

Town of Canton  
Canton School Committee Minutes of the Meeting of April 11, 2019  
Canton High School Distance Learning Lab

- A. Call to Order: The meeting of the School Committee is called to order by Kristin Mirliani at 6:26 PM. Motion to go into Executive Session or the purpose of discussing contractual matters made by Kristin Mirliani. Seconded by Reuki Schutt. It was voted by roll call 4-0.

Kristin Mirliani        yea  
Reuki Schutt            yea  
Nichola Gallagher    yea  
Kristian Merenda      yea

- B. Open Session: Superintendent Jennifer Fischer-Mueller calls meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Present are:

Kristin Mirliani  
Reuki Schutt  
Nichola Gallagher  
Kristian Merenda  
Maureen Moran

Also Present:

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

- C. Reorganization: Superintendent Jennifer Fischer-Mueller welcomed new members Kristian Merenda and Maureen Moran. Superintendent Fischer-Mueller immediately opened the floor for nominations for School Committee Chair.

1. Motion to re-appoint Kristin Mirliani for School Committee Chair by Reuki Schutt, seconded by Nichola Gallagher. It was voted 5-0.

5        yeas                    0        nays

Chair Mirliani opened nominations for members to serve as Vice Chair and Secretary.

2. Motion to appoint Reuki Schutt for the position of Vice Chair by Nichola Gallagher. Seconded by Maureen Moran. It was voted 5-0.

5        yeas                    0        nays

3. Motion to appoint Nichola Gallagher for the position of Secretary by Reuki Schutt. Seconded by Maureen Moran. It was voted 5-0.

5 yeas 0 nay

D. Public Comments/Questions: CTA President Yan Yii spoke in favor of the Promise Act. Ms. Yii reports that public schools have been severely under-funded. Ms. Yii claimed that CPS would receive \$1,936,897 annually if the foundation budget were fully funded. Ms. Yii said that by supporting the Promise Act, CPS could continue to further the strategic framework by lowering class sizes, enhancing PD, continuing its work on creating an inclusive and engaged community and more. Ms. Yii claims the legislature failed to take action last year to update the foundation budget formula. Ms. Yii asked the School Committee to support the Promise Act, with a resolution to implement the fully funded the foundation budget.

E. Superintendent's Report: Dr. Jennifer Fischer-Mueller reported on the following events:  
**Superintendent Activity Highlights:**

Dedication of Baseball Scoreboard: Superintendent Fischer-Mueller participated in the dedication of the new Gibson Field Scoreboard. She thanked the Bank of Canton and Canton Little League for their ongoing support of the CHS Boys Baseball Team.

CHS Lip Dub: The 2019 Canton High Lip Dub has been released. Special thanks to Ed McDonough, Laura Noone, Greg Sheehan, Jackie Morrissey and others for their hard work in coordinating and managing this project that included all students and staff of CHS. Please visit this link to view the Lip Dub.

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1kYw1GEb4e3wFWApwccujjSjJpwAR1Vke/view?usp=drivesdk> or <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tATiNOZCDHM&feature=youtu.be>

CAASA Sponsored Parent Forum: CAASA sponsored the next parent forum to continue the discussion of the challenges of technology. On April 9, CAASA, in collaboration with the Canton Public Schools, held an evening presentation for families and students entitled *Tech Talk: Promoting Healthy Families and Kids in a Digital World*. The presenter Dr. Sandra Dejong spoke eloquently about the impact of digital use on students, parents, and families.

Autism Awareness Month: April is Autism Awareness Month. Superintendent Fischer-Mueller recognized GMS staff for showing their support for those with Autism.

### **Updates**

German Exchange Trip: The German Students departed on Thursday, April 4. We look forward to hearing about their adventures upon their return on April 19.

CAPT and CAPE Presidents: On April 3, Assistant Superintendent Kinsella met with the CAPT presidents and the president of CAPE. Topics this month included a review of the new Canton Public Schools brochure, the 2019-2020 school calendar, communication strategies from schools to families and updates from each school. The success of these organizations is the result of highly committed parent volunteers who care deeply about the ongoing excellence of the Canton schools.

CAPE Grants: CAPE grants provide funding for the development of innovative and enriching educational projects within the existing goals and curriculum of CPS. Below is a list of the 2018-2019 CAPE Grant Awards:

*Home Base Improvement Plan*, Canton High School, Lead Applicant: Sharon Bolduc

*Brain Break Boxes*, Luce Elementary School, Lead Applicant: Dory Fish

*Sensory Pathway*, JFK Elementary School, Lead Applicant: Gina Todesca

*GMS Sensory Stations*, Galvin Middle School, Lead Applicant: Amy Muldoon

*GMS Beautification Project*, Galvin Middle School, Lead Applicant: Julie Ghostlaw

*Dog Strong, Healthy Hearts and Bodies*, Canton High School, Lead Applicant: Adam Hughes

*Electricity and Magnetism Hands-On Investigation Kits*, Galvin Middle School, Lead Applicants: Andrea Stuart, Lisa Winchell, Matt Masciarelli

*Spanish Dancer*, Galvin Middle School, Lead Applicant: Laurie Moore

*MFA Visit*, Canton High School, Lead Applicant: Theresa Hadley

*Observational Drawing Instructional Props*, K-12 Art Classes, Lead Applicant: Patricia Palmer.

Safety and Security Committee: On April 4, Mr. Nectow facilitated the monthly meeting of the Safety and Security Committee. Our Director of Student Services, Debra Bromfield, led us in a discussion of an article by Nancy Rappaport, *Irresponsible Behavior Or Legitimate Threat? It's Important To Know The Difference*.

