

Canton Public Schools

Opening Minds... Transforming Lives

Fall 2018



Canton Middle School's Robo Rosies placed first at Connecticut First LEGO® League's Big Bird Bridge Bonanza and went on to win a Core Values® Award at the State Championships. See more on page 4.

Our Mission

Our mission is to prepare independent, productive, respectful and responsible citizens who contribute to an ever-changing world. We pursue continuous improvement while honoring our strong educational legacy and traditions. We unite with families and the community to provide challenging educational experiences that promote the intellectual, physical, social and emotional potential of our students.

Our Vision

As a leader among schools and a source of pride in our community, the Canton Public Schools enrich the present and shape the future of its students by opening minds and transforming lives.

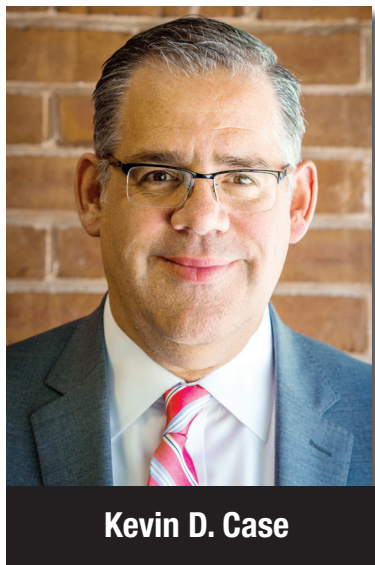
Our Values

Collaboration ~ Kindness ~ Integrity

We partner with our students, educators, staff, families and community to: Work together with open minds, creativity and innovation; Look for ways to treat others with kindness and respect; Do our very best, be honest and hold each other accountable.

from the superintendent

I hope this message finds you well. One of our School District's Goals this year is to integrate Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) skills into the curriculum. Staff members are involved in training on the best teaching practices that integrate these skills. Emotional-social intelligence is defined as a cross section of interrelated emotional and social competencies and skills that determine how effectively we understand and express ourselves, understand others and relate to them, and cope with daily demands. Research has demonstrated that students who understand and apply these skills do better academically, have fewer behavior problems, have better social interactions, and are generally, happier. You will be hearing much more about our work in these areas in the months to come.



Kevin D. Case

Another of our School District's main goals continues to be focused on student-centered learning. The staff is working on integrating 21st Century Learning Goals which we are calling the 6 C's into the curriculum. These 6 C's are: Critical Thinking, Communication, Collaboration, Creativity and Innovation, Compassion, Citizenship.

You will find examples of each of these components as you read in this latest edition of our Canton Public Schools District Newsletter. I continue to be so proud of the accomplishments of our staff and students. Thank you for your support of our award winning School District. Have a wonderful Holiday Season with your families. ■

from the board chair

It's hard to believe that we are well into the 2nd quarter of the school year and the holidays and winter break are just a few weeks away. As we enter the month of December, I want to share with you some thoughts regarding the work of the Board of Education over the last few months. The word community can be used to describe much of the work during the first half of the school year. So what is community? The Webster-Merriam Dictionary defines community as a group of people with a common characteristic or interest living together in a larger society. Community can mean different things to different people. However, one thing about community is that it involves connection, responsibility and accountability to one another, and in the words of Helen Keller below, it allows us to do great things.

"Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much." –Helen Keller

Since becoming Board Chair, community relations has been a focus for me personally. Our Canton community is unique- it is a community who cares for one another, it is a community that welcomes others, it is a community that cares about its children and the quality of the schools. You see, the Board of Education needs community in order to be



Julie Auseré

the most effective for the Canton children, and when we have an involved community, great things can happen. These first few months of school have seen:

- Parents from Cherry Brook Primary School attending multiple Board of Education meetings to voice concerns over class sizes in Kindergarten, the use of technology in the classroom and the use of technology by students on buses.
- Parents attending community conversation workshops in November to learn about topics such as vaping and cyber security.
- Live streaming of BOE meeting about school goals and priorities.
- Community members participating in a community forum about a School Resource Officer.

In many of these examples, the community has given the Board of Education direct feedback on what it feels important, and the Board of Education does listen to this feedback as it makes decisions. Community relations is a process- it is something we always work to improve, but I like what I've seen this fall — I see a Canton community that is providing feedback more than ever.

This is good news for the students of Canton.

I wish you all a happy and healthy holiday season. ■



Pictured above are student representatives with inductees Mark Sawyer, David M. Drumm and Patricia (Sarmuk) Canny.

Canton High School Wall of Fame

Six individuals were inducted to the Canton High School Wall of Fame during the 16th annual alumni weekend in October. The wall honors Canton graduates who have made a positive impact in their communities. Honored this year were Mark Sawyer, Class of 1980, owner of Sawyer's Martial Arts in Canton; Patricia (Sarmuk) Canny, Class of 1991, current 7th-grade math teacher at Canton Middle School; David M. Drumm, Class of 1960, retired engineer and longtime member and leader for The Friends of Canton Public Library; the late Burton and Lucillia Harrington, Classes of 1933 and 1929, community benefactors; and The late John K. Luntta, Class of 1939, a U.S. Navy war hero who lost his life at Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941. ■

Teacher of the Year: Jessica Papp

It was with reluctance that Jessica Papp went into the kindergarten classroom as an adult.

In the mid 2000s, recently out of college, Papp was substituting, mostly in high school English classes, in her home town of Torrington.

"I liked it, but it didn't feel perfect," Papp now admits.

One day, the Torrington District was in desperate need of a kindergarten substitute. She didn't want to do it but finally agreed to a half day.

"I said, all right, I'll give it a try and I just thought I would hate it," she said. "I thought it was going to be like babysitting and I just loved it from the minute I got in there. It was like the light bulb moment. ... this is what I'm supposed to be doing. These are my people."

Papp soon began her pursuit of a Master of Science in Elementary Education from the University of Bridgeport, embarking on a journey that recently resulted in her being named Canton's 2018-19 Teacher of the Year. She was also a semifinalist at the state level. While some look at the honor as a popularity contest, the program is really designed to choose someone to represent teachers.

"I think that I'm more the spokesperson for Canton teachers and I would like to represent teachers here and how we feel about things. The message in my speech was a lot about just trusting your instincts as a teacher and that you know what's best for the students."

Despite some other pursuits Papp, 35, did begin her teaching journey early in life. As a kid, she forced her brothers to sit in "class" while she taught. She had plenty of inspiration as her mother taught Biology and Special Education and her dad was a social worker. Her step father was also a coach and mentor.

Papp shadowed a middle school teacher while in high school, but she decided to go in a different direction and went on to UConn and graduated with an English and Journalism degree, with a creative writing concentration.

Later, inspired by her kindergarten experience, she would get her master's.

Prior to her time in Canton, Papp student taught in Morris, interned in Bristol and taught in Torrington.

