

**SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
AGENDA
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2020
7:00 P.M.
CARLISLE SCHOOL COMMUNITY ROOM
AND ZOOM REMOTE ACCESS**

In order to adhere to social distancing guidelines, 5 members of the public will be 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 cannot access this meeting in the Community Room can access it via live stream at:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82268519388?pwd=OEcwdfhFbmhNdtZzciMxdm81NVppUT09>

Meeting ID: 822 6851 9388

Passcode: vLiiJ5

The School Committee reserves the right to implement additional remote participation procedures and will notify the public of these procedures as soon as practicable. Public comments are welcome as per the agenda.

I. Call to Order

Chair announces the meeting is being recorded.

II. Review/Approve Minutes

A. Meeting of October 14, 2020

III. Information/Discussion Items

- A. State and Local COVID Dashboard
- B. School Reopening
- C. School Committee Goals
- D. Resolutions Committee Report/MASC
- E. English as a Second Language (ESL) Press Release: Tiered Focus Monitoring Review

IV. Members'/Committee Reports as Needed

V. Communications/Correspondence

VI. Warrants: None

VII. Action Items:

- A. Vote on Change to the Carlisle Metrics/Impact on School Instruction Mode
- B. Vote Resolutions
- C. Election of Voting Delegate and Alternate Delegate to MASC Delegate Assembly

VIII. Public Comments

IX. Adjourn Meeting

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

Purpose 2, To conduct Elementary and Middle School Principal contract negotiations.

The agenda items listed are those that the Chair reasonably anticipates will be discussed at the meeting. Not all items listed may in fact be discussed and other items not listed may also be brought up for discussion to the extent permitted by law. All School Committee meetings may be recorded via audio and video by the School Committee.

Carlisle School Committee
Minutes
Wednesday, October 14, 2020
7:00 p.m.
Carlisle School Community Room
and Zoom Remote Access

Present– School Committee: Christine Lear - Chair, Amanda Comperchio, Jack Huntress
Present – School Committee via Zoom: Eva Mostoufi, Sara Wilson
Present– School Administration: James O’Shea, Superintendent
Present – School Administration via Zoom: Matt Mehler, Middle 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://us02web.zoom.us/j/81323969421?pwd=bzRtVnNjWmlJMUhFdkF5RGhUSzhXZz09>

Meeting ID: 813 2396 9421

Passcode: F\$2=Cm

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 7:01 p.m. and stated that the meeting was being recorded.

II. Review/Approve Minutes

- A. Meeting of August 4, 2020 and October 6, 2020. Ms. Comperchio made a motion to approve the minutes of August 4, 2020 and October 6, 2020; Mr. Huntress 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.

III. Information/Discussion Items

- A. Brick Building Window Renovation Update. The Historical Commission representatives had to cancel, so this discussion was postponed.
- B. State and Local COVID Dashboard. Mr. O’Shea reported that there have been no new cases in the last 14 days in the School community; over 40 COVID tests have been taken with all negative results to date. The Town of Carlisle currently has 2 cases; last week there were 4. Massachusetts has a 1.17% positivity rate. He noted that Concord schools have managed their faculty and student cases.
- C. School Reopening. Mr. O’Shea reviewed the safety measures that are in place at the School. They include: mandatory masks for all students, faculty and staff; hand

