

**SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
AGENDA
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 19, 2020
7:00 P.M.**

Per Governor Baker's order suspending certain provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A sec. 20, the public will not be allowed to physically access this School Committee meeting. Members of the Public can access this meeting via live stream at:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85951018755?pwd=bC84TkDUDNHOUx0ZW9YbnpHdHZhZz09>

Meeting ID: 859 5101 8755

Passcode: Jcf5+y

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 via the chat box. Questions/Comments will be read and answered by the School Committee via live stream.

I. Call to Order

Chair announces the meeting is being recorded.

II. Review/Approve Minutes

A. Meeting of August 10, 2020

B. Meeting of August 12, 2020

III. Information/Discussion Items

A. School Reopening Discussion

IV. Members'/Committee Reports as Needed

V. Warrants

VI. Action Items

VII. Public Comments

VIII. Adjourn Meeting

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.

DRAFT

Carlisle School Committee

Minutes

Monday, August 10, 2020

7:00 p.m.

Remote Meeting Via Zoom

Present Via Zoom – School Committee: Christine Lear - Chair, Amanda Comperchio, Jack Huntress, Eva Mostoufi, Sara Wilson.

Present Via Zoom – School Administration: James O’Shea, Superintendent; Matt Mehler, Middle School Principal; Lori Bruce, Director of Student Support Services; Anne Mahan, Business Manager; Rob Fortado, Supervisor of Buildings and Grounds; Nancy Anderson, Assistant to the Superintendent.

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/84021026757?pwd=QktTWFM1MGhTd2JxTmN3VE1iS3BEUT09>

Meeting ID: 840 2102 6757

Passcode: uZ.8@4

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 7:02 p.m. Ms. Lear stated that the meeting was being recorded.

II. Information/Discussion Items

- A. School Reopening Discussion. Mr. O’Shea shared that there was a faculty meeting last Thursday, at which it was voiced that the proposed hybrid model did not provide as much instruction as the faculty would like. Mr. O’Shea asked Ms. Vanaria to work with the faculty to modify the draft plans; both hybrid and remote. Mr. O’Shea has also heard from parents who shared their thoughts on the models. Ms. Bruce and Dr. Sidell held a Curriculum working group meeting and generated some new ideas. We are in the process of identifying the best approach to reopening schools. Over the weekend, we developed a survey and sent it to families. A main purpose was to identify which families were choosing Family Choice Remote (FCR). The State charged us with developing three reopening plans but also charged us with educating families that choose FCR. We need to identify and allocate resources to that model. The Administrative Team will meet this week to discuss details. We want to come with a plan and approach that work best for students, families, staff and faculty. Ms. Wilson shared a phrase she heard used about the current climate; this is not an on /off switch,

it's a thermostat; we have to adjust. Can we stage things gradually and keep reevaluating our best practices? Mr. Huntress agreed; even the plans we form today still have to continue to evolve. He asked Mr. O'Shea to share the School Reopening frameworks. Mr. O'Shea said that though the state has created deadlines, our plans are fluid. Ms. Lear spoke to low Carlisle COVID numbers and low student numbers. Ms. Wilson said Carlisle is a leader, we need to constantly check with our community, and she encouraged us to consider a slow reopening. Mr. Huntress added that if there is a slow roll opening, we still need a framework; we have to know when and under what conditions we move to another model. Mr. O'Shea said that if we have a slow approach, we can assess as we go with a smaller number of students. Mr. O'Shea shared the draft operating frameworks that can guide the decision making of the school to move to different models depending on how many cases are in Carlisle and Massachusetts. Ms. Comperchio said with a slow approach to school re-entry, the framework may have to be adjusted. Ms. Lear concurred. Ms. Comperchio added that we will know how children are handling school and routines. Ms. Wilson clarified that we haven't made any determination on what a "slow roll" would be. Her idea is to start with a limited amount of people for ½ day. This would eliminate many issues including lunch, crowds in hallways, and teachers visiting classrooms. All acknowledged that teachers and parents are anxious and it's important for everyone to understand the plan. People agreed that the model should be assessed every couple of weeks, and then follow the frameworks for switching models if necessary. Mr. O'Shea said there are a group of faculty not only looking at the hybrid model, but looking at differentiating between elementary and middle school. Mr. Huntress has been focused on working on a safe and agreeable path forward. He considers Carlisle teachers his friends and understands how much they have done for his children. He knows when our teachers are happy, our students are happy. He is also in full support of in-person learning. The framework tells us when to not be in school. It's great to see the teachers working on the hybrid model and he would like to see increased learning time on that plan. He also knows the downside of remote learning. Ms. Lear said we should have a vote on Friday. Linda Vanaria was recognized and shared the following statement:

Good Evening, thank you for this opportunity to speak to our community.

