

Carlisle School Committee Minutes
July 16, 2018
Carlisle School Community Room
6:00 PM

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

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

Meeting Documents:

Minutes from 6/13/18		
----------------------	--	--

I. Call to Order

In Mr. Model’s absence, Vice Chairman Mr. Kablotsky called the meeting to order at 6:09 p.m. Mr. Model joined the meeting at 6:16 pm and chaired the rest of the meeting.

II. Review of Minutes

Ms. Storrs made a motion to approve the minutes of the meeting of June 13, 2018. Ms. Lear seconded the motion. After the Committee reviewed the minutes, noting the date will be changed to June 13, 2018, Ms. Lear, Mr. Model, Mr. Kablotsky and Ms. Gambino voted in favor of approving the minutes; Ms. Storrs abstained.

III. Information/Discussion Items

The Committee posed several questions, including: What will we seek to accomplish in the coming year? How do we deal with the increasing special education population? Should we allocate resources differently? How can the CSC educate the town about why the School needs more of a budget increase? Mr. Kablotsky stated that we have a wonderful District, beautiful town and supportive community. There is a shared commitment to providing a great educational experience for our children. The arts, library, and special activities are threatened if funding is reduced. Increasing costs must therefore be addressed and the issue is whether the education of Carlisle children be provided in a more efficient and effective way from a budget perspective. For example, it is prudent to explore changing the middle school model before change is imposed on us. Ms. Lear noted that we have an incredible resource of the school property and wondered if the facility can be used in the summer to acquire increased revenue. Ms. Gambino noted that the Town has been supportive of the School and it’s important to be strategic in discussions. Mr. Model echoed the idea of exploring different models to educate our children. Mr. O’Shea said the challenge is to bring change and opportunity for new educational experiences for our children. The definition of what is successful in education is changing. There are a number of ways to explore how we run as a district, beyond the financial

implications. Mr. Model summarized that we've always led with what is best for students. However, we must also consider our resources.

Mr. O'Shea distributed the Concord and CCRSD district plan overview. The focus groups emerged with four themes. Students want to have services that are relevant to them. There are multiple paths to success. It's important to have a balance between academic achievement and well-being. An aim is to develop students who are culturally proficient in an innovative environment. Mr. Model noted that the CCRSD overview seems similar to the Carlisle process. Challenges include: How do we make the education process more inclusive? How do we account for the tremendous student needs that have to be fulfilled? Mr. O'Shea discussed the RISE (Reaching Independence through Supportive Education) program, which manages students with special needs in the Middle School age range. There has been discussion about exploring a similar program for the elementary grades, which would necessitate a commitment to resources for that program. The number of elementary students fit the profile to be in such a program would have to be explored. Mr. O'Shea discussed the co-teaching model that we are implementing for next school year. With the diversity of needs, students within a single grade and with a certain profile are grouped in a single classroom with one regular and one special educator. All students benefit in that classroom. Mr. O'Shea shared that teachers are collaborating and working on developing their skills this summer. Often when students have identifiable needs, the school hires more staff to meet those needs. Mr. O'Shea noted the importance of looking at alternative service delivery models. Mr. Kablotsky asked how does the school evaluate all of these models, to decide what to move forward with for future years? He noted that people have comfort zones and that can alter the perspective of what is working and what isn't. Mr. Model added that these are innovative pilot programs. In terms of assessment, if the scores of these students improve, then the model is likely working; if they decline, the model likely didn't work well. Mr. O'Shea said that teachers and administrators are thinking about how to assess the program. Students and parents will be solicited for feedback. He added that the grants program helped provide additional time for collaboration and assessment.

Ms. Storrs wants to look at other areas of the school. Mr. Model asked if we could pilot a grade 6-7 social studies program. Mr. O'Shea said that based on conversation in the last few months, administrators must talk with faculty and staff first. His plan is to engage the staff, give people opportunities to give feedback and offer ideas. Parents and students will be involved too. Mr. Model remarked that this is an opportunity to think outside our comfort zone to find a solution. The challenge of rethinking educational model is a good thing.