sanitizing stations; the slow roll-out of students returning to school; portable sinks; fiberglass dividers for office spaces; the creation of a second health office; HEPA air purification systems for classrooms and offices; the HVAC assessment; increased air exchanges; MERV 13 filters; physical distancing of 6 feet; relocation of classrooms to larger spaces; canopies for outdoor instruction; safety training for faculty; no volunteers or visitors allowed in the School; all faculty meetings are held on Zoom; takeaway lunches; increased cleaning regimen; and daily health check-ins. These many steps support the well-being of faculty, staff and students. When other Districts have positive cases in schools, the spread of COVID is inhibited by these practices, which work together to keep people as safe as possible. Phase 3 started for Elementary students on October 13 and starts for Middle School on October 19. Pick-up and drop-off is more complicated now, and lunch and recess are more challenging. There is a focus on cleaning and disinfecting of bathrooms mid-day and in the evening, and wiping down high-touch surfaces during the day. Mr. O'Shea shared questions from the community. One parent asked if one of their children had symptoms and was waiting for test results, should their other child be quarantined as well. The State guidance says that unless there is a positive test result, the other child does not have to quarantine. Carlisle will follow State guidance. Another question concerned the metrics on Carlisle case numbers. There could be over 4 cases in the Town of Carlisle without any of them impacting the School operation or population. If the threshold in Carlisle was reached over a 14 day span of time, it would trigger a meeting between Mr. O'Shea, the CSC, BOH, the Public Health Nurse and School Nurse to look at the data and make an informed decision on continuing in-person instruction or going to remote instruction for a period of time. Mr. O'Shea recommended that the School maintain the metrics in place for cases in the School community and the State, and the above protocol be implemented for the Carlisle case number metric. The last question referenced the need for more information and communication from CCHS and Concord Schools, particularly about COVID cases. Ms. Wilson said that Carlisle residents can subscribe to Concord Superintendent Laurie Hunter's emails. This can be found on the CCHS website. Ms. Lear opened discussion about changing the metrics for the Town of Carlisle. Mr. Huntress said human judgement should always be part of the process. He supports the implementation of having a discussion if Carlisle case numbers reach the threshold. Ms. Comperchio added that it would have been disruptive if the School shut it down last week when there was no impact on the school, and voiced her support of this procedure as well. Ms. Lear also supports the procedure. Ms. Mostoufi added that the Stop the Spread program has been extended. The State can send out a mobile testing station if we have more than one case of COVID. It is important to know that we have resources. Carlisle is fortunate to have the public health nurse do the contact tracing. She asked if Lauren Sawyer, School Nurse, is able to access information if a case arises. Lauren Sawyer answered that she is in touch with Tricia McGean (public health nurse) and Concord school nurses; they are a united group. She added that she would be able to help make a sound decision on safety. She clarified that the Mobile unit would be enacted if there was an in-school transmission. Ms. Mostoufi said the system and protocols are working, and she doesn't have a problem meeting as needed and making the decision on the School model. Ms. Wilson voiced support for the metrics for School numbers. She noted that when discussing the community numbers, the reports go to a person's home town, not where

they are physically; a discussion makes sense. Ms. Lear summarized that the CSC is supportive of having a conversation about the Town of Carlisle case numbers, should they reach the threshold, and deciding the impact on the School learning model. Ms. Wilson asked if the State has to be informed of this change and feels the plan should be updated to reflect it. Mr. O'Shea said this is operational discretion, but will check to see if the metric is included in the plan. Ms. Comperchio asked if this would be an emergency meeting of the CSC to discuss the framework and the impact on the School instructional model; the answer was yes. Mr. Huntress questioned if all of the metrics should be reviewed.

- D. Indigenous People's Day. Mr. O'Shea said Columbus day has been celebrated since 1937 and there is currently interesting dialog around the celebration of this holiday. Should we, as a School community, recognize how history has been interpreted before now and think about it differently. It could be discussed and also be addressed at the meeting of the Calendar Committee. Mr. Huntress would like to research the topic. Ms. Wilson would like to know how other schools handle it, and understand how the federal holiday impacts the calendar. Mr. O'Shea said other districts celebrate Columbus Day as a holiday. Ms. Mostoufi will explore what Concord is doing. Ms. Comperchio asked if it was changed on the calendar, would it also be woven into the curriculum. Mr. O'Shea answered that the School is currently working on how we talk about our history. He noted that there are a handful of states that observe Indigenous People's Day. Ms. Wilson noted that this aligned with cultural competency in the draft CSC goals in Concord. Mr. O'Shea will revisit this topic prior to January when the Calendar Committee meets. Historically the committee members consisted of faculty, teachers and administrators. A calendar was then presented to CSC. He advocated looking at procedures to give the CSC input to the calendar discussion.
- E. School Committee Goals. Mr. Huntress shared slides with ideas on how to write SMART goals. It's important that goals are specific, measurable, achievable, relevant and time-bound. He presented some categories for the goals: Community Engagement, so taxpayers understand the value of where money is spent at the School; Pedagogy/Curriculum adjustments; Special Education; Diversity; Innovation/technology; and COVID. Mr. Huntress hoped the Committee could cover a couple of other important topics besides the School budget. Ms. Mostoufi added that the CSC also has to supervise and evaluate the superintendent. Ms. Lear reviewed last year's goals. Ms. Mostoufi asked how CSC goals would align with Superintendent goals. Mr. O'Shea said his goals are focused on: reopening and dealing with the pandemic; how to connect instruction to the new mission, vision and portrait of a graduate; how to insure that CPS is providing anti-bias and anti-racist education for our students; and working with the new business manager to collaboratively develop a budget, which includes identifying how the School can unify purchasing with Town. He added that the CSC can create goals that will align with his goals. Ms. Mostoufi asked if there could be an educational goal around student achievement and equity and inclusion. Mr. O'Shea answered that in the new vision and mission, performance on standardized assessments is not a focus. He said as the portrait of a graduate becomes a reality, all Carlisle children will move forward. Mr. Huntress asked about a technology goal; exploring the role of it in the classroom, and how it helps students. Ms. Lear wants to see technology be driven by teacher needs; Ms. Wilson thought this was a more operational topic. Ms. Comperchio asked if the CSC could come

