

# 2024 Town Annual Report

Report of the  
CANTON SCHOOL DEPARTMENT

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960 Washington Street, Canton, MA 02021  
781-821-5060

[www.cantonma.org](http://www.cantonma.org)

Hours of Operation: Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.



School Committee	Term
Kendall O'Halloran, Chair	2024-2027
Kimberly McCourt, Vice Chair	2023-2026
Kristian Darigan Merenda, Clerk	2022-2025
Maureen Moran, Member	2022-2025
Laura Arboleda, Vice Chair	November 2021-September 2024
Sonja Grauds, Member	September 2024-April 2025

## **OVERVIEW**

Throughout 2024, the Canton Public Schools (CPS), in collaboration with educators, staff, families, the community, our School Committee and town officials, enjoyed another successful year of incredible achievement, learning and growth.

The most noteworthy milestone was the official approval of the new Galvin Middle School, which will serve grades 5-8. The \$241 million school building received tremendous support at the November 18 Special Town Meeting and the December 10 ballot vote. The Canton community, from town boards and committees to families and local groups, rallied around this generational and transformational project. The School Building Committee will continue to oversee the work to its completion.

The two key town votes, signifying the official acceptance of the schematic design and the funding phase, served as a community celebration after a two-year process with the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) and the project partners -- LeftField (Owner's Project Manager), Ai3 (Architectural Design Firm) and Consigli Construction. Between community forums and events, town meetings, educational visioning sessions and working group meetings, the GMS Project Team held 145 meetings.

The new GMS will feature a 7/8th grade wing, a 5/6th grade wing, academic neighborhoods, a full library, an 800-seat auditorium, two full basketball courts, artificial turf fields and lights, geothermal wells, and a net-zero-ready infrastructure for sustainability and efficiency. Now the hard work begins.

Some preliminary site work -- two auxiliary parking lots and an access road -- will be completed in the summer of 2025. Full building construction will take place from June 2026-June 2028. The new GMS is scheduled to open in September of 2028, with the exterior grounds and fields completed in 2029.

While the GMS building project is amazing, our focus is always on our students. We closed out June 2024 celebrating our students who engaged in a number of incredible learning and extracurricular experiences that were both transformational and fulfilling on many levels. In September, CPS welcomed over 3,200 students for the 2024-25 school year, and the students, staff and families cherished the relationships, the opportunities, achievement and joy that happened in the classrooms, schools and beyond.

We set forth several bold District Goals in 2023-2024, and we achieved these goals once again. We earned “significant progress” status -- as defined by DESE -- on our District accountability reports and MCAS scores. In particular, we exceeded our student achievement goal by posting over 3 percent gains for our student growth percentile (SGP) for our selected population in the lowest-performing quartile group. Our students also recorded the highest ever level of performance and participation on the Advanced Placement exams, with 81 percent scoring 3 or better. We love seeing our students thrive in academic, personal and extracurricular pursuits.

Throughout 2023-24, CPS engaged in program reviews for Wellness and Visual arts, and many hours of curriculum work and job-embedded professional development for continued implementation of the math curriculum and writing goals. In July 2024, we started the Science program review. We also are proud of our continued professional learning for restorative practices, educational equity, multi-tiered systems of support, and high quality teaching, learning and leading.

Building on that, a great deal of learning involved PowerSchool. After a comprehensive process, the District selected PowerSchool as our new Student Information System (SIS). Director of Technology and Data Analytics Josh Fogel had the monumental task of spearheading the training sessions in the Spring 2024, and then leading the full integration and implementation of PowerSchool for the 2024-25 school year. Mr. Fogel and members of his team did exemplary work with data migration, training, scheduling and, most importantly, communication. PowerSchool is still a work in progress, but the new SIS is a significant improvement for Canton Public Schools.

Finally, Canton Public Schools continues to follow its 5-year Strategic Plan, which includes an update to its Mission, Vision and Core Values -- (REACH) Respectful and Collaborative Relationships, Educational Equity, Academic and Personal Excellence, Community Engagement, and High Quality Teaching, Learning and Leading. This document will serve as a guidepost for continuous improvement, rigorous and equitable experiences, and innovative thinking.

Above all, the District remains extremely proud of its schools and the school community and looks forward to a joyous and successful second half of the school year, beginning January 2025.

