

**Carlisle School Committee**  
Minutes  
Wednesday, February 3, 2021  
7:00 p.m.  
Carlisle School Cafeteria  
and Zoom Remote Access

Present– School Committee: Christine Lear - Chair, Jack Huntress, Eva Mostoufi, Sara Wilson  
Present School Committee via Zoom: Amanda Comperchio  
Present– School Administration: James O’Shea, Superintendent  
Present – School Administration via Zoom: Dennet Sidell, Elementary 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 cafeteria 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 cafeteria were able to access it via live stream at:

<https://carlisle-k12-ma-us.zoom.us/j/85364619219?pwd=MDI2Ty81Z0Y5QlJ6TIVxVjM5R2N0UT09>

Meeting ID: 853 6461 9219

Passcode: 886407

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 7:00 p.m. and stated that the meeting was being recorded.

### **II. Review/Approve Minutes**

- A. Meeting of January 20, 2021. Ms. Wilson made a motion to approve the minutes of January 20, 2021; Ms. Comperchio 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. Student/Faculty Presentation. There was no student/faculty presentation this evening.
- B. State and Local COVID Dashboard. Mr. O’Shea reported that there was one positive case of COVID in the School community on January 24. The 7<sup>th</sup> grade class was remote through last Friday. Today we were informed of another positive case but there was no in-school contact tracing. The positive case count in Carlisle in the last 14 days was 14 (as of January 28, 2021.) The State 14 day test positivity rate as of January 28, 2021 was 5.51%. Mr. O’Shea said Carlisle will receive 100 vaccines each week. These will first be given to people age 85 and up, then to citizens aged 75, 65, and then educators. The School signed letters to ask the governor to move educators into Phase 1. Mr. O’Shea

thanked Chief Sorrows and the EMTs for continuing to provide testing to the Carlisle community. Ms. Lear asked about pool testing. Mr. O'Shea reported that the family survey yielded 200 responses, and 64% of school families would have their children participate in pool testing while 36% would not participate. For faculty and staff, there were 65 responses, and 70% said they would participate while 30% said they would not participate. It was noted that positive PCR tests would result in rapid antigen follow up testing. There would be no quarantining until a positive case was confirmed. Ms. Wilson said that Concord did pool testing for all of its faculty last week and all results came back negative. It is reassuring that the precautions being taken are working. Ms. Mostoufi asked if the pool testing would happen after February vacation, and the answer was yes. She noted that if someone has COVID, you can't test them for 9 days because residual parts of the virus remain in their system. Mr. O'Shea noted that people should continue to keep following the established safety precautions and not come to school with cold symptoms.

- C. School/Superintendent Update. Mr. O'Shea said the School met with FinCom on January 25, and there will be a Budget Hearing at the next CSC meeting on February 24. He shared that CPS is a member of the EDCO Collaborative, and EDCO is experiencing financial difficulties and is operating at a deficit. The EDCO Executive Board will make a decision on how member districts will deal with this long term debt. There is an upcoming meeting to discuss this situation with the FinCom liaison, a member of the Select Board and the Town Administrator. 8<sup>th</sup> grade transition planning is underway. There will be a Chorus and Band sharing evening on February 9. School is closed during February vacation from the 15<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup>. The Calendar Committee drafted a 2021-2022 school calendar that aligns with Concord. We will have another day in March at the beginning of the 3<sup>rd</sup> trimester, where middle school FCR students can choose to return to in-person instruction.
- D. Non-Contractual Handbook. Mr. O'Shea discussed the changes that were made to this document. Changes included the addition of the new vision and mission, updated language around school closures and cancellations, Columbus Day/Indigenous Peoples Day, and changed language around accountability and procedures. Supplements for paraprofessionals and custodial staff will be distributed to appropriate personnel. The custodial pay discussion will continue. The handbook will be voted on at the next CSC meeting. Ms. Comperchio noted that it is helpful if the CSC reviews this handbook every year. It was noted that the Performance Evaluation document has been updated in the past couple of years. This document was discussed at the Policy Subcommittee meeting and many other policies will be ready for review by the entire CSC in the near future.
- E. Carlisle Community Engagement. Mr. Huntress is building a plan for community engagement. He would like to address issues such as Carlisle citizens not understanding the budget figures and the current cost of education. He would like feedback tonight and over the next couple of weeks. His documents reference concepts such as declining school population and the changing demographics in town. Driving factors of a school budget include costs of educating a child today, and higher expectations of students. There are three categories of citizens in Carlisle; families with kids in the School, who had kids in school in the past, and those with no affiliation with CPS. Example perspectives include a top heavy administration and why costs are up with a decreased school population. Issues that this plan addresses include people's beliefs, a lack of