up with a vision for how technology is used. Mr. O’Shea said technology plays a major role in the education of Carlisle students. Our digital citizenship curriculum, for which Nick and Maya developed frameworks, helps students navigate the information that is available to them. Ms. Lear asked if the CSC should broaden its touch with the community. She wants to support the effort of making strides with the new vision, formulating a school budget, and supporting Ms. Bruce and the special education program, especially in the current COVID environment. She also wants to address climate change. Mr. O’Shea said the topic of climate change fits with the portrait of a graduate. Currently, science teachers Brad Cranston and Kathy Marsh are addressing it. Ms. Comperchio asked about diversity; Mr. O’Shea said it is being addressed by the social justice committee. Ms. Mostoufi supported the idea of not being overly ambitious, noting that the CSC has already been meeting every week. Mr. Huntress feels that budget, policy and COVID are a lot on which to focus and maybe one more goal could be chosen. Ms. Comperchio added that the CSC could plan long term as well. Mr. Huntress asked how can we leverage communication about the school in a positive way with groups in Town. He feels that sometimes the great things the School does go unnoticed. Ms. Wilson proposed evaluating how effective we are in using our liaisons and committee representations. Are we maximizing our individual roles as liaisons. Should we participate more in other groups? Mr. Huntress will summarize goal ideas and send them to Ms. Anderson to distribute. Members will review, share ideas and provide feedback on Mr. O’Shea’s goals.

- F. Resolutions Committee Report/MASC. Mr. O’Shea presented a list of resolutions from MASC. There is a movement to eliminate mandatory testing (MCAS) for many reasons, and other resolutions are important to endorse as well. Ms. Lear asked that members review these for discussion next week. Ms. Wilson added that resolutions are voted on individually at the MASC conference. She noted that the CSC already voted on the Anti-Racism and COVID funding resolutions in June. Mr. O’Shea will research more about past resolutions.

IV. Members’/Committee Reports as Needed

CCRS: Ms. Wilson reported that there was an informative workshop with Dorothy Presser last night on how a school committee can operate. Ms. Presser discussed effective communication, consensus, and constructive discussions. Ms. Mostoufi added that they also discussed goal setting and how a committee evaluates itself. Ms. Presser is a great resource.

EDCO: Ms. Wilson attended the EDCO roundtable this morning. She reported that all Districts are struggling with goals and budgets, and dealing with similar issues. There was a lot of discussion about Cohort C and equity.

V. Communications/Correspondence

Communications were addressed earlier in the meeting. Ms. Wilson added that there are many ways for families to sign up to get information; parents can take the initiative. Ms. Mostoufi said people have access to COVID information (which includes cases in Concord) on the School dashboard.

VI. Warrants

There were no warrants.

DRAFT

VII. Action Item

There were no action items.

