

Carlisle School Committee
Minutes
Wednesday, March 17, 2021
7:00 p.m.
Carlisle School Cafeteria
and Zoom Remote Access

Present– School Committee: Christine Lear - Chair, Amanda Comperchio, Jack Huntress, Eva Mostoufi

Present – School Committee via Zoom: Sara Wilson

Present– School Administration: James O’Shea, Superintendent

Present – School Administration via Zoom: Dennet Sidell, Elementary School Principal; Lori Bruce, Director of Student Support Services; Matt Mehler, Middle School Principal; Dennet Sidell, Elementary Principal; Anne Mahan, Business Manager; Lori Bruce, Director of Student Support Services; Rob Fortado, Facilities Manager; Nancy Anderson, Assistant to the Superintendent.

In order to adhere to social distancing guidelines, 5 members of the public were allowed access to this meeting in the cafeteria at the Carlisle School. Per Governor Baker’s order suspending certain provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A sec. 20, members of the public who could not access this meeting in the cafeteria were able to access it via live stream at:

<https://carlisle-k12-ma-us.zoom.us/j/81181944809?pwd=VWg4aURxUUUpVd1BxOEo3YjdIRFZkdz09>

Meeting ID: 811 8194 4809

Passcode: 013391

Public comments were posted via the chat box. Questions/Comments were read and answered by the School Committee via live stream.

I. Call to Order

Ms. Lear called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. and stated that the meeting was being recorded.

II. Review/Approve Minutes

- A. Meeting of February 24, 2021. Ms. Comperchio made a motion to approve the minutes of February 24, 2021; Mr. Huntress seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The following votes were taken in roll call: Comperchio, aye; Huntress, aye; Lear, aye; Mostoufi, aye; Wilson, aye.

III. Information/Discussion Items

- A. FY22 School Choice Hearing. Ms. Wilson made a motion to open the FY22 School Choice hearing; Ms. Comperchio seconded the motion. The following votes were taken in roll call: Comperchio, aye; Huntress, aye; Lear, aye; Mostoufi, aye; Wilson, aye. Ms. Lear asked if anyone would like to speak in favor of School Choice. Carrie Patel spoke, and said that she is a huge proponent of School Choice, and would also advocate for bringing METCO to Carlisle. She would like to see anything done that would result in a more diverse population at the Carlisle Schools. Ms. Lear asked if anyone would like

to speak in opposition to School Choice; there were no responses. Ms. Lear asked if anyone would like to speak neither for nor against School Choice but wishes to offer other information; there were no responses. Ms. Lear, having heard all of the comments, asked for a motion to close the School Choice Hearing. Mr. Huntress made a motion to close the School Choice Hearing; Ms. Wilson seconded the motion. The following votes were taken in roll call: Comperchio, aye; Huntress, aye; Lear, aye; Mostoufi, aye; Wilson, aye.

- B. Student/Faculty Presentation. There was no formal presentation tonight. It was noted that two eighth grade students, Nafeesa Hoda and Gretchen Hedlund, will join the Carlisle School Committee for meetings from now through the end of the school year.
- C. State and Local COVID Dashboard. Mr. O'Shea reported that there have not been positive COVID cases at the School since March 4. No classes are currently remote except the Family Choice Remote students. The Carlisle positive case count, as of March 11 is 7, and the test positivity rate is 1.06%. The State 14-day test positivity rate is 1.83%. Mr. O'Shea thanked Chief Sorrows and the Carlisle EMTs and Fire Department for providing testing. He said the School is in week 3 of pooled testing. In week 1, 39 staff participated; in week 2, 36 staff and 110 students participated; in week 3, 35 staff and 163 students participated. There have been all negative results to date. Pooled testing will continue through April 12. Ms. Wilson added that the Wall Street Journal reported that a portion of the 10 billion dollar stimulus is funding a portion of COVID testing in schools. Carlisle will decide if the School will continue pool testing after April 12. This will be discussed at the next CSC meeting.
- D. School/Superintendent Update. In February, the State released updated guidance about spacing on the school bus. School representatives and a CSC representative met with the Board of Health to come up with a plan for Carlisle busses. This discussion resulted in a change of moving from a child in every other seat to a child in every seat; and siblings can sit together. Increased numbers of students on the bus will help alleviate some of the traffic in drop off and pick up times. Mr. O'Shea thanked everyone for being patient and cooperative at drop off and pick up times at the School. The vaccine is currently being given to educators; about 40% of Carlisle faculty and staff have been fully or partially vaccinated to date. Mr. O'Shea thanked the colleagues who assisted other colleagues in getting appointments. Ms. Mahan, Mr. Huntress and Mr. O'Shea went to FinCom on Monday and presented the \$12,189,300 School budget, which is a 5.45% increase over FY20 and FY21, or a 4.75% increase after adjusting for the technology transfer from Long Term Capital. It was noted that additional aid may come to Carlisle in the future. The Commissioner and Governor Baker are stressing the importance of returning all students to full in person. More students are returning from FCR tomorrow. It was noted that distancing will be below 6 feet in some classrooms. The Facility Department and Custodial Services Assessment with CORE America is underway. This involves looking at the School structure, cleaning expectations, staffing, and finding efficiencies; the company will also engage the Town in the process. A 3rd party will give us guidance, and how we might join with the Town in this approach moving forward. The report will be generated in 3 weeks. The DESE has been conducting a review of our ELL program. The Tiered Monitoring Review of Special Education and Civil Rights is also underway with site visits and interviews. We should receive the finished report in 30 days and Ms. Bruce will present the results. The School has received positive feedback to date. The