In 2010, she came to Canton to help launch an extended day kindergarten program. In her first year at Cherry Brook Primary School, Papp provided support in the morning kindergarten classes and then taught students in the afternoon for the "extended" portion of the kindergarten day, teaching students who lived in Canton, alongside those that came from Hartford every day as part of the Open Choice program. On Papp's first day at Cherry Brook, after a long wait to meet some of her Hartford students, one little boy threw up on the Papp's dress and shoes.

"How appropriate to begin this way," she said. "It reminded me to stop taking



Jessica Papp

myself so seriously, to laugh at the ridiculous moments to realize that no matter how carefully we plan something it can be a complete disaster and still wind up so much better than we thought."

At a teachers' convocation earlier this year, she talked about the experience of teaching kindergarten, now a full day program in Canton, and perceptions.

"Some people think we play all day. After all teaching kids isn't brain surgery, right? No, it's not brain surgery, but it is brain architecture. We are the ones helping to construct and fortify the foundation of the brain. We are expanding it, repairing the fragile spots and reinforcing as we go, we're helping children build up and out as the child's vision for their future begins to grow and stretch and change. We are protectors of the child's heart, enforcers of fairness and respect. We help students reach their potential. We also make them see that their potential may far outreach their current performance. We do give tough love but it always from a place of love. Love and caring are at the core of what we all do each day."

Papp said it's amazing to watch her students go from barely being able to sit still or hold a pencil, and scribbling to writing three-page visual stories and reading books with lines of text. She also said the social growth is "phenomenal," stating, "my favorite part is the social piece — just seeing them become these little miniature humans that are going to someday go off and do great things. I like being the first person that gets to introduce school to them. I like that I can be fun with them and make them love school before they get into the upper grades," Papp added.

Superintendent Kevin Case said Papp passes on her passion with a hands-on approach.

"Jessica is an outstanding kindergarten teacher she truly knows students and their developmental needs she continuously plans engaging lessons for her students," he said. "When I walk into her classroom there are times I can't find her because she is on the floor with her students, always creating a wonderful learning environment where every child feels successful each and every day and that's so important in kindergarten. She's so deserving of this honor and represents all of our outstanding teachers really well." ■

Paraeducator of the Year: Teri Campanelli

Sometimes the phrase "Better late than never" truly pays off. For special education paraeducator Teri Campanelli, her late entrance into her field has rewarded her personally and professionally. And now her career has been rewarded with the Anne Marie Murphy Paraeducator of the Year Award.

Superintendent Kevin Case detailed that his colleague's award was named in honor of a paraeducator who lost her life at Sandy Hook. "Every spring we seek nominations for the state," Case explained, noting that every district's recipient was recognized at a ceremony on the evening of Nov. 14 at A.I. Prince Tech School in Hartford.

The day before school began, Campanelli's honor was announced at convocation. "Teri gave a wonderful, inspirational speech that day," Case said, then recalled previous Canton Middle School Principal Pam Hamad's sentiments of "how wonderful and effective Teri is." Then, "I heard what a wonderful paraeducator she is. She was chosen because of the rapport she has with students, her caring nature, and ability to communicate with students and staff members who work with students with special needs. Teri works collaboratively with teachers to make sure students are successful — that's the bottom line. Teri truly cares."

Campanelli has been a paraeducator for three years. "I didn't know what I wanted to do until I was 38," she said. She was pursuing an associate's degree in human services, but had to put her education on hold due to personal issues.

Things began to evolve, however, when she helped at her son's youth group. "The connection I was making with kids was easy to come by," she said. "Leading was not an effort, but a great joy. This was the direction I wanted to go in." She had enough credits from her time working on her associate's, then passed a paraprofessional exam, which propelled her career.

Also, having worked in the mental health field before starting at the school is part of the reason Campanelli is successful. "I have an understanding of behavior and cognition," she explained.

First, she started in Canton in 2014 as a cafeteria food services worker. "I was working with kids, but not in the capacity I wanted," Campanelli admitted. After the required probationary period of employment, she applied for the paraeducator position.

Canton Intermediate School Principal Kevin Hanlon and special education teacher Diana Hiza interviewed Campanelli because "they saw my interactions with students," she said.



Teri Campanelli

"I started at the intermediate school in 2015 until June, then followed to the middle school and have been here ever since."

She added, "I went from food services to paraeducator. The kids recognized me in the classroom, saying, 'You're the lunch lady.' I already had a rapport with them."

Campanelli said she works in classrooms with approximately 11-12 kids, split between different mainstream classes in the seventh grade. Last year, she worked with both seventh and eighth grade. "I do both," she said. "I follow them from seventh to eighth, then get a new set of kids from seventh to eighth. The stability is good for them." Also, working with the students in the regular classroom keeps them from feeling singled out, and her helping kids of all abilities makes for a "stable learning environment for everybody."

With her focus on cognitive behavior, Campanelli noted, "Every kid is a good kid; it's the behavior we don't like. It's who you are, separate from what you do." A strategy she uses is to "give them a choice and let them decide, or I decide for them, if it's a bad choice. I give them the space to be independent." Her job is to foster that independence, as well as self-esteem, while working collaboratively with teachers.

She took time to credit her colleague, Tina Olsen, a special education teacher with whom she works. Though they work in separate classrooms, "We're always communicating," Campanelli said. "Tina is a compassionate, stable leader. The strength of her character helps the kids — and me — rise up. We have similar beliefs and ways of handling things." The two partner as a tag team, giving each other a heads-up if a certain child is struggling in any way, and they support each other through the process.

"A big part of my job is to help students understand what they are being asked to do and supporting them academically so they can be successful," Campanelli said. ■

Canton robotics showcased at state level

With a historical reference to the ingenuity of women during World War II, Canton Middle School's own Robo Rosies recently showed their own initiative and spirit by participating in the Connecticut FIRST LEGO® League (FLL) State Championships.

The Rosies performed well at the event, winning a prized Core Values® award.

"The Rosies really displayed many of the values FLL represents. They were acknowledged for their top-notch teamwork, commitment to each other, and their commitment to expanding STEM education for other young girls," said Jon Bishop, K-12 STEM coordinator for the district.

That win for the group of seven middle school girls came on the heels of their first-place win at the FLL Farmington Big Bird Bridge Bonanza Regional Qualifying Tournament. The team also took home the robot performance award, given for the highest performing robot of the tournament. Utilizing the theme of extended space travel, and considering how to support astronauts on missions lasting a year or more, the girls explored ways to improve sleep and proprioception, or the body's sense of its place in space, in order to act more efficiently and more quickly be reacclimated to a planet upon arrival or return.

The Rosies team's logo points to their creativity as it pays homage to



Robo Rosies

the historical character and a play on words that includes a rose and a STEM that alludes to the overriding theme of science, technology, engineering and math initiatives.