VIII. Public Comments

Linda Vanaria asked in the CSC vote next week, could members consider Mr. O'Shea's recommendation to only alter the community metric and not the school metric that is in place. Ms. Lear clarified that the plan is to have a discussion with key parties before there is any change made to the instruction model. Cynthia Sorn, Rutland Street commented that she surprised the School was looking to change the metrics after only a month. She said there is a statement on the School website saying children should quarantine if they travel out of state, and asked if that is being checked. Mr. O'Shea answered at the present time there no mechanism for checking travel information. The School has communicated the expectation to families and hopes that people follow it. He noted Lauren Sawyer sent out a correspondence about travel to all families before the long weekend. Ms. Sorn asked if a teacher hears about a trip from a child and reports it, is something done? Mr. O'Shea answered yes, if it comes to our attention, we will address it. Ms. Mostoufi added that the State monitors travel on planes and sends a reminder to your phone to quarantine or get tested upon your return to Massachusetts.

IX. Adjourn Meeting

Mr. Huntress made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Ms. Comperchio seconded the motion. The following votes were taken in Roll Call: Comperchio, aye; Huntress, aye; Lear, aye; Mostoufi, aye; Wilson, aye. The public meeting was adjourned at 9:11 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Anderson
Assistant to the Superintendent

report of the resolutions committee

The members of the Resolutions Committee met virtually on June 25, 2020 to consider resolutions proposed by member districts and the MASC Board of Directors for consideration at the 2020 Annual Meeting of the Association. Members present were: Ellen Holmes, Chair, Ex-Officio, Ashburnham-Westminster Regional; Deborah Davis, Northeast Metropolitan Voc. Tech.; Barbara Davis, Holbrook; Margaret Hughes, Narragansett Regional; Laura Fallon, Northampton; Irene Feliciano-Sims, Holyoke; William Fonseca, East Longmeadow; Jason Fraser, Silver Lake Regional; Beverly Hugo, Framingham; Mildred Lefebvre, Holyoke; Stacey Rizzo, Revere; Wendy Rua, Agawam; Lynn Ryan Assabet Voc. Tech.; Paul Schlichtman, Arlington; and Robert Swartz, Gardner.

The following resolutions were moved forward by the Resolutions Committee and approved by the Board of Directors.

RESOLUTION 1: MCAS AND HIGH STAKES TESTING

(Submitted by the MASC Board of Directors)

WHEREAS the MASC Membership and MASC Board of Directors have previously and repeatedly taken the position of opposing high stakes testing including the MCAS; and

WHEREAS the COVID-19 Remote Learning Model has negatively and disproportionately affected students with learning disabilities, students of lower socioeconomic status, ELL students and students who identify as minorities; and

WHEREAS the social and emotional trauma both individually and collectively has yet to be truly realized in the students who have experienced the shutdown of their local school buildings and separations from their peers and supportive adults; and

WHEREAS the students of the Commonwealth have already missed valuable face to face instructional opportunities with their teachers and would benefit from focusing on those important instructional opportunities and social emotional supports;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that MASC rejects the calls for the students of 2022 who missed their tenth grade MCAS testing to be required to make it up during the 2020-2021 school year or ever. We demand those students be held harmless for not taking the MCAS and that their graduation requirements shall be determined by locally controlled voices of the School Committee and School Administration within the remaining graduation requirements of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Additionally, we reiterate our call for a moratorium on all high stakes testing for the 2020-2021 school year so all students can benefit from their time being focused on direct instruction and we urge the legislature to enact a moratorium on high stakes testing of three years.

RESOLUTION 2: COVID-19 STATE FUNDING

(Submitted by the MASC Board of Directors)

WHEREAS if schools are to re-open this fall in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, it is the responsibility of each school district to do so safely and responsibly; and

WHEREAS it is the responsibility of the state to ensure that each school district is able to pay for the enormous additional staffing, transportation and material expenses required to do this; and

WHEREAS the state cannot expect mandatory COVID-19 safety guidelines to be followed without also ensuring that each school district has the funds required to implement these guidelines;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the state must guarantee every school district full reimbursement for whatever COVID-19 expenses are required to follow state mandates. We must ensure a statewide school re-opening that is safe, responsible and equitable. There can be no unfunded mandates for COVID-19.

