

Carlisle School Committee

Minutes

Friday, May 15, 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 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; Rob Fortado, Supervisor of Buildings and Grounds; Nancy Anderson, Assistant to the Superintendent.

Meeting Documents:

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| Minutes of May 8, 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://us02web.zoom.us/j/88046109815?pwd=aW9yMlh3Rm5YdWFOZ0hmempyeHNqQT09>
Meeting ID: 880 4610 9815

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 8:34 a.m. Ms. Lear announced that the meeting is being recorded.

II. Review/Approve Minutes

Mr. Model moved to approve the minutes of May 8, 2020; Ms. Lavery seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The following votes were taken in roll call: Lear, aye; Lavery, aye; Model, aye; Mostoufi, aye; Wilson aye.

III. Information/Discussion Items

- A. Teacher and Student Presentations. Valerie Thomforde shared student work from a general music class. The 6th grade students created compositions based on artwork. Students chose a piece of art, thought about the elements of art involved, then considered what a related musical piece would sound like. Students used a variety of music, combining artwork and music in a video. Charles Mastromarino’s piano piece was inspired by Starry Night. Stephanie Liang’s flute piece was inspired by Red Arrow. Mr. O’Shea and Ms. Lear thanked the students for their wonderful performances and Ms. Thomforde thanked them for their creativity. Mr. Maier introduced two of his students. Abigail Adams provided some context to her piece, explaining that her nanny, who is not

working for her family during the quarantine, is a big fan of the Beatles. Abigail performed Let it Be on the trombone, and hopes to play it to surprise her nanny when she returns. Elise McMorrow shared that during the quarantine, she is appreciating spring more than usual. She wrote and performed a trumpet piece inspired by spring. Mr. Maier thanked the students for their creative projects and inspiration, noting pieces like the ones that were performed can help lift spirits. Ms. Lear thanked the teachers and performers.

- B. Update on School Closure. Mr. O'Shea apologized for sending out an incorrect link to the meeting, but noted the meeting will be posted on the website. Mr. O'Shea noted that outstanding work continues to be done by faculty and staff, as evidenced by the student performances today. Students are involved in synchronous and asynchronous meetings with teachers. He is convening the Back to School Task Force, and reported that over 25 people were interested in serving on this committee. The first meeting is Monday at 4:00. Mr. O'Shea shared that the State also has a group that meets to establish guidelines for reopening. Procedures will be implemented on a district by district basis. It is not yet known if there will be a summer program in school. Staff is preparing for the end of school; the faculty has gathered up student belonging and arrangements will be made for parents to pick up these items. Significant projects at the school campus will occur over the summer including the solar canopy project as well as school beautification and cleaning. The kitchen staff is doing cleaning as well. All people at the school practice physical distancing. The School completed the exercise requested by FinCom of a 5% reduction in the budget. At the meeting earlier this week, Mr. O'Shea shared that such a reduction would have a significant impact on class sizes, a reduction in non-core curriculum classes, and reductions in curriculum materials and supplies. The School does not currently have an operating budget for FY21; because Town Meeting has not taken place. Mr. O'Shea noted that the Town has financial concerns and is taking prudent actions. All town boards did the same exercise. Whether the School plans for a traditional opening in the fall or something else, this budget reduction has a huge impact. Mr. O'Shea noted that there is some savings from FY20 and the School's request was to use some of those savings to offset the FY21 budget. Mr. O'Shea will continue to work with FinCom to make that happen. Meetings with the LEPC continue. Dr. Mehler is working on the 8th grade celebration/graduation which is tentatively scheduled for June 19. Dr. Sidell and his team are working on Kindergarten screening.
- C. Superintendent Evaluation. Mr. O'Shea referenced the revised evaluation form that was sent in the School Committee packet. The revised form allows Committee members to provide additional feedback. Ms. Mostoufi noted that the form added an area to comment on Mr. O'Shea's response to COVID-19 and added that valuable feedback can be used for future planning. Ms. Lear said the form reflects what members wanted to see. Ms. Mostoufi questioned if the Committee was missing any evidence. Mr. O'Shea spoke of the Visioning Committee, the Special Education work, the schedule work by Dr. Mehler, and added that all initiatives have continued to be addressed in the district during the closure. Mr. O'Shea will write a summary of the work that has been done under his leadership and send it to Committee members. Completed evaluations will be returned to Ms. Anderson by May 29th. The Superintendent Evaluation will be discussed at the first meeting in June. Ms. Lear encouraged members to contact Mr. O'Shea to talk with him.

IV. Members'/Committee Reports as Needed.

CCRS: Mr. Model reported that though Carlisle went through the exercise of reducing the budget by 5%, it is likely Concord, with guidance from Counsel, will adopt a 1/12 budget with no town meeting. Concord teachers are doing remote learning too and it seems to be working well; students are busy, and there is a lot of contact with teachers. Nobody knows what School will look like in the fall.

Visioning: Ms. Lavery reported that the Committee met last Thursday and will meet again next week to firm up and finalize the visioning statement.

V. Warrants

There were no warrants.

VI. Action Items

There were no action items.

VII. Public Comments

Mr. Model reminded everyone that Town Caucus is Monday, May 18. He asked people to please Email Peggy Wang, the Town Clerk, if there is interest in participating. The Town Caucus will happen rain or shine. Mr. O'Shea apologized again for sending the incorrect Zoom link and will send this School Committee recording to Carlisle School families. There were no other comments.

VIII. Adjourn Meeting

Mr. Model made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Ms. Mostoufi seconded the motion. The following votes were taken in Roll Call: Lear, aye; Lavery, aye; Model, aye; Mostoufi, aye; Wilson, aye. The public meeting was adjourned at 9:12 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Nancy Anderson
Assistant to the Superintendent