"Obviously, we believe that anybody and everybody has an opportunity to participate and should participate but the research shows that girls tend to go underground in STEM as they get older, so to give this platform was really not only about these exceptional girls but also about the future of our strong girls having an opportunity to participate," Bishop said.

And the Rosies weren't alone in representing Canton robotics at the state tournament.

The CMS Robotniks, whose research focused on protecting the hands of astronauts, placed 5th at the Farmington qualifier, where they won the Project Award for the most outstanding research project and solution. At the state tourna-



The CMS Robotniks

ment, they also performed very well.

"Our Robotniks had an outstanding robot run which placed them in the top ten for total points in the robot game," Bishop said. "Overall, our teams fared very well at the Connecticut state championships."

In Canton, FIRST LEGO® League offerings are available for grades 4 to 8, and serve as just one of the district's STEAM academy offerings which also includes science, robotics, engineering, and arts at all four Canton schools. Overall, greater than 200 students have participated in extracurricular STEAM offerings in Canton.

For the league, teams create and program robots that run autonomously to accomplish a variety of tasks with different point levels. Overall, teams are evaluated on their robots, their background research and their team spirit.

In addition to the Rosies and Robotniks, two Canton Intermediate School

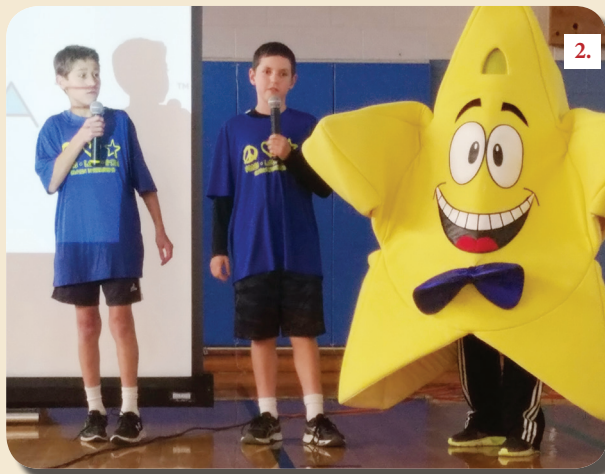
teams were part of the FIRST LEGO® League this year. They were Apollo 7 and Galactic supernovas, the latter of which won the core values award for teamwork and character at the Farmington qualifier.

Bishop was honored with his own accolades this year, with an outstanding mentor award, for which he quickly credited Robin Nardini, K-6 Technology Integration Specialist and Stevie Juliano, CIS Enrichment Specialist, as well as Canton High School freshman J.R. Rottkamp, who served as a FIRST LEGO® League assistant coach for middle school robotics, and CHS senior Cole Glasgow, a Canton High School robotics team captain. For his Eagle Scout project, Glasgow created the "fields" on which the robotics teams participate.

"I owe this honor to awesome kids and the people who helped these teams succeed," Bishop said. "I can't wait to see how we will continue to grow!" ■



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1. Shared learning at Cherry Brook Primary School

In order to further foster community and kindness among our students, the school has begun to have activities that incorporate all grades levels. This is an opportunity for students to come together and participate in shared learning experiences. Activities this year have included service projects, playing math games together and STEM activities. Students have loved learning with and about students outside of their classroom to help celebrate the students' diverse personalities!

2. International outreach at Canton Intermediate School

For the second year in a row, CIS students and teachers participated in a Raise Craze Campaign. Through this campaign, students focused on completing Acts of Kindness in the school, in the community, and across the nation and world. CIS is proud to share that the total number of registered students came to 218, the total Acts of Kindness performed came to 1,074, and the grand total money raised through this campaign was \$12,039!

3. Pajama Day a big hit at Canton Middle School

On Dec. 5, CMS hosted their annual Pajama Day, and it was a huge success! Students and staff came to school in their pajamas (Team 7 teachers came in matching onesies) and brought new sets to donate. All told, students collected 138 pairs of pajamas. The new pajamas, along with a book contributed by the Scholastic Pajama Program, will be donated to families in need for the holidays.

4. Mastery Projects at Canton High School

A key area of focus this year for the Canton High School has been a new practice and graduation requirement called the Canton Mastery Project (CMP). As students move toward the completion of their K-12 education, they study, practice, and apply an abundance of skills and knowledge. The Mastery Project course allows seniors to select an area of interest, and a style of learning in which to ultimately apply those skills and attributes gained through their previous courses and experiences. For example, the students at left wrote and produced "College Road Trip: The Musical."



3.



4.

Social and Emotional Learning Initiatives Become District-Wide Focus

Two major initiatives will promote social and emotional intelligence at all Canton schools, with one pinpointing eighth grade, specifically. According to Superintendent Kevin D. Case, “This year, we’re really focusing on social and emotional learning. This past summer, three staff members and I trained as emotional intelligence trainers.”

Along with two teachers and the director of Pupil Personnel Services, Case said, “We’re certified to train staff on how to integrate social and emotional skills into the curriculum. It’s important because research has shown that students who have high social and emotional intelligence skills achieve better in school, have fewer behavioral problems, and interact more effectively and socially.”

Canton’s focus will be on the “6 C’s in Education,” according to Case. These include: character (caring, responsible and contribution), citizenship (culture and community), communication, critical thinking and problem solving, collaboration and creativity.

Case noted, “In teaching SEL, we’re also hitting all of these C’s. By the time they graduate high school, students will demonstrate evidence that they have and utilize all these skills.” Integrating these skills aligns with Canton’s school values of kindness, collaboration and integrity.

There are 18 emotional competencies that ultimately need to be addressed, but Canton will focus on five. Case extrapolated on each. First, self-regard is “how a person feels about themselves, about having a positive self-image and more confidence in self, as well as a belief they can achieve at high levels.” Next is emotional self-awareness. According to Case, this is “teaching students to determine how they’re feeling and name the emotion. ‘I’m feeling sad because ...’ and be able to explain why they’re feeling that way.”

Case noted that these skills are just as important for adults to be



The Emotional Intelligence Team at work — From left are Elizabeth DiDomenico, Dr. Perri Murdica, Kevin D. Case, Becky Truscio and Deene Morris.

successful in life, and that Canton plans to “teach children at an early age so that they have more of a successful life as they grow.”

Interpersonal relationships is another competency that details “how to communicate effectively, work collaboratively and get along with others,” Case explained, while assertiveness is “how to make a request of someone else without being aggressive, how to be a self-advocate.”

Stress tolerance “teaches students how to handle stress in their lives,” said Case. The focus is for students to “be resilient and bounce back from difficult situations they’re having in life.”

“Research has shown that students who have high social and emotional intelligence skills achieve better in school, have fewer behavioral problems, and interact more effectively and socially.”

–Kevin D. Case

To facilitate these goals, 40 staff members from throughout the district will attend an Emotional Intelligence Academy and train in SEL. Case said, “It’s my hope that these teachers teach social and emotional strategies in their classroom. This will help students acquire the skills they need.”

