

**Carlisle School Committee**

Minutes

March 27, 2020

8:30-9:45 a.m.

Remote Meeting Via Zoom

Present Via Zoom – School Committee: Christine Lear - Chair, David Model, Eva Mostoufi, Sara Wilson, Shannon May Lavery.

Present Via Zoom – School Administration: James O’Shea, Superintendent; Matt Mehler, Middle School Principal; Dennet Sidell, Elementary Principal; Lori Bruce, Director of Student Support Services; Susan Pray, Business Manager; Nancy Anderson, Assistant to the Superintendent.

Meeting Documents:

Minutes of March 11, 2020	Minutes of March 12, 2020	Minutes of March 20, 2020
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**Note: Per Governor Baker’s order suspending certain provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A sec. 20, the public was not allowed to physically access this School Committee meeting. Members of the Public were able to access this meeting via live stream at**

**<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/321756655> Meeting ID: 321 756 655**

**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**

Chair Christine Lear called the meeting to order at 8:32 a.m. Ms. Lear announced that the meeting is being recorded.

**II. Review/Approve Minutes**

Mr. Model made a motion to approve the minutes of the meetings of March 11, March 12, and March 20, 2020; Ms. Lavery seconded the motion. Minor edits were made to the minutes. The following vote was taken in Roll Call: Lear, aye; Model, aye; Lavery, aye; Wilson aye. Ms. Mostoufi had not yet arrived to the meeting.

**III. Information/Discussion Items**

- A. Update on School Closure. Mr. O’Shea shared that the school continues to remain focused on providing support to Carlisle families. Mr. O’Shea is impressed with the Carlisle faculty and staff and the great creativity, thought and effort that is being put into lessons for students. The Carlisle School is now open Tuesday through Thursday from 8-11 a.m. The Washington DC trip has been cancelled. CCHS offers free takeaway breakfast and lunch to all interested citizens. Mr. Model added that monetary donations are being sought for this effort; interested people can go to the Concord K-8 website to donate. Families also have the link in the email from Mr. O’Shea. Mr. Fortado is helping

sanitize buildings where needed in town. Communications through email, Zoom and google hangouts have occurred to design and share lessons and activities to keep students engaged and connected with school. Mr. O'Shea stated that Governor Baker has extended school closures through May 4. With the extension of the closure, the School will move into Phase 2, where teachers and staff will continue to support students, but will change from enrichment activities to moving forward with curriculum. There are many concerns about equity to consider as the transition to phase 2 takes place, including resources, services, experiences, EL students, students with IEPs and those impacted by the economic and health crisis. Dr. Mehler, Dr. Sidell and Ms. Bruce are working with staff to consider the needs and social emotional supports to keep kids whole during this time. Everyone is doing the best they can. The School Committee voted to pay all Carlisle faculty and staff. Mr. O'Shea is working with vendors to ensure the town realizes all possible savings. Mr. O'Shea attends the Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) meeting every Monday, Wednesday and Friday where town leaders assess local needs and associated planning and responding. The Committee is made up of representatives from the Carlisle Police, Fire, Selectmen, Council on Aging, School and other town departments and leaders, including the Town Administrator and Health Agent. Ms. Lear added that people bring facts and anecdotal information to these meetings. The LEPC is putting procedures in place to support the older population in town, and is looking for resources to help. One minister received a \$25,000 donation to help people in town. Carlisle is fortunate to have these dedicated people. Mr. O'Shea continued his presentation about working with faculty and staff to support students in the transition to phase 2 of the closure, including investigating the best ways for faculty and staff to engage students (Zoom, Google Hangout), continued work with the LEPC, and starting to develop contingency plans for possible integrated summer programming. Since a lot of instruction has been missed, the school may offer a summer program. As hard as teachers work to develop a distance program, it's not ideal. Once the governor says its ok to go back to school, Carlisle will make a local decision on the re-entry date. Mr. O'Shea appreciates the support, patience and understanding expressed by the entire school community. Mr. Model noted that the CCRSD (Region) voted pay employees through the end of the fiscal year. Per Susan Pray, Carlisle non-contractual school employees are paid through the academic year and possibly the summer if they work in the summer program. The principals sent out a survey to parents to assess how things were going since the school closure. Ms. Lavery asked about the survey highlights. Dr. Mehler answered that about 271 parents replied to the survey, with about 30-40 parents per grade responding except for Pre-K with less. 87% of parents thought communication was all right; 8% said it was too much. It was noted that it's challenging to provide timely information because information is out of date quickly. 80% of parents said they're receiving daily communication from teachers, 97% said their kids were participating in lessons, 100% said they had access to the internet. For time on student engagement, 75% responded it was 4 hours or less; most agreed or strongly agreed students had access to technology. Technology challenges were noted because it is not only different but challenging to be a mom, dad, teacher, and worker. It was noted that this is difficult for teachers too. For level of engagement, 75% were highly or moderately engaged, and 1-2% were highly disengaged. Families reported overall a high connection of maintaining home to school engagement. When asked the best time of day for a

