

**SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2022
7:00 PM
COMMUNITY ROOM, ROBBINS BUILDING
AND REMOTE ZOOM ACCESS**

Present – School Committee: Amanda Comperchio, Jack Huntress, Carrie Patel, Sara Wilson
Present via Zoom – School Committee: Eva Mostoufi
Present – School Administration: Mary O’Regan, Assistant to the Superintendent
Present via Zoom – School Administration: James O’Shea, Superintendent; Lori Bruce, Director of Student Support Services; Matt Mehler, Middle School Principal; Lauren Sawyer, Nurse

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 2-17-22

Time: Feb 17, 2022 07:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://carlisle-k12-ma-us.zoom.us/j/89570856965?pwd=NkISb3ZpUXdVN1FlaWI5SWNDRWtGUT09>

Meeting ID: 895 7085 6965

Passcode: 038027

One tap mobile

I. Call to Order

Mr. Huntress called the meeting to order at 7:06 PM and announced the meeting was being recorded.

II. Information/Discussion Items

- A. Face Covering Policy: Mr. O’Shea provided a recap of the status of the Face Covering policy. He noted the masking mandate that the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) had put in place for schools will expire on February 28th. The Carlisle Board of Health has indicated that the schools would fall under DESE regulations. Mr. Huntress stated that there are many factors to consider in the discussion of masking including but not limited to the social emotional health of students, educational outcomes, state guidance, peer district approaches, faculty & staff feedback, and public health officials’ recommendations. Public Health Nurse Tricia McGean addressed the decline in COVID cases over the past few weeks in Carlisle and the surrounding communities. It was noted that without a mask mandate or face covering policy there will still be some members of the community who will still need to mask and the district will need to make sure those people are supported. Discussion followed regarding the February 28th date. Students and staff will just be returning from school vacation and allowing for an additional week or two of masking coupled with pooled testing and at-home testing may help reduce

anxiety surrounding the option to remove masks. Some staff are still apprehensive about removing masking policies and by providing additional time they can prepare for the change and have the opportunity to discuss masking changes with students. The recommendation is to rescind the current masking policy and not revise the current policy or adopt a new policy. All faculty, staff, students, and visitors would still have the option to wear a mask. School administration would have the authority to address masking and pivot if it became necessary in the future due to a spike in positive COVID cases. Even if the current face covering policy is rescinded, there would still be instances when 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.

- B. Community Forum on Education – Spring 2022: Mr. Huntress stated that in follow-up to the virtual Community Forum on Education held last fall, planning for an in-person event in the spring is underway. Items to discuss included agenda topics, event venue, and event date/time. Based on the schedule of town and school events, Wednesday, March 30th was identified as a date. The school auditorium is an appropriate venue as the focus of the event is education. Event start times of 4:00 PM and 6:00 PM were considered. There was further discussion surrounding the target audience and what time would work best for that population. Potential agenda items included Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (DEI), Special Education, School Choice, Administration Structure & Size, Literacy, and the Effects of the Pandemic on Students. Mr. O’Shea noted that several of these topics have been addressed at recent School Committee meetings and Mr. Huntress explained that the forum would only provide highlights of each topic and not a deep dive into the topic. Event details will be finalized at a future meeting.

III. Public Comments

Public Comments were made by the following individuals:

- Rob Misek, 70 Orchard Acres
- Victoria Elman, 419 Heald Road
- Rebekah, Vieira, 48 Bingham Road
- Bethany Richman, 86 Greystone Lane
- Karen Shahinian, 7 Audubon Lane
- Deepa Chungi, 45 Virginia Farme Lane
- Daniel Tencza, 304 Russell Street
- Stephanie Koch, 186 Bellows Hill Road
- Naren Nayak, 48 Trillium Way

IV. Action Items

Mr. Huntress put forth the date of Monday, March 7th for consideration to rescind the current Face Covering Policy. Ms. Comperchio noted that this date aligns with the date set by Concord-Carlisle Regional High School. Ms. Wilson asked about testing capabilities for the week of February 28th. Mr. O’Shea responded that in-school Pooled Testing is scheduled for Tuesday, March 1st and that at-home testing is recommended for Thursday, March 3rd which would allow for a full round of testing prior to Monday, March 7th. Ms. Patel voiced her concerns

regarding removing mitigation strategies. Ms. Mostoufi stated that she wished the district were not in this situation but is comfortable with the date of March 7th to rescind the policy.

A motion was made by Ms. Wilson to rescind the Carlisle School Committee Face Covering Policy (L2) as of Monday, March 7, 2022 at the start of the school day. The motion was seconded by Ms. Comperchio. The motion passed with a Roll Call vote of 4-1.
Roll Call Vote: Comperchio, aye; Huntress, aye; Mostoufi, aye; Patel, nay; Wilson, aye.

V. Adjournment

Ms. Comperchio noted that a vote on the 2022-2023 School Calendar is scheduled to take place at the next meeting and that additional district information will be added to the calendar, but there will be no change to the dates presented at the last School Committee meeting.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Ms. Comperchio and seconded by Mr. Huntress. The motion passed and the meeting adjourned at 8:37 PM.
Roll Call Vote: Comperchio, aye; Huntress, aye; Mostoufi, aye; Patel, aye; Wilson, aye.

Respectfully Submitted
Mary O'Regan
Assistant to the Superintendent
February 17, 2022

List of Documents Viewed and/or Reviewed:
CSC Face Covering Policy (L2)