

**Carlisle School Committee**  
Minutes  
Wednesday, December 2, 2020  
7:00 p.m.  
Carlisle School Community Room  
and Zoom Remote Access

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

Present– School Administration: James O’Shea, Superintendent

Present – School Administration via Zoom: Matt Mehler, Middle School Principal; Dennet Sidell, Elementary 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://carlisle-k12-ma-us.zoom.us/j/81820993170?pwd=a0V1T1g1QVpybnlieHAxRm9DZlV5Zz09>

Meeting ID: 818 2099 3170

Passcode: g7@h\*!

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 7:03 p.m. and stated that the meeting was being recorded.

### **II. Review/Approve Minutes**

- A. Meeting of November 18, 2020 and Emergency Meeting of November 24, 2020. Ms. Comperchio made a motion to approve the minutes of November 18, 2020 and November 24, 2020; Mr. Huntress seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The following votes were taken in roll call: Comperchio, aye; Huntress, aye; Lear, aye; Wilson, aye.

### **III. Information/Discussion Items**

- A. State and Local COVID Dashboard. Mr. O’Shea reviewed the changes made to the decision making framework. The School has transitioned from hard number metrics and, moving forward, will implement a more thoughtful approach to decision making about the instruction mode for students. Data will continue to be reviewed and analyzed with the CSC, health professionals, school administrators and other key personnel. One metric will no longer trigger a school-wide move to remote instruction. Three positive cases in the School were identified on November 22 and 23. Contact tracing was conducted back

to November 16 by Tricia McGean and Lauren Sawyer. The classes impacted were (corrected later in the meeting by Mr. O'Shea): one first grade classroom, one second grade classroom, and the 8<sup>th</sup> grade class. The quarantine for these students and staff members ended on November 30. All 50+ close contacts were negative, indicating that this did not appear to be an in-school transmission. On November 27, eight cases were reported in the Carlisle community and the state positivity rate was 3.32%.

- B. School/Superintendent Update. Mr. O'Shea reported that we have members of the School community in quarantine based on exposures outside of school and travel over the Thanksgiving holiday weekend. Mr. O'Shea thanked everyone who adhered to the guidance, and urged people to continue to follow the guidance through the holiday season. There is a projected spike in cases to due to Thanksgiving gatherings. Ms. Wilson asked if people are having trouble getting tested. Mr. O'Shea suggested people contact Lauren Sawyer to help with this process. Ms. Mostoufi arrived at 7:18 p.m. and added that through the program Stop the Spread, people who need a test can get tested in Lawrence. Ms. Wilson asked about the students that are in-person but absent for a length of time and their ability to access the remote curriculum. Mr. O'Shea answered that it can sometimes be challenging to join existing remote lessons, because teachers plan and also set up small group work. Middle school has worked to include absent students who ask to join remote lessons, but it can be more challenging for elementary students because it involves transitioning them to one of the remote teachers. When middle school goes remote, the students have their same teachers for all instruction. Mr. O'Shea added that the School is watching how neighboring towns such as Concord, with more positive COVID cases, respond. He praised how well the procedure worked when the entire 8<sup>th</sup> grade was remote for two weeks. All student education was kept on track. Mr. O'Shea reported on other School business. He thanked Sue Robichaud and her staff for providing a delicious Thanksgiving lunch. FY22 Budget planning is underway. Two budgets will be proposed; a COVID budget and a non-COVID budget. Flu shots are required for all students by December 31. The high school transition process has begun. The Special Ed Subcommittee met twice, once with SEPAC, and the Policy Subcommittee met as well. The start date for the next CSC meeting on December 16 will be delayed so people can attend a Zoom band sharing and sing-a-long hosted by Kevin Maier and Valerie Thomforde from 6:30-7:15. Mr. O'Shea is exploring forming a committee on possible community partnership to support student learning in diverse settings, and asked that a CSC member be co-chair of this committee. He reminded people who are experiencing symptoms to contact Lauren Sawyer as their first course of action. Town employees may be able to get tested through the fire department. The CSC goals were also reviewed.
- C. Data on Family Choice Remote Students Returning to School: Mr. O'Shea said that the School is planning for the return of Family Choice Remote (FCR) students. Surveys were sent to all families, because some students are transitioning from in-person to FCR as well. Mr. O'Shea reported that 17 middle school students are returning from FCR, and 3 middle school students are moving from in-person to FCR, with a net of 14 additional middle school students. These students have a start date of December 9. There are 5 elementary students returning from FCR to in-person instruction on January 4, 2021. The return of elementary students will impact the physical distancing currently in place in classrooms.

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

CCRSD: Ms. Wilson reported that there was an informative presentation about cultural competency at the last meeting. Next week there is a workshop on creating school budgets; Finance Committees from Concord and Carlisle will attend. Concord continues to manage COVID cases. COVID is not being spread inside of school; people are following protocols. Some high school winter sports will be offered including Nordic and downhill skiing, swimming and diving (swimming occurs at each school's facility,) basketball, and ice hockey. These sports are played with only the 5 schools in the CCHS pod. Practices will start December 14 and competitions will take place in January and February. Ms. Mostoufi added that if anyone on the team tests positive, the whole team will quarantine. The Region is looking to get CARES Act funding from Carlisle. The 8<sup>th</sup> grade in Concord has to complete two acts of civic participation. The Rivers and Revolutions program was also discussed.

Special Education Subcommittee: Ms. Comperchio reported that this committee met and discussed the survey that will be sent to families with children on IEPs. Updates and enhancements to the Special Education program were discussed in detail by Lori Bruce. The Committee had the added perspective of SEPAC members in the joint meeting. It was noted that the Special Education department is prepared if school closes for remote instruction. Any issues will be addressed on a case by case basis.

Policy Subcommittee: Ms. Comperchio said that the Committee has met twice and reviewed many policies. There is one remaining meeting in January.

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

Mailings were shared with Ms. Lear.

#### **VI. Warrants**

- A. Payroll Warrant #3421; \$393,964.75
- B. Accounts Payable Warrant #3621; \$49,036.30

#### **VII. Action Items**

Mr. Huntress asked about the status of the nomination for the Brick Building for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places. He asked if the CSC can sponsor the application put forth by Kathy Keller. Mr. O'Shea will follow up with Ms. Keller to see if a CSC vote is required. Ms. Wilson said that the Committee should be aware of any related state or local laws about the building. She asked for more information because some pages were missing from the paperwork that was submitted to the CSC.

#### **VIII. Public Comments**

There were no public comments.

#### **IX. Adjourn Meeting**

Mr. Huntress made a motion to adjourn the meeting; 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. The public meeting was adjourned at 8:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Anderson  
Assistant to the Superintendent

List of Documents Viewed or Reviewed:

Draft Minutes of November 18, 2020

Draft Minutes of November 24, 2020

Warrants

    Payroll Warrant #3421; \$393,964.75

    Accounts Payable Warrant #3621; \$49,036.30

Carlisle School Committee Goals