RESOLUTION 3: SCHOOL COMMITTEE ANTI-RACISM RESOLUTION

(Submitted by the MASC Board of Directors)

WHEREAS as schools have the responsibility to equip students with their civil right of obtaining a free and appropriate public education, it is the responsibility of each school to ensure we create a welcoming community for ALL students; and

WHEREAS it is the responsibility that every district provide to all district staff, including School Committee members, annual professional development on diversity, equity and inclusion; and

WHEREAS every district will commit to recruiting and retaining a diverse and culturally responsive teaching workforce; and

WHEREAS every district will examine their policies for institutional and systemic racialized practices and implement change with sustainable policies that are evidence based; and

WHEREAS every district will incorporate into their curriculum the history of racial oppression and works by black authors and works from diverse perspectives; and

WHEREAS we as school district leaders can no longer remain silent to the issues of racism and hate that continue to plague our public and private institutions;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that all the school districts in the Commonwealth should guarantee that racist practices are eradicated, and diversity, equity and inclusion is embedded and practiced for our students, families, faculty and staff.

School Committee members should ensure our that school culture and that of every district in the Commonwealth is anti-racist, and that acknowledges that all lives cannot matter until black lives matter.

RESOLUTION 4: LOWERING THE VOTING AGE FOR MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS

(Submitted by the MASC Board of Directors)

WHEREAS the right to vote is elemental to democracy and that right should be protected and guaranteed to all qualified citizen; and

WHEREAS sixteen and seventeen-year-olds possess the same critical analytic intelligence as eighteen-year-olds; and

WHEREAS in Massachusetts, sixteen-year-olds have been deemed able to consent to sexual intercourse, obtain a learner's permit and driver's license, get married with parental consent, work a full-time job and pay taxes, and be tried as an adult in a court of law; and

WHEREAS the 2018 Act to Promote Civics Engagement mandated an increased emphasis on civics education in Massachusetts Public Schools; and

WHEREAS studies conducted in places with a voting age of 16 have demonstrated that, when partnered with a strong civics education, a lowered voting age results in higher overall civic engagement and voter turnout and higher propensity to develop a lifelong voting habit; and

WHEREAS early voter engagement increases civic participation later in life, which is vital to a democracy; and

WHEREAS turnout among all voters in the United States is decreasing, and a push to vote is much needed for younger citizens; and

WHEREAS 16-year-olds may now pre-register to vote in Massachusetts, which may provide a logistical framework for their local participation; and

WHEREAS the rules of local voting should be a local issue; and

WHEREAS Representative Andy Vargas and Senator Harriet Chandler have introduced the EMPOWER Act (H.720/S.389), which would give municipalities the ability to lower their municipal voting age on local authority;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the sponsors call upon the Massachusetts Legislature to pass the EMPOWER Act and take other means necessary to allow cities and towns to establish a minimum voting age of sixteen years for all municipal elections.

RESOLUTION 5: SUPPORTING INCREASED FEDERAL SUPPORT AND STIMULUS FUNDING FOR PUBLIC K-12 EDUCATION

(Submitted by the MASC Board of Directors)

WHEREAS the COVID-19 pandemic is a monumental and unprecedented challenge, emerging quickly and demanding an immediate overhaul of the instructional plans and strategies of school systems across the country; and

WHEREAS the nation's public schools remain committed to delivering high-quality instruction while ensuring the health and safety of our students and staff; and

WHEREAS to date, the employees of the Massachusetts Public Schools have worked around the clock to continue to provide our students and families with access to educational needs such as Chromebooks; and

WHEREAS the Massachusetts Public Schools has maintained payroll for full and part-time district employees, providing stability to our community during economic uncertainty; and

WHEREAS Massachusetts Public Schools have continued to provide daily lunches to students despite a projected shortfall of revenue from the Federal Meals Program; and

WHEREAS these challenges will persist and likely grow as COVID-19 affects our economy and destabilizes funding for public school; and

WHEREAS revenue shortfalls may result in budget cuts and personnel reductions; and

