

**MINUTES
CANTON AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
NOVEMBER 14, 2024**

The regular meeting of the Canton Area School District Board of Education was held in the Canton Jr/Sr High School Library on Thursday, November 14, 2024 at 5:00 p.m.

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Our President, Mrs. Judy Sourbeer, called the meeting to order, welcomed all in attendance, and reminded the audience to please sign in if they had not done so.

All stood and recited the Pledge to the Flag.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Mrs. Judy Sourbeer, President; Mr. John Ambruch, Mr. Dave DeCristo, Mr. Bill Holland, Mrs. Arica Jennings, Mrs. Sarah Neely, and Mr. Tom Resavage.

OTHERS PRESENT

Dr. Amy Martell, Superintendent; Mr. Mark Jannone, Business Manager/Board Secretary; Mr. Michael Wells, Elementary School Principal; Mr. Donald Jacopetti, High School Principal; Attorney Cassie Blaney, District Solicitor; Mrs. Amy Repard, Special Education Supervisor; Mrs. Sherry Lambert and Mr. Kevin Baker, newspaper reporters; Mrs. Asti Tillotson, Mrs. Talia Roupp, Mr. Lyle Wesneski, and Mr. Matt Jennings.

MINUTES

A motion was made by Mrs. Sarah Neely and seconded by Mr. Bill Holland to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of October 10, 2024.

Voice Vote: All seven members present voted yea.
Mr. Ryan Allen and Mr. Denny Sourbeer were absent.
Motion carried.

REPORTS

Superintendent

Dr. Amy Martell, Superintendent, reported on the following items:

- In October, the school directors approved an overnight field trip request by Mr. Frye for a Senior High Choir/Drama trip to NYC on April 24-26, 2025. Unfortunately, there may not be enough interest due to lower-than-expected participation numbers. If this event is canceled she would let the board know.
- School district social media accounts must always remain professional and consistent with the educational mission of the school district. The operators of school district social media accounts are responsible for the content and the social media accounts that they manage.
 1. Facebook: [Canton Area School District](#)
 2. Facebook: [Canton High School](#)
 3. Instagram: [cantonhighpa](#)
 4. (Twitter) X: @CantonHighPa
 5. (Twitter) X: @CASDSuperinten1
 6. YouTube: [CASD Main Youtube](#)
 7. Circle W Sports: [www.cantonwarriors.com](#)
 8. Homepage Network: [Warriors Central](#)
 9. Handshake: [commonwealth.joinhandshake.com/emp](#)
 10. Snapchat: cantonhigh_pa

Third party social media accounts are not operated or controlled by the school district. These accounts are privately created, maintained, and are not actively monitored by the district. Third-party social media accounts may not use the school district's logo(s) unless given express written

permission by the Superintendent. The school district encourages the operators of all third-party social media accounts to be good-faith ambassadors of the school district and to operate these private social media accounts in a manner that represents the school district in a positive light.

Third Party Social Media Accounts:

Facebook

[Canton Area Music Department](#)

[Canton Warrior Football](#)

[CANTON JUNIOR/SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL](#)

[Warrior Booster Club](#)

[Canton PTA](#)

Instagram:

[Canton Area Elementary School](#)

(Twitter) X:

@C_WarriorsBBall (basketball)

- As you may be aware, the Giving Tree was originally established in 1996 as an annual charitable program sponsored by the Canton Area Chamber of Commerce. The Canton Area School District has taken over the administration of the program with the Giving Tree Club providing the elf power. The Giving Tree Club is a public service organization of students desiring to give back to their community and fellow students. The Giving Tree is a program that provides Christmas gifts for children in need, who reside in the Canton Area School District. These gifts are made possible through monetary donations, as well as the benevolence of individuals, families, businesses, and organizations, who adopt a child, an entire family, or part of a family, and purchase the gifts for them. The wrapped gifts are distributed to the parents in large bags for each specific child the week prior to Christmas. Last year gifts were graciously provided for ninety-seven children in need in our school district. Giving options are:

1. Monetary Donation - to the "Giving Tree" forwarded to the Admin Office of Canton Area School District c/o "The Giving Tree Club."
2. Shop for a Child or Family - On November 22, 2024, you will be given an anonymous shopping list(s) at the school administrative office with the sizes and needs of the specific child(ren), along with approximately \$125 per child, of donated funds, to use for shopping. A large bag will be provided by the district for each child; you will return the large bag and the envelope to the administrative office with any remaining money and the receipts on Friday, December 13th. The Giving Tree Club will wrap the gifts throughout the week, to be distributed prior to the holiday break.
3. Adopt a Child or Family - You will be given an anonymous shopping list at the administrative office with the size and needs of that specific child(ren). You shop for that child and place the items in the district provided bag (wrapped or unwrapped). You will return the bags containing the gifts to the school on Friday, December 13th. Value of gifts should be approximately \$125 per child.

If you would like to participate, please contact Deanna Watkins at 570-673-3191.

- Mrs. Barr's Life Skills class is going out into the community to get job experience in various businesses. This past month, students went to St. Michael's to help with the Harvest Supper, Stull's to help with various floral tasks, CHOP in Towanda to help pack backpack bags after they helped unload shipments of food to be distributed to locations throughout the community and learned maintenance duties at New Life Church as well as our own high school.
- We welcomed Ms. Carolann Ward-Spencer into our Supplemental Learning Support classroom at the elementary school.

CITIZEN RECOGNITION - AGENDA RELATED

Mr. Lyle Wesneski spoke in favor of entering into the proposed cooperative agreement with Towanda Area School District for Canton Area School District girls to participate in girls wrestling.

BUSINESS

Treasurer's Report

A motion was made by Mrs. Arica Jennings and seconded by Mr. John Ambruch to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented for October 31, 2024. (A copy is in the supplemental file.)

Roll Call Vote: All seven members present voted yea.

Mr. Ryan Allen and Mr. Denny Sourbeer were absent.
Motion carried.

Bills

A motion was made by Mrs. Arica Jennings and seconded by Mr. John Ambruch to approve the bills for October.

Roll Call Vote: All seven members present voted yea.
Mr. Ryan Allen and Mr. Denny Sourbeer were absent.
Motion carried.

Tax Additions, Exemptions and Exonerations

A motion was made by Mrs. Arica Jennings and seconded by Mr. John Ambruch to approve the tax additions, exemptions and exonerations.

Roll Call Vote: All seven members present voted yea.
Mr. Ryan Allen and Mr. Denny Sourbeer were absent.
Motion carried.

Transportation Changes

A motion was made by Mrs. Arica Jennings and seconded by Mr. John Ambruch to approve the transportation changes.

Roll Call Vote: All seven members present voted yea.
Mr. Ryan Allen and Mr. Denny Sourbeer were absent.
Motion carried.

Agreement

A motion was made by Mrs. Arica Jennings and seconded by Mr. John Ambruch to approve the agreement between TKA Consulting and Canton Area School District for the 2024/2025 school year.

Roll Call Vote: All seven members present voted yea.
Mr. Ryan Allen and Mr. Denny Sourbeer were absent.
Motion carried.

Agreement

A motion was made by Mrs. Arica Jennings and seconded by Mr. John Ambruch to approve the Provider and School Agreement between Canton Area School District and Community School Based Behavioral Health/Friendship House for the 2024/2025 school year.

Roll Call Vote: All seven members present voted yea.
Mr. Ryan Allen and Mr. Denny Sourbeer were absent.
Motion carried.

Memorandum of Understanding

A motion was made by Mrs. Arica Jennings and seconded by Mr. John Ambruch to approve the Memorandum of Understanding between Canton Area School District and BLAST IU 17 for the purpose of school-based mental health counseling services (SMH) for the 2024/2025 school year.

Roll Call Vote: All seven members present voted yea.
Mr. Ryan Allen and Mr. Denny Sourbeer were absent.
Motion carried.

Memorandum of Understanding

A motion was made by Mrs. Arica Jennings and seconded by Mr. John Ambruch to approve the

Memorandum of Understanding between Canton Area School District and BLaST IU 17 for the purpose of a social worker for the 2024/2025 school year.

Roll Call Vote: All seven members present voted yea.
Mr. Ryan Allen and Mr. Denny Sourbeer were absent.
Motion carried.

