

**Carlisle School Committee
Special Education Subcommittee**

Minutes

Friday, November 20, 2020

7:30 a.m.

Zoom Remote Access

Present – School Committee via Zoom: Amanda Comperchio, Eva Mostoufi

Present – School Administration via Zoom: Jim O’Shea, Superintendent; Lori Bruce, Director of Student Support Services; Linda Vanaria, Teacher and CTA President; Nancy Anderson, Assistant to the Superintendent.

Per Governor Baker’s order suspending certain provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A sec. 20, members of the public were able to access this meeting via live stream at:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84743274615?pwd=a2kydkFJamRSTjZoVHd0M3hFdVJuZz09>

Meeting ID: 847 4327 4615

Passcode: n1Be5L

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

The meeting was called to order at 7:34 a.m.

II. Approve Minutes

There were no minutes because there was not a quorum at the last meeting.

III. Work with SEPAC

There will be a joint meeting with SEPAC on Tuesday, November 24 at 7:00 p.m. The SEPAC agenda was shared.

IV. Review of Parent Survey

Lori Bruce shared the draft of the Special Education Questionnaire that will be sent to families. Questions include asking what grade a child is in and how many years the child has been on an IEP. There are other questions related to a student’s service delivery (including if families have an understanding of the services, if the services are supporting the child’s progress and being delivered in an inclusive way, if the IEP goals are appropriately ambitious, if families have an understanding of how the delivery of services impacts their child’s day; questions related to communication received from the child’s liaison and the school (including family satisfaction with the details and frequency of communication, the level of comfort families have reaching out to the case manager, if the team has been responsive and respectful, if communication is informative and demonstrates an understanding of the child’s needs, and if the team provides resources to help the child at home); questions related to the IEP development process (including if families understand how their child’s IEP addresses the child’s needs, if families feel they are a valued member of the IEP process, if they feel comfortable asking questions about reports and

the IEP during meetings, if they have confidence that the team is doing what's best for their child, and if the special education services the child receives are supporting progress.) The survey also asks parents to share additional information, if they have interest in any training topics that SEPAC could host, and if they would be interested in receiving help to start a conversation with their child regarding the child's learning needs. It concludes by asking what they see as strengths of the Carlisle special education program and if they have suggestions for improving the program.

Ms. Comperchio asked if examples of topics for parent training could be added to the form. Ms. Mostoufi added that Carlisle has many programs in place; she has heard the school psychologists speak at PTO meetings about programs they offer and believes such a presentation would be valuable to many parents. Ms. Bruce will include these suggestions in the survey. Ms. Comperchio added that parent attendance at SEPAC might be increased if these parent trainings take place on Zoom. Ms. Bruce elaborated on the question about a parent looking for help on starting a conversation with their child about the child's learning needs. She could offer talking tips, foundational ideas to get them started, and a helpful book list. Ms. Mostoufi asked if she could suggest books demonstrating that disabilities don't preclude children from success. Ms. Bruce said there are great books for both kids and parents. Mr. O'Shea added that after the committee reviews the survey and gets feedback from SEPAC on Tuesday, the survey can be sent to families.

V. Review of WestEd Recommendations

Ms. Bruce reviewed the progress that has been made in Special Education after the WestEd recommendations, which are now outdated. She added that there are a small number of issues the department is still working on as a result of the report. Mr. O'Shea suggested we discuss the progress that has been made in Special Education at the SEPAC meeting and then move forward. Ms. Bruce will have a presentation to share on Tuesday and people can ask questions.

VI. Sub Committee Goals for the Year and Further Discussion

Mr. O'Shea said that this subcommittee will meet approximately every three weeks, and should plan to meet with SEPAC every other month. When this group meets again, we will decide when the next joint meeting will be. Ms. Bruce noted that special education is not being delivered for in-school students differently during the COVID environment; services are still being provided individually and in small groups. Ms. Mostoufi asked if there would be a question for remote learners in the COVID environment. She also would like to know how the teachers are coping. Mr. O'Shea answered that this survey is designed for all families, including remote families, and we are asking about their experience in the moment. We will send this out once a year moving forward. Ms. Bruce added that sending the survey annually will allow the School to look at trends. The next meeting will be Friday, December 18 at 7:30 a.m.

VII. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

VIII. Adjourn Meeting

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Nancy Anderson
Assistant to the Superintendent