**FINANCE**

The School Department operating budget for the 2024-2025 school year is distributed as follows:

Salaries	\$45,698,958
Expenses	<u>\$10,339,640</u>
Total	\$56,038,598

The above figure represents a **4.76%** increase above the 2023-2024 budget.

The operating budget of \$56,038,598 is supplemented with revenue offsets projected at \$4,321,640 from revolving (fee-based) accounts and reserve fund accounts and \$1,594,010 in federal, state and private grants.

**Revolving Accounts/Reserve Funds**

<b>Athletic User Fees</b>	\$150,000
<b>Pre-School Revolving</b>	\$100,000
<b>Other Revolving Accounts</b>	\$350,000
<b>Special Education Circuit Breaker Revolving</b>	\$3,304,268
<b>Special Education Reserve</b>	<u>\$1,000,000</u>

TOTAL	\$4,904,268
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**Federal/ State/Private Grants**

SPECIAL EDUCATION 94-142	\$975,082
SPECIAL EDUCATION Early Childhood	\$32,930
QUALITY ENHANCEMENTS IN AFTER-SCHOOL AND OUT-OF-SCHOOL TIME	\$74,000
FY25 TITLE I	\$156,211
FY25 TITLE II	\$52,350
FY25 TITLE III	\$22,596
FY25 TITLE IV	\$22,317
COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICES	\$80,000
TOTAL	\$1,415,486

The District’s FY25 budget, approved at the Annual Town Meeting in May 2023, totaled \$56,038,598. This 4.76% increase from the previous year’s budget supports the District’s efforts to effectively meet the needs of all our students from grades PreK-12.

The District’s FY25 Cash Capital Budget totaled \$1,056,000. The District used the cash capital funds to address the following:

**Building/Grounds Repairs and Improvements**

- Exterior Door Replacement - Luce
- Auditorium Painting – CHS
- Staircase Tile & Paint - Rodman
- Sidewalk Repair - Luce
- Landscaping & Grounds Improvement (Year 2)

**Technology**

- K-2 iPads - District
- WiFi Printers – District
- Art Laptops – CHS
- Replacement of Staff Laptops – District
- Chromebooks Replacement Cycle – District
- World Language Lab - CHS
- ESXI Server Upgrades

**Program Improvements**

- Veterans Memorial Field Lighting - CHS
- Gym Scoreboard Replacement – CHS
- Robotics Upgrades - CHS
- Classroom based instruments - District
- Orbital Scrubbers - Hansen and Rodman
- Stander Mower - Luce

**Furniture & Fixtures**

- Kiln Replacement - CHS
- Elementary Library Furniture Enhancement (Year 2)

## Debt Capital

- Core Infrastructure - Switch - Trainersreceivers - Cabling
- Roof Top Unit –CHS

## STUDENT ENROLLMENT

The following are enrollment figures for the pre-school, elementary, middle and high schools for October 2023 (school year 2023-2024) and October 2024 (school year 2024-25):

	2023-2024 Oct. 1, 2023	2024-2025 Oct. 1, 2024	Difference
Pre-school	134	134	0
Elementary	1470	1503	+33
Middle School	742	712	-30
High School	931	972	+41
Out-of-District	59	58	-1
Total	3336	3379	+55

## Demographics 2023 and 2024

The charts below show the race/ethnicity percentages and other subgroups of the Canton Public Schools student population in 2023 (total enrollment 3,277) and 2024 (total enrollment 3,321, not including out-of-district students).

### Race/Ethnicity

	% in 2023	% in 2024	Difference
African American/Black	12	12.8	+0.8
Asian	10.8	10.6	-0.2
Hispanic	7.3	7.6	+0.3
Native American	0.1	0.1	0
White	62.6	59.9	-2.7
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Island	0.2	0.1	-0.1
Multi-race Non-Hispanic	7	6.7	-0.3
Total Enrollment	3277	3,321	+44

### Other Student Sub-Groups

	% in 2023	% in 2024	Difference
Limited English Proficient	4.1	4.6	+0.5
Students with Disabilities	16.9	18.3	+1.4
Economically Disadvantaged	20.9	23.9	+3.0

## OPERATIONS

### Transportation

CPS provides yellow bus transportation for approximately 1,833 CPS students, in addition to roughly 30 students who attend St. John School. In addition to yellow bus transportation, CPS provides van transportation for roughly 145 in-district students and 65 out of district students. Van transportation is provided by Vanpool, Raz and ARTS.

