

**Carlisle School Committee**  
 Minutes  
 March 14, 2018  
 Carlisle School Community Room  
 7:00 PM

Present – School Committee: David Model - Chair, Melissa McMorrow, Josh Kablotsky, Mary Storrs, Christine Lear.

Present – School Administration: James O’Shea, Superintendent; Dennet Sidell, Principal; Susan Pray, Business Manager; Nancy Anderson, Assistant to the Superintendent/Recording Secretary.

Meeting Documents:

Public School Choice Documents: Description, Calculations, Receiving District Status, Opting Out	Minutes from 2-12-18	Residency Policy
Field Trip Policy	Overnight Field Trip Policy	Non-Discrimination Policy
School Bus Policy	School Volunteer Policy	Background Checks Policy

**I. Call to Order**

Chairman David Model called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm.

**II. Public School Choice Hearing**

Mr. Model opened the Public School Choice Hearing. Mr. O’Shea explained School Choice, discussing the reimbursement, \$5000 per student, much less than the CPS cost per pupil), and the benefits, which include diversity in the school population. Selection for School Choice is via lottery and a school can choose specific grades for participation in the program. Once a child enters a school under School Choice, he/she remains in the district for his/her entire school experience (in Carlisle’s case this is K-8). Mr. Model recognized Cynthia Sorn, 433 Rutland Street, who asked if a student is picked through the lottery, and the student has special education needs, does the sending district pays that fee? Mr. O’Shea stated that it’s an additional flat fee that the sending district would pay. Having heard all questions and comments, Mr. Model closed the Public School Choice Hearing at 7:09, and opened the School Committee meeting.

**III. Public Comment Period**

Mr. Model welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked if any members of the public had comments. There were no comments.

#### **IV. Review of Minutes**

Ms. McMorrow made a motion to approve the minutes of the meeting of February 12, 2018. Mr. Kablotsky seconded the motion. All members present voted in favor of approving the minutes.

#### **V. Information/Discussion Items**

**A. Budget Update:** Sue Pray gave a brief update on the FY18 CPS budget.

**B. Middle School Principal Matthew Mehler:** Mr. O'Shea introduced Dr. Matthew Mehler, who will be the new Middle School principal starting on July 1. Dr. Mehler is thrilled to join the Carlisle community, excited to learn, and plans to meet with Ms. Wilson several times over the next couple of months. Mr. Kablotsky, on behalf of the CSC asked Dr. Mehler to let any member know if he/she can assist him in his new role. Dr. Mehler will reach out to CSC members at individual levels to gain institutional knowledge.

**C. School Safety Update:** In the light of the recent school shooting tragedy in Parkland, Florida, Mr. O'Shea has communicated with Chief Fisher at the Police Department. One new practice is to have everyone enter by the main office door only. Preschool drop offs and pick-ups can take place at the preschool classroom door. Student activists in Parkland sparked some political actions, and Carlisle teachers and administration will support students who wish or do not wish to participate in similar actions. There is an opportunity for students to speak with police about school safety concerns over a drop-in lunch on Friday. All these activities are voluntary. Safety is the primary concern at school. Mr. Kablotsky questioned the status of the school safety plan and surveillance cameras. Mr. O'Shea clarified that external cameras, in place, were a priority for safety. Internal cameras, which are not in place, are thought to be used more in relation to discipline issues. The safety discussion is ongoing.

**D. Student Wellness Screening:** Mr. O'Shea reported that the screening is a direct one on one question session, with the school nurse or the school psychologist asking 8<sup>th</sup> grade students if they have been involved with drugs or alcohol. It will take place on March 19, and parents can opt their students out of the process.

**E. Snow Day Calendar Impact:** Due to the recent snowstorms and resulting four school cancellations in the past two weeks, Chair Model briefly discussed the impact on the school calendar. As of today, school ends on June 27. Ms. McMorrow asked that the last day of school be communicated to parents; Mr. O'Shea will let them know. Mr. O'Shea said in the past, the State made a declaration with options for how schools can make up lost days. For example, districts can have longer hours in the school day, or cut short April vacation, or have school in session on Saturdays.

## **F. Policies**

### **1. Residency Policy**

Discussion ensued about the special circumstances of divorced or separated parents, and the District's obligation to educate a child if either parent is a resident of Carlisle. Minor changes will be made to this policy.

### **2. Field Trip Policy**

MASC policy information has been added at the beginning of this policy. Minor changes will be made to this policy.

### **3. Overnight Field Trip Policy**

The CSC needs information on insurance that is in place for overnight field trips. This information will be provided and this policy will be discussed at the next meeting.

### **4. Non-Discrimination Policy**

There was no discussion.