My name is Linda Vanaria, I am a second grade teacher and I am the president of the Carlisle Teachers' Association. I share this, as I am sure there are some of you who don't know me.

I am here this evening as it is time to share how not only our members are feeling, but how many of our staff are feeling about resuming school.

First, you must know every member of the Carlisle School Staff, has missed our students dearly. We all loved seeing so many of our families at our two parades. We adore your children, we are so grateful for your support, and we cannot wait for the day when we are able to return to our building without the constant fear of this horrific virus.

I think it's safe to say that every one of us is frightened beyond words can describe. We worry for your children and your families, your infants, and your parents, we worry for our colleagues, we worry for our own children, our spouses, and our parents. We worry about our dear cancer survivors and current patients and what one case coming into our school could mean for our community.

Many of us came to school last week to see our beautiful classrooms spaced to follow the 6-foot safety guideline. We saw barren Kindergarten rooms and desks pushed to the limits of the four

corners of each room. To try and bring every student back under these conditions will be challenging and create a difficult educational environment for our students.

We've heard comments about the 6 ft. guideline and the suggestion that teachers can work with a child at their desk as long as it's less than 15 minutes and both have their masks on. There are no guarantees about these statements and the consequences are unacceptable.

Thankfully in Carlisle the Covid-19 positive cases have been very low. But, if we have just a single case enter a classroom that entire class would need to isolate for 14 days, in homes with babies and/or senior citizens. The fear and emotional impact of that quarantine period on those students, staff and their families is immeasurable.

On Thursday, March 12 we were told students would not be coming to school on Friday. We gathered as a staff on Friday the 13th and worked together to go online for Monday. When we were all faced with suddenly teaching remotely and trying to accommodate the needs of all of our learners we did what we always do, we worked for hours to deliver the best remote educational services we could. We know it was not the same as in-person and we know that there were flaws and we've had time to reflect on our crisis teaching and we know what we need to do to adjust our teaching.

We have teams of staff working on what delivering our curriculum and instruction will look like in a full remote model. We also have teams of faculty working on how to deliver a strong hybrid/in-home model. Whatever model we are teaching in, we will always instruct our students in the same excellent Carlisle Way that you are familiar with.

I understand what I am about to say next may not be very popular, and I am so sorry to upset our families. But, I must urge our School Committee to strongly consider starting our school year remotely. I am grateful for the extra 10 days that have been provided to us to continue planning our curriculum, I am hoping we can use part of those 10 days to have our students and their family come to school, meet with us and see the classroom they will come to eventually. Of course we want our new students to have an opportunity to see us and feel comfortable with their new teachers. Of course, we will evaluate how this model is working and what the conditions are for Carlisle and the state. Of course we will have a plan ready should we be able to come back following that evaluation. Of course, we would like nothing more than to be with your children, when it is safe to do so.

As a former 9-year member of the Bedford School Committee, I sympathize with the decision in front of you. I was Chair of the School Committee on September 11th. Every decision that I made that year was with the safety of our students and staff as my first consideration.

Thank you for allowing me to speak with you tonight.

Mr. O'Shea and Ms. Lear thanked Ms. Vanaria for her statement; acknowledging that everyone has anxiety. Ms. Mostoufi asked if there any procedures that administration has omitted for teachers to feel safe. Ms. Vanaria answered no; she understands people are trying to do what they think is best. She added that seeing the classrooms set up with placement of desks with distancing "left a hole in many of us." She understands that the school is buying supplies to be outside but recognized that people can't be outside all the time. Ms. Mostoufi asked what would make teachers comfortable and Ms. Vanaria answered that as far as a metric or benchmark, one person with COVID would set off 15-20 people who have been exposed under some conditions. Mr. Huntress asked if there a number or threshold that has been discussed when teachers would support in person learning. Ms. Vanaria has not polled the membership for a number and would not speak for the members. Though Carlisle has good numbers now, Mr. Huntress said we could