### **Indicators of Excellence**

Professional Development: CPS is in the process of developing a long-term PD plan for 2019-24 for grades PreK-5. Over the past week, Mrs. Rooney and Ms. Kinsella have solicited educator feedback on the first draft of that plan during open forums at each of the elementary schools. Principals had previously given their feedback. The 2019-20 school year is scheduled for professional development that will prepare educators for a longer-term literacy plan that will span the following four years.

Director of Technology: Last fall, the Instructional Technology Administrator's departure prompted a restructuring of this position to create a Director of Technology. The interview process in the fall did not render a final candidate. CPS is restarting the search process and hope to identify a successful candidate this spring for a July 1 start. Ms. Kinsella is facilitating.

CHS Jazz Band: Superintendent Fischer-Mueller thanked and congratulated the CHS Jazz Band for a great concert on April 9th.

### **Important Dates and Events**

April 14-16	GMS Montreal Trip
May 21	CHS Scholastic Honors Night, 7:00 pm, CHS Auditorium

	(Nichola Gallagher attending)
May 28	CHS Scholarship Night, 7:00 pm, CHS Auditorium (Reuki Schutt attending)
June 7	CHS Graduation, 6:00 pm (All members attending)

F. New Business:

1. CHS South Africa Trip: Ms. Rebecca Stang, Mr. Joel Chamberlain and students shared highlights of the South Africa Expedition. Students studied the endangered species, the southern white rhino, with other scientists on a nature reserve. Ms. Stang and Mr. Chamberlain thanked the School Committee for supporting this trip. They spoke about how much the students learn and bring back with them. The students expressed how it was an adventure of a lifetime and how they felt it changed them. Several students shared personal stories.
2. Welcome Yeshi Gaskin Lamour: Superintendent Fischer Mueller introduced the new Dean S. Luce Principal and shared background information for Ms. Gaskin Lamour. Ms. Gaskin Lamour thanked CPS for the offer and support. She spoke of her excitement to begin her new position and her pleasure to be a part of the CPS community. Chair Mirliani announced that Ms. Lamour's contract was approved at the Executive Session meeting of March 28, 2019 .
3. Request for Approval for Dean S. Luce Fun Run: Luce Fun Run Committee Member, requested approval, in writing, for the annual Fun Run to be held at the Luce School on May 19th from 10-1.

**Move to approve the Dean S. Luce Fun Run on May 19, 10-1: Reuki Schutt**

**Second: Nichola Gallagher**

**Vote: 5-0**

G. Old Business:

1. FY20 Operating Budget: Superintendent Fischer-Mueller and Mr. Barry Nectow reminded the committee that School Committee voted a 3.82% budget increase in FY20, which is approximately \$700,000 less than we had originally approved. Recently, the Town of Canton re-negotiated health benefits, as a result, the BOS allocated \$100,000 to go back into schools. With this information, Superintendent Fischer-Mueller and Mr. Nectow are working on finalizing the next budget with principals. Superintendent Fischer-Mueller reminded the committee that at the January School Committee meeting, conversation took place about some high priority district needs which include: support STEM work for elementary schools, the need for a district data manager and a district HR manager. Superintendent Fischer-Mueller also reviewed the chart that was shared at the January School Committee meeting, illustrating that Canton is in last place with regard to per pupil expenditure in the area of Administration and Instructional Leadership. With the new information from the Town, Superintendent Fischer-Mueller hopes to maintain our highest priorities while replacing the previous FTE cut in Elementary Instructional Leadership. The budget will be presented at the next meeting.

- H. Business Manager's Report: Mr. Nectow reported that the JFK Modular project is moving along. The building permit will be pulled next week, then the fence will be put around the site; the modulars are expected the end of June. Mr. Nectow also reported the bus applications have been emailed. There is a link to an on-line payment option also. Everyone is asked to submit an application, even if you do not need the bus. Reminder of dates:

**5/10/2019** – Bus applications due (no late fee assessed)

**After 5/10/2019**– Bus applications accepted, \$50 late fee assessed

**After 6/7/2019** – Applications accepted with late fee, no guarantee of seat on bus until after 10/1/2019.

I. Routine Matters:

1. Approve Minutes dated March 28, 2019. Nichola Gallagher motioned to approve the minutes. Kristin Mirliani seconded the motion. It was voted 2-0-3.

2                    yeas                    0                    nays                    3 Abstain  
Reuki Schutt  
Kristian Merenda  
Maureen Moran

2. Approve Executive Minutes dated March 28, 2019. Nichola Gallagher motioned to approve and release the minutes. Kristin Mirliani seconded the motion. It was voted 2-0-3. Nichola Gallagher asked to HOLD the minutes.

2                    yeas                    0                    nays                    3 Abstain  
Reuki Schutt  
Kristian Merenda  
Maureen Moran

3. Approve Bill Schedule dated April 18, 2019. Reuki Schutt motioned to approve the bill schedule. Nichola Gallagher seconded the motion. It was voted 5-0.

5                    yeas                    0                    nays

J. Sub-Committee Reports:

1. CCPC – Nichola Gallagher- nothing to report
2. BRC – TBD- there was discussion to determine who will be on the sub committee. A decision will be made at an upcoming meeting.
3. Wellness – TBD- there was discussion to determine who will be on the sub committee. A decision will be made at an upcoming meeting.
4. Finance - Reuki Schutt/TBD - Nothing to report
5. Policy - Kristin Mirliani – nothing to report
6. PRHC – Nichola Gallagher – The committee has been meeting with the designers regarding the second floor plans. Srimayi and friends are putting together a concept proposal and are doing a survey of students 16+ years of age to gather information on their ideas and interests.

- K. Future Business: Next School Committee Meeting will be held Thursday, April 25, 2019 at 7:00 PM.