Grant

A motion was made by Mr. Dave DeCristo and seconded by Mr. John Ambruch to accept the Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) facilities improvement grant in the amount of \$500,000 to be used to overhaul both buildings' chiller systems. The grant requires a 25% local match which amounts to \$125,000.

Roll Call Vote: All seven members present voted yea.
Mr. Ryan Allen and Mr. Denny Sourbeer were absent.
Motion carried.

Signing of Documents

A motion was made by Mr. Dave DeCristo and seconded by Mrs. Sarah Neely to authorize the Superintendent and Business Manager to sign documents related to the DCED facilities improvement grant.

Roll Call Vote: All seven members present voted yea.
Mr. Ryan Allen and Mr. Denny Sourbeer were absent.
Motion carried.

PERSONNEL

Retirement

A motion was made by Mrs. Arica Jennings and seconded by Mr. Tom Resavage to accept the following retirement:

- a. Karen Mariano, Elementary Music Teacher, effective 5/30/25, with 19 years of service.

Roll Call Vote: All seven members present voted yea.
Mr. Ryan Allen and Mr. Denny Sourbeer were absent.
Motion carried.

Resignation

A motion was made by Mrs. Arica Jennings and seconded by Mr. Tom Resavage to accept the following resignation:

- a. Sherry Heasley, Full-Time (12 month) Custodian, retroactive to 11/11/24, with six months of service.

Roll Call Vote: All seven members present voted yea.
Mr. Ryan Allen and Mr. Denny Sourbeer were absent.
Motion carried.

New Employees

A motion was made by Mrs. Arica Jennings and seconded by Mr. Tom Resavage to approve the hiring of the following new employee:

- a. Garrett Wesneski, Elementary Teacher, M0 Step 1, \$68,265.00 (prorated), effective 1/14/25 or when released, with full benefits, pending completion of required employment paperwork and contingent upon expansion of his teaching certificate to include grades 5 and 6 by August 18, 2025.

Roll Call Vote: All seven members present voted yea.
Mr. Ryan Allen and Mr. Denny Sourbeer were absent.
Motion carried.

Ticket Taker Fee

A motion was made by Mrs. Arica Jennings and seconded by Mr. Tom Resavage to approve the pay rate of \$35 per game for all ticket takers, retroactive to 9/7/24.

Roll Call Vote: All seven members present voted yea.
Mr. Ryan Allen and Mr. Denny Sourbeer were absent.
Motion carried.

Substitute List Additions

A motion was made by Mrs. Arica Jennings and seconded by Mr. Tom Resavage to approve the following additions to the substitute list, pending completion of required paperwork:

- a. Bryttani VanValkenburg, Nurse, retroactive to 10/31/24
- b. Gracie Fitch, Prospective Teacher Substitute, retroactive to 10/18/24
- c. Brooke Russell, Certified Teacher Substitute

Roll Call Vote: All seven members present voted yea.
Mr. Ryan Allen and Mr. Denny Sourbeer were absent.
Motion carried.

Volunteer List Additions

A motion was made by Mrs. Arica Jennings and seconded by Mr. Tom Resavage to approve the following volunteers (all paperwork is complete):

- a. Chloe Ward, Kindergarten field trips, retroactive to 10/14/24
- b. Katelyn Andrus, Basketball Cheerleading, retroactive to 10/18/24
- c. Courtney Roof, PTA, retroactive to 10/23/24
- d. Tim Driscoll, Boys' Basketball, retroactive to 10/25/24
- e. Cassandra Blaney, High School Field Trips and Drama Club, retroactive to 10/25/24
- f. Miranda Peffer, First Grade, retroactive to 10/30/24
- g. Tom Evans, Boys' Basketball, retroactive to 11/7/24

Roll Call Vote: All seven members present voted yea.
Mr. Ryan Allen and Mr. Denny Sourbeer were absent.
Motion carried.

Unpaid Days

A motion was made by Mrs. Arica Jennings and seconded by Mr. Tom Resavage to approve unpaid days for the month of October 2024, for the following employee:

- a. #1906 1 day

Roll Call Vote: All seven members present voted yea.
Mr. Ryan Allen and Mr. Denny Sourbeer were absent.
Motion carried.