In 2022, the District solicited bids for yellow bus transportation. First Student was awarded a three-year contract with two option years; the cost of the three-year contract is \$4,221,968.40. CPS owns and operates one of the twenty buses used to complete 98 daily routes for morning and afternoon runs. CPS also owns and operates three additional buses which are used on a daily basis for field trips and club/team transportation.

**Food Service**

CPS manages and operates its food service program in-house. On average, our Food Service department provides more than 2,500 meals each school day. The District employs 29 hourly staff members across five buildings, one administrative assistant, and one director. Procurement of food and supplies is primarily achieved through a purchasing collaborative with TEC (The Education Collaborative). School meals continue to be provided free of charge to students under Universal Free School Meals in Massachusetts. Our Food Service program is self-sufficient, relying on local receipts, state reimbursement, and federal reimbursement to cover expenditures.

**Facilities**

The CPS Facilities department consists of 21 full-time custodians, five full-time maintenance staff, and one director. In coordination with other town departments and outside vendors, the facilities team completed multiple projects throughout the year, including sidewalk repair at Luce, renovations to the stairs in the Rodman, HVAC unit replacement in the Luce Library, paving of the lot at the maintenance building, door hardware upgrades, and basketball hoop replacement in the JFK Gym.

**RETIREMENTS**

The following staff members retired in 2024. Congratulations and a heartfelt thank you to all our retirees for their decades of service to the Canton Public Schools.

<b>Employee</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Years of Service</b>
Cheryl Cunningham	Teacher	15
Kimberley Eardley	HR Administrative Assistant	11
Jasminka Friedman	Teacher	18
Julie Gelerman	Teacher	15
Theresa Grogan	Teacher	16
Martha Lawless	Director of Food Services	20
Linda Leoni	Teacher	22
Lareine Olsen	Food Services	21
Rogelio Triana	Custodian	15

**STUDENT HONORS, AWARDS AND RECOGNITION**

Each year, CHS holds both a Scholastic Honors Night and a Scholarship Night. We extend our most sincere thanks and appreciation to our community partners whose generosity awarded the class of 2024 \$230,000 in scholarship money. All of the 2024 awards are too numerous to list here. Below are just a few of the notable achievements:

"Spirit of 76" Scholarship	Dan Hall, Kelsey Delello
American Association of University Women (AAUW) Scholarship	Diana Zahaiko, Vanessa Crowley
B'nai Tikvah Scholarship	Harrison Feldman

Balsamo Family Memorial Charitable Foundation Scholarship	Regan McDonough, Charlie Smith
Beth Spence Cann Memorial Scholarship	Lam, Jaden
Bud Herzog Theater Arts Scholarship	Gavin Demanche
Business Network Internationa (BNI) Scholarship Fund	Mohith Arugollu
Don Smith Memorial Award	Brendan Tourgee
Haywood C. Sullivan Memorial Scholarship	Lianna Camille
Honey Dew Donuts Corporate Scholarship	Paul Grabert
James and Beatrice Salah Family Foundation	Amelia Chien, Margaret Dervan, Olivia Hickey, Abby Qiu, Anika Valluri
Jeanette Winthrop Scholarship	Kaitlin Bigham
John Langwith Scholarship	Aya Kayali
Mellisa Rose Kradin Foundation	Danika Seto
Michael J. Gunning Memorial	Nicholas Gillis
Robert (Bob) DeYeso Memorial Scholarship	Derrick Last
The Friends of Virginia Merchant Scholarship	Kelsey DeLello

### **John and Abigail Adams Scholarship**

The John and Abigail Adams Scholarship is a merit-based program that provides credit toward tuition for up to eight semesters of undergraduate education at a Massachusetts state college or university. For this scholarship, merit is based on student scores on the 10th-grade Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAS) test. To be eligible for the scholarship, students must

- Score in the Advanced category on one of three high school state assessment tests in English Language Arts, Mathematics, or STE (Biology, Chemistry, Introductory Physics or Technology/Engineering)
- Score Proficient or Advanced on the remaining two high school state assessment tests
- Have a combined MCAS score on these assessments that ranks in the top 25% in their district.