## **VI. Communications/Correspondence**

MASC communications were circulated. Mr. O'Shea shared the article in the Boston Globe about the effectiveness of school districts reflected in student growth in grades 3-8. Carlisle students' progress was outstanding. The work that the faculty and staff is doing is reflected in student growth; Carlisle students are #1 in the country. Chair Model recognized Melynda Gambino, 280 Stoneygate, who referenced another article about 6<sup>th</sup> grade achievement.

## **VII. Superintendent's Report**

Highlights of Superintendent Jim O'Shea's report included:

- Kudos to the CPS facilities department, who are at school before, during and after every storm. They do an outstanding job. Mr. O'Shea also thanked Gary Davis of the DPW.
- Read Across America was a huge success; thanks to the PTO for funding it
- June 22 is 8<sup>th</sup> grade graduation
- Safety discussions with students Officer Corwin and Chief Fisher on Friday
- 7<sup>th</sup> grade play this coming Friday, Saturday, and Sunday
- April 7th is the CEF auction

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

Ms. Lear reported on televising the CSC meetings. Carlisle has used up its allotment of CCTV video time. She has asked the community for assistance with televising but is not getting response. She will try to have something in place for the April meeting. Ms. McMorrow is exploring reaching out to high school students to do the taping. Ms. Lear is working with Mr. Greenwood on the website.

**Long Term Capital Requirements:** Mr. Kablotsky reported that this is the last year the Committee will entertain unnamed maintenance as a line item in the LTCR budget.

**Municipal Facilities:** \$90,000 has been approved for the emergency generator for the Police Department. Municipal Facilities is asking for requests to come through the Committee first.

**RSC Budget:** The hearing was on February 27. The guidelines were increased; the School Committee approved the budget and Concord FinCom guideline, bringing the gap to \$250,000. The next meeting is on March 20. There is a \$1,000,000 warrant to do site safety work, with a cap on authorized borrowing to be taken over time. The Carlisle share is \$250,000 for the upcoming budget year.

The Regional School District strategic planning committee had a visioning session. There is a developing strategic plan for the high school.

## **IX. Action Items**

The following items were reviewed:

- A. Vote School Choice: Ms. McMorrow made a motion to not participate in school choice due to the unpredictability in enrollment. Mr. Kablotsky seconded the motion. All members present voted in favor; the motion carried.
- B. Ms. McMorrow moved to approve the School Bus policy; Mr. Kablotsky seconded the motion. All members present voted in favor; the motion carried.
- C. Ms. McMorrow made a motion to approve the School Volunteer policy; Mr. Kablotsky seconded the motion. All members present voted in favor; the motion carried.
- D. The Background Checks policy is tabled to discuss next month.

## **X. Warrants**

- A. Accounts Payable Warrant #5518; \$80,377.69
- B. Payroll Warrant #5318; \$373,286.89
- C. Payroll Warrant #5618; \$351,189.79
- D. Accounts Payable Warrant #5818; \$59,108.26

## **XI. Other Business**

There was no other business.

## **XII. Citizen's Comments**

Chair Model recognized Melynda Gambino, 280 Stonegate, who talked about implementing some sort of home study program such as a blizzard bag, where students could get credit for working at home during a snow day. Dr. Sidell is meeting with other Principals to discuss these ideas, which have many challenges. Mr. Kablotsky pointed out that during storms, homes are often without power or Internet to complete assignments. Dr. Sidell said some programs are centered on technology, but some are paper and pencil work. Some schools have students who don't participate at every grade. Exploration on this idea will continue.

**XIII. Adjourn to Executive Session pursuant to MGL Chapter 30A, Section 21(a) with no intent to return to open session:**

- A. Purpose 1, To discuss the reputation, character, physical condition or mental health, rather than professional competence, of an individual, or to discuss the discipline or dismissal of, or complaints or charges brought against, a public officer, employee, staff member or individual;**
- B. Purpose 2, To conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with the elementary principal or to conduct collective bargaining sessions or contract negotiations with nonunion personnel;**
- C. Purpose 3, To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body; and**
- D. Purpose 7, To comply with, or act under the authority of, any general or special law or federal grant-in-aid requirements. Mass. Gen. Laws Ch. 39, 23B (1)-(7). G.L. c. 30A, sec. 22(g), consideration of approval of executive session minutes from previous meetings.**

**Ms. McMorrow moved to adjourn to Executive Session with no intent to return to open session; Mr. Kablotsky seconded the motion. The following votes were taken in roll call: Kablotsky; aye; McMorrow, aye; Model, aye; Lear, aye.**

The public meeting was adjourned at 8: 31 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Anderson  
Assistant to the Superintendent