

**Carlisle School Committee**  
Minutes  
Wednesday, September 2, 2020  
7:00 p.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; Matt Mehler, Middle School Principal; Dennet Sidell, Elementary Principal; Lori Bruce, Director of Student Support Services; Anne Mahan, Business Manager; Nancy Anderson, Assistant to the Superintendent.

**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/81029564979?pwd=NGJJZTNyU0hzb3R4RmRsQ2E4NXlZZz09>

Meeting ID: 810 2956 4979

Passcode: 75B.@F

**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 7:01 p.m. Ms. Lear stated that the meeting was being recorded.

**II. Review/Approve Minutes**

- A. Policy Subcommittee Meeting of August 24, 2020. Mr. Huntress made a motion to approve the Policy Subcommittee minutes of August 24, 2020; Ms. Wilson 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.
- B. Meeting of August 26, 2020 and Policy Subcommittee Meeting of August 28, 2020. Ms. Wilson made a motion to approve the minutes of August 26, 2020 and the Policy Subcommittee minutes of August 28, 2020; Ms. Comperchio seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The following votes were taken in roll call: Huntress, aye; Lear, aye; Mostoufi, aye; Wilson, aye. Ms. Comperchio had been dropped from the call when the vote was taken.

**III. Information/Discussion Items**

- A. School Reopening. Mr. O’Shea presented. On August 27, the PTO hosted a socially distant new family tour of the school. New teacher orientation took place that day as well.

This past weekend, families were notified of the cohort their child would be in for the school year. It was noted that 20% of elementary students and 17.5% of middle school students chose the Family Choice Remote model for instruction. Dr. Sidell and Dr. Mehler will host family forums on September 3 and September 10 at 7:00 p.m. Faculty and staff have been meeting and preparing for the school reopening on September 15. The discussion of testing continues. There was a presentation to Superintendents about sites that will offer pool testing about every two weeks for groups of approximately 20 students, at the cost of \$300/student. The Board of Health COVID Task Force has been meeting. Mr. O'Shea recapped that the deadline was extended for teachers to bring their children to CPS for the year, and some teachers chose this option. There was also a CSC discussion about having the children of all public school teachers in Carlisle be part of Cohort C, and a survey was sent out about this last Monday. Ms. Lear voiced that the increased number of students might be challenging to manage in small groups. Mr. Huntress agreed and added that he doesn't want to include the children of public school teachers and not include the children of all essential workers in this cohort. Ms. Comperchio agreed and added that with these additional students, Cohort C would be too large. Ms. Mostoufi wants to support and help the Carlisle teachers and added though it is difficult to say no to all of the essential workers in Carlisle, she doesn't think it's feasible to accommodate everyone's children in Cohort C. Lori Bruce added that with the addition of staff children, there would be 64 total students in Cohort C. She noted the highest concentration is 10 students in Grade 3. Most grades have 4-5 students. Ms. Wilson added that we love our teachers and need to support them. Ms. Lear summarized that the School Committee will not offer that the children of teachers who live in Carlisle and teach in another district be part of Cohort C. The CSC is in support of the children of Carlisle Teachers being part of Cohort C in a 4 day/week model to begin the school year. Ms. Comperchio, Mr. Huntress, Ms. Lear, Ms. Mostoufi and Ms. Wilson all agree that this is a necessary step.

- B. COVID Policies. The Pandemic General Interim Policy was reviewed and no edits were recommended. Mr. O'Shea noted that the Face Coverings policy aligns with CDC recommendations but added that the School will recommend certain types of masks. He added that there will be an ample supply of masks available for faculty, staff and students. Ms. Wilson noted that the cost for masks bought after September 15 will not be reimbursed by FEMA. Mr. O'Shea believed that funding through CARES (health and human services) would continue past this date. The Remote Learning policy was reviewed with no edits. Ms. Wilson will provide an additional sentence for the addendum.
- C. School Calendar. Mr. O'Shea summarized the changes to the calendar. It now indicates half days for the first two weeks that school is in session. Juneteenth has also been added to the list of holidays.

#### **IV. Members'/Committee Reports as Needed**

CCRS: Ms. Wilson reported that the Region is meeting tomorrow.

COVID Task Force: Ms. Lear reported that this subset of the Board of Health is researching testing. They are working on a Town-wide campaign on COVID awareness, where signs will be posted about observing protocols such as wearing a mask, staying 6 feet apart, and washing hands. Ms. Mostoufi added that there was a lot of discussion about doing testing, and

acknowledged that there is a lot of information that is confusing for some families. This Committee will put together a presentation for families soon where correct information can be accessed in one place. The rates of COVID in Carlisle are very low. The State is keeping track of numbers and anyone who is tested is reported.

#### **V. Warrants**

There are two warrants this week.

- A. Payroll Warrant #1421; \$333,627.74
- B. Accounts Payable Warrant #1321; \$85,941.60

#### **VI. Public Comments**

Carrie Patel asked for clarification on how it would work for two teachers teaching 60 students in the elementary grades. Mr. O'Shea answered that if we stay with two teachers, each teacher could have 30 students. Children get instruction via Zoom, but there could also be small groups for instruction. For example, the 9 students in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade might be broken into two groups. He noted that there will be a lot of direct instruction by those two teachers, who are still working out the nuances. It is possible that we may need additional resources. Linda Vanaria spoke on behalf of the new students joining us this year that are children of Carlisle teachers. She said the staff is very grateful and thanked the School Committee for allowing their children to attend school in Carlisle.

#### **VII. Action Items**

- A. Vote on Teachers' Children Attending School as part of Cohort C. This has the support of the full committee and was discussed previously but not voted.
- B. Vote on COVID Policies. Ms. Comperchio made a motion to accept the Pandemic Specific General Interim Policy, the Face Coverings Policy and the Remote Learning Policy; Ms. Mostoufi seconded the motion. The following votes were taken in roll call: Comperchio, aye; Huntress, aye; Lear, aye; Mostoufi, aye; Wilson, aye.
- C. Vote Revision to 2020-2021 School Calendar. Ms. Comperchio made a motion to accept the amended school calendar for 2020-2021; Mr. Huntress seconded the motion. The following votes were taken in roll call: Comperchio, aye; Huntress, aye; Lear, aye; Mostoufi, aye; Wilson, aye.

#### **VIII. Adjourn Meeting**

Ms. Mostoufi made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Ms. Wilson 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 7:49 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Nancy Anderson  
Assistant to the Superintendent