WHEREAS federal legislation has been approved to provide urgently needed funding to underwrite the recovery of the American economy and to support critical public programs, including public education with such examples as American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009, additional funding for the Education Jobs Fund to help school districts retain existing employees, recall former employees, and hire new ones, and the recent Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) and other measures to stabilize public education and other public programs; and

WHEREAS public education is one of the largest employment bases of any field or industry; and

WHEREAS research has repeatedly found a strong causal relationship between levels of schooling and wages that individuals earn over a lifetime; and

WHEREAS for public schools to thrive and for our students to realize a bright and productive future, the federal government needs to make a substantial new investment in our well-being; and

WHEREAS it is likely that further emergency legislation will be required to underwrite the cost of public safety supplies, technology, and personnel to maintain the status of public schools; and

WHEREAS this level of funding is the minimum needed by the nation's public schools to sustain and accelerate their academic achievement trends over the past decade, including gains in reading and math achievement that outpace the national average; and

WHEREAS the governor and General Court may be able to access additional state revenues through use of accumulated reserves or through the implementation of progressive tax legislation;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that MASC align with state superintendents of schools and urge the Massachusetts Congressional Delegation and state legislators to advocate for and approve additional education funding for our nation's public schools through the enactment of progressive tax legislation.

RESOLUTION 6: RETENTION OF MEDICAID REVENUE

(Submitted by the MASC Board of Directors)

WHEREAS the Affordable Care Act expanded access for health care to millions of Americans, including thousands of Massachusetts families who have been without health insurance; and

WHEREAS through the expansion of the Medicaid program, more families in economic distress gained access to health insurance and, subsequently, affordable health care; and

WHEREAS the Medicaid program reimburses public school districts for certain clinical services provided to students who may be clients of special education or who experience disabilities, and this revenue provides critical support to the districts and municipalities where they are based; and

WHEREAS the restriction of Medicaid eligibility and reduction of funding would require the Commonwealth to choose between extraordinary state budget increases to fill the gap or absorb the cost of caring for families who could lose health insurance;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that MASC urges the General Court to require that 100% of Medicaid reimbursements to cities and towns be provided in full amount to the public schools of each municipality, through a school district revolving account, to underwrite the cost of providing an adequate education.

RESOLUTION 7: ATTEMPTS BY US DOE TO DIRECT FUNDING TO PRIVATE SCHOOLS

(Submitted by the MASC Board of Directors)

WHEREAS a recent "advisory" issued by the United States Secretary of Education has inappropriately interpreted language in the recently enacted COVID-19 relief legislation to benefit private schools disproportionately in the distribution of federal funding for economically disadvantaged students; and

WHEREAS in recognition of this executive branch attempt to overreach in the interpretation of a federal statute in devising a formula for the distribution of funds under Title I and other provisions of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act as revised and reauthorized; and

WHEREAS the commissioner of Education in Connecticut, in citing the Secretary for such a misrepresentation of the law, has advised officials of that state to follow the language of the law rather than the interpretation issued in the "advisory," and thus save thousands of dollars for economically disadvantaged students in the public schools of that state

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that MASC petition the Attorney General of Massachusetts to review and recommend to the Executive Office of Education and the MA Department of Elementary Education to review the formal language of such statutes that determine the distribution of federal funds to benefit economically disadvantaged students and, further that the Attorney General provide legal guidance to state agencies in Massachusetts to implement such formulas based on the actual language and legislative intent of the statute should that be in variance with any "advisory" issued by the United States Secretary of Education.

RESOLUTION 8: MEMBERSHIP OF A SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBER ON THE BOARD OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

(Submitted by the MASC Board of Directors)

WHEREAS the Massachusetts Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) is established to oversee and implement policy related to public education; and

WHEREAS most boards and commissions in Massachusetts appropriately include representatives of constituent groups subject to the jurisdiction of those boards and commission; and

WHEREAS a glaring omission among members of the BESE is a representative of the people elected to oversee public policy making among the many city, town and regional school district school committees;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that MASC submit to the General Court proposed legislation that MGL Chapter 15, Section 1E be revised as follows:

Section 1E. There shall be in the department a board of elementary and secondary education, in this chapter called the board, which shall consist of the chairman of the student advisory council established under this section, the secretary of education, in this chapter called the secretary, or her designee, and 9 members appointed by the governor. The 9 members appointed by the governor shall consist of 1 representative of a labor organization selected by the governor from a list of 3 nominees provided by the Massachusetts State Labor Council, AFL-CIO; 1 representative of business or industry selected by the governor with a demonstrated

commitment to education; 1 representative of parents of school children selected by the governor from a list of 3 nominees provided by the Massachusetts Parent Teachers Association; 1 representative from a school committee from a list of three nominees provided by the Massachusetts Association of School Committees and 5 additional members.