Congratulations to the following students who received the John and Abigail Adams Scholarship in 2024.

Brianna Abend	Bilal Ahmed	Maksim Alves	Mohith Arugollu
Nerisa Barrington-Haber	Benjamin Bubis	Daniel Bui	Lianna Camille
Kion Camillo	Imad Chekrallah	Trisha Cherukuri	Amelia Chien
Mekhala Costello	Vanessa Crowley	isabella Crugnale	Julia Cummings
Gavin Demanche	Aadya Deshumkh	Gayatri Dixit	Annika Falcucci
Aideen Feeny	Harrison Feldman	John Flaherty	Tara Geoghan
James Gibbs	Patrick Gong-Harjula	William Gong-Harjula	Rosalyn Grady
Dominic Gray	Joshua Harris	Jonathan He	Hannah Isaac

Aya Kayali	Patrick King	Mercia Kolikithas	Maria Kozlov
Dan Krasyllynykov	Max Kupferman	Jaden Lam	Brian Le-Nguyen
Jamie Luk	Derek Mar	Olivia McCloskey	Disha Nayak
Tyler Ngo	Aaron Nieh	Katherine Oliver	Anna Papoulis
Bradley Perlman	Samantha Pham	Rachel Pirrera	Abby Qiu
Jared Radovsky	Sophia Santos	Danica Seto	Charles Smith
Anika Valluri	Benjamin Wilkins	Jessica Wright	Diana Zahaiko

**DEPARTMENT HIGHLIGHTS**

***World Languages***

**Massachusetts State Seal of Bilingualism**

In June of 2024, Canton High School students participated in the Massachusetts State Seal of Bilingualism for the fourth year. The following fifteen students in the class of 2024 were awarded the Massachusetts State Seal of Bilingualism for proficiency in English and the languages below:

Lianna Camille (Spanish)	Aadya Deshmukh (Spanish)	Dan Krasyllynykov (Russian)	Bradley Pearlman (Spanish)
Kion Camillo (Spanish)	Tara Geoghan (Spanish)	Lucas Massih (Spanish)	Sofia Santos (Spanish)
Joemaele Celestin (Haitian Creole)	Dominic Gray (French)	Panayiota Michaelidis (Spanish)	Fatima Sidibay (Spanish)
Amelia Chien (French)	Aya Kayali (Spanish)	Disha Nayak (Spanish)	

The following six students in the class of 2024 earned the Massachusetts State Seal of Bilingualism with Distinction in English and the languages below:

Hennessy Castillo López (Spanish)	Gavin Demanche (Spanish)	Hannah Isaac (Spanish)
Julia Cummings (French)	Annika Falcucci (Spanish)	Mercia Kolokithas (Spanish)

**Higher Education Partnerships**

The CPS World Languages Department continued to collaborate with the Goethe-Institut/Boston and UMASS-Boston to expand its German programming to students in the elementary and middle grades. The eight-week SPARK for German virtual German language and cultural program allowed students in grades K-8 to experience German language and culture firsthand. The innovative program, which is fully sponsored by the German government and the American Association of Teachers of German, has provided German language instruction to Canton elementary and middle school students for the last four years.

## **Community Partnership**

Canton High School continued its Italian Language and Culture Cohort offerings. This was made possible again thanks to a community partnership that the District formed with CIAO, a non-profit educational organization led by Canton resident Paul Sergi, MD, and Domenic Amara, PhD., the former Academic Superintendent of Schools for Boston and President of the Pirandello Lyceum. Assisted by several other Italian cultural organizations in Massachusetts, including the Italian American Alliance (IAA of Boston, MA), the Pirandello Lyceum (PL), and the Italian American Cultural Organization (IACO of the South Shore), CIAO provided seed funds to expand the world languages offerings at Canton High School for the second year in a row. CIAO plans to continue collaborating with the District to support and build its new Italian Language and Culture Cohort.

