

**Carlisle School Committee  
Special Education Subcommittee**

Minutes

Friday, January 22, 2021

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://carlisle-k12-ma-us.zoom.us/j/88409042094?pwd=QkhyM3ZwZ2poUGp6dFlrVkFLQ2pzUT09>

Meeting ID: 884 0904 2094

Passcode: 413936

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 7:31 a.m.

**II. Approve Minutes**

The minutes from November 20, 2020, November 24, 2020 (Joint Meeting with SEPAC) and December 18, 2020 were approved by Ms. Comperchio and Ms. Mostoufi.

**III. Parent Survey**

Ms. Bruce shared that there were 31 responses to the Special Education survey that was sent to families. Less than 30% of families responded. Ms. Bruce will give a formal presentation to SEPAC on Tuesday about the results. She noted 75-80% of families rated Special Education services at the highest (5); 88-92% gave ratings of 4 or 5. Rankings were high overall for setting ambitious goals as well. Comments were overwhelmingly positive. The family that gave the 3’s (middle rating) wants very specific things for their child. The overall positive responses tells us we are on the right track and there are no big concerns. Ms. Bruce and her team work with families and children on an individual basis. Mr. O’Shea, in analyzing the survey process, commented on the low number of 30 respondents and asked if a truncated survey could be sent to families after IEP meetings. In that way, we could get immediate feedback and after a year, that data could be aggregated. Ms. Bruce said that process was done on paper years ago, and there were not a lot of respondents then either. Ms. Bruce will come up with a draft survey. Ms. Mostoufi asked what a good percent of respondents to a survey would be. Mr. O’Shea answered 35-40 %. Ms. Bruce stated that how often a District has to go to mediation is another marker of success. She shared that one mediation case started before she was hired in Carlisle and she

picked it up. She said that the District has gone to mediation once in the year and a half she has been here. Ms. Bruce has been able to solve issues and conflicts.

#### **IV. Sub Committee Goals**

Ms. Mostoufi asked what training is needed for the staff. Ms. Bruce said there is a system in place on delivering services, but the staff does need training in autism. Ms. Bruce believes her team can service this population of students, but they ideally need a partial sub-separate program where they spend part of their day outside of their general ed classroom. This would require hiring another special educator. Ms. Mostoufi said that it would be a great benefit if Carlisle can service kids with higher needs. She added that in a high achieving district, the differences between peer groups are evident. Ms. Bruce shared that COVID required deep conversations between case managers and families. So families know their case managers. If a parent is quiet, Lori asks her staff to reach out to them. Case managers have 7-10 students and they can be experts on what these students need. Ms. Bruce also knows all of the students. Ms. Bruce is collaborating with administrators at CCHS about the program offerings, such as WRAP for special education students with a language-based disability. Ms. Mostoufi said last year there was talk at the region about how they would set up meetings with middle school and high school using the same verbiage in literacy programs, so families would know how the kids would be taught in high school. Ms. Bruce shared that a representative from CCHS comes to every 8<sup>th</sup> grade IEP meeting, and Kim Reid works with CCHS about students on 504 plans. Ms. Bruce says that she and her team know the students and want to recommend the right high school program for each of them. She shared that starting in third grade, Carlisle teaches kids how to create their own graphic organizers. That gives them a life skill, so students know what to do no matter what kind of program is put in front of them. Ms. Mostoufi agreed that Carlisle teaches amazing self-advocacy skills. She voiced that students should access the supports in place at CCHS. For students with executive functioning challenges, they can go to support rooms to get help from adults. Ms. Bruce will talk with Ms. Reid to make sure students are aware of the supports available at CCHS. Mr. O'Shea added that rarely does the Special Ed Director know every child.

#### **V. Budget**

Ms. Bruce had talked previously about needing a special educator for the new sub-separate program. She also noted that several students with significant needs have moved into the District including four students with autism. Others have significant reading challenges. Some students coming from Early Intervention are severely impaired, and will need a one to one paraprofessional, and others have significant behavior challenges. The School has to make adjustments when kids move into the District. It was noted there are also shared paraprofessionals to assist students. Mr. O'Shea noted that the FCR kids returning to school will mean more needs. Lori clarified that the SLP in preschool works with students that have sensory needs and need to learn to talk. This SLP works collaboratively with the teacher to make sure we integrate those early language skills. There is collaboration that helps all students and that is ideally how the preschool program should be run. Ms. Mostoufi voiced support of getting all students back to school and caught up; it is not the time to scale down on teachers. Ms. Mostoufi said there parent anxiety about what programs are available in high school for their students and this information is valuable when the child is in middle school. Ms. Bruce said there is a parents night where CCHS presents its programs. Ms. Bruce will send out the invitation to other middle

school families about the different programs that are available. Mr. O'Shea will draft subcommittee goals.

**VI. Public Comments**

There were no public comments.

**VII. Adjourn Meeting**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:13 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nancy Anderson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Nancy Anderson  
Assistant to the Superintendent