

**Carlisle School Committee**  
Minutes  
Wednesday, October 21, 2020  
7:00 p.m.  
Carlisle School Community Room  
and Zoom Remote Access

Present– School Committee: Christine Lear - Chair, Amanda Comperchio, Jack Huntress  
Present – School Committee via Zoom: Eva Mostoufi (arrived at 7:32 p.m.)  
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/82268519388?pwd=OEcwdFhFbmhNdTZzcjMxdm81NVppUT09>

Meeting ID: 822 6851 9388

Passcode: vLiiJ5

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. and stated that the meeting was being recorded.

**II. Review/Approve Minutes**

- A. Meeting of October 14, 2020. Mr. Huntress made a motion to approve the minutes of October 14, 2020; Ms. Comperchio seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The following votes were taken in roll call: Comperchio, aye; Huntress, aye; Lear, aye.

**III. Information/Discussion Items**

- A. State and Local COVID Dashboard. Mr. O’Shea reviewed the established decision framework for moving to a different instructional model. With four or more cases in the School community, or if the State positivity rate is 3% or greater, the School will transition to remote instruction. It has been proposed that the Town of Carlisle numbers would trigger a conversation between health professionals, the Superintendent and the CSC to discuss changes to the instructional model. There have been no cases in the School in the past 14 days, and over 40 COVID tests taken by School community members have all been negative. The State dashboard has not been updated since last week when Carlisle was in the gray area.

- B. School Reopening. Mr. O’Shea gave an update on Phase 3. Middle school started full in-person on Monday. The increased number of students has resulted in more pick up and drop off complications, and more challenges with lunch and recess. The School is working to utilize the mobohubb application features more effectively. The teachers, as usual, are going above and beyond and were reported to be driving around Town picking up projects from Family Choice Remote (FCR) students. The School will send out a survey to FCR families soon to gather information on how remote instruction is going for students. There is discussion about how to keep the FCR students connected. There are plans to send another survey to FCR families in November to see if any students will choose to return to School. If large numbers of students return, it could mean challenges with maintaining 6 feet distancing. Many parameters will be in place for the Halloween parade. Ms. Lear cautioned everyone to be careful and take safety precautions on Halloween.
- C. School Committee Goals. Mr. Huntress shared several draft goals after the goal conversation last week. There is a COVID component to all of the goals this year. Main goals centered around creating a budget for 2021-2022, reviewing and modifying policies, and evaluating the Superintendent. Objectives included more outreach to the town about School workings and accomplishments, continued support of the Special Education department, and work on bringing the new mission and vision into teaching practices. Other threads that were addressed were diversity, anti-racism, anti-bias, inclusion and climate change. Discussion took place about the Special Education program and Lori Bruce’s work with her talented team. More special education topics will be discussed at the Special Education Subcommittee meetings, the first of which is on Friday at 8:00 a.m. Ms. Comperchio will attend and also work to involve the Carlisle SEPAC (Special Education Parent Advisory Committee.) It was noted that the profiles of children are changing and the school will work to establish programming plans to service those students. Ms. Lear noted the extra challenges for Ms. Bruce during the pandemic. The CSC will review Mr. O’Shea’s goals and work to create measurable objectives that align with his goals. Mr. O’Shea noted that the visioning process will take several years, but steps are already being executed, along with steps to create more programming about social justice. Mr. Huntress, with help from Ms. Comperchio, will revise the goals and send them to Ms. Anderson for distribution.
- D. Resolutions Committee Report/MASC. Ms. Lear read the email about the resolutions from Dorothy Presser, MASC Field Director. These resolutions were moved forward by the MASC Resolutions Committee and approved by the Board of Directors. Resolution 1 concerned MCAS and high stakes testing. The high school component (10<sup>th</sup> grade students who missed MCAS last year are supposed to make it up this current year) does not apply to Carlisle, but it also called for a moratorium on all high stakes testing for the 2020-2021 school year, and for the next 3 years, so students can focus on direct instruction. The CSC supported this. Resolution 2 guarantees full reimbursement of COVID related expenses to Districts. It was noted that the School has expenditures that don’t fall under the CARES act so this would be beneficial for CPS. Ms. Mostoufi arrived at 7:32 p.m. and voiced support for these two resolutions. She noted that Concord has supported these as well. Resolution 3 supported anti-racism in Schools; support for this was voted in June. Resolution 4 was to support lowering the voting age for municipal elections to 16. The Empower Act gives the local municipality authority over