## **Visual Arts**

- The Visual Arts Department completed a program review which will drive the curriculum, instructional practices, and professional learning for the upcoming years.
- CHS senior Jaden Lam had her digital artwork, “Resilience”, selected for UMASS Dartmouth’s *Emerging Young Artists + Designers* juried online exhibition.
- 7 CHS students had artwork selected for the Massachusetts Art Education *Recognitions* online exhibition, and senior Hannah Issac received an award for her digital artwork, “Time After Time”.
- An exhibit to celebrate Youth Art Month was held in March at the Canton Public Library. 60 CHS students had work on display in this show.
- 21 CHS students had work included in the Massachusetts Art Education Association’s online exhibit for Youth Art Month in March.
- CHS freshman Amelia Chambon’s digital self-portrait received a *Youth Art Month President’s Choice Selected Works Award*. Her artwork was displayed in a national Youth Art Month exhibit at the National Art Education Association’s national convention in Minneapolis.
- CHS Visual Arts teacher, Stephen Gaul, had a dragonfly watercolor painting selected for The Art of Education University’s inaugural exhibit, *Palette Perspectives*, which was part of the National Art Education Association’s national convention in Minneapolis.
- Four CHS students received Scholastic Art Awards, and three CHS students received Scholastic Writing Awards.
- CHS students Joe Noone and Ceylin Ursal Post received awards at the Hockomock Film Festival for their PSA about safe driving.

## **Performing Arts**

Below is a list of 2024 Performing Arts events.

- Jan 5/6- Senior Districts Festival
- Jan 12- CHS Talent Show
- Jan 16 - Hansen, JFK concert
- Jan 17 - Luce concert
- Jan 17/18 - GMS Concert
- Jan 26/27 - JFK performs The Lion King Jr
- Jan 30 -CHS Winter Concert
- Feb 1- Elizabeth Anderson Strings Night
- Feb 9/10 - Luce performs Finding Nemo Jr
- March 2/3 - GMS Performs Matilda
- March 15/16 - CHS performs Legally Blonde
- April 2 - CHS concert
- April 10-14 CHS Travels and performs in Disney
- April 23- Encore Private Lesson Recital
- May 3/4- Hansen performs Shrek Jr
- May 10 - CHS cabaret
- May 17 - CHS pops concert

- May 24 - GMS/CHS Orchestra performs at the State House and Brayton School
- May 27- CHS Band marches in the Memorial Day Parade
- June 3- GMS Spring Concert
- June 4 - Grade 4-8 Strings Night
- June 5 - Elementary Band Concert
- August 12-16 - Music Camp
- August 19-23 - Theater Camp
- Nov 2 - Cantonstock
- Nov 15-16 CHS performs Puffs
- Dec 7-8 - GMS performs Trap
- Dec 14- CHS performs One Act Plays
- Dec 17 - CHS concert
- Dec 18- CHS Chorus performs at Cornerstone and Brightview
- Dec 19- CHS Chorus members perform at the Brayton School

***Athletics***

2024 was yet another Championship Year for the Bulldogs of Canton High School. Many teams advanced deep into the MIAA tournament, highlighted by the Field Hockey team advancing to the State Final Four and the Girls Cross Country team placing 5th at the All-State meet -- by far the best finish of the century for the team and quite possibly in school history. The Hockomock League title was also claimed by the following teams -- Field Hockey, Volleyball, Boys Hockey, Girls Hockey, and Girls Swimming. Also of note, more than 65% of the school’s population participated in the athletic program.

**STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT**

***2024 MCAS Results***

CPS students continue to perform well across multiple measures, including state and national standardized assessments. For more details about Canton students’ achievement, visit the Canton Public Schools District profile on the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) website (profiles.doe.mass.edu). The information is also linked [here](#).

In 2024, students in grades 3-8 and in grades 9-10 took the conventional Next Generation online spring MCAS exams. Each student completed two sessions of a grade-level exam in English language arts (ELA) and math. Students in grades 5, 8, and 9 completed two sessions of science, technology and engineering.

The chart below details the percentage of students who met or exceeded expectations on the MCAS Achievement tests in spring 2024. For each grade and each test – ELA, math, or science – Canton students, on average, outperformed students from across the Commonwealth.

<b>MCAS 2024 Results: Percentage of Students Scoring at Meeting or Exceeding Expectations</b>						
	ELA		Math		Science	
Grade	Canton	State	Canton	State	Canton	State
3-8	56	39	61	41	49	42
HS	64	57	62	48	70	49

CHS students performed well on these assessments, increasing their performance to 81%% from 68.4% of scores of 3 or above.