have cases in Massachusetts for 2-3 years; and that incapacitates our ability to achieve as educators. Ms. Vanaria said 2 weeks ago, we had a certain number in Carlisle and that number changed. If we had been in school, there was a possibility that the sickness would have spread. She is requesting we consider starting remotely and evaluating where we are in October; where are the numbers and what are we all feeling. Ms. Mostoufi said parents can't wait until October, they have to plan now. Ms. Vanaria said teachers also have to plan; this is a difficult situation for teachers as well. She said that community members are calling staff to come teach their children at home. Ms. Vanaria added that teachers are prepared to teach under any model; and to suggest teachers can't teach remotely is not accurate. Ms. Mostoufi said someone has to be there to help the young children. Mr. Huntress added that you need a body to watch the kids, shepherd them through, hand them materials. While he has an incredible Zoom tolerance, 2 hours a day is too much for his kids. Only so much instruction can be done remotely. Don't take it that teachers can't deliver awesome instruction, but the young children need help. Ms. Lear added that the teachers love our children, children love our teachers. We want to reopen in the safest way possible. It was decided that the next CSC meeting would be on Monday, August 17 at 7:30. Shaunna Simek was recognized. As a single working mom, she said that it is an understatement to say the instruction in the spring was a challenge. She applauded everyone, but it didn't work in her house at all. Her kids suffered, they didn't get extra help. She said that the Administration has exceeded state guidelines to reopen. She added our goal is to reopen, not to have the best remote learning in the state. If we don't start open, she didn't know how her kids would develop a bond with their teachers. Our community is small, our rates are low. I appreciate teachers are apprehensive. My kids have been wearing masks at camp for 8 weeks, it is their new normal. She also questioned why parents who have decided to home school are voicing opinions on the decision to reopen. Carrie Patel, 85 Tophet, was recognized and asked what options our teachers have who are not comfortable coming back and what is the plan to replace teachers who leave or retire early. As a family that is keeping kids home in the fall, she noted that she speaks up because it will affect her family if someone in the community dies. Mr. O'Shea said that work is being done on leave options for educators based on FMLA acts and COVID acts, the School is working with the CTA on a MOA to allow faculty to take unpaid leave for a year. The School will advertise for long term subs and bring great teachers into the building. Glen Patashnick, 145 Indian Hill Road, asked what testing is required for students and teachers before they come to school. How many cases are in Carlisle now. He wants his kids to have a good education; and added remote is not ideal. Rui Ma agreed with Ms. Vanaria that this is a dangerous and infectious disease. We have to be careful. We want to provide the best experience possible for students. Kim Boschi, 147 Laurelwood, and her husband were recognized. They asked when will the School will share the Family Choice Remote (FCR) education model and information, and also when the deadline is for parents to decide on FCR. Mr. O'Shea answered that we will have dedicated faculty to the FCR model, and will work to develop it in the next several days. In terms of the deadline for a decision, Mr. O'Shea noted that fewer students impact the classroom planning and set-up. He hopes to ask that people make a commitment in FCR for the first trimester, and tell the School the decision in a week to a week and a half. If people choose in-person and they decided to switch out, they can switch out easier to FCR. Soni Best, East Street, appreciates people

