

Carlisle School Committee
Minutes
Wednesday, October 14, 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, Sara Wilson
Present– School Administration: James O’Shea, Superintendent
Present – School Administration via Zoom: Matt Mehler, Middle School 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/81323969421?pwd=bzRtVnNjWmlJMUhFdkF5RGhUSzhXZz09>

Meeting ID: 813 2396 9421

Passcode: F\$2=Cm

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 August 4, 2020 and October 6, 2020. Ms. Comperchio made a motion to approve the minutes of August 4, 2020 and October 6, 2020; Mr. Huntress 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. Brick Building Window Renovation Update. The Historical Commission representatives had to cancel, so this discussion was postponed.
- B. State and Local COVID Dashboard. Mr. O’Shea reported that there have been no new cases in the last 14 days in the School community; over 40 COVID tests have been taken with all negative results to date. The Town of Carlisle currently has 2 cases; last week there were 4. Massachusetts has a 1.17% positivity rate. He noted that Concord schools have managed their faculty and student cases.
- C. School Reopening. Mr. O’Shea reviewed the safety measures that are in place at the School. They include: mandatory masks for all students, faculty and staff; hand

sanitizing stations; the slow roll-out of students returning to school; portable sinks; fiberglass dividers for office spaces; the creation of a second health office; HEPA air purification systems for classrooms and offices; the HVAC assessment; increased air exchanges; MERV 13 filters; physical distancing of 6 feet; relocation of classrooms to larger spaces; canopies for outdoor instruction; safety training for faculty; no volunteers or visitors allowed in the School; all faculty meetings are held on Zoom; takeaway lunches; increased cleaning regimen; and daily health check-ins. These many steps support the well-being of faculty, staff and students. When other Districts have positive cases in schools, the spread of COVID is inhibited by these practices, which work together to keep people as safe as possible. Phase 3 started for Elementary students on October 13 and starts for Middle School on October 19. Pick-up and drop-off is more complicated now, and lunch and recess are more challenging. There is a focus on cleaning and disinfecting of bathrooms mid-day and in the evening, and wiping down high-touch surfaces during the day. Mr. O'Shea shared questions from the community. One parent asked if one of their children had symptoms and was waiting for test results, should their other child be quarantined as well. The State guidance says that unless there is a positive test result, the other child does not have to quarantine. Carlisle will follow State guidance. Another question concerned the metrics on Carlisle case numbers. There could be over 4 cases in the Town of Carlisle without any of them impacting the School operation or population. If the threshold in Carlisle was reached over a 14 day span of time, it would trigger a meeting between Mr. O'Shea, the CSC, BOH, the Public Health Nurse and School Nurse to look at the data and make an informed decision on continuing in-person instruction or going to remote instruction for a period of time. Mr. O'Shea recommended that the School maintain the metrics in place for cases in the School community and the State, and the above protocol be implemented for the Carlisle case number metric. The last question referenced the need for more information and communication from CCHS and Concord Schools, particularly about COVID cases. Ms. Wilson said that Carlisle residents can subscribe to Concord Superintendent Laurie Hunter's emails. This can be found on the CCHS website. Ms. Lear opened discussion about changing the metrics for the Town of Carlisle. Mr. Huntress said human judgement should always be part of the process. He supports the implementation of having a discussion if Carlisle case numbers reach the threshold. Ms. Comperchio added that it would have been disruptive if the School shut it down last week when there was no impact on the school, and voiced her support of this procedure as well. Ms. Lear also supports the procedure. Ms. Mostoufi added that the Stop the Spread program has been extended. The State can send out a mobile testing station if we have more than one case of COVID. It is important to know that we have resources. Carlisle is fortunate to have the public health nurse do the contact tracing. She asked if Lauren Sawyer, School Nurse, is able to access information if a case arises. Lauren Sawyer answered that she is in touch with Tricia McGean (public health nurse) and Concord school nurses; they are a united group. She added that she would be able to help make a sound decision on safety. She clarified that the Mobile unit would be enacted if there was an in-school transmission. Ms. Mostoufi said the system and protocols are working, and she doesn't have a problem meeting as needed and making the decision on the School model. Ms. Wilson voiced support for the metrics for School numbers. She noted that when discussing the community numbers, the reports go to a person's home town, not where

they are physically; a discussion makes sense. Ms. Lear summarized that the CSC is supportive of having a conversation about the Town of Carlisle case numbers, should they reach the threshold, and deciding the impact on the School learning model. Ms. Wilson asked if the State has to be informed of this change and feels the plan should be updated to reflect it. Mr. O'Shea said this is operational discretion, but will check to see if the metric is included in the plan. Ms. Comperchio asked if this would be an emergency meeting of the CSC to discuss the framework and the impact on the School instructional model; the answer was yes. Mr. Huntress questioned if all of the metrics should be reviewed.