The Academy will run for five sessions at the community center on Monday afternoons.

The second SEL initiative focuses

on the eighth grade with the Canton Middle School Year of Resilience 2018/2019. Having been serving as interim middle school principal, Case noted, “I’ve partnered with the Farmington Valley Health District, with two educators, Justine Ginsberg and Alicia Newton.”

The three of them will teach eighth-graders a different topic slated for each month this year. Topics include: What is Resilience?, Developing Friendships, Asking for Help, Community, Responsibility, Communication, Team Work, Empathy vs. Sympathy, and a Re-cap of topics in June for a parent evening presentation.

There will be opportunities

for students to have a lunchtime discussion with Case, Ginsberg and Newton two weeks after each program. Students’ first lunch discussion was held Nov. 12, and 10 children attended at their choosing.

“They’ve been soaking it up like sponges at this point,” Case observed. Since it’s so early in the program, he said this session was really to “establish rapport. Throughout the year, they’ll share things in their lives and learn

strategies to help deal with things in life.”

This program was made possible with a grant from Youth Services Bureau in Canton, Case noted, adding that it helps “pay for journals for students to journal on topics, as well as purchase books that relate to each topic.”

Canton’s Year of Resilience addresses and picks apart these issues, and teaching real-life skills are “as important as algebra and chemistry,” said Ginsberg, BSN, RN, and FVHD’s community health coordinator and program director of Resilience Grows Here, part of a national initiative called Making Connections for Mental Health and Well-being Among Men and Boys.

Using lessons learned from running the RGH program in East Granby Middle School last year, the Farmington Valley Health District establishes “partnerships with local schools to teach students about resilience through the exploration of topics such as friendships, boundaries, relationships, the importance of physical and mental health, teamwork, communication and asking for help.”

Resilience characteristics are a “lifelong skill,” said Ginsberg. As they grow and develop, “children need constant exposure on how to ask for help and where, how to express feelings and have an emotionally stable person in their life.”

“If we change the life of a single child, we can change the world,” Ginsberg said. ■

Athletes grounded in community service

This fall some of the greatest Canton athletic victories came off the field. Fall sports teams raised \$391 for Play4the-Cure National Foundation for Cancer Research.

While supporting that cause isn't new for Canton, athletic coordinator Kim Church encouraged each team to raise funds in their own way and perform community service, while being creative with both efforts. The change was designed to instill leadership opportunities.

The fall sports teams did a remarkable job with this," she said.

The Canton volleyball team, for example, continued its efforts to support brain cancer research in partnership with Avon student Morgan Platt, who was diagnosed with a brain tumor more than seven years ago and coach Eileen Holden's late father Kevin Scott Holden, who passed away in 2014. Additionally, the Canton football team auctioned off their yardwork services, while the girls soccer team and field hockey teams held youth clinics. The Boys soccer team collected items for the Canton Food Bank and the Cross Country team placed wood chips on the trail behind the school and new boards over the wetlands to improve community access.

Those efforts were a major factor in the Connecticut Interscholastic Athletic Conference's decision to award Canton the 2017-18 Michaels Achievement Cup for the third time in the last four years. The honor emphasizes sportsmanship.

Also Carter Gavin will represent Canton and the North Central Connecticut Conference on the CIAC's Class Act Initiative advisory board.

On the field, nearly every fall team benefited from another community project, the permanent lighting at the multi-use track and field facility, funded through a two year campaign by Lights on Canton, a subcommittee of the Canton Athletic Booster Club, were used for 21-night games this fall including a youth football and youth soccer game.

The lights allow for more practice time and for games to start a little later, both allowing spectators a better chance to get to the game and opening

scheduling opportunities.

"It's not just the high school; this is for the youth teams too. This is really for the present and the future of Canton athletics," Church said. "It's enhanced the experience for athletes of all ages and it's enhanced the experience of the community members that have using the track to walk and run as a lifestyle exercise."

On the field there were many successes as well, including state tournament runs and a season record 10 wins for Girls Soccer.

Other sports successes included:

Boys Soccer

Record: 12-7

Tournament Results: Made it to the quarter-finals of the Class S state tournament

All-NCCC: Ty Aleksa, Michael Cavanaugh, Jack Freedenberg

All-State: Jack Freedenberg

Girls Soccer

Record: 10-7

Tournament Results: Made it to the second round of the Class S state tournament

All-NCCC: Chelsea Mitchell, Brooke Shepard

All-State: Brooke Shepard

Field Hockey

Record: 10-9

Tournament Results: Made it to the semi-finals of the Class S state tournament

All-NCCC: Maddie Bahre, Abby Charron, Ashley Huff

All-State: 1st team – Maddie Bahre
2nd team – Abby Charron

Volleyball

Record: 5-15

All-NCCC: Sarah Bowman

Boys Cross Country

Record: 17-9

Tournament Results: Finished 7th in the Class SS meet

Girls Cross Country

Record: 21-5

Tournament Results: Finished 5th in Class SS meet

All-NCCC: Julia Caputo, Jenna Cuniowski, Helena Winkler

Football

Record: 1-9

All Pequot conference:

Charlie Parchen and Joey Fitzgerald; Carter Gavin, honorable mention ■



The Canton volleyball team has long supported brain cancer research in partnership with Avon resident Morgan Platt.



The Canton High School football team auctioned off a leaf-raking prize to help support the team.



Canton field hockey held a youth clinic this fall.

Photo by Alicia B. Smith

Canton District Implements Food Waste Recycling Within All Schools

One special education teacher has stepped out of the classroom on behalf of the environment. For four years, Diana Hiza, who works with sixth-grade special needs students at Canton Intermediate School, has headed up food waste recycling for the school's cafeteria. The other schools have incrementally come on board.

"Diana is at the forefront of recycling," said Superintendent Kevin D. Case. "I'm really proud of how she's taken the lead in food waste recycling."

"I have to credit a Canton Community Health Fund grant for three years to get this going," said Hiza. "Kudos to them." She also credited her Green Team consisting of 12 children per grade from grades four, five and six.

Hiza explained, "We have two bins on either side of the cafeteria — one for plastics, one for food waste. The kids are trained that anything that goes in their mouth can go in the food waste, including milk cartons. The wax paper is an



accelerant, which is a good thing."

The food waste is collected by Blue Earth Compost (www.blueearthcompost.com), run by Alex Williams, CEO & founder, in West Hartford, according to Hiza, who added, "This is where the money comes in. We pay them to collect the waste, which is then delivered to Quantum Biopower in Southington." She said an anaerobic digester is used to create compost, or fertilizer, and animal bedding.

"They sell the compost and bedding," Hiza explained.

"This prevents food waste from going into the landfill," Case added.

