

Carlisle School Committee

Minutes

Wednesday, July 22, 2020

8:30 a.m.

Remote Meeting Via Zoom

Present Via Zoom – School Committee: Christine Lear - Chair, Amanda Comperchio, Jack Huntress, Eva Mostoufi, Sara Wilson.

Present Via Zoom – School Administration: James O’Shea, Superintendent; Lori Bruce, Director of Student Support Services; Anne Mahan, Business Manager; Rob Fortado, Supervisor of Buildings and Grounds; Nancy Anderson, Assistant to the Superintendent.

Meeting Documents:

Minutes of July 8, 2020	Accounts Payable Warrant #0221	Accounts Payable Warrant #10220
Payroll Warrant #0321	Accounts Payable Warrant #10020	

Note: Per Governor Baker’s order suspending certain provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A sec. 20, the public was not allowed to physically access this School Committee meeting. Members of the Public were able to access this meeting via live stream at:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82634778215?pwd=QTZOWDZkT1E4cGk5RDBoZFBLOXhGUT09>

Meeting ID: 826 3477 8215

Password: 9#h?&2

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

Christine Lear called the meeting to order at 8:32 a.m. Ms. Lear stated that the meeting was being recorded.

II. Review/Approve Minutes. Ms. Wilson made a motion to approve the minutes of July 8, 2020; 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.

III. Information/Discussion Items

- A. School Reopening Update. Mr. O’Shea reiterated that the initial guidance for school reopening from the State and Governor Baker was released on June 25. The priority is

getting students back to school. Guidance allowed for local decision making. Districts have to develop three models: an in-person model with safety requirements in place, a hybrid model of in-person and remote learning, and a 100% remote learning model. By July 31, the preliminary plans have to be sent to the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE.) By August 10, Districts must finalize a comprehensive plan, submit it to the DESE and release it publicly to the community. Work has continued with the Back to School Task Force (BTSTF); subgroups are Curriculum, Operations, Finance/Resources and Communications. There are faculty and family forums taking place tomorrow. Mr. O'Shea noted that he communicates regularly with the Carlisle Teachers' Association (CTA), as a reopening plan might necessitate a Memorandum of Agreement with the CTA. The School is also working with the Carlisle Health Agent and the Board of Health on reopening plans. The aim is for 6 feet of social distance but there will be a minimum of 3 feet. It was recommended that Districts keep students in the same group throughout the day to the extent possible. Parents should screen their children at home and keep them home if they are not feeling well. Hand washing and hand sanitizing is stressed along with disinfecting the facility. There is also a proposed calendar adjustment. The first day of school for grades 1-8 is currently September 2. It is proposed that the first day for grades 1-8 would move to September 8, with Pre-K and K starting on September 9. Teachers would have Professional Development (PD) on August 31, September 1, 2 and 3. These PD days would be moved from 10/21, 12/16 and 3/31 unless the State grants us relief from the 180 school day mandate. These additional days would be used for training in the new practices, protocols and procedures. If this becomes a plan, it would need School Committee endorsement. Ongoing challenges include the health and safety of our staff and students, levels of anxiety, concerns for students if they aren't receiving in person instruction and social/emotional support. The national COVID numbers are on the rise. We need to provide remote instruction even if we are teaching in-person. The state decided schools are responsible for remote learning for students. Challenges include the timeline for developing plans, and our ability to acquire identified materials needed. Supports include that Massachusetts has embraced the use of precautions, MA COVID numbers are good, the start of school is still a month away, our models provide flexibility and responsiveness to changing situations, and we have a collaborative approach. Upcoming timelines: July 23- Forums, July 30 – Preparation of tentative reopening plans, August 5 – present draft plans to CSC, August 10 - present updated draft reopening plans. Mr. Huntress asked if we should meet more often as a School Committee. Mr. O'Shea is considering a meeting on August 10. Mr. O'Shea proposed we have a meeting on July 29 to share draft plans of the School Reopening. At the meeting of August 5, we can decide if there will be another meeting the following week. The School Committee goal meeting can move to later in the month. Ms. Mostoufi said it would be useful for CSC members to listen to working groups of the BTSTF. Ms. Lear said the CSC members can attend the full BTSTF meetings and/or the subcommittee meetings. Ms. Mostoufi questioned the calendar; asking if teachers feel they have enough days through the year for planning purposes. She also asked should we combine some of the holidays to keep our community safe? Mr. O'Shea shared that the days moved from Professional Development during the school year would be moved to before the start of school unless the state gives us leniency on the 180 days