choosing remote because she would like in-person education and it will be spaced more optimally with fewer students. David Model is in favor of soliciting help from the Town (BOS, BOH) to enable a dialog in having a school reopening decision and establishing if testing is needed. He felt Carlisle could do its own testing. He closed by asking what is more important than getting children the best educational product we can. Angela Richardson, 123 West Street feels that opening the school will increase transmission and spread the virus. She applauds the school's efforts, yet she worries about students in younger grades, and is concerned about not having the staff to manage the situation. She acknowledged Carlisle has the lowest amount of disease in the country, but she sees numbers going up. She feels we ask a lot of our teachers, but asking them to risk their physical and mental health is not what they signed up for. She is prepared to take her child out and quit her job if necessary to keep everyone safe. The right decision is to keep kids home. Yuan Li was recognized and asked if the school has ways to monitor the quality of remote teaching. Some teachers' classes were more meaningful than others in the spring. She also asked if the school is holding parents to their responses on the survey. Mr. O'Shea said the survey asked for impressions but not a commitment to a particular model. In answer to evaluating remote instruction, the administration was monitoring it last spring, but for the fall, the teacher evaluation program will be in place again. It will be decided what aspects of remote learning will look different, and administrators will observe lessons and give feedback, as they always do, to help teachers modify their practices to benefit the children. Jed Weinstock said he is relatively new to Carlisle and proud to be part of this community. So much is unknown now, nobody knows anything concrete about reopening schools. He said from a game theory perspective, the winning strategy is to go remote and see how things play out for other districts. We need a great remote program. If school needs to shut down, we need to have that in place anyway. He felt the next phase for reopening should be for kids K-4 and kids on IEPs. Kathy MacDonald gave heartfelt thanks to everyone who is doing all they can to get children back to school safely. She sees the need for a great remote program. Jaime Wight, 491 South Street, asked, as a single working mom with a daughter going into 1st grade, if there was feedback from the summer program. She added that her daughter has done great with her mask, and has had a productive summer. Mr. O'Shea answered that Ms. Marshall, a teacher at the Summer Program, presented her experiences at the CSC meeting last week. Mr. O'Shea had a sense of middle school students' positive experiences. He also heard from teachers who worked with younger students, and there was a variety of experiences. Many saw challenges but also saw benefits to seeing kids in person. Ms. Vanaria added that for the youngest learners, it was wonderful for them to be there, but difficult for them to wear masks. She added that if a child fell or needed help, it was hard to think of teachers not going over to children in distress. She said that happened during summer school. She felt middle school students were separated and understood their roles, but younger kids struggled. We are hopeful we can get back, but right now it is not safe in many people's opinions. Catherine Fink said her family has been in the District for 15 years. Speaking as a scientist with a career in infectious disease test development, her opinion is the health and safety of our staff and students is at risk in bringing everyone back to school. She has seen spikes in kids returning. If we do testing and find out that a number of our 750 people are asymptomatic, what is done then? Our teachers know how to teach, at what point are we

going to give our teachers a decision? Rob Misek said when dealing with a crisis, you have to pick one thing that's important. It seems we should be optimizing for safety. Almudena Pacheco-Garcia spoke as the parent of a new student in first grade. She asked if we go remote, because she works, she would like to have the best possible communication from teachers for the minimum requirements each week. Parents will need support to do the work with the children. Mr. Huntress asked how do you increase the tolerance of children to take in more remote learning, and asked what was the thought was of teachers teaching from their classrooms. Ms. Vanaria answered that we would be bringing back over 100 teachers with shared bathrooms and a terrible HVAC system. Teachers want to come back safely but their level of comfort is not great. Ms. Lear added that when you have 180 people it speaks to the amount of passion we have about doing the right things for our students, families and faculty. The decisions we make will impact many households. The CSC is definitely listening. She thanked people for their input. Ms. Wilson said she heard a lot of comments that there wasn't focus on the remote plan, and we need a robust plan. Learning this year is not going to be what it was before. Our kids may not reach benchmarks, but our kids will learn. By watching us and how we work together, we will all learn to adapt. Jennifer Hubbard appreciates how long the CSC and Mr. O'Shea are taking to make this decision. As a dual working parent family too, they had a difficult time in the spring. She would agree that the remote program needs to be more robust, but also in such a plan, you are putting a lot more demands on the working parents. We are required to go to work. I understand teachers have concerns on their own safety. I believe it's a balance. The government, the CDC, the American Association of Pediatrics, are all saying it is safe to go back to school. I sent my kids to summer camp this year for a week and they did great. We should consider the precedent we set if kids don't go back. We've implemented what we need to send kids back and parents have the option to keep kids home. Ms. Lear asked that others contact the CSC with other comments.

III. Action Items.

There were no action items.

IV. Public Comments

Public comments were addressed earlier in the meeting.

V. Adjourn Meeting

Ms. Comperchio made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Ms. Wilson 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 9:29 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Anderson
Assistant to the Superintendent

DRAFT

Carlisle School Committee
Minutes
Wednesday, August 12, 2020
12:30 p.m.
Remote Meeting Via Zoom

Present Via Zoom – School Committee: Christine Lear - Chair, Amanda Comperchio, Jack Huntress, Eva Mostoufi, Sara Wilson.

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; Anne Mahan, Business Manager; Nancy Anderson, Assistant to the Superintendent.