"We're excited about it because we're the first school in Connecticut with a comprehensive food waste program, districtwide," said Hiza. "The middle school kids have started it." She named eighth-graders Molly McLellan and Emma Mason as the school's Green Team, and noted, "They've been doing this since fourth grade."

Case said, "Diana has taken the lead on what the students should do here at the middle and high school," with middle school teacher Betty Butler as Green Team supervisor.

"All kitchens in the three buildings have gotten on board with the help of our custodial staff," Hiza noted.

"We're hoping to train Cherry Brook Primary School kids," Case said, adding that the kitchen is set up for food waste recycling.

Hiza happily announced that over four years, 8,000 pounds — four tons worth — have been diverted from the landfill — "a couple of elephants' worth, I like to tell the kids." She also noted that "this is a wonderful process for the kids. They're learning about the environment, teamwork, community. They give up part of their lunch time to help supervise waste bins, including meetings throughout the year. I'd like to thank my principal, Kevin Hanlon, and Kevin Case for getting everybody to move along." ■

Parenting for Prevention

It's no secret that parents are continually seeking ways to help their children navigate an increasingly technologically advanced and increasingly complicated world that comes with many benefits, but just as many potential pitfalls.

Inspired by discussions with parent teacher organizations at all Canton Schools, district officials decided three years ago to offer Parenting for Prevention workshops.

Partnering with the Community of Concern/Youth Services Bureau, and other partners, the workshops involve open, honest and often sobering conversations on topics

such as bullying, substance abuse and cyber safety.

"This is an effort to really partner with the community about topics of concern," said Julie Auseré, Board of Education chair.

Now in its third year, the programming for 2018-19 has included a forum on Vaping and Juuling in partnership with The McCall Center for Behavioral Health and information about Technology and Cyber Safety in partnership with the Farmington Valley Health District.

An upcoming program on Jan. 24, 2019 involves an Anti-Defamation League Student, Family and Community Workshop on individu-

al differences. It will be led by the ADL and CHS student leaders.

The workshops have grown steadily and have continually incorporated new features. For the upcoming program, Canton High School students have offered babysitting duties during the program so parents with younger children can more easily attend.

Additionally the district is working on other ideas to help spread the word and the information contained in the programs. One idea is to record a podcast with the guest speakers, allowing for parents to hear additional information and ideas, while still allowing parents the

chance to speak freely at the forums.

Dr. Jordan Grossman, Assistant Superintendent of Schools, said that as the district works on its 2020-2025 strategic plan, it will likely use this programming as a stepping board for more community-based interaction.

Auseré heartily agrees.

"As a parent you get so wrapped up in the day to day execution that sometimes it's hard to keep track of how the world's evolving around us and what our kids are exposed to," she said.

Slideshows from each presentation can be found at cantonschools.org. ■

Rachel S. Antonucci Looks to Integrate Artistic Disciplines

Rachel Stevens Antonucci discovered her passion for clarinet early in life, but it was her fourth-grade band teacher, Sharon Vocke, who really nurtured that talent and set up a path that opened the door to musical opportunity.

"I was a product of an elementary band teacher seeing something in me," said Antonucci, who recently came to Canton Schools as K-12 Music Department Chair and Canton High School Director of Bands. She started the position this year and loves that the position allows her to lead a department while still directing bands and teaching classes such as AP Music theory and honors composition.

"I couldn't have designed a more interesting job. I love to work with adults and students and it's a really great mix here," she said.

Antonucci has a Bachelor of Science in music education and a Bachelor of Arts in Music from the University of Connecticut, a Master of Music in Music Education from The Hartt School and a sixth year in educational leadership from Central Connecticut State University. Her previous work has included band director at Memorial Middle School in Middlebury, band director at Mansfield Middle School in Storrs and, most recently, band director and teacher at Cooperative Arts and



Courtesy photo

Humanities Magnet High School in New Haven.

Canton's musical successes are well known, with award-winning musical groups, concerts known for high professionalism and challenging selections, alumni that are performing professionally and top-rated teachers. The district was named one of the National Association of Music Merchants Foundation's 2018 Best Communities for Education, an honor it has received numerous times.

Antonucci loves the way music is emphasized at Cherry Brook Primary School, with increasing opportunities as students grow, but all while "honoring the whole person" and understanding the multi-faceted interests of students.

Prisms

"Season 19 Episode Prisms"
Saturday, Feb. 9, 7:30 p.m.
Canton High School
Auditorium

Legally Blonde, The Musical

March 15 and 16 at 7 p.m.
and March 17 at 2 p.m.
Canton High School
Auditorium

Antonucci especially loves to watch the kids grow.

"I love to see the change over time of the students, both musically but also as young people and to see that raw middle school energy kind of harnessed in 9th and 10th grade, then to see the leaders they become as juniors and seniors," she said. "That's the work. We aren't necessarily looking to create hundreds of musical professionals, but rather people who would be totally competent and confident to participate in college and community groups, really as a way of connecting."

In working with department staff, Antonucci loves to emphasize successes, while sharing ideas.

"We don't always know about the great things that each other are doing," she said. "What I've been doing in department meetings, for part of the time, is having conversations about the great things that are already working so we can build off each other's work vertically rather than re-inventing the wheel or teaching something the kids already know."

In addition to continuing with current offerings, Antonucci hopes to expand on student centered opportunities, such as the annual student-produced, multi-media PRISMS show.

"I'm really excited to see the Prisms process at work, I can't wait to see the students lead us through this experience, because there is nothing quite like it," she said.

Antonucci is also interested in exploring other opportunities for leadership, new musical formats and styles and perhaps even an artistic space where students can collaborate across artistic disciplines.

Above all, she's excited to work with others to continue opportunities for students.

"I'm really excited to take on that formal role of leadership. I think that when adults come together and talk about the work it can only strengthen the experience for students. All teachers work behind the scenes, but this is a formal opportunity and I'm really thankful for it." ■

Canton Board Of Education 2018-19 Goals

Each year, the Board of Education establishes board goals to guide the work for the district. These goals are divided into groups by committee, as well as full board goals. While we have many goals, these are some highlights of goals for the 2018-19 school year:

Full Board goals

- Celebrate successes in the District (student presentations at board meetings, Canton Celebrates, newsletter)
- Engage with State Legislators

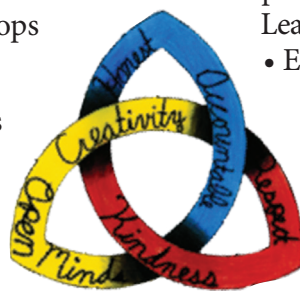
- to support public education
- Examine feasibility of School Resource Office
- Continue to examine the early childhood curriculum through the Early Childhood Task Force
- Update Technology Plan

Communication

- Hold 4 community workshops on topics of community concern
- Coordinate State of Schools event in November with Live streaming
- Work with PTOs to understand community concerns

Curriculum

- Monitor new curriculum programming (CHS schedule, Canton Mastery Project, Science standards, Columbia University Readers' and Writers' Workshop at CMS)
- Implement Social-Emotional Learning Pre-K thru 12
- Examine needs in music department K-12
- Examine needs for cultural related topics in K-12 curriculum



Policy

- Update policies in accordance with state legislation
- Review bus technology/transportation policy
- Review dress code policy
- Develop policy on creation of sports teams

Finance/Facilities

- Develop budget for 2019-20
- Develop facility condition assessment plan/ 3-5 year capital improvement plan ■

Jeffrey W. Moore Ready To Work Collaboratively While Leading Canton Middle School

While working at High Meadow Day Camp as a teenager, Jeffrey W. Moore, the new principal at Canton Middle School, found his passion for working with kids.