**Advanced Placement Test Score Results: 2024**

Number of AP Courses	Number of AP Tests Taken	% AP Tests with
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offered at CHS		Scores of 3 or Above
20	694	81%

***CHS CLASS OF 2024 – Colleges and Universities***

The list below shows the *attending* colleges and universities for the graduating class of 2024. Canton’s ongoing support creates a high-quality school District that serves the children of Canton well.

**Post-graduation plans for the Class of 2024**

- 90% attended higher education
- 85% attended a 4-year college
- 5% attended a 2-year college
- 8% joined the workforce
- 2% joined a trade, military or continuing post-grad

University of Massachusetts-Amherst	McGill University	High Point University	The New School
Northeastern University	Loyola University Chicago	Suffolk University	Massachusetts Maritime Academy
Bentley University	Framingham State University	Salve Regina University	Cornell University
University of New Hampshire-Main Campus	Massasoit	University of Florida	Lasell University
West Virginia University	University of Delaware	Colby College	Tufts University
Binghamton University	Westfield State University	Massasoit Community College	Fordham University
Emerson College	Amherst College	University of Miami	Towson University
Endicott College	Boston College	East Carolina University	Hampshire College
University of Connecticut	University of South Carolina-Columbia	Quinnipiac University	University of Colorado Boulder
Ohio State University-Main Campus	University of Wisconsin-Madison	Clark University	University of North Texas
Bridgewater State University	Sacred Heart University	Babson College	University of Mississippi
University of California-Los Angeles	Gonzaga University	Roger Williams University	Bunker Hill Community College
University of Massachusetts- Boston	College of the Holy Cross	University of Rhode Island	Stonehill College
Bryant University	Elon University	Massachusetts Bay Community College	Northeastern University
Vassar College	University of Connecticut	Merrimack College	University of Massachusetts-Dartmouth
North Carolina State University at Raleigh	Syracuse University	University of Maryland-College Park	Amherst College
Curry College	Saint Anselm College	Morgan State University	Emmanuel College
Providence College	Elon University	Wellesley College	University of Maine
Berklee College of Music	Dean College	Mount Wachusett Community College	Massasoit Community College - Canton
Wentworth Institute of Technology	Tulane University of Louisiana	Fairfield University	Hampshire College
WPI	Saint Joseph's University	Florida Memorial University	Pace University
Indiana University-Bloomington			

The full District Report Card can be viewed [here](#).

### **SCHOOL COMMITTEE UPDATE**

Calendar year 2024 was another busy year for the Canton School Committee. The Town of Canton election in April resulted in Kendall O'Halloran earning a second 3-year term. At the next meeting following the election, the Committee reorganization was voted by the members to be the following: Chair, Kendall O'Halloran; Vice Chair, Laura Arboleda; Clerk, Kristian Merenda.

In the summertime, Laura Arboleda announced that due to work and other commitments, she would be unable to complete the remainder of her term. She served in her role through the end of September, and in October, at a joint meeting of the School Committee and Canton Select Board—four candidates interviewed for the open School Committee seat. Sonja Grauds was voted in to fulfill the remainder of Laura's term (through April 7, 2025).

At the following School Committee meeting, another reorganization took place, and Kim McCourt was named as the Vice Chair. The Chair and Clerk appointments remained the same.

Throughout the year the Committee continued its regular work under the four pillars of the Canton Public Schools Strategic Framework: 1) Achieving Educational Excellence & Ensuring Equity; 2) Cultivating School Climate & Culture; 3) Transforming Teaching & Learning; and 4) Achieving District Excellence.

Following the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education's "Model Evaluation Process for Superintendents", the School Committee conducted Superintendent Folan's Formative and Summative Evaluations in February and June, respectively.

2024 was a very challenging year financially, as Canton and all towns/cities in Massachusetts were levied a unilateral 14% increase in both Special Education out of district placement costs and Special Education transportation costs. This was a huge jump that greatly affected the bottom line in Canton and across the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. In late 2024 the School Committee voted to hire Open Architects to provide a financial review and identify possible opportunities as school districts enter tighter financial times.

