

## **Canton Board of Education Regular Meeting Minutes**

December 13, 2022      7:15 p.m.      Hybrid Meeting

### **Board Members:**

Lou Daniels	Absent
Felicia Jordan	Present
Russell Bush	Present
Peggy Steinway	Present
Cindy Moeller	Present
Ryan O'Donnell	Present
Erika Hayes	Present
Joseph Scheideler	Present
Kim Sullivan	Present

### **Also Present:**

Kevin D. Case, Superintendent of Schools  
Kyra Lefebvre, Information Technology  
Jon Bishop, Director of Learning & Innovation  
Bill Latz, Health Management Systems of America

### **Student Representatives:**

Simone Mesas	Present
Isabella Vogt	Present
Khalil Thomas	Absent

Felicia Jordan, Vice Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m. and led the Pledge of Alliance. F. Jordan provided K. Lefebvre and C. Nardi with kind words of appreciation on behalf of the Board. I. Vogt led the Pledge of Alliance.

Superintendent Case stated that according to the Canton Board of Education bylaw #9120, The Officers of the Board shall be the Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary who shall be elected annually by the Board at its regular meeting in December. Due to the full membership not being present this evening, it is recommended that the Board of Education suspend Board of Education Bylaw #9120 through January 31, 2023. This would require a 2/3 vote by Board of Education members present. This would allow the election of the Board of Education officers to occur at a later date on January 10<sup>th</sup>.

MOTION: Move that the Canton Board of Education suspend Board of Education bylaw #9120 through January 31, 2023.

**P. Steinway/R. Bush; unanimous**

### **PUBLIC FORUM – Casey Levine, 51 Bristol Drive, Canton (Via email)**

My name is Casey Levine and I have been the treasurer of Friends of Canton Football for nearly 4 years. I joined the board when my son was in 8th grade and looking forward to playing high school football and being a Canton Warrior. I was there in April 2019, when FOCF was informed that Canton had found the co-op they had been seeking, just not how they had envisioned. FOCF knew that football numbers had been declining and to ensure a safe, fun and successful team, joining forces with another town would be required. Of course, the hope was that a town would be joining us on our field - that Canton would be the host school. That wasn't in the cards, but we trusted that the administration had worked hard and joining with Granby on their turf was going to be the best solution. We put our full support behind that plan, though uncertain of what the future would hold. The 2019 Fall season was quite successful. Our varsity team made the playoffs and the JV team was undefeated. The players really bonded and that has only gotten stronger as the years go on. And every year we have had a season since then (2020 withstanding), we have continued to make the playoffs.

A lot has changed since FOCF formed and was successful in getting football back in Canton in 2006. We have less players, and therefore less parents to do all the work required to fund the program. Don't get me wrong – many of our current parents are just as passionate as our founders, there are just far less of them. When football came back to Canton, FOCF paid for everything - coaches, referees, equipment, busses to away games, and every little cost you could imagine (including, for a time, funding the newly added Girls Lacrosse team). The Canton Board of Ed was generous to fund the equivalent of one JV coach salary beginning about 5-6 years ago, but FOCF still pays the balance. Our costs have changed with the co-op. Now instead of explicitly paying for coaches and refs and equipment, we pay a "per player" fee to Granby to cover all those costs. In addition, because our players travel to Granby 6 days a week during the season, we also fully fund the bus that takes them to / from. This additional cost is incurred solely because we are not the host school and therefore has nothing to do with the actual cost to run a football program. Our FOCF executive board met with Mr. DiPippo and Mrs. Hirth to request funding of the bus to/from Granby for the season be added to their athletic budget. We understand this is a tall ask. We also know that not having football as a Fall sport option would be detrimental to so many

of our young men. The skills they learn on and off the field and the sheer amount of time and effort they put into this sport year-round is a real foundation for their future.

#### *Mike Forte, Canton/Granby Bears Football*

Football in Canton has never been better, the programs are growing and thriving and the future of football looks promising. There is a total of 52 players with 8 great coaches, but coops and football programs are not easy and the football team has large costs, of which \$15,000 is spent on transportation with a total cost of \$34,000 to fund the program. The Athletic department provides \$4,000 to football. The reality for the future is co-ops. All three communities make for a very good team – fundraising has been an issue, concession stand is great but the funds go to the Canton High School booster club and the one large fundraiser that is typically had was rained out, so much money was lost. He is here tonight to request that Transportation be paid for through the budget process as it is for other sports such as soccer.

*Svetlana Sandal, Elizabeth Road* – Shared a Winter festival reminder and also stated that Senora Traub and some of her students went to Simsbury last week to work on a community project, Healing Meals, but unfortunately there wasn't many students who volunteered from Canton and she was wondering how more students/adults could get involved in such a great project.

