



# Carlisle Public Schools

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*School Advisory Council Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, January 13, 2021 at 3:15 p.m.  
Location: Zoom Meeting*

**Members in Attendance:**

Matt Mehler  
Dennet Sidell  
Susan Fitzgerald  
Liz Gray  
Kieran Joshi  
Jennifer Kaczynski  
Chrisanthi Bethanis  
Jenn Saak  
Linda Vanaria  
Brian Waterson

**Members Absent:**

Melissa Bilotta

**1. Welcome**

**2. Public Comments**

There were no comments from the public.

**3. Acceptance of December 2020 Minutes**

Kieran moved to accept the minutes of December 2, 2020. Matt seconded the motion. Susan Fitzgerald abstained. Motion approved: 9-0-1

**4. Covid-19 Update**

Dennet noted that some families completed the travel form if they intended to be away during the December vacation. He noted that some families kept their students out of school following the vacation. He added that Lauren Sawyer, Lori, and Trisha have been doing a great job of contact tracing. At this time, all classes are in session and there have been no cases of spread in school. Dennet stated that we did not have a lot of families travel during December.

## **5. Long Term Project - Castle and area behind the Castle**

Dennet stated that the Castle was built in 1988 and although it has served the children of Carlisle well for a very long time and Eagle Scouts have done their service projects to maintain the structure, it is time to consider what is next for the Castle and area around it. Dennet stated that he and Brian have been talking about what type of project would fit and what next steps would be. They stated that it would be a multi-year process.

Brian stated that he would be working with town departments and had talked with the folks at the company that had originally installed the Castle. He added that he had also been in contact with a California company that would seek input from the children who would be using it.

The area beyond the Castle was also discussed. Questions of whether the area could become a grassy field or whether we need permission from the Historical Society to change the landscape were raised.

Liz shared that there is a young Japanese Maple that had been donated in her honor that she hoped would remain where it is planted.

It was also noted that the Castle is not used by students in grades kindergarten and one as it was not built to be used by students younger than grade two. Other questions regarding the Castle update included whether we need to fundraise, cut trees down, and what would be involved in removing the existing structure.

Dennet stated that he would like to have a plan to present to Superintendent O'Shea this year. Linda and Jennifer Kaczenski volunteered to help Brian on this undertaking.

## **6. Math Program**

Dennet noted that the School Advisory Committee has talked for a few years about needing to find a new math program. He added that the school department is looking at new programs and asked that if people had recommendations to please send them along. He added that DESE has a list of recommended programs. Matt noted that there are four different curricular at the MS level. Matt also shared that MS math programs have been unlevelled this year due to Covid. He stated that DESE is pushing to unlevel math programs. He added that this is a good opportunity to stop and take a look at what new programs are available.

## **7. Technology**

### **Equipment:**

Dennet stated that students in grades K, 1, and 2 have 1:1 iPads. Students in grades 3, 4, and 5 have Chromebooks using Google Chrome and students in grades 6, 7, and 8 have iPads.

Also shared was the fact that our Activeboards are becoming dated. We have one new board in elementary school that is being piloted as we begin to consider how to replace these devices.

**Programs:**

Dennet added that we are currently using programs such as Storia, Clever, Freckle, Track My Progress, and Star Renaissance. Matt noted that there are discussions taking place regarding iPads and Chromebooks in MS. He added that students like using Chromebooks. Liz added that there also needs to be a discussion around Google Classroom and Schoology.

**8. Other**

The following are dates for upcoming School Advisory Council Meetings:

Wednesday, February 24

Wednesday, March 24

Wednesday, May 5

Wednesday, June 9

Members were also encouraged to go to Mass.gov to listen to trainings on Open Meeting Laws.

**9. Adjournment -**

The School Advisory Council Meeting was adjourned at 4:30 PM.