"I had good teachers and I remember that experience very fondly, but what made me think that I could do it was being a summer camp counselor and just hanging out with kids and building strong relationships — that realization that if you are genuine and kind and have a sense of humor and have patience, things generally go OK with kids."

But after Moore finished Suffield High School and went on to the University of Connecticut, it didn't take long to realize there was so much more to teaching than just developing good relationships. While perhaps biased by his history education studies, he quickly realized teachers have the incredible task to passing along cultural knowledge, while finding the right balance of facts, critical thinking, problem solving, life skills, morals and values. But that didn't deter Moore. In fact, it made him more passionate about the idea of teaching.

Moore completed a five-year program at UConn, obtaining his Bachelor of Science in history education in May of 2005 and his Master of Arts in education a year later.

He also served as a teaching American history grant intern for the Capitol Region Education Council for a year and went on to teach 9th grade global history at Urban Assembly School of Music and Art in Brooklyn, N.Y., where Moore said he learned an incredible amount from his students and colleagues. From there, he taught social studies for several years at East Windsor High School.

Moore loved the classroom and never intended to leave it.

"The classroom is absolutely the most impactful and best place to work in a school," he said. "I never saw myself leaving that environment, but there was an opportunity to serve as East Windsor's history,

social studies department head. ... I was teaching and leading the department and fell in love with the things that I was able to do that made an entire group of teachers better."

Moore found he could set a tone, be careful of what he said and didn't say, and help other teachers do their best and improve the professionalism of the department.

"It was powerful to think that I was a part of that happening because I had helped those adults do better work," he said. "That's what inspired me to go back to school for my administrative degree."

He found himself back at UConn working toward his sixth-year diploma in Educational Leadership, which he obtained in May of 2012.

While there, he met his wife, Kim, a Spanish teacher who is currently global communications curriculum coordinator for Wallingford Public Schools. They ended up marrying and now have two children.

In January 2012, Moore landed at the CREC Academy of Aerospace and Engineering in Windsor, serving as assistant principal, first of grades six to eight and, for the past few years, for grades six to 12. It wasn't until the end of the 2017-18 school year that he felt a "twinge" to take the next step to seek out a principal position.

"I felt ready to tackle that next challenge, but it had to be in a place that shared my values," he said. "What was immediately appealing about Canton is how closely aligned our values are. Canton schools are very transparent with what they value in education and what they're trying to instill in kids. It's right there on the web site; it's in the job description, and everyone I met through the interview process just confirmed that this is a town that is about collaboration, about integrity, about kindness and about curiosity."

Moore also felt very welcome when considering Canton.

More than 70 candidates applied for the Canton Middle School position, which had been open as of the summer. Superintendent Kevin D. Case said Moore



Following his appointment as Canton Middle School principal, Jeffrey W. Moore, center, stands with Julie Auseré, Board of Education chair, and Kevin D. Case, Superintendent of Schools.

stood out during that process and during a site visit to the CREC Academy of Aerospace and Engineering, where the interview committee heard comments such as "Mr. Moore is the heart of the school" and "Mr. Moore changed my life."

"The things we heard at the school were just amazing," Case said. "Parents, students, teachers, non-certified staff all had exemplary things to say.

"Jeff has exhibited himself to be a very creative person, a very innovative person, a kind person who shows respect for all and who strongly believes that all students can learn. His values align with ours," Case added.

Moore, who started Dec. 3, sees that stated value of collaboration as the starting point for his role.

"If we're going to do this work together, we need to get to know each other. Getting to know the kids and families of Canton is priority number one, and just building that trust and those relationships so we can collaborate together in teaching the kids of Canton," Moore said.

Moore is also fully invested in a Canton initiative, student-centered learning.

"I know for sure that a big priority is focusing on students owning their learning," he said. "Another truth I've



Jeffrey and Kim Moore with their two children.

found in education is that when kids lead and own their learning, it's deeper. Student-centered learning is happening already. That's going to be a key priority for me, to make sure we're doing that excellent."

Moore said he wants to get to know everyone and familiarize himself with the school before establishing other specific goals, but said that moving forward he still feels his role is just one piece of the puzzle.

"What I hope to do is to bring people together and do things better together," he said. "That's the real power of a community. If one person is leading and saying we're going to do it my way, that initiative will always be only as good as that one person, but if one person brings a community together and we build something together, it's ours and it's way better than what we could have come up with on our own." ■

College Trends and College Choices

Canton students are tracking parallel to the national trends in college majors, institution choices and application process. Director of School Counseling Deb Schwager offered not only statistics, but helpful advice to students and families during this often stressful experience.

First, Schwager discussed trends in majors. One area that remains popular are majors in the area of Science, Technology, Engineering, Math (STEM).

For those in Canton interested in STEM majors, Schwager offered this advice: “Employers are saying that students should focus on courses that are well-rounded. For our engineering and math students, it’s also important to become good writers and critical thinkers. These skills are transferable across majors.” She also advises that, due to the possibility of a major change, students are encouraged to enter the college search noting if an institution has a broad range of majors from which to choose.

Schwager cited an internal exit survey conducted with the graduating class of 2018. She noted the top three motivators the college students chose were based on: major, location and cost.

Sixty-three percent of students were major-driven. “But we try to educate the students that it’s common to change your major,” Schwager reiterated. “Fit, feel and affordability are important. Look at the breadth of majors at the college.”

As for location, 55 percent of students surveyed chose a college based on where it was, typically, three hours away from home, “though southern, and increasingly mid-western, colleges are getting attention from our students,” Schwager said.