Meeting Documents:

Minutes of August 5, 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/89745702652?pwd=WkxFaE1VVWhVNDRpS3pCeFVaMnIzZz09>

Meeting ID: 897 4570 2652

Passcode: =#c4fk

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 12:31 p.m. Ms. Lear stated that the meeting was being recorded. Ms. Lear reviewed the meeting rules stating that this is a Carlisle School Committee (CSC) meeting during which members are discussing issues and others are witnessing the meeting. Later in the meeting, as stated on the agenda, there will be time for public comments. Ms. Lear asked people who have spoken before to wait until new speakers have had a chance to speak. People may ask a question and the CSC may or may not be able to answer it. People will have a three minute speaking limit because the Committee has lots of work to do. She recognized that every comment is valuable, but asked people not to repeat what has already been said.

II. Review/Approve Minutes. Ms. Comperchio made a motion to approve the minutes of August 5, 2020; Ms. Wilson 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. School Reopening Discussion. Mr. O'Shea said since we met on Monday, the reopening plans are still being fine tuned. He noted that the School is trying to make a functional decision that will work for as many people as possible. He asked families to please complete the survey if they haven't done so already. So far 475 people have responded. 18% of families are choosing family choice remote (FCR); some of our school resources will be dedicated to support that program. We have a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) that was created by our attorney, so that in conjunction with the Carlisle Teachers' Association (CTA), faculty can opt to take a year of absence with no pay. This provides faculty and staff with options. The CTA will vote on that tomorrow. We are also working on adjusting the 2020-2021 school calendar. Our start day was supposed to be September 2 but that has changed. Mr. O'Shea is sharing a copy of the proposed new calendar with Linda Vanaria, president of the CTA, and she will share it with the faculty. Now the proposed first day of school is September 15. The State has communicated that the mandated days for attending school has been reduced from 180 days to 170. Carlisle will use 9 of those days at the beginning of the school year for planning and curriculum work. At least 2 professional days would be able to be used elsewhere in the school year. Also every Wednesday will be a half day morning remote instruction day for any of the models. There will no longer be Tuesday early release days. Mr. Huntress asked the rationale for using the 10 days at the beginning of the school year. Mr. O'Shea answered that the it was recommended by the Commissioner of Education. It provides time for faculty and staff to learn the safety protocols, work on curriculum, and put all of the mechanisms in place so school can start on September 15. Vacations will remain as is. Mr. Huntress asked if small groups of students could be brought in for walk throughs on those days. Mr. O'Shea answered that they are gathering and considering ideas like that. Ms. Mostoufi asked if we will provide webinars for parents so they understand how to help teach their kids at home and plan. Mr. O'Shea agreed that it is important to keep people connected with information. Ms. Comperchio voiced support for the webinar idea. It could show what parents should look for when they are monitoring students at home, and what expectations they should have for their kids. Mr. Huntress added that teachers can help parents become teachers if we are in the family choice remote or hybrid model; such knowledge will be welcome. Ms. Wilson noted the importance of parents watching middle school students on one to one devices. Dr. Mehler added that Google Classroom will be used for grades 5-8 and resources will be available for parents. Ms. Mostoufi asked to discuss holiday travel for families during vacation weeks. Mr. O'Shea answered that pre-COVID, one of the ideas was if we should just have one vacation in March. But we are not considering that at this time, because sometimes those breaks allow the sicknesses to happen and provides time for people to get healthy again. Mr. O'Shea said that the expectation and request is that if families travel, they will quarantine for 14 days. Mr. O'Shea shared that yesterday Laurie Hunter was in touch with Emerson Hospital to see if we can get baseline testing for faculty, staff and students. Ms. Lear asked if we should share this with a larger group of decision makers in town; specifically, do we want to invite the

Board of Health (BOH) and Board of Selectmen (BOS) to Monday night's meeting so they fully understand our direction? Other members supported this idea. Mr. Model, speaking as the representative to the CSC and the BOH, deferred to Chairman Lewis, who said although it is short notice, he can arrange for the meeting.

