

Town of Canton
Canton School Committee Minutes of the Meeting of January 17, 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 6:29 pm. Motion to go into Executive Session by Reuki Schutt for the purpose of discussing contractual matters. Second by Michael Loughran. It was voted by roll call 3-0.

Michael Loughran	yea
Reuki Schutt	yea
Meg Gannon	yea (arrived at 6:31)
Kristin Mirliani	yea
Nichola Gallagher	yea (arrived at 6:30)

- B. Open Session: Chair Mirliani calls meeting to order at 7:01 PM. Chair Mirliani held a moment of silence for CHS alumni Anthony Maffie who recently passed away.

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
Max Macort, Student Representative
Press
Staff
Public

- C. Public Hearing: Nichola Gallagher motioned to open the public hearing to review the FY20 Operating Budget. Michael Loughran seconded. The budget was approved by School Committee at the January 3, 2019 meeting. There was no public comment. Michael Loughran voted to close the public hearing, Reuki Schutt seconded.
- D. Public Comments/Questions: Mr. Robert Sokolove spoke in support of the upcoming agenda item regarding a proposed increase in substitute pay. Mr. Sokolove thanked Superintendent Fischer-Mueller and Mr. Barry Nectow for their attention to this matter. Mr. Tom McDonald also spoke in support of the agenda item regarding the increase in substitute pay. He said the last raise was in 2008 and although subs got a pay increase at this time, the benefit of earning one extra day of pay after working 10 consecutive days was eliminated. He said that as a result of that, his pay was actually cut.
- E. Student Report: Max Macort visited both the JFK and the Dean S. Luce Schools. Max reported that at the JFK students are creating clubs and teachers are overseeing these groups. The clubs cover a wide variety of topics. Students make posters and share club ideas with

the Principal and peers. The Luce school has a new way of teaching math that they have adopted and adapted into the curriculum. Teachers and students alike appear to be enjoying this new approach to learning.

F. Superintendent's Report:

Superintendent Activities Highlights

GMS Speak Up Day: On Wednesday, January 9, GMS held their first Student Speak Up Day. This event focused on getting feedback from the GMS Learner about their perspectives on the strengths and areas for improvement at GMS with regard to culture, schedule, academics and technology. This day was the first step in hearing what GMS students want and need and honoring their input.

Updates

Response to YRBS: CHS is starting a new program called Signs of Suicide (SOS), with 9th and 10th graders in Wellness classes over the next two weeks.

Key components of the curriculum include a video as well as facilitated discussion that takes place during a class session. Staff members with mental health expertise (guidance staff, counseling staff, and Wellness teachers) will be the primary instructors. Following the formal program, students will be asked to take a few minutes to complete a brief, standardized screening form. Members of our counseling team will follow up with any student who expresses an interest in speaking to someone or whose screening form shows signs of depression or risk of suicide. Parents/guardians will be informed if their child meets with a counselor and will be provided with recommendations for follow-up when appropriate. Parents were given the option to have their child opt out of this program.

Luce Principal Search : The morning and evenings of January 8 and 9, Superintendent Fischer-Mueller and Ms. Kinsella met with staff and parents/guardians to review the Luce Principal search process, answer questions and hear about what people are looking for in their next Principal. In addition to the staff and parent/guardian forums, an online survey allowed everyone to submit information anonymously to help create the Candidate Profile.

The search committee received applications and this afternoon the committee discussed individual candidates. Interviews are blocked out for January 23, 24 and 25, with the hope of submitting finalist recommendations to bring to the district for the next phase.

Superintendent Fischer-Mueller thanked all the members of the staff and parents/guardians who attended the open forums and/or submitted feedback on the survey. She also thanked members of the search committee and specifically, Ms. Kinsella for her fine work facilitating the process.

Preparation for Early Release Professional Development: On February 6, we will follow the Early Release schedule for students which will allow staff time to focus on their professional learning. On this afternoon, staff at CHS, GMS and the Rodman Early Childhood program will continue their attention on issues of equity, with special support from students as panelists discussing their experiences.

The staff at our elementary schools will again have choice determining their afternoon plans. As promised, sessions will be offered again so that staff who did not attend a workshop at the last session will have the opportunity to attend that session on February 6. Special thanks to Deborah Rooney, Director of Teaching and Learning, preK-8, for her

attention to the quality of the workshops and ongoing feedback from staff about what they need. In addition, Ms. Rooney has worked closely with the elementary Principals to ensure that staff PD aligns to the needs of each schools School Improvement Plan and, of course, the Strategic Framework.

Indicators of Excellence

CHS Project Based Learning Event: On January 14, CHS Social Studies Teacher Ms. Maryanne Byrne and her U.S. History students held a symposium showcasing their responses to the driving question, "How can we, as citizens in a democracy, use collective action to alleviate social problems?" Ms. Byrne thanked those who generously gave of their time to help the students gain a deeper understanding of the social issues they investigated. Superintendent Fischer-Mueller thanked Ms. Byrne for facilitating long-lasting and meaningful learning.

CHS Athletic Trainer Recognition: Congratulations to Ms. Kristen Sasonoff for her role in earning Canton High School the honor of *Safe Sport School - 1st Team*. According to the National Association of Athletic Trainers Association, the award "recognizes schools who take crucial steps to protect their athletes from injury."