PTO book fair is next week, March 22-26. Students can visit in small groups and FCR students are invited too. Virtual Read Across America was March 2. Thank you to the PTO for sponsoring it. On March 31, there is no school due to parent teacher conferences. The CSC will be voting on the dissolution of EDCO this evening. Member districts were assessed 50% of the projected operating deficit for FY21 in order to provide liquidity for operations. Mr. O'Shea gave a water update. We had been testing water for manganese, flushing the well and the numbers were decreasing. However, this week numbers are back up. They will drop a camera down the well next; if a problem can be seen, the levels might be able to be addressed differently. We are still dealing with previous water issues and continue to work with the DOE to address these problems.

- E. Brick Building Update. Mr. O'Shea shared that Kathy Keller is working on the window sash replacement project and submitting paperwork to Massachusetts Historic Commission. The School does not have funds to invest in these projects, so RecCom asked for a 5-year lease of the building. If this is granted, RecCom will invest money to repair the Brick Building issues. Other repairs include updating plumbing fixtures and the water heater. There will be contractual language regarding repairs and upkeep. Mr. Fortado will support the RecCom when needed.
- F. 2021-2022 School Calendar. Mr. O'Shea shared the draft calendar, that includes a pre-Labor Day start where students arrive on September 1 with a long Labor Day weekend. The first day for faculty and staff is August 30. There are 12 early release days on Wednesdays, and October 11 is Indigenous People's Day. There are professional days and parent conferences, traditional holidays, February and April vacation, and the last day with no missed days is June 16. We built in snow days to June 23, with June 20 celebrated as Juneteenth. The CSC received correspondence that asked if we work with Concord on the calendar and Mr. O'Shea noted that traditionally Carlisle and Concord have been largely aligned. It was noted that early release days and conference days are different. For FY22, Concord has its teachers back a week earlier than Carlisle. In the conversations with the Calendar Committee, the aim was to give parents the consistency of the Wednesday half days. Ms. Wilson asked why the day off couldn't be on Thursday, preserving the day and half that families are used to having. She also asked about having professional days on a Friday. Ms. Wilson said that it was always nice to have a full day off after the Spaghetti supper too. Dr. Mehler added that the School will look for guidance from the governor about how many people we can host for such an event, but is also exploring putting off the Spaghetti supper until the spring. Mr. O'Shea will reconvene the Calendar Committee to discuss the ideas presented, and Ms. Lear asked members to email Mr. O'Shea with additional ideas. The vote on the calendar will be postponed.
- G. Superintendent Evaluation. Ms. Comperchio had a couple of recommendations to the form provided by the DESE. Ms. Lear felt it needed to address COVID because it is a huge part of what Mr. O'Shea has done this past year. Mr. Huntress said it was challenging to create assessment components and cautioned on the form becoming too detailed. Ms. Comperchio asked if it could just be adjusted for this year only. Ms. Lear agreed that this year was a unique circumstance. Mr. O'Shea said the form is an opportunity for feedback. Mr. Huntress doesn't want to radically modify the form and feels issues can be addressed in the current form. The form will be discussed at the next meeting. Members should send feedback to Ms. Anderson.