emotional connection to the School, and the taxpayer amount spent on school not correlating to property value. Hubs of communication were also discussed; people may or may not see School information in the Mosquito. If the CSC took the lead on communication, it could control how, when and what information is communicated from administration. Mr. Huntress said this will be a working document. Ms. Lear asked how this would be done, saying it is a problem across boards in Town. An email can't be sent out to residents every week; information has to be worthwhile and relevant. She asked if there was a way to involve young writers or people from the COA to help communicate to citizens. News on Facebook or news in the Mosquito is not going to reach everyone. Ms. Wilson acknowledged that there are lots of things people didn't understand about School this year. Mr. Huntress added that people in the community didn't realize how unique it was that CPS was open, didn't understand the significance; he would love to find a better way to get that information communicated to people. Ms. Mostoufi said people are busy, and there is a lot of information coming at them. She wondered if connecting with Master Planning might be a way to show the significance of the school and the challenges faced. Ms. Lear said that Master Planning has these same issues; they are also trying to get people to listen. Ms. Lear said that though only 17 people were on the call tonight, she believed it would be wise to keep School Committee meetings public on Zoom in the future. Ms. Comperchio added that having access to the meeting recordings is helpful too. Mr. O'Shea noted the need to generate content for communications that could include the budget, what services look like at CPS, and subjects to engage different groups. Mr. Huntress supports the idea of drawing people into CPS for events such as the spaghetti supper or the cultural festival, or Read Across America, where people see the school and see kids learning and growing. Ms. Wilson asked if we used to have a multigenerational award which would be a great way to connect people of different generations. Ms. Mostoufi added that MASC suggested that CSC members to be present at school events. Ms. Lear thinks members should have nametags when on campus, have their pictures on the website, and show people that CSC members are accessible. Ms. Lear will take pictures of members at the next CSC meeting. Ms. Comperchio supports the idea of student-run articles and also community focused articles; mix it up to keep the interest. Ms. Wilson said at the Region, there are high schoolers at every other meeting to tell the committee what kids are thinking about; they present some highlights as well as concerns to keep the committee informed. Mr. O'Shea thought this was a great idea. If one or two students come to meetings, they can share their experiences. Ms. Wilson added that they then can speak to their peers. Mr. O'Shea will talk with school personnel and identify a couple of students to join the CSC. Ms. Lear suggested a COA representative as well. Ms. Mostoufi noted that participation from parents increased when we have had regular student participation in meetings.

#### **IV. Members'/Committee Reports as Needed**

The CSC meeting schedule was discussed. The members had suggested meeting every 3 weeks starting on 2/24. Ms. Wilson said that there might be issues that come up that necessitate scheduling an additional meeting. For now, the next scheduled meetings will be on: February 24, March 17, April 7 and April 28.

Policies and the Budget were discussed earlier in the meeting.

CCRS: Ms. Wilson reported that the Region had a meeting with the Carlisle FinCom about budget planning. Ms. Mostoufi said they are in the second round of vaccine distribution at the vaccination clinic at CCHS.

Highland Building: Ms. Lear reported that this committee is working hard to find a use for the building. How is that space important to the school? The School owns the land, and the Town owns the building. Ms. Wilson asked if it was possible to get a floorplan with dimensions to understand the numbers. Mr. O'Shea will check with Rob Fortado about this.

Mr. Huntress noted that with Ms. Lear leaving the CSC, there will be an election for a new member to come on board. He added that it will be hard to replace her. Ms. Lear said it's important to consider someone who doesn't have kids in school. She added that it was an incredible and challenging experience this past year. Ms. Wilson asked if there has been any guidance about using Zoom for meetings. Mr. O'Shea has not yet heard any guidance about Zoom meetings moving forward.

#### **V. Communications/Correspondence**

Mail was distributed.

#### **VI. Warrants**

- A. Accounts Payable Warrant #4921; \$51,222.02
- B. Payroll Warrant #4721; \$434,668.63

#### **VII. Action Items**

There were no action items.

#### **VIII. Public Comments**

Carrie Patel, Tophet Road was recognized. She asked if the Town had requested that teachers get vaccines. Carlisle is only getting 100 doses weekly, and they will first be distributed to remaining first responders and people over the age of 80. She sees teachers as first responders. Mr. O'Shea said that initially, through conversations with the LEPC, it was thought there would be a vaccine clinic for our educators. Then 2 weeks ago, the Carlisle Board of Health and the vaccine committee were informed we would get 100 vaccines a week and we would have to work our way through the list of eligible people. Mr. O'Shea noted that the 100 vaccines a week is what all municipalities are receiving and there is no way to circumvent the distribution program. The BOH was encouraged to push harder to no avail.

#### **IX. Adjourn Meeting**

Ms. Mostoufi made a motion to adjourn the meeting; 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. The public meeting was adjourned at 8:24 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Nancy Anderson

Assistant to the Superintendent

List of Documents Viewed or Reviewed:

Draft Minutes of January 20, 2021

Draft of Non-Contractual Handbook

Warrants

    Accounts Payable Warrant #4921; \$51,222.02

    Payroll Warrant #4721; \$434,668.63

Carlisle Community Engagement

Carlisle School Committee Goals