### **Student Report**

#### Past Events:

- Saturday, November 12th were Highschool Northern Regionals Festival Auditions- congratulations to Nikolai Markkanen, Cayleigh Trainor and Isabella Vogt, Grace Asmar, and Lauren Marze for acceptance!
- Tuesday November 15-Thursday the 17th were conferences for all schools
- Monday, November 21st was the CHS Instrumental Concert
- Wednesday, November 23rd was early release for all schools
- There was no school Thursday, November 24th and Friday, November 25th due to Thanksgiving recess
- Tuesday, November 29th was CHS Jr. Night
- Wednesday, November 30th was the CHS Choral Concert
- Friday, December 2nd Model UN students took their trip to UHart
- Tuesday, December 6th will be early release for all schools
- Wednesday, December 7th will be CHS Four-Year College Night
- Thursday, December 8th was the CMS 7th grade winter concert
- Saturday, December 10th was the CBPS PTO Gingerbread House Event

#### Upcoming Events:

- Wednesday, December 14th will be the CIS Grade 6 Winter Concert
- Friday, December 16th is the CMS Student Council Winter Dance
- Friday, December 23rd will be a half day for all schools
- Monday, December 26th - Monday, January 2nd will be the district wide Holiday Recess
- Thursday, January 5th will be the CHS Astronomy Night

#### Ongoing:

- We hope that everyone has a wonderful Winter break, happy holidays!

### **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT, Kevin Case**

Superintendent Case provided an update on a recommended program that he would like to bring to the School District. It's Mental Health Support for Canton Middle and High School Students. This support will be paid for by ARPA funds that have been put aside for students to help support social and emotional health. He shared a summary of the Student Assistance program and a representative from the company was present at the meeting to provide additional insight regarding the program. Focus of the program is to provide confidential, free support for student including unlimited coaching sessions via zoom and 24/7 crisis support access to clinicians. The program is completely voluntary and is designed to help students with personal, family or school related concerns. The company is called Health Management Systems of America and if approved, the effective date of the program for middle/high school students will be January 1, 2023. Superintendent Case also spoke about the NEASC visit that was held in early December stating how impressed the committees were with the High School and he thanked all involved to make the visit a great experience for the district. Was very impressed by the quality of work the students were doing and the quality of teaching that was observed as well as the CAMP projects that they reviewed. The committee will write up the report that will be shared with the Board at a later date. Lastly, he shared that the next Community Conversation on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion will take place on January 18, 2023 from 7-8:30 p.m. This will be the first, in a series of focus groups.

## PRESENTATIONS

Superintendent Case provided an overview on the latest State of Connecticut Department of Education Accountability Index Report, focusing on the twelve indicators which make up the report.

### Assistant Superintendent of Schools, Jon Bishop

J. Bishop provided an overview on the website update and provided special thanks to his assistant Lynn Young, Claudia Nardi, Kyra Lefebvre, Robin Nardini and all the support staff at the schools for their help to get this accomplished. He stated that there is a new button on the website that provides the opportunity for the public to provide website feedback. He shared that the Security RFP has gone out and that process is underway with a selection done prior to the end of the month to be able to support the safety of our schools. Also shared that there will be second community workshop hosted by Justine Ginsburg entitled “Social Media and the Minds of our Children” is scheduled for February 1<sup>st</sup>. March 8<sup>th</sup> will be the second workshop of the series and will focus on the “Anxious Child”. Lastly, Mr. Bishop shared an overview of the 2023-2024 Program of Studies as a first reading.

## RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

### CONSENT AGENDA

**MOTION:** That the Canton Board of Education accept the Consent Agenda as presented.

**J. Scheideler/E. Hayes; unanimous**

**MOTION:** Move that the Canton Board of Education approve the 2023 Board of Education meeting dates.

**K. Sullivan/R. Bush; unanimous**

**MOTION:** Move that the Canton Board of Education approve the 2023-2024 Program of Studies as a first reading.

**J. Scheideler/R.O'Donnell; unanimous**

**MOTION:** Move that the Canton Board of Education approve to accept the proposal by Health Management Systems of America to provide Mental Health Support to Canton's Middle and High Schoolers beginning on January 1, 2023.

**P. Steinway/C. Moeller; R. O'Donnell and R. Bush apposed. (6-2)**

*Discussion: R. O'Donnell had a concern about the clinician's certifications and feels that as Board members, they have a responsibility to be able to answer questions about the program offering. He would love if there were something else that we can offer students such as meditation, yoga rather than students just pushing a button. K. Sullivan shared she has the same concerns as R. O'Donnell, but voted yes because the student reps advocated for the program. R. Bush stated he is all for it, but it seems to be brought to the board rather quickly with no real chance to review. J. Scheideler shared that he has some concerns, but trusts Superintendent Case has reviewed the proposed program and shared that he concurs with Ryan as he asked great questions.*

*Superintendent Case stated that he hasn't found any other program that would benefit our students. He will measure the utilization of services and if students aren't taking advantage of the program, the contract will be ended. He stated that utilization records will be reviewed monthly. R. O'Donnell asked that the contract be amended to state that specific language. Superintendent Case stated that he will work on that piece.*

**MOTION:** Move that the Canton Board of Education move into Executive Session inviting Superintendent Case and Assistant Superintendent Jon Bishop. (9:26 p.m.)

**E. Hayes/R. Bush; unanimous**

**MOTION:** Move that the Canton Board of Education exit Executive Session at 9:40 p.m.

**R. Bush/C. Moeller; unanimous**

**MOTION:** Move that the Canton Board of Education adjourn its December 13, 2022 Board of Education meeting at 9:41 p.m.

**R. O'Donnell/R. Bush; unanimous**

Respectfully submitted,  
Kim Sullivan, Board Secretary