requirement. As we look at the plans for hybrid models, we will need extra time to plan. Mr. O'Shea added that it is important for everyone to understand we will be encouraging families and staff not to travel, or if they do, they should quarantine upon their return. Ms. Comperchio asked if Mr. O'Shea has a sense from the state if they will provide relief on school day expectations, but Mr. O'Shea hesitates to speculate. He wants to do what's right for our faculty, students and families. Mr. O'Shea will continue to have conversations and make informed decisions. Ms. Mostoufi asked when is the State providing recommendations on what happens with increasing numbers of positive cases. Mr. O'Shea does not want to move to a place where people are unsafe. With the three plans, the school can adapt quickly to changing circumstances. Mr. O'Shea acknowledged that all of the unknowns make people anxious. Ms. Mostoufi asked if there will be local opportunities for testing of students. Mr. O'Shea has not had conversations about that, but said we need a process in place for quick testing. We want to be able to identify cases as quickly as possible. He did share that the State doesn't want us monitoring students' temperatures. Ms. Lear sent a link for protocols responding to COVID in a school setting.

- B. Budget Update. Ms. Mahan gave a budget update. \$63,600 is encumbered. \$225,000 has been returned to the town. Ms. Mahan has received a lot of support from the Town and the staff.
- C. School Committee Meeting for Goal Development. Ms. Lear shared that the Committee and the Superintendent typically meet in the evening once a summer to discuss and establish School Committee goals. This meeting will tentatively be scheduled for Wednesday, August 19, in person. It will be a public meeting and details will be shared at a later date.

IV. Members'/Committee Reports as Needed.

Policy Subcommittee: Ms. Lear, Ms. Comperchio and Mr. O'Shea will meet on July 30 at 8:00 a.m. Every school committee member can attend this meeting but it is not required. The agenda has been sent to all members.

CCRS: Ms. Mostoufi shared that CCHS graduation was on July 19th. It was the first day that the state allowed the school to have an in-person graduation.

School Projects: Mr. Fortado shared that the top coat for the solar panel project will be put down tomorrow. The teacher's lot will be done first, then they will work on the bus area. The parking lot will be ready when teachers to come back to school on August 19. There has been a lot of extra drilling due to ledge. The Performing Arts studio project is going well; the area has been framed and fire alarm work has been done. Next crews will be starting insulation and hanging sheet rock. All groups have been communicating with each other and getting along. CORI forms have collected for all groups of workers.

V. Warrants

- A. Accounts Payable Warrant #0221; \$40,657.37
- B. Accounts Payable Warrant #10220; \$43,583.13
- C. Payroll Warrant #0321; \$237,767.69
- D. Accounts Payable Warrant #10020; \$279,957.49

VI. Action Items

Ms. Lear asked that members become familiar with the 2020-2021 school calendar. Members are encouraged to attend any subcommittee meetings for the BTSTF. Mr. O'Shea will send invitations. It was noted that members can't participate in discussions per Open Meeting Law but they are encouraged to listen.

VII. Public Comments

Ms. Vanaria addressed the school reopening update. She acknowledged that the BTSTF has been working very hard. She shared that the anxieties of the staff are high because there are a lot of unknowns. The staff has come up with over 400 questions for the faculty forum; many will be answered through conversations with the Department of Public Health. One major concern is how our HVAC system is working. Mr. O'Shea noted that Mr. Fortado is analyzing the HVAC at the school. Ms. Sorn asked if the desk shields arrived. Mr. O'Shea did not know the answer but will look into it.

VIII. Adjourn Meeting

Mr. Huntress made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Ms. Mostoufi seconded the motion. The following votes were taken in Roll Call: Comperchio, aye; Huntress, aye; Lear, aye; Mostoufi, aye; Wilson, aye. The public meeting was adjourned at 9:31 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Nancy Anderson
Assistant to the Superintendent