

**SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2022
7:00 PM
COMMUNITY ROOM, ROBBINS BUILDING
AND REMOTE ZOOM ACCESS**

Present – School Committee: Amanda Comperchio, Jack Huntress, Eva Mostoufi, Carrie Patel, Sara Wilson

Present – School Administration: James O’Shea, Superintendent; Mary O’Regan, Assistant to the Superintendent

Present via Zoom – School Administration: Lori Bruce, Director of Student Support Services; Dennet Sidell, Elementary Principal; Matt Mehler, Middle School Principal

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

Topic: School Committee 2-9-22

Time: Feb 9, 2022 07:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://carlisle-k12-ma-us.zoom.us/j/81586290181?pwd=T2hHR2J5RkRCL09CMWxQOXdkNTM5UT09>

Meeting ID: 815 8629 0181

Passcode: 225205

I. Call to Order

Mr. Huntress called the meeting to order at 7:03 PM and announced the meeting was being recorded.

II. Review/Approve Minutes

A motion was made by Ms. Wilson to approve the minutes of the Carlisle School Committee meeting from January 12, 2022 as presented. The motion was seconded by Ms. Mostoufi. The motion passed unanimously.

Vote: Comperchio, aye; Huntress, aye; Mostoufi, aye; Patel, aye; Wilson, aye.

III. Information/Discussion Items

- A. Carlisle School Committee 2021-2022 Goals – There was a review of the 21-22 goals as the committee has agreed to check-in on a regular basis about progress in the area of each goal.
- B. Student Reports - Student Representatives Elisa Angelino and Maya Soto reported out on middle school clubs and activities. The Early Act Club has had a successful year raising money for nonprofit organizations. The Drama Club recently held their production of Fiddler on The Roof Jr. 8th Grade students are preparing for course selection for next year at Concord-Carlisle High School (CCHS).
- C. [Student Mental Health Update](#) – School Psychologists Kim Reid and Katie Rupprecht provided an update on Student Mental Health in relation the pandemic. Jeff Hechenbleikner, School Psychologist, also contributed to the presentation but was unable

to attend the meeting. They reviewed current trends in data related to Child Study Team referrals, Special Education testing referrals, student attendance rates, and homework completion rates. School Committee members suggested a check-in at the end of the school year as a follow-up.

- D. [Special Education Update](#) – Director of Student Supports, Lori Bruce, provided an overview of the student population currently being served by the Special Education Department in Carlisle. Ms. Bruce highlighted how Carlisle is addressing special education topics that are a focus at the state level as well as some of the new programs and trainings the district is using.
- E. [Elementary School Presentation on Pilot Math Program](#) – Vanessa Gerade, Grade 1 Teacher, gave a presentation on the HMH Into Math program that the Grade 1 team has been piloting this year. The team has found this to be an engaging, rigorous program that allows for the curriculum to be taught in a differentiated, small group format. The team believes students are displaying a strong understanding of the standards being taught.
- F. Overnight, Out of State Field Trips Update – Following the closure of the Sargent Center where Carlisle 6th grade students had attended Nature’s Classroom in the past, a group of 6th Grade teachers will be touring the Nature’s Classroom site in Freedom, NH and meeting with staff to review the curriculum. The 6th grade team is on board with having an overnight trip and working to provide this opportunity to students if at all possible. The 8th Grade trip to DC is still planned for June. Roommate selection will be taking place soon.
- G. 2022-2023 CPS School Calendar – The 2022-2023 draft calendar was presented. The calendar mirrors the current school year. Feedback on the calendar can be sent to Superintendent Jim O’Shea. The School Committee will vote on the calendar at the next meeting.
- H. COVID-19 Update & Discussion – There was a review of the CPS COVID dashboard. The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) has decided to allow the school mask mandate to expire on February 28, 2022. Currently the Carlisle Board of Health has a town-wide mask mandate in place and the School Committee has a Face Covering Policy. There was a suggestion to rescind the Face Covering Policy and move masking decisions into the operations of the school putting it under the purview of administration. Mr. O’Shea suggested moving to a mask optional environment starting on March 7, 2022, if the school has the authority at the local level to do so. If the current Face Coving Policy is rescinded it allows administration the authority to make decisions around masking and pivot, if necessary, based on the number of COVID cases in the school. It was noted that in some instances masking would be required such as on the bus, entering the health office, and for 5 days upon return of testing positive with improved symptoms. Further discussion included extending time after school break before rescinding the Face Covering Policy to determine if there would be a spike in COVID cases. Members of the School Committee decided to schedule an additional meeting in the next week to allow for time to hear from the community and receive feedback from the staff prior to taking any votes regarding masking.
- I. Castle Playground Project Update – Committee Chair Brian Waterson reported that the land survey has been completed. The Committee will meet with the Historic Commission next week. Fundraising efforts continue while the Committee is researching additional grant opportunities. There is still discussion surrounding the finishing options of the field