Expectations for the coming school year were discussed. Mr. Kablotsky would like to see a number of pilot ideas tried, modified and expanded upon. He said it is important to establish a process of evaluations and assessment of these programs. Ms. Storrs noted that it takes more than a year to evaluate a program. Mr. Model said that four educators are involved in these pilots; could they be challenged to come up with goals? Mr. Kablotsky posed a challenge; could we establish a culture that encourages innovation. Odden Pool money could be used for this. A goal would be to provide better educational experiences at lower costs, keeping quality education. Mr. O'Shea will engage teachers to identify initiatives for different programs.

Mr. Model asked for ideas for strategic goals for the CSC. Ms. Gambino is invested in the School Advisory Council (SAC) and the school communication plan. She would like to see more engagement of families and parents, and communications with families. She would like to implement platforms that encompass a lot of communication.

Ms. Lear put together a Facebook page; this is one more place where parents can see how CSC operates. She has been promoting a general understanding on what CSC is and does. Even with these initiatives, publicizing and communicating what CSC does, a lot of people do not attend CSC meetings. The thought is that if people are happy with what the school is doing, they do not attend meetings. One actionable item: parents felt more engaged when teacher communicated with them once a week, especially at the Elementary level. We need a strategy and plan to improve community engagement.

Mr. Kablotsky asked how we can make the district communicate better. He has heard negative feedback from parents who don't feel heard, listened to or responded to. There is a need for communication tailored to individual needs.

Ms. Storrs feels that the CSC has an obligation to communicate to the greater community.

Mr. O'Shea is meeting more with each CSC member. One question is how do we use resources to meet the educational outcomes that we want? Mr. Kablotsky proposed that the focus be on sustainable financial plans that go beyond one-year budgets. Mr. Model and Mr. O'Shea will draft consolidated goals.

IV. Communications/Correspondence

There was no new correspondence to circulate.

V. Superintendent's Report

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

Danny Flannery is retiring August 10

David Flannery is retiring December 31

Mr. O'Shea attended the MASS conference last week

Administrative retreat took place in early July

Mr. O'Shea has been working with Matt Mehler on transitions

The Lillian Award was given to Kathy Horan and Stage Casparis

Carlisle Master Planning Ideas workshop took place

Graduation

Cleaning of the buildings is underway

Police are doing an annual training at the school next week

VI. Members'/Committee Reports as Needed

Ms. Gambino attended a meeting on the Caring for Carlisle Health Assessment. There is a Community Center feasibility study. Highland Building has safety and access issues. Ms.

Gambino will represent the committee as the Town completes a Community Center feasibility study.

Facilities Committee: Mr. Kablotsky reported that the Town Hall is overrun with paper and needs a place to store it. The Highland Building is not a feasible location due to the concern about fire; there needs to be a sprinkler installed. The likely solution is installing storage containers behind the DPW shed for storage.

VII. Action Items

The following items were reviewed:

Vote for EDCO rep. Ms. Storrs made a motion to vote to appoint Mr. O'Shea as the EDCO representative; Mr. Kablotsky seconded the motion. All members present voted in favor.

VIII. Warrants (all FY 18)

- A. Accounts Payable Warrant #8918; \$136,700.19
- B. Accounts Payable Warrant #8518; \$276,244.97
- C. Payroll Warrant #8718; \$286,415.50
- D. Payroll Warrant #8418; \$501,743.90
- E. Accounts Payable Warrant #9118; \$64,645.49
- F. Payroll Warrant #0219; \$233,405.89
- G. Accounts Payable Warrant #0419; \$24,143.39

Susan Pray was recognized and noted we are on track budget-wise.

Ms. Gambino noted that it would be helpful to summarize the procedures Ms. Pray has established as Business Manager to pass along to the next person. Ms. Pray also noted that this year is a bus contract year. She is sending it to 5-10 vendors. She is also pricing electricity.

IX. Other Business

There was no other business.

X. Adjourn to Executive Session pursuant to MGL Chapter 30A, Section 21(a) with no intent to return to open session, for the following purposes:

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; and

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.

Mr. Kablotsky made a motion to adjourn to executive session, for Purposes 2 and 3; Ms. Lear seconded the motion. The following votes were taken in roll call:
Storrs, Aye; Gambino, aye; Lear, aye; Model, aye; Kablotsky, aye.

The public meeting was adjourned at 8:21 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Anderson
Assistant to the Superintendent