- H. Nominations for Vice Chair of Carlisle School Committee. It was noted that Ms. Wilson can't be the vice chair of the Carlisle School Committee and the chair of the Region. So, someone else will be nominated tonight for this important position.
- I. Technology Discard List. Mr. O'Shea shared that every year the technology discard list is shared with the CSC. The list includes iPads and MacBook Pros that are no longer functional. The School uses these items and as they get older, we strive to find other uses for them. Mr. Heffner reaches out to the Town, other companies, and sometimes if the devices have some functionality, they are given to seniors or other organizations. This list will be voted on at the next CSC meeting.
- J. Policies. The following policies have been reviewed by members, and the second reading of these policies is taking place this evening, along with the vote.
1. A1-School District Legal Status
 2. A6-Harassment (formerly Sexual Harassment)
 3. B1-School Committee By-Laws
 4. B3-Warrant Signature
 5. C6-School Council
 6. C8-Website Publication (formerly Web Page Publishing)
 7. E3-Life Threatening Allergy
 8. F2-Use of Cameras for Safety and Security
 9. F5-Pest Management
 10. F6-Public Access Defibrillation Program
 11. F8-Use of School Facilities
 12. F9-Use of School Playing Fields
 13. G2-Drug and Alcohol Free Workplace
 14. G4-Staff Conduct
 15. I1-Access to Digital Resources
 16. I2-Animals in School
 17. I3-Empowered Digital Use
 18. I6-Homework
 19. I7-Library Materials Selection (formerly Library Selection)
 20. J1-Activity Fee
 21. J5-Homeless Students
 22. K2-Gifts to and Solicitations By Staff (formerly Gifts and Loans)

There were no comments or questions about policies. Ms. Lear thanked Ms. Bruce who assisted with developing several of these policies.

IV. Members'/Committee Reports as Needed

Nafeesa Hoda, a student representative, commented about her participation in pooled testing. She participated both weeks and believes continuing it would be effective. She added that the end of the fundraiser for the Early Act Rotary Club is today. The donated money will go to the Worthy Village Foundation to help people in Guatemala living in poverty. Ms. Wilson asked what her friends say about pooled testing. Ms. Hoda answered that people say it's convenient, and it makes teachers and kids feel safer. Mr. O'Shea thanked the students for attending the meeting. Moving forward, topics of interest to students will be discussed first.

Special Education Subcommittee: Ms. Comperchio reported that the DESE review and the IEP survey were discussed at the last meeting.

CCRS: Ms. Wilson reported that there was a 3-hour meeting last evening. CCHS is planning a full return of students after April vacation, and are working out details. The number of COVID cases in Concord and CC is higher. A budget was approved yesterday. The Region discussed giving the go ahead to search internally for a new position called Director of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. The goal is to make sure this person has a specific function that fits well in the school community. CCRSD is also looking to hire a curriculum METCO liaison. The entire reorganizational change happening in Concord will be an improvement. The Region continues to work on negotiations. Ms. Mostoufi added that Laurie Hunter was working with getting the seniors back on campus to see each other and feel like graduating seniors, and activities will be offered for them. Ms. Wilson noted that parking will be a challenge because both juniors and seniors can park in the lot and this year, the same spot has been assigned to 2 students that come on different days. Students are working on a prom based outdoors. MCAS testing is a challenge. AP testing will be done remotely.

LEPC. Ms. Lear reported that the Carlisle BOH has worked hard and there might be an 8-9 town regional vaccine center, but it is unlikely it will be in Concord or Carlisle. Once we know, we will let people know.

Municipal Facilities: Ms. Lear reported that this committee is working on its budget, and collaborating with all Town departments. Mr. Fortado represents the School in these discussions.

Highland Building Committee: Ms. Lear reported that this committee met last week and is looking to collaborate with Master Planning.

V. Communications/Correspondence

A letter from a parent was shared.

