

**JOINT SCHOOL COMMITTEE SPECIAL EDUCATION SUBCOMMITTEE (SESC)  
AND SPECIAL EDUCATION PARENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SEPAC) MEETING  
MINUTES  
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2022, 9:00 AM**

Present – School Committee: Sharon Whitt

Present – School Committee via Zoom: Carrie Patel

Present – School Administration/Personnel: Jim O’Shea, Superintendent; Lori Bruce, Director of Student Support Services; Linda Vanaria, Teacher and CTA President; Mary O’Regan, Assistant to the Superintendent

Present – SEPAC Board Members via Zoom: Meredith Bielecki, Sessa Gadey, Melissa Suderman

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 9:07 AM.

- II. CPS School & District Profile - Ms. Bruce reviewed data from the Carlisle DESE School & District Profile. Student performance data shows that Carlisle students who are high need and/or special education students are performing well. While there has been a state wide decline, Carlisle students on IEPs do not show significant learning losses. In follow-up to questions, Ms. Bruce stated that no Carlisle students take the MCAS Alt and no students opt out of MCAS testing. She went on to review the levels of MCAS accommodations and how students qualify for an accommodation.
- III. FY24 Budget Overview - Mr. O’Shea reviewed the FY24 Budget information presented during the December 7th budget hearing. He highlighted that the budget includes the request for funds to hire an additional Tier II Tutor for the 2023-2024 school year. Since special education costs are ever changing and difficult to predict, the district can go back to the town to request additional funds to cover unexpected costs if necessary.
- IV. Areas of Focus for SESC for 22-23 - The subcommittee will align their focus areas with the CSC goals. The subcommittee will provide support in the areas of budget and policy. To support town collaboration, the subcommittee will continue to meet jointly with SEPAC as well as work with the Office of Student Support Services to review survey data. Professional development opportunities will include discussion of the podcast “Sold a Story.” On Wednesday, January 18th at 4:00 PM, the SESC and SEPAC will meet in person to discuss the podcast. In the area of social emotional health, there will be a presentation of the Panorama survey results to the full school committee in January. The subcommittee will follow-up on any special education concerns if necessary. With regard to the goal of student

performances, the subcommittee is following discussions surrounding vocational school opportunities for CPS students. Last year there were students who wanted to attend vocational high schools but since CPS is not a member district of any vocational schools at this time, students found it problematic to gain admissions. Mr. O'Shea explained the process of becoming a vocation school member district as well as the admissions process. The district wants to support students if a vocational school is an avenue that a student wants to investigate but they do not want to encourage students to apply if they most likely will not be admitted. The prohibitive price of becoming a district member of a vocational or technical high school is a challenge. Discussions regarding vocational/technical schools will continue in the coming months.

- V. Listing of Teacher Certifications & Trainings - Ms. Bruce has created a list of teacher certifications and trainings for the CPS special educators. Conversations have been ongoing about posting this list. CTA President Linda Vanaria reported that she checked with the MTA which stated that since this information is not readily available on DESE website then it must be bargained between the Carlisle School Committee and the CTA to post it on our website. A question was posed regarding how a parent can access information on certifications that a teacher working with their student holds. There was further discussion surrounding district staff who hold certifications versus those that have only had training. SEPAC had interest in having this information posted to empower parents to have more information and ask questions. Mr. O'Shea stated that parents may ask for this information at any time.
  
- VI. Student Support Services Website Updates - Ms. Bruce shared that there have been updates to the Student Support Services web pages. More information and links to additional resources have been added, based on feedback, to the language about team meetings, 504 plans, and IEP services. A FAQ section has also been included on the website. It was noted that the certifications listed on Student Support Services pages may be found on the DESE website.

### **III. Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:17 AM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Mary O'Regan  
Assistant to the Superintendent  
December 15, 2022