meeting, 70% said 10 am to 12 pm was the best time. 98.8% said they are not experiencing a food emergency. Comments were positive for teachers. It is noted the School is offering chrome books to 5<sup>th</sup> grade parents because it can be challenging juggling use of devices at home. Ms. Lavery wondered if the Committee could experience more student presentations going forward. Could teachers select something from each week to present at School Committee meetings? This could be particularly valuable since there is such great attendance at Committee Zoom meetings. She would welcome either teachers or students presenting. Dr. Mehler and Dr. Sidell will ask their faculty, welcoming both successes and failures. It is an opportunity to highlight the creative work that is being done. Mr. Model added that through Student Council, perhaps a student could tell the Committee what his/her life is like right now. Mr. O'Shea will coordinate this effort.

- B. Solar Canopy Project Update. Mr. Fortado is working with Ameresco to see what work can get done during the school closure. It was noted that Ameresco has run into problems with offices being closed, permitting and social distancing. There are still obstacles with trenching. The school is continuing to explore what might be done but due to the current circumstances, the project probably won't be ahead of schedule.

#### **IV. Action Items**

There were no action items.

#### **V. Warrants**

- A. Accounts Payable Warrant #7320; \$88,804.39

**VI. Public Comments.** Camelia Rosca praised the School Committee for the decision to support all staff during the closure. She urged everyone to support the community. Lee Stevens, parent of a 6<sup>th</sup> and a 3<sup>rd</sup> grader, asked if it was possible to get student work assignments the night before as opposed to the morning. He said that with parents working from home, work often arises at beginning of the day. Dr. Sidell responded that he and Dr. Mehler are talking with their faculty to see what's manageable. Originally the design was based on Husky Home Day Learning for a 9 a.m. start, but conversations with staff will continue. Ms. Vanaria added that the pattern was to put the lessons up each morning but she feels the faculty can work toward having lessons posted earlier. Dr. Mehler added that as we expand our definition of remote educational learning, we want to strive to create an efficient student experience. Vanessa Moroney wanted to reflect on her family experience. She would like more consistency across grade levels. However, she understands the challenges of at-home learning and referenced the analogy "We are building this plane as we learn to fly it." She added that her kids look forward to lessons, this process helps them hold on to a sense of normalcy, they enjoy seeing lessons and classmates. She said kudos to all of you in this rapidly changing environment. Mr. O'Shea answered a question about community volunteers, saying none were needed right now, because our faculty and staff are currently meeting needs. He added that as the LEPC continues to meet, he will offer to use the school database to meet other community needs. Ms. Lear added that the LEPC has put together a matching program for people who are homebound and alone, and need volunteers to call them. Ms. Rosca asked if it would be feasible for the students to call either in groups or as individuals. Or is there a way for seniors to be invited to log in and see kids in groups. Mr. Model asked Kate Reid from the Board of Selectmen to comment on the town

needs. Ms. Reid answered that work is being done to ensure all the town's needs are being met. Ms. Lear shared that the COA is looking for shoppers. Ms. Reid shared that the Selectmen (and a BOH rep and an LEPC rep) will meet every Tuesday and Thursday at 7 p.m. Mei Shang, a parent of a 2<sup>nd</sup> grader and a 7<sup>th</sup> grader, voiced appreciation to the school and community, noting her family has had great experiences since the school closure. She has shared stories with coworkers, and knows people in Carlisle are so lucky and proud of what we are doing. Ms. Gray added that some Early Act members are looking for ways to help, and are happy to connect with seniors or with people feeling lonely.

## **VII. Adjourn Meeting**

Ms. Lear ended with saying that it's great to see how many people have joined this School Committee meeting. Mr. Model made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Ms. Lavery seconded the motion. The following votes were taken in Roll Call: Lear, aye; Model, aye; Wilson, aye; Mostoufi, aye; Lavery, aye. The public meeting was adjourned at 9:18 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Nancy Anderson  
Assistant to the Superintendent