VI. Warrants

- A. Accounts Payable Warrant #5921; \$37,202.42
- B. Payroll Warrant #5721; \$370,470.50

VII. Action Items

- A. Vote FY22 School Budget. Ms. Comperchio made a motion to accept the FY22 School Budget of \$12,189,300; Mr. Huntress seconded the motion. Ms. Wilson noted that there have been several budget discussions. Mr. Huntress added that the School is staffed and classroom student numbers are within guidelines. Mr. O'Shea added that we will have an optimal classroom environment with this budget, it represents level services. Mr. Huntress noted the cost of special education and that the School is meeting the needs of all students. Ms. Mostoufi said a lot of people came together to support students. Special Education students continued to receive full services. Mr. O'Shea said the profile of children change and another recommendation from WestEd was to develop our own program to keep Carlisle students in Carlisle. It was noted that some out of district placed students have been struggling this year. This budget will help us to address challenges in the future. People have worked to devise and edit the budget since November. The following votes were taken in roll call: Comperchio, aye; Huntress, aye; Lear, aye; Mostoufi, aye; Wilson, aye.
- B. Vote Dissolution of EDCO. Mr. O'Shea shared that the EDCO Board of Directors took a vote to dissolve EDCO, and member district school committees also have to vote. Ms. Wilson shared that services to students will cease at the end of this year. Mr. Huntress

made a motion to terminate EDCO Collaborative as of June 30, 2022; Ms. Mostoufi seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The following votes were taken in roll call: Comperchio, aye; Huntress, aye; Lear, aye; Mostoufi, aye; Wilson, aye.

- C. Vote to Leave EDCO. This vote did not take place.
- D. Vote 2021-2022 School Calendar. This vote was tabled for a later date.
- E. Vote Vice-Chair of Carlisle School Committee. Ms. Wilson made a motion that Mr. Huntress be appointed the Vice-Chair of the Carlisle School Committee; Ms. Comperchio seconded the motion. The following votes were taken in roll call: Comperchio, aye; Huntress, aye; Lear, aye; Mostoufi, aye; Wilson, aye.
- F. Vote Policies. Ms. Lear read the following policies:

- A1-School District Legal Status
- A6-Harassment (formerly Sexual Harassment)
- B1-School Committee By-Laws
- B3-Warrant Signature
- C6-School Council
- C8-Website Publication (formerly Web Page Publishing)
- E3-Life Threatening Allergy
- F2-Use of Cameras for Safety and Security
- F5-Pest Management
- F6-Public Access Defibrillation Program
- F8-Use of School Facilities
- F9-Use of School Playing Fields
- G2-Drug and Alcohol Free Workplace
- G4-Staff Conduct
- I1-Access to Digital Resources
- I2-Animals in School
- I3-Empowered Digital Use
- I6-Homework
- I7-Library Materials Selection (formerly Library Selection)
- J1-Activity Fee
- J5-Homeless Students
- K2-Gifts to and Solicitations By Staff (formerly Gifts and Loans)

Ms. Comperchio made a motion to approve all of the policies as presented; Ms. Mostoufi seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The following votes were taken in roll call: Comperchio, aye; Huntress, aye; Lear, aye; Mostoufi, aye; Wilson, aye.

VIII. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

IX. Adjourn Meeting to Executive Session pursuant to MGL Chapter 30A, Section 21(a) with no intent to return to open session for the following purpose:

Purpose 2, to conduct contract negotiations for principals.

Ms. Wilson made a motion to adjourn the meeting to Executive Session pursuant to MGL Chapter 30A, Section 21(a) with no intent to return to open session for the following purpose: Purpose 2, to conduct contract negotiations for principals; Ms. Comperchio seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The following votes were

taken in Roll Call: Comperchio, aye; Huntress, aye; Lear, aye; Mostoufi, aye; Wilson, aye.
The public meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Nancy Anderson
Assistant to the Superintendent

List of Documents Viewed or Reviewed:

Draft Minutes of February 24, 2021
2021-2022 School Calendar
Superintendent Evaluation Documents
Technology Discard List

Policies:

1. A1-School District Legal Status
2. A6-Harassment (formerly Sexual Harassment)
3. B1-School Committee By-Laws
4. B3-Warrant Signature
5. C6-School Council
6. C8-Website Publication (formerly Web Page Publishing)
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Warrants

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