

**Carlisle School Committee
Special Education Subcommittee**

Minutes

Tuesday, November 26, 2019

Spalding Conference Room

Carlisle Schools, 83 School Street, Carlisle, MA 01741

8:00 a.m.

Present – School Committee: David Model, Eva Mostoufi

Present – School Administration: James O’Shea, Superintendent; Lori Bruce, Director of Student Support Services; Nancy Anderson, Assistant to the Superintendent.

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 8:20 a.m.

II. Public Comment Period

There were no comments.

III. Discussion

A. Recommendations from WestEd Report

The implementation of recommendations from the WestEd report are already starting to take place but it is noted that this is a long range plan. The Committee will explore what changes Concord implemented in the first year after the WestEd report was completed for the Concord District. Ms. Bruce discussed procedures for student assessment, and clarified that her attention/observation might be sought if staff has concerns about a specific student. Often the child will be referred to the Child Study Team. The Speech and Language Pathologist might observe the child, the Special Educator might observe the child; Carlisle takes a multi-disciplinary approach to assessing students. Mr. Model and Ms. Mostoufi feel that students with language based disabilities might have to be serviced in different ways. Critical thinking and strategic approaches are needed in early grades to help students that have problems with literacy. It was noted that literacy spans more than language arts classes; it’s important to teach every subject with a sensitivity toward students that struggle with literacy. Mr. Model stated the role of School Committee is to make sure practices are data driven, analytical and strive toward improvement. Ms. Bruce shared that Foundations is a great system to have in place for all students. Universal Design Learning is training teachers to work with all tiers of students. The goal is to provide students with skills and mechanics to be successful. Ms. Mostoufi believes there is a way to teach every student, no matter what disability he or she may have including slow processing speed and memory issues. Ms. Bruce added that our present staff has the skills to work with the students that struggle with literacy. Mr. O’Shea summarized that Ms. Bruce, with support of the Administrative team, has bundled together themes of WestEd report and is formulating steps to deal with them. Mr. Model feels everyone is on the same page with the necessity for a plan moving forward.

- B. Timeline and Goals.
- C. Process and protocols for subcommittee work.
- D. Schedule of Meetings. The Committee planned the next meeting for Friday, December 13, 2019 at 8:00 a.m. Ms. Anderson will book the room. Mr. Model and Ms. Mostoufi will review the Special Education report and identify areas on which to focus. They will get this prioritized information to Mr. O'Shea by December 4, and Mr. O'Shea will cross-reference this with the Concord WestEd report.

IV. Adjourn Meeting

The meeting was adjourned at 9:17 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Nancy Anderson
Assistant to the Superintendent