IV. Members'/Committee Reports as Needed

CCRS: Ms. Wilson reported that there have been a lot of regional meetings and they have started discussing policies. MASC has released some policies related to COVID and recommended that Districts look at existing policies related to this issue. CCRSD had a subcommittee meeting and put together a first reading of the policies with recommended language changes but haven't voted on them yet. Concord has a town meeting on September 13 where they will hopefully pass a revised budget. There are additional Chapter 70 and CARES Act funds. Carlisle's burden that may be less. They had an interesting discussion about progress with inclusiveness in curriculum and staffing, and every gain they have made on that front in the last couple of years. She suggested Carlisle look at what's happened there in terms of curriculum because it would be nice if there was some alignment for when students get to the high school. More information is on Concord's website. They voted on their opening plan and calendar. Ms. Mostoufi added that there will be a walk through this Monday for students so they can see the environment for students and faculty. Mr. Huntress addressed the MASC guidelines with policies on facemasks, remote learning, emergency measures, and more. These guidelines are related to additional measures that can be taken by schools during the pandemic. Mr. O'Shea said that the School is currently addressing anti-racism. One of our teachers is running a book group this summer after which faculty and administration will look at our curriculum and how we respond and implement enhancements. Mr. O'Shea will meet with Laurie Hunter and Emerson Hospital staff about testing, costs, how testing works with health insurance, and we will then make an informed decision. Dr. Mehler said we are in the process of creating a pledge for students to sign referencing CDC recommendations. Ms. Wilson voiced support for such a comprehensive document. She noted a lot is going on behind the scenes; people are engaged in a thoughtful, intellectual journey.

V. Warrants

The following warrant was added after the agenda was posted:

- A. Accounts Payable Warrant #1021; \$29,545.51

VI. Action Items

Ms. Wilson and Ms. Comperchio will connect about policies. Ms. Lear will distribute information about the Commissioner's reports. Ms. Anderson will send the Monday agenda to Ms. Lear to distribute to the BOS and the BOH.

VII. Public Comments

In the interest of time, Ms. Lear stated that new speakers will have three minutes to speak and repeat speakers will have one minute to speak. Ms. Comperchio addressed that if school starts in a remote model, how will the school address the needs of students who can't get the education they need in an online environment. She added that we need to have a clear path to going back to school in person. It is important to test students who have regressed, and recognize the social

emotional piece for all students. She also proposed students to sign a pledge to focus on education when they are on their devices. Mr. O'Shea added that equity is a major consideration for our most vulnerable students in a remote program. Our plan will include metrics for decision making on what we do and when we do it. There have been multiple conversations about assessing students at the start of the year; it is a priority to see where they are and how they have grown or regressed. Ms. Bruce added that the middle school has two solid programs to get us baseline data; Aleks for Math, and Star Renaissance for Language Arts. For Elementary, assessments are age-based. For example, the entire Grade 1 population could be screened because they weren't as active in remote learning. She noted that there is a list of students that are in need of testing which has been given to special educators and she is hoping to test those students before school starts. She is also looking to screen ELL students. Dr. Mehler added that in the past, administrators and teachers have reviewed MCAS data to provide some of this information, but since MCAS was cancelled, there is an absence of data. He would like to do baseline testing for middle school reading and math; then the data can inform instruction. Dr. Sidell added that when assessing younger students, it is important to have balance. Some young students are extremely anxious at the start of the year. Dr. Sidell will work with teachers and be flexible; some assessments may be done right away and some may wait until trust has been established with teachers. Mr. Huntress asked how to address 5th graders in the middle school model. Dr. Mehler explained that typically in middle school, students get assigned a home room, have advisory, meet in small groups and focus on routines. They have a lot more freedom. In the past students went to different classes in cohorts, but now students will remain in classrooms and different teachers will come to them. There has to be a focus on social emotional for kids; this is traumatic and we want to support kids with this transition. Dr. Sidell added that the 5th grade team is well established and a strength of our school; they understand this transition, and know how to help students adjust to new routines. 5th grade is considered more middle school than elementary. They go through the year with a couple of teachers then transition to four teachers in 6th grade. Ms. Mostoufi asked about the EDCO liaison for homeschooling and if it was beneficial to the Carlisle community. Mr. O'Shea commended EDCO for developing a program to support families and act as a liaison for those that choose homeschooling. We can provide families with the EDCO connection if they want to learn more. Ms. Mostoufi asked about the FCR model, saying the State has come out with a remote program, and if we would purchase licenses to access a curriculum. Mr. O'Shea felt that the FCR families are looking to have a connection to Carlisle, so he did not feel that option would be what families want. He added that one parent identified a micro school where a couple of families got together to find people to provide instruction. Ms. Comperchio added that this may be worth exploring because families are looking to coordinate with each other during the school year. Attendees were then called upon to comment. Camelia Rosca thanked everyone for their hard work. Her comments centered on teachers taking a year without pay. She feels Carlisle's greatest resources are our teachers and asked if there was a possibility to create a plan where teachers would have an opportunity to work; possibly teaching across grades or across subject levels, so the fewest teachers take the year off. Kristen Amanti addressed the pods and explained that some families are trying to split time between parents or hire someone to help their children follow a virtual program, because they need an adult facilitating that kind of learning. Carrie Patel spoke in support for baseline testing for Carlisle community. She also spoke in support of bringing an anti-racist curriculum to at least the Middle School. Kim Boschi mirrored Ms. Patel's comments. She also has talked about pods, and is looking to brainstorm with other 8th grade

