

**Carlisle School Committee**  
Emergency Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, October 27, 2020  
9:15 a.m.  
Zoom Remote Access

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

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

Also Present: Trisha McGean, Public Health Nurse; Lauren Sawyer, Carlisle School Nurse; Linda Vanaria, CTA President; Linda Fantasia, Carlisle Health Agent; Todd Thorsen, Board of Health; Jenn Derkazarian, Board of Health.

Per Governor Baker’s order suspending certain provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A sec. 20, members of the public was able to access this meeting via live stream at:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81591147380?pwd=MHZ6ZTIxbkttclhUUk1qT0VvKzV3Zz09>

Meeting ID: 815 9114 7380

Passcode: Q10!1Q

The School Committee reserved the right to implement additional remote participation procedures. Public comments were welcome as per the agenda.

**I. Call to Order**

Ms. Lear called the meeting to order at 9:16 a.m. and announced that the meeting was being recorded.

**II. COVID Cases in Carlisle/Instruction Mode Decision**

Mr. O’Shea gave a recap of the history of the metrics established for COVID cases. Originally, per the framework, if there were 5 or more cases in the Town of Carlisle, the School would transition to remote learning. Last week, on October 23, 2020, the Carlisle School Committee (CSC) revised the metric and the School response to the metric. The CSC voted that if the Town of Carlisle reached 5 cases, it would trigger an emergency meeting of CSC, public health officials, the school nurse, and other key personnel to talk about specifics and establish the course of action in regards to the School instruction mode. At the Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) meeting yesterday, it was learned that there are 5 COVID cases in Carlisle so it necessitated a meeting to examine the data. Trisha McGean, Public Health Nurse, shared that four of those cases are from one family-of-four-household. The other is a college student who was a close contact. Ms. McGean said it’s important that she be part of a conversation about numbers because she is familiar with all of the specifics. All of these people are currently in isolation with mild cases of COVID. The single college student is living in Carlisle and learning remotely. She added that if some households have kids in the school, it’s a different situation. Ms. McGean said that if she sees a trend that is concerning, she will let Mr. O’Shea

know. Ms. Lear said the household of four doesn't have a CPS school child, all people with COVID are isolating, and this does not affect CPS. Mr. Huntress agreed with health officials that the risk exposure to the Carlisle school community is not concerning. Ms. McGean shared that two of the cases in the house of four attend CCHS. Ms. Wilson confirmed with Ms. McGean that contact tracing has been done. Ms. Mostoufi said Carlisle is fortunate to have someone in town doing contact tracing; we get great communication and a quick response. Mr. O'Shea said that initially we were concerned about community spread, but contact tracing said it came from outside the Carlisle community. He asked what is the earliest date that these five cases would no longer be on the state metric. Ms. McGean answered that the isolation period is 10 days from the onset of symptoms, but the important thing is that she is investigating cases and will alert the School to trends. Ms. Comperchio is not concerned, based on what she has heard, and she is comfortable staying the course for in-person instruction. Ms. Wilson's concern is that the high school student had contact with another student that might have a sibling in the Carlisle School. Ms. McGean answered that contact tracing covers that. Siblings of close contacts don't have to quarantine; there is no recommendations from the Center for Disease Control (CDC) to do so. Linda Fantasia added that she agrees with the thinking of this group, and there is no need to panic. The Department of Public Health (DPH) wants to have a low threshold for positive cases in town, but this does not appear to be a community spread. Ms. McGean assured everyone that her investigation is very comprehensive and added that the State doesn't want schools jumping back and forth on learning models unnecessarily. Many towns are experiencing an uptick in cases. This discussion is helpful for everyone. Ms. Vanaria added that we are fortunate in Carlisle to have this discussion; it's helpful for the community, families and staff to understand the process. She added that she is sorry for the families coping with this stress and commended Ms. McGean for doing a great job of keeping people safe. Ms. Lear summarized that everyone is comfortable with keeping the learning model as is. She asked what would trigger this group to meet again. Ms. McGean said she would let the School know when things are changing or concerning and be the prompt on when this group meets again. Ms. Comperchio and Mr. Huntress support the plan. All members thanked Ms. McGean for sharing the information. Ms. Wilson wants to pay attention to contacts of contacts and spillover into our schools. Ms. Mostoufi appreciated the flow of information and added her thanks. She said Concord had a few positive cases but there was no spread in the school and community; all of the protocols and safeguards are working to protect staff and children. Jenn Derkazarian, BOH, asked about the extent of the contacts of the cases, and Ms. McGean answered that there are no Carlisle School close contacts. Ms. Lear summarized that Carlisle is not going to a different mode of instruction. Ms. McGean will continue to communicate with Mr. O'Shea. Ms. Lear thanked everyone for gathering today.

### **III. Public Comments**

Douglas Sproule asked about the metrics, and shared that the percentage of people that come back positive in the state of Massachusetts is now above 3%, does that trigger a closure or an emergency meeting? Mr. O'Shea answered that Carlisle goes by the overall state test positivity rate, and the calculations to date are 1.2% on a rolling average. He said that the CSC will be having a conversation about the hard numbers. Todd Thorsen, BOH, shared that the State updates the numbers every 7 days. Stephanie Richman asked if all of the metrics should be more algorithmic; should people look more closely at the local community before making a decision about school. Ms. Lear answered that the CSC will discuss that topic too. She reminded people

that they can get automatic notifications of public meetings by signing up on the Town of Carlisle website.

**IV. Adjourn Meeting**

Ms. Mostoufi made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Mr. Huntress 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 9:49 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Nancy Anderson  
Assistant to the Superintendent