This award is recognition of the hard work and dedication that has been put into the well-being our student athletes by Ms. Sasonoff. Her commitment to keeping our student athletes safe, healthy and playing the sports they love defines this recognition. Beyond the hard work of Ms. Sasonoff, CHS was honored for our Athletic Training room, commitment to healthy concussion protocols, and parent outreach.

Soldier X:

Tuesday night's boys basketball game was an inspiring one as Xavier Machuga returned to the court, and scored the first basket, in less than two years after a brain aneurysm. Xavier was named a captain this season and has been at center court for every pregame ceremony. He has made dramatic strides in his recovery. Two years ago he could not walk, now Xavier is able to walk with the aid of a cane. Xavier told the Boston Globe that his injury gave him a new perspective on life. He said "I could dwell on the what-ifs, and could've beens, but the fact is, I'm here. I beat my injury. And you know what? My team is here too, and they're fighting with me. So every day is a good day."

Important Dates and Events

Jan. 21	Martin Luther King Day - No School
Jan. 23	CFED Monthly Meeting, 7:00-8:00, CHS Library Conference Room
Jan. 23-25	Luce Principal Search Committee Interviews, 3:30 pm - 8:00 pm
Jan. 25-26	JFK School Play, 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm, CHS Auditorium, Public Welcome
Jan. 26	All State Music Festival Auditions, CHS, All day
Jan. 28-Feb 1	GMS Scholastic Book Fair, GMS Library
Jan. 30 GMS	Book Fair for Families, 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm, GMS Library
Jan. 31	Luce Principal Finalist #1 Community Forum, 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm
Feb. 1	CHS Talent Show, 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm, CHS Auditorium, Public Welcome
Feb. 4	Luce Principal Finalist #2 Community Forum, 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm
Feb. 5	Luce Principal Finalist #3 Community Forum, 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm
Feb. 6	Early Release (PreK-12) Professional Development
Feb. 7	School Committee Meeting, 7:00 pm

G. New Business:

1. Feasibility Study Presentation: Superintendent Fischer-Mueller and Mr. Barry Nectow made a recommendation to the Committee to change the direction of the Facilities Master Plan from 5.B.1 to 5.A.1. With Option 5.A.1 a new, or significantly renovated, middle school would be built on the Galvin site for grades 5-8. The district may consider organizing the middle school in such a way that there is a wing for 5th and 6th graders and another wing for 7th and 8th graders, with all grades on one campus. The High School would remain 9-12 and the District offices will stay at the Rodman along with the Rodman Early Childhood Center. The estimated cost off the two projects is \$73.3 million, after reimbursement from the MSBA for the Galvin project. The current estimate for completion is September 2024 Rodman and 2025 for the Galvin.

Move to approve the change in the Facilities Master Plan direction from 5.B.1 to 5.A.1: Mike Loughran

Second: Meg Gannon

Vote: 5-0

2. Policies: Ms. Debra Bromfield presented policies for review and vote of approval:

Move to waive the second read on Policies DI, DIE, DJ/DJA, DJE, DK, DM,

DN: Reuki Schutt

Second: Meg Gannon

Vote: 5-0

Move to approve policies DI, DIE, DJ/DJA, DJE, DK, DM, and DN with changes: Reuki Schutt

Second: Meg Gannon

Vote: 5-0

3. Proposal for Substitute Rate of Pay Increase: CPS School Administration proposed to increase the rate paid to substitutes from \$75.00 to \$86.00 for non-licensed subs and from \$81.00 to \$94.00 for licensed and/or previously licensed subs. Mr. Nectow provided rate comparisons of area school districts. With this proposed increase, it would put Canton at the top of the chart compared to area schools. Mr. Nectow referenced the shortage of subs in all areas. There was some discussion about extra pay after a specified number of days. Mr. Tom MacDonald asked if this was an option Canton may consider. Mr. Nectow explained that the district will continue to study and review options each fiscal year to continue making strides in the substitute program. The estimated cost of the increase for the remainder of the year is \$28,164.

Move to approve the increase in substitute pay: Reuki Schutt

Second: Nichola Gallagher

Vote: 5-0

- H. Business Manager's Report: Mr. Nectow spoke about the Canton Complete Streets Prioritization Plan. This Plan was designed to look at the intersection of Pleasant Street, Sherman Street and Angela Street. If the town receives the funds, the proposal is to put in a light at the intersection, and new sidewalks and curbing. The Town expects to receive notification by the end of the school year.

I. Routine Matters:

1. Approve Minutes dated January 3, 2019
Move: Michael Loughran
Second: Meg Gannon
Vote: 5-0
2. Approve Bill schedule dated January 24 , 2019
Move: Michael Loughran
Second: Meg Gannon
Vote: 5-0

J. Sub-Committee Reports:

1. CCPC – Nichola Gallagher – both CPS projects have been approved to advance to Town Meeting
2. BRC – Mike Loughran – meeting on January 23, 2019
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 – the Committee continues to work on and explore options for the space on the second floor

K. Future Business: Next School Committee Meeting will be held Thursday, February 7, 2019 @ 7:00 in the Distance Learning Lab.

L. Other Business:

M. Adjournment: Time: 8:02 p.m.
Move to adjourn Open Session: Reuki Schutt
Second: Meg Gannon