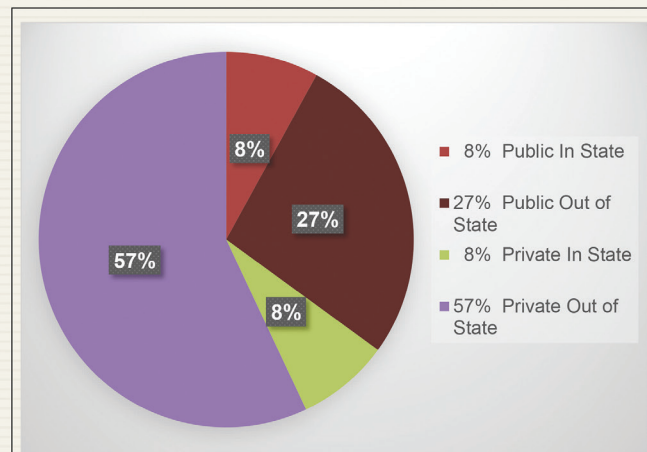
Finally, half the students surveyed said cost was a factor in choosing a college.

Other 2018 statistics include the fact that 77 percent of graduates were admitted to the first- or second-choice college. Schwager said, “We’d like to see it be 100 percent,” but this was a good number. She encouraged, “You

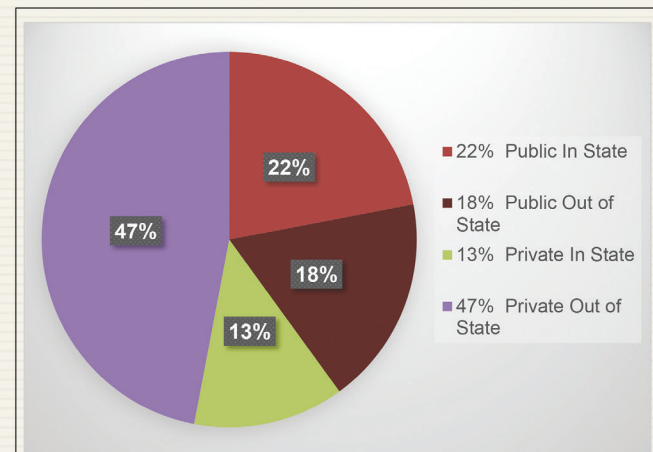
Class of 2018: College Outcomes



Where They Applied (614 applications)



Where They Matriculated



need to have an appropriate fit with your academic profile.”

Something she couldn’t emphasize enough were college visits.

“Most important to students of 2018 in making their final college decision were college visits with their families. Sixty-seven percent wished they visited more,” Schwager noted. “There’s no such thing as a wasted college visit is my mantra.”

She also described how Canton mirrors national trends in choosing a college. “A lot of our students are interested in out-of-state flagship colleges,” she said. However, she cautioned that the costs for these colleges are just as high as private colleges, which “have much more merit- and need-based aid to allocate to students than state institutions.”

Although out-of-state interest is high, students tend to actually choose in-state or private colleges in their final decisions. “Out-of-state

is as highly competitive,” many of which are “affordable and achievable, but are competing for students all over the country.”

“But our Canton students are fortunate enough to reach a full range of colleges and universities,” Schwager said. Those include large nationally recognized research institutions, Ivy League colleges and service academies.

“We strongly encourage Canton to apply early when it makes sense for the individual student,” she advised. “We don’t want them to miss any potential admissions or financial advantage.”

Focusing back on Connecticut, Schwager said, “Although we have a robust in-state university department, our flagship, UConn Storrs, has become increasingly competitive.” Average SAT scores for this year’s entering class is 1306.

“Although that can seem a high bar for some to meet, we want to

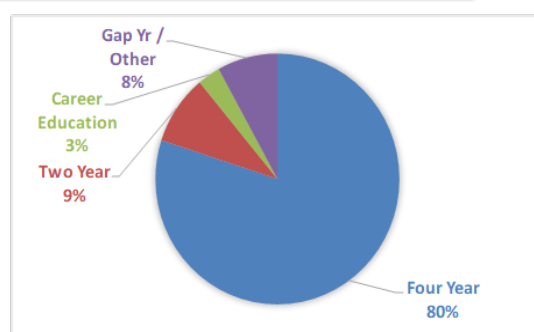
lower than UConn,” she said. “There’s a place for everyone.”

She encouraged students to look into Connecticut state universities and community colleges. Schwager said, “We want students to know that ECSU feels like a small private liberal arts college. SCSU has an outstanding nursing program. Students at WCSU participate in business internships on Wall Street. CCSU has a major for everyone, as well as being the original teachers’ college in Connecticut.”

She also encouraged students to explore “our unique state community college system. Each can provide three things to consider.” Schwager explained that their certificate programs enable students to work toward degrees while becoming quickly employable in their career of interest. Second, the associate degree programs have transfer agreements with state universities.

Finally, “there are areas of specialization unique to the community college,” she said. “For example, in our own backyard, Tunxis just launched a brand new manufacturing technology program that can quickly lead to employment in high-need areas in our state.” Whatever the student’s choice, Schwager encouraged, “There truly is a right-fit college — more than one — for every student at Canton High School who has the desire to attend.” ■

Class of 2018: College Outcomes



89% of Canton graduates enrolled directly into a two or four year program at a college or university.

reassure students that even within our own state, there are a variety of public and private colleges that are accessible to students that, with merit scholarships and need-based aid, can be the same price or

Student Achievement

SAT: Valley Comparisons

District	ERW	Math	Total
Avon	602	594	1196
Simsbury	603	592	1195
Farmington	583	582	1165
Canton	587	561	1148
RSD 10: Lewis S. Mills	569	561	1130
Granby	561	549	1110

SAT: March 2018 Scores: DRG C

District	ERW	Math	Total
Canton	587	561	1148
RSD 08: RHAM	571	574	1145
RSD 18: Lyme – Old Lyme	577	564	1141
Tolland	564	569	1133
RSD 10: Lewis S. Mills	569	561	1130
RSD 07: Northwestern	563	556	1119
RSD 17: Haddam – Killingworth	570	543	1113
Suffield	560	547	1107
RSD 19: E. O. Smith	552	547	1099
RSD 04: Valley Regional	559	522	1081
RSD 13: Durham / Coginchaug	553	522	1075
Ellington	536	528	1064
RSD 12: Shepaug	530	528	1058
Bolton	531	519	1050
RSD 14: Nonnewaug	525	517	1042
Somers	523	518	1041

Advanced Placement

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Canton High School					
Total AP Students	102	123	108	172	143
Number of Exams	195	212	220	269	232
AP Students with Scores 3+	96	103	99	136	107
% of Total AP Students with Scores 3+	94.1	83.7	91.7	79.1	74.8
Connecticut					
Total AP Students	32,202	33,885	34,533	35,935	37,275
Number of Exams	59,358	62,886	64,881	67,734	70,315
AP Students with Scores 3+	23,944	24,642	25,074	25,928	26,525
% of Total AP Students with Scores 3+	74.4	72.7	72.6	72.2	71.2
Global					
Total AP Students	2,352,026	2,497,164	2,625,319	2,762,293	2,827,137
Number of Exams	4,199,454	4,516,044	4,741,566	5,006,273	5,129,734
AP Students with Scores 3+	1,442,136	1,515,264	1,583,115	1,666,078	1,734,395
% of Total AP Students with Scores 3+	61.3	60.7	60.3	60.3	61.3