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families about how we can reduce the isolation for these kids; possibly an after school program or games on line; is there a way to get kids “together” to play outside of school. Judy and Jen Weinstock asked about the rationale behind the Monday-Thursday and Tuesday-Friday groupings in the hybrid model. Jim answered that the configuration addressed consistency in teachers seeing children; there would not be large gaps between when teachers see their students. Dr. Sidell added that for younger kids to be away from their teacher for a week would be like starting over each week. It was designed so kids get in a routine. Dr. Mehler added that many schools are just dividing the alphabet but Carlisle wanted to be more thoughtful about creating the groups of students. It will be designed keeping in mind families that have students in different grade levels or kids at CCHS. Ms. Bruce added that research supports this thoughtful approach, there is less separation anxiety for little kids. Kathleen Hauser, 36 Daniels Lane, shared that her child struggled with remote learning in the spring; it was a horrible experience for him. How is the proposed remote program different and how will specials happen. Mr. O’Shea answered that there is more description coming about the proposed remote plan, and it will mirror more of a school day, but it is still being revised. He added that many people share that experience. Rebecca Kerr, 295 East Riding Drive, echoed other parent concerns and added that parents pay for a full day Kindergarten. Is the Kindergarten curriculum going to be for ½ day. Dr. Sidell answered that the Kindergarten curriculum is presently being addressed and depending on what model is chosen, he will communicate with all parents on what that means. Catherine Fink said it is really important for her to know who is teaching her 8th grade son. She does not want to send her child to school in a pandemic with a substitute teacher. She will not be able to make a decision until she knows which teachers are teaching. Ms. Lear said that the CSC will meet again on Monday at 7:30. She encouraged people to send questions or comments to the Committee.

VIII. Adjourn Meeting

Ms. Mostoufi 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 2:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Anderson
Assistant to the Superintendent

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All students start Sept 15

**CARLISLE PUBLIC SCHOOLS
2020-2021
SCHOOL CALENDAR**

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
30	31	1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER
3 K Walk-through.
4 & 7 Holiday Weekend
15 First Day - All Students

FEBRUARY
15 Presidents' Day
15-19 February Recess
22 Classes Resume

FEBRUARY						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28						

OCTOBER						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

OCTOBER
12 Columbus Day
21 Prof. Day Parent Confs ?

MARCH
31 Prof Day Parent Confs ?

MARCH						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

NOVEMBER						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

NOVEMBER
11 Veterans Day Holiday
25 Half Day
26-27 Thanksgiving Recess

APRIL
19 Patriot's Day
19-23 April Recess
26 Classes Resume

APRIL						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

DECEMBER						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

DECEMBER
16 Prof. Day Parent Confs ?
23 Half Day
24-Jan 1 Holiday Recess

MAY
31 Memorial Day

MAY						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

JANUARY						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

JANUARY
1 New Year's Holiday
4 Classes Resume
18 Martin Luther King Day

JUNE
18 Last Day of School 1/2 day
21-25 Snow day make-up days

JUNE						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

August 31-Sept 14: Professional Days/Opening Meetings/Planning
Sept 15: First Day for All Students

Hours: Pre-School: M - F 8:45 - 11:45
Hours: Gr. K - 4, 8:45 - 3:05; Early Release 12:30
Hours: Grades 5 - 8, 7:50 - 2:22; Early Release 11:51

	Holiday/Recess
	Half Day
	Professional Development
	Days/Conf. - No School

If your family's observation of a religious holiday or other cultural observance will affect your child's ability to meet school expectations, please contact your child's teacher to make accommodations.