materials. Mr. Waterson will provide and update on the field at the March School Committee Meeting

- J. Community Forum on Education Spring 2022 – The hope is to schedule an in-person forum for the spring prior to the town meeting. Several agenda topics have been suggested including School Choice, Special Education and Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI). It was also noted that there will be at least one open seat on the School Committee in the spring elections.

IV. Superintendent's Update

Student concerts and productions are continuing to take place in-person. In response to the January incident of hate speech the staff worked together to create a space for students to discuss their feelings and ideas and the DEICAC organized the Carlisle Cares Walk to School Against Hate. The DEIB Committee continues work in the school. Plans are underway for the CPS Garden Committee to integrate the garden projects into the curriculum. MCAS assessments are coming in the spring. Once MCAS testing begins in April, Pooled Testing will be moved from Tuesdays to Mondays to avoid any conflicts. Dr. Nancy Rappaport will be providing an in-person lecture at CPS and remote Zoom lecture on February 8th on how to support youth during the pandemic. The Facility Director search is moving forward. PTO hosts monthly Q&A Sessions with the Superintendent. The PTO website has the schedule of upcoming sessions, Zoom links to participate, and recordings of past sessions. February vacation will be the week of the 21st.

V. Members'/Committee Reports as Needed

- A. Policy Subcommittee – The subcommittee will share its recommendations for policy changes and additions at the March School Committee meeting.
- B. Regional Committee – The Regional Committee is planning professional development surrounding diversity, equity and inclusion with Dr. Paula Martin from IDEAS. Further research will be done to determine if this professional development will be community specific or if members of the CSC might be able to participate. The CCHS Intersections Committee created a book for students on what they can do to get involved in their community.
- C. Special Education Subcommittee (SESC) – A joint meeting of the subcommittee and SEPAC was held Thursday, January 20th and the next subcommittee meeting is scheduled for Monday, February 28th.

VI. Communications/Correspondence – There were no communications or correspondence.

VII. Warrants

- A. Payroll Warrant 22PR15; \$401,855.32
- B. Payroll Warrant 22PR16; \$402,742.73
- C. Accounts Payable Warrant 22SE15; \$153,517.66
- D. Accounts Payable Warrant 22SE16; \$83,080.81

VIII. Action Items – There were no action items.

IX. Public Comments

Public Comments were made by the following individuals:

- Deepa Chungi, 45 Virginia Farme Lane
- Shauuna Simek, 480 South Street
- David Model, 140 Carroll Road
- Misty Provost, 33 Hemlock Hill
- Dustin Walters, 64 Palmer Way
- Matt DeCastro, 45 Craigie Circle
- Danielle Adler, 164 Monroe Hill Road
- Olga Kaminsky, 70 Trophet Road

X. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Mr. Huntress and seconded by Ms. Wilson. The motion passed and the meeting adjourned.

Roll Call Vote: Comperchio, aye; Huntress, aye; Mostoufi, aye; Patel, aye; Wilson, aye.

Respectfully Submitted
Mary O'Regan
Assistant to the Superintendent
February 9, 2022

List of Documents Viewed and/or Reviewed:

CSC Meeting Minutes

January 12, 2022

Carlisle School Committee 2021-2022 Goals

Carlisle Student Mental Health Update

Student Services Update February 2022

Pilot Math Program Grade 1 Presentation

2022-2023 CPS School Calendar

Castle Playground Project Committee Update

Warrants

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