Due to a promotion to Superintendent for Cohasset Public Schools, Assistant Superintendent Sarah Shannon departed Canton Public Schools at the end of the 2023-2024 school year. A one-year hold was put on this position (with other administrators overworking their roles to make up for this deficit). This was a financial decision to partially assist with skyrocketing special education costs. We plan for this role to return in the 2025-2026 school year. The District also placed a hold on the K-5 Assistant Director of Student Services position, after Sarah Shaw left this role to become the Director of Student Services.

In late spring 2024, Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Operation Stephen Marshall left CPS. Brian Lynch was hired as the next Assistant Superintendent of Finance & Operations and started in June 2024. The District also hired Food Service Director Maura Crowley, after Martha Lawless retired after 20 years in CPS.

Much of 2024 involved ongoing MSBA work for the School Committee, School Building Committee, and the administrative team. We continued having public/open meetings and forums, and working groups; the meeting count increased to over 145 since the Galvin MSBA project began – more than 90 of those being public meetings.

Aside from committee and subcommittee meetings, School Committee members are in regular contact with the public through in person meetings, virtual meetings, emails and phone calls. Throughout the year, School Committee members attended multiple public events to liaise with the community in general and also specifically about the MSBA Project. To name a few weekend events at which School Committee members hosted a community table: Heritage Festival, multiple Canton Farmers Market days, Cantonstock, Canton Youth Soccer event and Canton Halloween Parade. We also appreciate the regular coverage that *The Canton Citizen* has provided to our community throughout the MSBA project.

We are thrilled to announce that after a nearly unanimous vote at the November 18, 2024 Canton Special Town Meeting, a town special election was validated to take place on December 10, 2024. The Canton Special Town Election on December 10, 2024 yielded a remarkable show of support for the new Galvin Middle School build, with over 74% of the community supporting it with an affirmative vote. This vote moves forward the building of a new Galvin Middle School utilizing the Construction Manager at Risk construction method and accepts \$74 million from the MSBA funding to go towards the cost—accounting for approximately a third of the overall cost of the project.

After this vote, our work continued right away with LeftField (OPM), Ai3 (architectural firm), and Consigli (construction company). Test drilling began later in December. Weekly planning meetings continue and will escalate as we approach the site prep commencing in June 2025 (when school is out for the summer).

Throughout all this work, the School Committee kept focus on furthering the Strategic Plan. The four key areas of priorities and strategies within the 2023-2028 Canton Public Schools Strategic Action Plan are the following: 1) Teaching, Learning, and Leading for All; 2) Management and Operations; 3) Communication and Community Engagement; and 4) Safe, Inclusive and Equitable Environments.

Under the School Committee umbrella are subcommittees and task forces in which members are assigned; including Budget and Finance, Policy, and Communications. The School Committee also reviews the CPS financial warrants.

Additionally, members serve as liaisons to parent volunteer and educational leadership groups, including the Canton Association of Parents and Teachers (CAPT), The Education Cooperative (TEC), and the Massachusetts Association of School Committees (MASC).

Community involvement for the School Committee includes participation/appointments to many local boards and groups including the Master Plan Implementation Committee (MPIC), Canton Community Preservation Committee (CCPC), Building Renovation Committee (BRC), Canton Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee (CDEI), Canton Alliance Against Substance Abuse (CAASA), and the CPS Student Wellness Advisory Committee (SWAC). Leading up to the Annual Town Meeting each year, the School Committee presents to the Select Board, Finance Committee, and Capital Planning Committee.

In the fall of 2024, new three-year contracts were agreed upon with AFSCME Custodian/Maintenance unit, the Administrative Assistants unit, and the Food Service unit. As we round out 2024 and into 2025, negotiations begin with the Canton Educators Association, Units A and E.

### **CLOSING**

The Canton Public Schools have a true commitment to achieving academic excellence and ensuring equity for every student, as well as cultivating welcoming and supportive learning environments via effective teaching, learning, and leading, and by smartly managing our resources. We are deeply proud of our schools and grateful for every member of our student body, faculty, volunteer groups, families, and town citizenry who play a role in our success.

With this continued support and unwavering commitment to accomplishing our bold, student-centric goals, the Canton Public Schools are positioned for continued growth - ever-improving how we prepare our next generation for their futures. It is an honor to be stewards of this important work.

Respectfully submitted,

Kendall O'Halloran, Chair, Canton School Committee  
Derek Folan, Superintendent of Schools