



CANTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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Louis M. Daniels
Chair, Canton Board of Education

As the month of February rolls through, it signals two calendar milestones: the school year is half over and the budget season is in full gear.

Recently the Board of Education welcomed three new members, Kyra Sheehan, Jonathan Webb, and Leslee Hill. Now that the 2008-2010 Board of Education is in place, subcommittee assignments have been designated ([please see "Subcommittees" on the website](#)) and the meeting schedules are being posted. All subcommittee meetings are open to the public.

I would like to thank our Negotiations Subcommittee for their hard work over the past 18 months. They did a wonderful job on behalf of the district in successfully completing all four bargaining unit contracts. The results are fair and appreciated by both the Board of Education and the respective unions.

In addition to the budget work ahead, the Board is deeply involved in solving our very complex and challenging space issues. A series of public forums, facilitated by our DRA consultants, was held recently to analyze our "space crunch." While our primary focus is on Cherry Brook Primary School, the solution(s) could have ramifications for all our buildings. I would encourage parents K-12 to attend our next public hearing (TBA) at which specific options will be discussed.

At the January 24th BOE meeting, the Board passed its 2008-2009 Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) as required by Town Charter. [The details of the plan are posted on our website](#). The CIP Plan is designed to handle facility maintenance and large acquisitions over \$10,000. The Board is committed to the upkeep of our buildings and grounds, and the CIP reflects those needs with a short term and long term plan. The town will approve the CIP along with the Operating Budget during the town-wide referendum in May.

Completing the CIP Plan means the BOE can now devote much of its time to the development and details of our 2008-2009 Operating Budget. The Board and Administration are keenly aware of today's economic climate and intend to put forth a budget request to the town that reflects the times yet keeps our district moving forward. We encourage Canton taxpayers to attend the developmental and public hearing meetings (see BOE calendar). Your input is requested and welcome.

Our Superintendent, Kevin Case, will be initiating an Advisory Council this spring to assist him with a variety of topics and issues facing the district. Interested parties should contact Central Office or email the Superintendent.

I am very excited about the second half of this school year. Decisions will be made with far reaching effects on our school system. Decisions that will help our district go from good to great. Please join us when you can to participate and provide us with your thoughts. We value our partnership.

Enjoy the New Year!

Regards,

Lou Daniels, Chair
Canton Board of Education