voting. Ms. Comperchio wanted to gather more information about this topic. Mr. Huntress advocated abstaining on this. Resolution 5 supported increased federal support and stimulus funding for public K-12 education. Mr. Huntress said more money for our schools is good, but has reservations about possible underlying messages. Resolution 6 involved retention of Medicaid revenue. Mr. O'Shea clarified that currently Medicaid revenue goes to the Town. Ms. Mahan added that Carlisle does not receive a lot of Medicaid revenue so she didn't believe this had a big impact on the School, and added that the money would support Special Education. Ms. Mahan will look up the amount Carlisle receives and report back to the Committee. Resolution 7 concerned the distribution of federal funds to private schools. Mr. O'Shea explained that when a school receive Title I funds, Schools are required to set aside some of those funds for private institutions in their municipalities. It was noted that there are no private schools in Carlisle, so this would not impact CPS. Some administrations support public funding for private institutions. This resolution supports public funds going to public institutions. Resolution 8 advocated for membership of a School Committee member on the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education. Mr. Huntress supports a School Committee voice on the board. Resolution 9 addressed adding sexual orientation and gender equity to the list of protected classes in order to provide equity and support to all students. Resolution 10 concerned monitoring of attendance during the pandemic, and advocated to waive all accountability requirements regarding attendance for the 2020-2021 school year. Ms. Mahan reported that Carlisle receives \$5000 a year in Medicaid funding.

- E. English as a Second Language (ESL) Press Release: Tiered Focus Monitoring Review. Ms. Bruce thanked everyone for their kind words about the Special Education program. She said she was fortunate to work with such a talented group of people. She explained that every 6 years there's an in depth review of the English Language Learning program. The Department of Education has reviewed submitted ELL material from Carlisle. This year the new ELL teacher has been screening students. Several students live in bilingual households and any child with a second language spoken in the home has to be screened. This year there are about 10-15 students that qualify for ELL services. The next steps are interviews with Ms. Bruce and Mr. Yorke, the ELL teacher. The DESE sent a press release about the review, so any families that want to contact DESE can do so. She shared this press release with the CSC and will also send it to the Mosquito.

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

Special Education Subcommittee: Ms. Comperchio reported that this committee will meet on Friday at 8:00 a.m.

COVID Task Force: This committee has met and members are discussing procedures for when college kids return to town. It was noted that Lauren Sawyer, School Nurse, sent an email out before the long weekend about travel and safeguards. This task force will put together a similar document. Ms. Mostoufi acknowledged that Thanksgiving gatherings will be challenging. Ms. Lear talked about the frequency of CSC meetings and proposed starting to meet every two weeks. Mr. O'Shea will continue to post COVID updates. Emergency meetings will be convened as needed. The next two CSC meetings will be on November 4th and November 18th.

#### **V. Communications/Correspondence**

There were no communications.

## **VI. Warrants**

There were no warrants.

## **VII. Action Item**

- A. Vote on Change to the Carlisle Metrics/Impact on School Instruction Mode. Ms. Lear clarified that if there were five cases in Carlisle, it would trigger a meeting and conversation with Trish McGean, Linda Fantasia, Lauren Sawyer, Linda Vanaria, the CSC and Mr. O'Shea to determine if the School should change the instruction mode. Ms. Comperchio made a motion to change the metrics to five cases in Carlisle instigating an emergency meeting with the CSC, health professionals and key school personnel to determine if there should be a change in the School instruction mode; Mr. Huntress seconded the motion. The following votes were taken in roll call: Comperchio, aye; Huntress, aye; Lear, aye; Mostoufi, aye.
- B. Vote MASC Resolutions. It was noted that the CSC voted to support Resolution 3 in June, 2020. Mr. Huntress made a motion to support Resolutions 1, 2, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10; Ms. Mostoufi seconded the motion. The following votes were taken in roll call: Comperchio, aye; Huntress, aye; Lear, aye; Mostoufi, aye. It was noted that there was no motion on Resolution 4.
- C. Election of Voting Delegate and Alternate Delegate to MASC Delegate Assembly. Ms. Comperchio volunteered to be the delegate to the MASC Delegate Assembly. Ms. Lear will be the backup. Mr. Huntress made a motion that Amanda Comperchio be the voting delegate to the MASC Delegate Assembly and Christine Lear be the alternate delegate; Ms. Mostoufi seconded the motion. The following votes were taken in roll call: Comperchio, aye; Huntress, aye; Lear, aye; Mostoufi, aye.

## **VIII. Public Comments**

Deepa Chungi asked about remote families and pictures. Dr. Mehler had sent an email to teachers and all middle school parents saying that all FCR students can come to school and get their pictures taken this coming Friday from 7:45-8:15 a.m. Mr. O'Shea added that the schedule has been established; unfortunately, pictures can't be taken outside, but precautions are in place in the auditorium. Angela Richardson, Co-chair of SEPAC, said that SEPAC wants to integrate more closely with the CSC to make sure everyone is moving forward toward goals, and would like to be on the agenda at some point. SEPAC will meet next Tuesday at 7:00 p.m. Ms. Lear asked that SEPAC contact the CSC if they would like to present at a meeting.

## **IX. Adjourn Meeting**

Ms. Comperchio made a motion to adjourn 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 Elementary and Middle School Principal contract negotiations; Mr. Huntress seconded the motion. The following votes were taken in Roll Call: Comperchio, aye; Huntress, aye; Lear, aye; Mostoufi, aye. The public meeting was adjourned at 8:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Nancy Anderson  
Assistant to the Superintendent