NEW CERTIFIED STAFF 2018-2019



Alexandra Slap

*Music Teacher, .4 FTE
Canton Middle School*
Previous – West Hartford Public Schools- Music Technology Substitute Teacher
Farmington Public Schools – Choral Music Substitute Teacher
Masters of Music – Longy School of Music
Bachelors of Arts – Smith College



Colleen Barnhart

*Social Studies -
.4 FTE CHS/.6 FTE CMS*
Previous – King and Queen County Public Schools, VA
Graduate of Canton High School
Masters – Curriculum & Education – University of Connecticut
Bachelors – Education & History – University of Connecticut



Katherine Mattioli

*Library Media Specialist - .4 FTE
CMS/.6 FTE CHS*
Previous – High School English Teacher – Madison Public Schools
Masters in Education – University of Connecticut
Bachelors – Journalism – Boston University



Rachel Antonucci

Canton High School Band/Music Department Chair
Previous – New Haven Public Schools Band Director
Mansfield Public Schools Band Director
Region 15 Public Schools Band Director – Memorial Middle School
Sixth Year Degree – Educational Leadership – Central Connecticut
Masters – Music Education – University of Connecticut
Bachelors – Music Education – University of Connecticut



Amanda Burkhardt

*Math
Canton Middle School*
Previous – Mathematics Tutor at Eastern Connecticut State University
Bachelors – Mathematics & Secondary Education – Eastern Connecticut State University



Thomas James

*Technology Education
Canton High School*
Previous – TAP Science Teacher – Newton, CT
Account Manager – General Electric – PA
Laboratory Technician – Microtest Laboratories
Masters – Curriculum & Instruction – University of Connecticut
Bachelors – Biology – University of Connecticut



Lorraine Gollenberg

*Science
Canton Middle School*
Previous - Middle School Science Teacher – Sachem Central School District, New York
Middle School Science Teacher - New York City Department of Education
Masters – Education – Saint John's University – New York
Bachelors – Elementary Education & General Science – Saint John's University, New York



John (Jack) Ford

*Math
Canton High School*
Previous – Math Teacher – Henry James Memorial School – Simsbury, CT
Long-Term Substitute – Math – Glastonbury High School
Trainer – The Hartford Insurance
Math Teacher – St. Paul Catholic High School
Bachelors - Mathematics – Loyola University, Maryland



Michelle Wnuk

*English
Canton High School*
Previous – RHAM High School – Hebron, Connecticut
Long Term Substitute – English – Canton High School
Special Education Teachers' Assistant – Conard High School – West Hartford
Bachelors – English – Eastern Connecticut State University

Erika Hayes Joins Canton Board of Education

When newly appointed Board of Education member Erika Hayes

and her family were looking to relocate to the Farmington Valley area, it was the Canton Public School system, specifically the warm welcome and light, airy layout at Cherry Brook Primary School that made the biggest impression.

"I just fell in love with it," she said. "I loved the teachers and the administrators. The whole vibe of the school was really what I was looking for."

That love of Canton and its schools only grew stronger and since moving here those 11 years ago from the Midwest with husband Stuart and their two kids, it didn't take long for the family to become active in the community. Erika Hayes is a volunteer with the Canton Food Bank and has served in a variety of positions for various school Parent Teacher Organizations, serving as a room parent, board member, event chair and more, which she feels gave her a good working knowledge of all four town schools, staff members and many families.

"I feel like I'm in contact with a wide variety of families and am able to hear their concerns, questions and comments," she said.

Hayes comes to the board with



From left: Kevin Case, Erika Hayes, and Julie Auseré

more than just volunteer experience. With a Bachelor's in Psychology from Wittenberg University and a Master's in Education with a focus in Counseling from the University of Dayton, followed by some experience as a hospice bereavement counselor in Ohio, she's learned much in the field of mental health.

While Hayes feels the Board is already doing a good job of keeping the mental health of students at the forefront, she wants to help ensure that remains a focus in making decisions.

"I always want to keep in mind the best practices to protect the mental health of the kids," she said. "I feel like in this day and age you can't think about that too much."

Hayes said she has been thinking of joining the board for approximately one year and feels now that her kids are middle and high-school

age, she has more time and can bring an open-minded, pragmatic and thoughtful approach that considered different perspectives to the board. She was recently appointed to fill a vacancy and her term ends in November of 2019. She is strongly considering running for the position at that time.

Hayes said her most important job is to listen and firmly believes the board, with community input, can make more of a difference than many realize.

She encourages the public to follow the board through its recordings, minutes, and sometimes live streaming and contact the board with any concerns. Hayes also looks forward to input not only from the public, but staff and administrators as well. "I feel like the most important job of any board member is to be a good listener," she said. ■

Board of Education Meeting Dates

Jan. 16	May 28
Jan. 22	June 11
Feb. 12	Sept. 10
Feb. 26	Sept. 24
March 12	Oct. 15
April 2	Oct. 29
April 30	Nov. 12
May 7	Nov. 26
May 14	Dec. 10

**Meetings start at 7 p.m.
Check website for locations**

Key Budget Dates

Tuesday, February 12, 2019 7 p.m.
Regular BOE Meeting
– *Superintendent Budget Presentation*

Monday, February 25, 2019 7 p.m.
Town Board of Finance Meeting
– *Canton Community Center*

Tuesday, February 26, 2019 7 p.m.
Board of Education Meeting
– *Public Budget Hearing*

Tuesday, March 5, 2019 7 p.m.
Special Board of Education Meeting
– *Adopt Budget*

Monday, March 11, 2019
Board of Education Budget delivered to Board of Finance per Town Charter

Tuesday, March 12, 2019 7 p.m.
Board of Education Meeting

Monday, March 18, 2019 6 p.m.
Boards of Selectmen present Budget to Board of Finance
– *Regular meeting to follow*

Wednesday, March 20, 2019 6 p.m.
Board of Education presents Budget to Board of Finance

Monday, March 25, 2019 7 p.m.
Board of Finance Public Hearing on Budget–*Canton Community Center*

Monday, April 1, 2019 7 p.m.
Board of Finance Workshop
– *Canton Community Center*

Monday, April 22, 2019 7 p.m.
Town Board of Finance Meeting
– *Canton Community Center*

Monday, May 13, 2019 7 p.m.
Annual Budget Meeting
– *Canton High School*

Board of Education Members



Julie Auseré, Chair
jausere@cantonschools.org

Ana Cavanaugh, Vice Chair
acavanaugh@cantonschools.org

Maria Bradley, Secretary
mbradley@gordoncross.com

Peg Berry
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Erika Hayes
ehayes@cantonschools.org

Ryan O'Donnell
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Jack Powell
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Joseph Scheideler
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cantontpublicschools on instagram