RESOLUTION 9: PROVIDING EQUITY FOR SEXUAL ORIENTATION - LGBTQ+ STUDENTS, TEACHERS AND STAFF
(Submitted by the MASC Board of Directors)

WHEREAS gender identity is not listed as a protected class in federal laws; and

WHEREAS LGBTQ+ students, teachers and staff are victims of discrimination, harassment, and at-risk behaviors at rates alarmingly higher than non-LGBTQ+ persons;

WHEREAS the social and emotional wellness of our students has a direct relationship with their academic and future success and that schools have the moral and ethical responsibility to address the whole child so that they may experience success in school and in society; and

WHEREAS school districts that respect and support their teachers and staff by providing an inclusive culture where all can thrive, irrespective of gender identity, are more successful and in turn, are supporting a thriving school climate; and

WHEREAS the Commonwealth of Massachusetts currently recognizes in state law LGBTQ+ as a protected class;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that MASC file legislation and petition our federal legislative delegation to also file legislation which would have the effect of adding sexual orientation and gender identity to the list of protected classes in order to provide equity and support to our LGBTQ+ students, teachers and staff and petition our legislative delegation.

RESOLUTION 10: RELATIVE TO THE MONITORING OF ATTENDANCE OF STUDENTS DURING THE PANDEMIC

(Submitted by the MASC Board of Directors)

WHEREAS districts are required to have special but comprehensive plans for educating students during the pandemic crisis; and

WHEREAS student attendance is an important element of a district plan for returning-to-school, and school committees apply local policies for student attendance; and

WHEREAS the emergency nature of the pandemic requires that students may need to be educated in such venues as schools, home, institutions or other remote locations; and

WHEREAS circumstances may require that students be absent from school for reasons that may include extended illness, exposure to illness including COVID-19, or the judgment of parents or guardians determining that it is not safe for their children to return to a school building or other learning venue;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that MASC advocate for legislation and regulation that protect the rights of parents to withhold their children from school for reasons of their health status or health risk and, further,

- That MASC advocate for regulations that hold districts accountable for the attendance of students provide appropriate exemptions for students who experience or require extended absences from school due to health-related issues or concerns due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and further,
- That MASC petition the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education to waive all accountability requirements regarding attendance for the 2020-2021 school year, and
- That such regulations exempt districts from sanction status on the basis of attendance when such absences are related to a public health crisis, including COVID-19.

During the week of **October 26, 2020**, the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education's (DESE's) Office of Language Acquisition will conduct a Tiered Focused Monitoring Review of Carlisle Public Schools. The Office of Language Acquisition reviews each district and charter school every six years to monitor compliance with federal and state English learner education laws and regulations. Areas of review will include English learners' student assessments; identification of English learners; what programs English learners are placed in; parent and community involvement; curriculum and instruction; student support services; licensure requirements for faculty, staff and administration; program plans; and evaluation and recordkeeping.

In addition to the onsite visit, parent outreach is an important part of the review process. The district will send a survey to the parents of students whose records the review team examines. The survey focuses on key areas of their child's English learner education program. Survey results will contribute to the monitoring report.

Parents and other individuals may call Judith R. Magloire, **Office of Language Acquisition** Review Chairperson, at (781) 338- 3571 to request a telephone interview. If an individual requires an accommodation, such as translation, to participate in an interview, DESE will make the necessary arrangements.

Within approximately 60 business days of the onsite visit, the review chairperson will provide **Carlisle Public School** with a report with information about areas in which the district meets or exceeds regulatory requirements and areas in which the district requires assistance to correct or improve practices. The report will be available to the public at <http://www.doe.mass.edu/ell/cpr/?section=reports>.