

Canton Board of Education Regular Meeting Minutes

November 21, 2022 7:15 p.m. Hybrid Meeting

Board Members:

Lou Daniels	Present
Felicia Jordan	Present
Russell Bush	Present
Peggy Steinway	Present
Cindy Moeller	Absent
Ryan O'Donnell	Virtual
Erika Hayes	Present
Joseph Scheideler	Present (8:24 p.m.)
Kim Sullivan	Present

Also Present:

Kevin D. Case, Superintendent of Schools
Kyra Lefebvre, Information Technology
Jon Bishop, Director of Learning & Innovation
Donna Miscikoski, Asst to the Super for Financial Affairs (8:53 p.m.)
Claudia Nardi, Asst to the Superintendent of Schools
Andrew DiPippo, Principal of Canton High School
Dr. Ruth Kidwell, Assistant Principal of Canton High School

Student Representatives:

Simone Mesas	Absent
Isabella Vogt	Absent
Khalil Thomas	Absent

L. Daniels, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m. and led the Pledge of Alliance. L. Daniels shared that a brief reception was had for J. Bishop on his new position of Assistant Superintendent of Schools and both he and Superintendent Case on behalf of the entire Board of Education, offered their congratulations on the position, effective December 1st.

PTO Reports

Andrea Barber and Julie Forte were present and provided an in-depth PowerPoint presentation and discussion on CMS PTO initiatives. Whitney O'Donnell, President of CIS PTO provided a write up of their many initiatives as well. Chair Daniels thanked them all for their dedication to the school, staff and students; stating how lucky the district is to have such dedicated volunteerism.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT, Kevin Case

Superintendent Case provided an update on the Parent/Teacher conferences and stated that he had the opportunity to see how much staff is appreciated at their corresponding schools. Parents brought in gifts and PTO provided meals at the schools for each day of conferences. The support was noticed and certainly appreciated. He provided an update on the Mascot article that was mentioned in the Hartford Courant earlier in the week stating that they did not ask Canton about the current status before publishing the article. Chair Daniels will write a letter clarifying to both Hartford Courant and Valley Press. There were so many successful Veteran's Day Ceremony's at each of the schools allowing veterans to be appreciated and honored. He thanked the Administrators and staff for their support in such a wonderful day. He attended the Teacher of the Year ceremony with Lori Devito and her family as well as participated in a district wide bus driver training. Lastly, he stated that Canton is reconvening on a Food Waste/Recycling Program – "Green Team" with the help of Diana Hiza.

CHAIR REPORT, Lou Daniels

Chair Daniels stated that he would like to have one of the January meetings provide an overview of the Districts Safety Plan with a focus on district safety. He shared that space is an issue for Central Office and with the upcoming enrollment in the schools and he would like to see if the Town would trade Community Center space with Central office. He will ask the Board to approve a motion to allow him to formalize a letter to the Town. The first Meeting in February will be an update from the Superintendent of Schools on his goals.

PUBLIC FORUM – Paul Marino, 157 High Valley Drive (In person)

Mr. Marino shared that he had a concern with Mrs. Lancaster's class and asked if there could be better communication with the parents regarding the daily occurrences so that he knows how to best communicate with his child. He shared that Mrs. Lancaster is an unbelievable teacher and understands the daily struggles but is asking for a protocol for updates for the parents. He was wondering if there could be a board certified behavioral specialist in the class to help with the distractions. He thanked the Board of Education for their time and appreciates the opportunity to voice his concern.

PRESENTATIONS

Principal of Canton High School, Andrew DiPippo and Assistant Principal, Dr. Ruth Kidwell were present and provided a presentation on their schools Capital Improvement Plans for the 2022-2023 school year.

K. Case exited the meeting at 8:20 p.m. to attend the Board of Finance Meeting and returned at 8:43 p.m.

BUSINESS MANAGER REPORT, Donna Miscikoski

Ms. Miscikoski joined the meeting at 8:43 p.m. as she was in a Board of Finance Meeting across the hall. Upon her arrival she provided an overview on the requested motions as needed to apply for the HVAC Grant Project.

DIRECTOR OF LEARNING & INNOVATION REPORT, Jon Bishop

J. Bishop provided an overview on the Communications position stating that Kyra Lefebvre is the perfect fit for the position since she is already in district and at most events/meetings; she has done a wonderful job thus far! He shared about the STAR training taking place in the district for key staff; the website launch will be effective on 11/28 and thanked his assistant Lynn Young for all of her hard work to make the deadline while working with the vendor through some difficult obstacles.

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

CONSENT AGENDA

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

F. Jordan/ R. O'Donnell; unanimous

MOTION: Move that the Canton Board of Education approve Policy 5141.3 – Health Assessments and Immunizations.

P. Steinway/J. Scheideler; (5-3) 3 opposed

MOTION: Move that the Canton Board of Education approve Policy 5141.213 - Opioid Overdose Prevention.

F. Jordan/J. Scheideler; unanimous

MOTION: Move that the Canton Board of Education approve the Superintendent's Leadership Profile provided by CABA.

R. Bush/E. Hayes; Unanimous

Ryan O'Donnell left the meeting at 9:30 p.m.

MOTION: Move that the Canton Board of Education approve the 2023 Board of Education meeting dates as a first reading.

R. Bush/K. Sullivan; unanimous

MOTION: Move that the Canton Board of Education approve the financing of the HVAC Project at Canton Middle/High School.

P. Steinway/E. Hayes; unanimous

MOTION: Move that the Canton Board of Education authorize the preparation of schematic drawings for the HVAC Project at Canton Middle/High School.

F. Jordan/R. Bush; unanimous

MOTION: Move that the Canton Board of Education authorize the Board Chair to organize a committee to finalize the Warrior Mascott.

P.Steinway/R. Bush

Discussion: E. Hayes wanted to be sure that where the previous board left off as it was left in the hands of administration and students. She is concerned that if the topic gets reopened and will turn into something else – she hopes that it doesn't get away from what it was supposed to be based on what was approved by the previous board. Chair Daniels agreed and appreciates the history. P. Steinway and R. Bush withdrew that motion.

MOTION: Move that the Canton Board of Education direct the Superintendent to go back to the Administration and students and provide Warrior Mascot options by April 2022.

K. Sullivan/E. Hayes; unanimous

Discussion: P. Steinway asked about the concern with the article published in the Hartford Courant. The Warrior name will be used, but the imagery has been disbanded.

MOTION: Move that the Canton Board of Education authorize Chair Lou Daniels to draft a letter to the First Selectman and Board of Finance regarding the space concern.

F. Jordan/R. Bush; unanimous

MOTION: Move that the Canton Board of Education adjourn its November 21, 2022 Board of Education meeting at 9:57 p.m.

P. Steinway/R. Bush; unanimous

Respectfully submitted,
Kim Sullivan, Board Secretary