FINANCE/POLICY

Second Reading

A motion was made by Mr. John Ambruch and seconded by Mr. Tom Resavage to approve the second reading of the following revised policies:

- a. No. 234 Pregnant/Parenting/Married Students
- b. No. 247 Hazing
- c. No. 249 Bullying/Cyberbullying
- d. No. 252 Dating Violence
- e. No. 317.1 Educator Misconduct
- f. No. 333 Professional Development
- g. No. 336 Personal Necessity Leave
- h. No. 337 Vacation
- i. No. 339 Uncompensated Leave
- j. No. 616 Payment of Bills
- k. No. 807 Opening Exercises/Moment of Silence/Flag Displays
- l. No. 816 District Social Media
- m. No. 824 Maintaining Professional Adult/Student Boundaries

Roll Call Vote: All seven members present voted yea.
Mr. Ryan Allen and Mr. Denny Sourbeer were absent.
Motion carried.

First Reading

A motion was made by Mr. John Ambruch and seconded by Mr. Tom Resavage to approve the first reading of the following revised policies:

- a. No. 103 Discrimination/Harassment Affecting Students
- b. No. 103.1 Nondiscrimination-Qualified Students with Disabilities
- c. No. 104 Discrimination/Harassment Affecting Staff
- d. No. 113.1 Discipline of Students with Disabilities
- e. No. 113.2 Behavior Support
- f. No. 239 Foreign Exchange Students
- g. No. 309 Assignment and Transfer

Roll Call Vote: All seven members present voted yea.
Mr. Ryan Allen and Mr. Denny Sourbeer were absent.
Motion carried.

OTHER ITEMS

Program

A motion was made by Mrs. Arica Jennings and seconded by Mrs. Sarah Neely to recognize the Canton Youth Color Guard Program for the purpose of liability insurance inclusion.

Voice Vote: All seven members present voted yea.
Mr. Ryan Allen and Mr. Denny Sourbeer were absent.
Motion carried.

Field Trip

A motion was made by Mrs. Arica Jennings and seconded by Mrs. Sarah Neely to approve the following overnight field trip:

- a. From Randy Frye, District Chorus at Bloomsburg, February 5-7, 2025.

Voice Vote: All seven members present voted yea.
Mr. Ryan Allen and Mr. Denny Sourbeer were absent.
Motion carried.

Agreement

A motion was made by Mrs. Arica Jennings and seconded by Mrs. Sarah Neely to approve the Cooperative Sports Agreement between the Canton Area School District and Towanda Area School District for the purpose of forming a girls' wrestling co-op.

Voice Vote: All seven members present voted yea.
Mr. Ryan Allen and Mr. Denny Sourbeer were absent.
Motion carried.

Social Media Platforms

A motion was made by Mrs. Arica Jennings and seconded by Mrs. Sarah Neely to approve the following list of social media platforms to serve as official Canton Area School District approved accounts:

- a. Facebook: Canton Area School District
- b. Facebook: Canton High School
- c. Instagram: canton_high_pa
- d. (Twitter) X: @CantonHighPa
- e. (Twitter) X: @CASDSuperinten1 (we are in the process of trying to delete this account)
- f. YouTube: CASD Main Youtube
- g. Circle W Sports: <https://www.cantonwarriors.com/>
- h. Homepage Network: Warriors Central
- i. Handshake: commonwealth.joinhandshake.com/emp
- j. Snapchat: cantonhigh_pa

Voice Vote: All seven members present voted yea.
Mr. Ryan Allen and Mr. Denny Sourbeer were absent.
Motion carried.

CITIZEN RECOGNITION - NON-AGENDA RELATED

There were no comments.

Announcements

There was an Executive Session prior to the Board Meeting, at 4:45 p.m., to discuss personnel matters.

The next Board Meeting will be held Thursday, December 5, 2024, at 5:00 p.m. in the Canton Jr/Sr High School Library, Canton, PA.

Meeting Adjourned

A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Tom Resavage and seconded by Mr. Bill Holland.

Voice Vote: All seven members present voted yea.
Mr. Ryan Allen and Mr. Denny Sourbeer were absent.
Motion carried.

Mrs. Sourbeer adjourned the meeting at approximately 5:28 p.m. on a unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark S. Jannone
Business Manager/Board Secretary