- D. Indigenous People's Day. Mr. O'Shea said Columbus day has been celebrated since 1937 and there is currently interesting dialog around the celebration of this holiday. Should we, as a School community, recognize how history has been interpreted before now and think about it differently. It could be discussed and also be addressed at the meeting of the Calendar Committee. Mr. Huntress would like to research the topic. Ms. Wilson would like to know how other schools handle it, and understand how the federal holiday impacts the calendar. Mr. O'Shea said other districts celebrate Columbus Day as a holiday. Ms. Mostoufi will explore what Concord is doing. Ms. Comperchio asked if it was changed on the calendar, would it also be woven into the curriculum. Mr. O'Shea answered that the School is currently working on how we talk about our history. He noted that there are a handful of states that observe Indigenous People's Day. Ms. Wilson noted that this aligned with cultural competency in the draft CSC goals in Concord. Mr. O'Shea will revisit this topic prior to January when the Calendar Committee meets. Historically the committee members consisted of faculty, teachers and administrators. A calendar was then presented to CSC. He advocated looking at procedures to give the CSC input to the calendar discussion.
- E. School Committee Goals. Mr. Huntress shared slides with ideas on how to write SMART goals. It's important that goals are specific, measurable, achievable, relevant and time-bound. He presented some categories for the goals: Community Engagement, so taxpayers understand the value of where money is spent at the School; Pedagogy/Curriculum adjustments; Special Education; Diversity; Innovation/technology; and COVID. Mr. Huntress hoped the Committee could cover a couple of other important topics besides the School budget. Ms. Mostoufi added that the CSC also has to supervise and evaluate the superintendent. Ms. Lear reviewed last year's goals. Ms. Mostoufi asked how CSC goals would align with Superintendent goals. Mr. O'Shea said his goals are focused on: reopening and dealing with the pandemic; how to connect instruction to the new mission, vision and portrait of a graduate; how to insure that CPS is providing anti-bias and anti-racist education for our students; and working with the new business manager to collaboratively develop a budget, which includes identifying how the School can unify purchasing with Town. He added that the CSC can create goals that will align with his goals. Ms. Mostoufi asked if there could be an educational goal around student achievement and equity and inclusion. Mr. O'Shea answered that in the new vision and mission, performance on standardized assessments is not a focus. He said as the portrait of a graduate becomes a reality, all Carlisle children will move forward. Mr. Huntress asked about a technology goal; exploring the role of it in the classroom, and how it helps students. Ms. Lear wants to see technology be driven by teacher needs; Ms. Wilson thought this was a more operational topic. Ms. Comperchio asked if the CSC could come

up with a vision for how technology is used. Mr. O'Shea said technology plays a major role in the education of Carlisle students. Our digital citizenship curriculum, for which Nick and Maya developed frameworks, helps students navigate the information that is available to them. Ms. Lear asked if the CSC should broaden its touch with the community. She wants to support the effort of making strides with the new vision, formulating a school budget, and supporting Ms. Bruce and the special education program, especially in the current COVID environment. She also wants to address climate change. Mr. O'Shea said the topic of climate change fits with the portrait of a graduate. Currently, science teachers Brad Cranston and Kathy Marsh are addressing it. Ms. Comperchio asked about diversity; Mr. O'Shea said it is being addressed by the social justice committee. Ms. Mostoufi supported the idea of not being overly ambitious, noting that the CSC has already been meeting every week. Mr. Huntress feels that budget, policy and COVID are a lot on which to focus and maybe one more goal could be chosen. Ms. Comperchio added that the CSC could plan long term as well. Mr. Huntress asked how can we leverage communication about the school in a positive way with groups in Town. He feels that sometimes the great things the School does go unnoticed. Ms. Wilson proposed evaluating how effective we are in using our liaisons and committee representations. Are we maximizing our individual roles as liaisons. Should we participate more in other groups? Mr. Huntress will summarize goal ideas and send them to Ms. Anderson to distribute. Members will review, share ideas and provide feedback on Mr. O'Shea's goals.

- F. Resolutions Committee Report/MASC. Mr. O'Shea presented a list of resolutions from MASC. There is a movement to eliminate mandatory testing (MCAS) for many reasons, and other resolutions are important to endorse as well. Ms. Lear asked that members review these for discussion next week. Ms. Wilson added that resolutions are voted on individually at the MASC conference. She noted that the CSC already voted on the Anti-Racism and COVID funding resolutions in June. Mr. O'Shea will research more about past resolutions.

IV. Members'/Committee Reports as Needed

CCRS: Ms. Wilson reported that there was an informative workshop with Dorothy Presser last night on how a school committee can operate. Ms. Presser discussed effective communication, consensus, and constructive discussions. Ms. Mostoufi added that they also discussed goal setting and how a committee evaluates itself. Ms. Presser is a great resource.

EDCO: Ms. Wilson attended the EDCO roundtable this morning. She reported that all Districts are struggling with goals and budgets, and dealing with similar issues. There was a lot of discussion about Cohort C and equity.

V. Communications/Correspondence

Communications were addressed earlier in the meeting. Ms. Wilson added that there are many ways for families to sign up to get information; parents can take the initiative. Ms. Mostoufi said people have access to COVID information (which includes cases in Concord) on the School dashboard.

VI. Warrants

There were no warrants.

VII. Action Item

There were no action items.

VIII. Public Comments

Linda Vanaria asked in the CSC vote next week, could members consider Mr. O'Shea's recommendation to only alter the community metric and not the school metric that is in place. Ms. Lear clarified that the plan is to have a discussion with key parties before there is any change made to the instruction model. Cynthia Sorn, Rutland Street commented that she surprised the School was looking to change the metrics after only a month. She said there is a statement on the School website saying children should quarantine if they travel out of state, and asked if that is being checked. Mr. O'Shea answered at the present time there no mechanism for checking travel information. The School has communicated the expectation to families and hopes that people follow it. He noted Lauren Sawyer sent out a correspondence about travel to all families before the long weekend. Ms. Sorn asked if a teacher hears about a trip from a child and reports it, is something done? Mr. O'Shea answered yes, if it comes to our attention, we will address it. Ms. Mostoufi added that the State monitors travel on planes and sends a reminder to your phone to quarantine or get tested upon your return to Massachusetts.

IX. Adjourn Meeting

Mr. Huntress made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Ms. Comperchio 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 9:11 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Nancy Anderson
Assistant to the Superintendent