

Carlisle School Committee
Minutes
Wednesday, September 30, 2020
6:00 p.m.
Carlisle School Community Room
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: 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.

In order to adhere to social distancing guidelines, 5 members of the public were allowed access to this meeting in the Community Room 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 Community Room were able to access it via live stream at:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85938490864?pwd=bnpZdCsrZXIIY2lhZVpwUW50bIM2UT09>

Meeting ID: 859 3849 0864

Passcode: xzmQ?3

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 6:03 p.m. and stated that the meeting was being recorded.

II. Review/Approve Minutes

- A. Meeting of September 23, 2020. Ms. Mostoufi made a motion to approve the minutes of September 23, 2020; 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.

III. Information/Discussion Items

- A. State and Local COVID Dashboard. Mr. O’Shea reviewed the framework for changing learning models in School. For In-Person or Hybrid instruction to continue, the number of COVID cases would be between 0-3 in the School, fewer than 4 in Carlisle, or fewer than 3% in the State. To warrant a change to all remote instruction, COVID numbers would be greater than 4 in School, greater than 5 in Carlisle, and greater than 3% in the State. Mr. O’Shea summarized information from the State Dashboard. Approximately 20 COVID tests have been taken by members of the Carlisle school community with all negative results. Emerson Urgent Care reported that there were 2 cases in the past month;

and one case in the last 14 days. Carlisle is still in the gray area and Massachusetts has a test positivity rate of .85%.

- B. School Reopening. Phase 2 of the School Reopening plan began this past Monday. Lunch and recess ran smoothly due to great amounts of coordination. About 63 middle school students eat in the cafeteria during each lunch, and fewer students eat in the cafeteria in elementary school because some eat in their classrooms. Students and staff are utilizing PPE; there are masks, gowns and gloves available for anyone working in the cafeteria. Per CDC guidance, students can eat in the cafeteria with masks off if they maintain 6 feet distancing. Mask breaks occur when students are 6 feet apart and ideally outdoors. There will be another family survey going out on Monday to get feedback on Phase 2. Phase 3 planning is underway; this phase starts October 19 will full in-person days with half day Wednesdays. There are significant space challenges in grades 5 and 7. Solutions have been explored, and one impacts personnel. Mr. O’Shea would like CSC support for an additional 1.0 FTE (full-time) Social Studies teacher for 5th grade. The 7th grade space challenges can be solved by having students move to different spaces in the School. Phase 4, a new phase, has also been identified. This phase would be after December 9, when families who have chosen Family Choice Remote can change their minds and opt to have their children return to School. If these numbers are high, it could have implications on room capacity for 6 feet distancing. The administration is working to develop a plan. Other updates included a summary on the Riverside Trauma/Mass Support talk for families last night, where they discussed the stresses of living through the pandemic. There are opportunities to join coping groups and Mr. O’Shea will share this information in his communication on Monday. The Social Justice Community Book Group will have its first meeting next Wednesday at 7 PM. There will be a curricular group for educators and a culture group for both educators and community members. The next CSC meeting will be Tuesday, October 6 at 7:00 PM.
- C. Budget Update. Anne Mahan presented a budget update for FY21. She shared this document:

FY21 Budget			
Department	Budget	YTD Actuals	Remaining Balance
Admin	\$652,640	\$184,283	\$468,357
Regular Education	\$6,217,066	\$841,569	\$5,375,497
Special Education	\$2,908,859	\$722,234	\$2,186,625
Student Services	\$806,372	\$463,839	\$342,533
Operations	\$974,329	\$556,957	\$417,372
Total	\$11,559,266	\$2,768,882	\$8,790,384

Ms. Mahan reported that despite the many expenditures due to reopening school during these unprecedented times, the School is on pace to reach year end numbers. There is some buffer due to pre-pay tuitions. Ms. Wilson asked if the new hire in 5th grade would fall under COVID expenses. Ms. Mahan will discuss that with the Town on Friday. Ms. Mahan also summarized the CARES Act funds that have been utilized. The School has spent approximately \$350 K to date, and will ask the Town for \$200 K to be used for PPE, Technology, remote learning tools, and facilities. Ms. Mahan shared other funds that the School is receiving through DESE Grants; \$20 K through ESSER (Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund) and \$128.25K through the School Reopening Grant, for a total of \$148.25K. There are other DESE grants that will providing funding to the school including Title I, Title IIA, Title IV, the IDEA Grant and the Early Childhood Special Education Grant. Ms. Lear voiced her appreciation for these updates. Mr. Huntress said that the Riverside presentation was full of valuable information. He asked what was the update with the air purifiers; Mr. O'Shea answered that they were delivered today and will be used in instructional and office spaces. Mr. Huntress voiced support of the additional 5th grade position. He also asked how we collectively learn from the success of others? Mr. O'Shea answered that he is meeting with one group tomorrow, and another next week, and he will share information. Ms. Lear asked if the members had reviewed the EDCO roundtable discussion schedule for School Committee members that was sent earlier in September and reminded everyone that members can attend those sessions to gather information from others. Members can let Ms. Anderson know when they are going to EDCO meetings. Ms. Wilson shared that she is the EDCO representative for CCRSD and attends all meetings. Ms. Wilson asked how much time there was between the different groups coming and going at lunch. Dr. Mehler answered that the first middle school lunch is from 10:55-11:25. This week they had about 5-8 minutes at end of this time period where tables were dismissed one by one starting at the exit door, and cleaning was occurring at that time. The other grade is coming in the other entrance at 11:25, so there is not a lot of transition time when the cafeteria is empty. Dr. Mehler noted that the windows were all open and students were eating in the breezeway adjacent to the cafeteria as well. Ms. Wilson asked if other spaces were explored to solve the distancing challenges in 5th grade. Mr. O'Shea answered that one space that would have worked was to move 5th grade to the Kindergarten classrooms, but didn't seem appropriate. Ms. Wilson asked if there will be pressures on all classrooms in December and Mr. O'Shea answered that there would be if more students returned to in-person learning.

IV. Members'/Committee Reports as Needed

Highland Building Committee: Ms. Lear will be the CSC representative.

CCRSD: Ms. Mostoufi reported that everything at the region was going well. Students are going to school in a hybrid model and being orderly. Bus students are following the rules. Students are eating outside, observing spacing, and outdoor spaces are being used for education.

V. Warrants

A. Accounts Payable Warrant #1921; \$105,130.81

B. Payroll Warrant #1721; \$430,457.86

VI. Action Items

There were no action items.

VII. Public Comments

Jenn Kuivinen said that this first part of the week in full day hybrid has gone very well. The teachers and administrators are doing a great job. She appreciate everyone's efforts.

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 6:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Nancy Anderson".

Nancy Anderson
Assistant to the Superintendent