and Mr. Barry Nectow proposed a Town Meeting article to request that \$700k go back into the special education stabilization fund for future special education expenses. This vote would allow the School Committee to submit the Article for Town Meeting in May.

**Move to approve a Town Meeting Article requesting \$700k for the special education stabilization funds:** Reuki Schutt

**Second:** Meg Gannon

**Vote:** 5-0

3. Pre-K FY20 tuition proposal: Ms. Donna Kilday spoke at length about the improvements and advances to the Pre-K program. The NAEYC accredited program offers 2, 3, 4 and 5 day options. Ms. Kilday offered comparative analysis to six other preschool programs. There are currently 94 students enrolled, with the expectation of enrollment increasing to approximately 115 before the end of the school year. There are 29 staff members (teacher, ABA's EA's, SLP's, nursing, OT, PT and ELL).

**Move to approve a 2% increase in the Pre-K tuition:** Mike Loughran

**Second:** Meg Gannon

**Vote:** 5-0

F. Business Manager's Report: Mr. Nectow informed the Committee that we would be re-submitting a Statement of Interest (SOI) to the MSBA for the calendar year 2019. The deadline to submit the SOI is mid April. Resubmission of the SOI requires a vote of the

School Committee and the Board of Selectman. School Committee will be reviewing the SOI at an upcoming meeting.

G. Routine Matters:

1. Approve Minutes dated December 20, 2018.  
**Move:** Reuki Schutt  
**Second:** Meg Gannon  
**Vote:** 5-0
2. Approve Executive Minutes dated December 20, 2018.  
**Move:** Reuki Schutt  
**Second:** Michael Loughran  
**Abstain:** Nichola Gallagher  
**Abstain:** Meg Gannon  
**Vote:** 3-0-2
3. Approve Bill schedule dated January 10 , 2019  
**Move:** Reuki Schutt  
**Second:** Michael Loughran  
**Vote:** 5-0

H. Sub-Committee Reports:

1. CCPC – Nichola Gallagher – Superintendent Fisher-Mueller and Mr. Barry Nectow presented their proposals at the last meeting. Vote will take place on Monday.
2. BRC – Mike Loughran – meeting later this month
3. Wellness - Meg Gannon – nothing to report
4. Finance - Reuki Schutt/Meg Gannon – nothing to report
5. Policy - Kristin Mirliani – nothing to report
6. PRHC – Nichola Gallagher – nothing to report

L. Future Business: Next School Committee Meeting will be held Thursday, January 17, 2019 @ 7:00 in the Distance Learning Lab. Public hearing on the FY20 Budget will be held on Thursday, January 17, 2019 @ 7:00 PM.

M. Other Business: Ms. Meg Gannon announced that she would not be seeking re-election. With a newborn at home, Ms. Gannon explained that her time is more limited. Chair Mirliani announced that nomination papers would be available at Town Hall on January 7, 2019 for anyone interested in running for the two vacant seats.

N. Adjournment: Time: 8:26 p.m.

**Move to adjourn Open Session:** Reuki Schutt  
**Second:** Meg Gannon