

**Carlisle School Committee
Joint Meeting with Board of Selectmen and Board of Health
Minutes**

Monday, August 17, 2020

7:30 p.m.

Remote Meeting Via Zoom

Present Via Zoom – School Committee: Christine Lear - Chair, Amanda Comperchio, Jack Huntress, Eva Mostoufi, Sara Wilson.

Present Via Zoom – School Administration: James O’Shea, Superintendent; Matt Mehler, Middle School Principal; Dennet Sidell, Elementary Principal; Lori Bruce, Director of Student Support Services; Anne Mahan, Business Manager; Rob Fortado, Supervisor of Buildings and Grounds; Nancy Anderson, Assistant to the Superintendent.

Note: Per Governor Baker’s order suspending certain provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A sec. 20, the public was not allowed to physically access this School Committee meeting. Members of the Public were able to access this meeting via live stream at:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84909403597?pwd=WldUSkFuTkZwYzRvTnM4TDJHMitUdz09>

Meeting ID: 849 0940 3597

Passcode: 0411k7

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 7:35 p.m. and stated that the meeting was being recorded. Ms. Lear explained that this is a Carlisle School Committee (CSC) meeting and public comments will be addressed later as per the agenda. She also asked that if people have made a comment in a previous meeting, please let other people make comments first. There will hopefully be time for repeat speakers. New speakers will have three minutes to speak, and repeat speakers will have one minute to speak. She noted that the CSC is not obliged to answer any questions in this forum. Mr. Model spoke as a member of the Board of Selectmen (BOS) and clarified that the members of the BOS and the Board of Health (BOH) can speak because it is a joint meeting.

II. Information/Discussion Items

- A. School Reopening Plan. Mr. Model spoke to the reopening models. He asked what the trade-off was between pedagogy and social emotional wellness for students. Carlisle is a small community with a lot of open space and a low rate of positive cases. If School can’t reopen now, it is not going to reopen for awhile. In opening, can the School use more open space, for example the churches? Tony Mariano from the BOH said he attended the walk-through of classrooms and busses. He had concern about bus spacing and felt students were too close; in addition, he noted there were mixed grade levels on

each bus. The BOH recommendation was to have one student in every other row (note: the School adopted this recommendation in the reopening plan.) Ms. Lear asked about testing. Mr. Mariano stated that setting up a testing protocol can be complex and involved. He stated there is no present BOH recommendation or plan. The BOH is forming a COVID task force with the following members: Todd Thorsen, Jean Barry, Cathy Galligan and Linda Fantasia. Mr. Model acknowledged that returning to school in any form will increase the risk and it makes sense to get a baseline test. He also felt the School would be a good candidate for pool testing because a group can be sequestered. He shared that Concord contacted Emerson Hospital about testing. Mr. O'Shea was part of that conversation as well, and shared that Emerson Hospital had concern about being able to test Concord and Carlisle students in a timely manner and receiving the results before the start of school, but conversations are continuing. Mr. Huntress asked for clarification on the testing that was being explored. Mr. O'Shea answered that they are talking about getting people tested before school starts, or pool testing (regular intervals of testing) once school starts. Emerson said they can't handle testing every student; the capacity is 500 people/day. Emerson can do a 48 hour testing turnaround. Mr. Huntress asked if we could ask Emerson if we could test a certain number per week. Mr. O'Shea will follow up with Emerson Hospital. Catherine Fink was recognized and said as a PHD scientist with 30 years' experience, she would be happy to work with the BOH COVID task force. She added that in testing a baseline, if people are not quarantining, you are getting a result for a moment in time. It's important not to depend on testing for keeping people safe. There was discussion about the positivity rate for CCHS. Linda Fantasia, Carlisle Health Agent, shared numbers showing an increase, but not significant, in teenagers in Concord, probable but not confirmed, in July/August. Probable means the person has symptoms and confirmed means the person has COVID. Ms. Mostoufi shared that per Laurie Hunter, the cost was \$45 to \$50 per test. Mr. Model did not want cost to be a factor in ruling out testing. Mr. Mariano asked if the school is providing a safe environment, considering the air system. Mr. O'Shea answered that Facilities Manager Rob Fortado has been taking a systemic approach and executing many improvements including working on updating maintenance schedules, replacing filters, and bringing in as much fresh air as possible. Mr. O'Shea added that the School will use outdoor space as much as possible, and has purchased furniture and equipment for that purpose. Mr. Huntress wanted to clarify that we would meet the recommendation from the BOH about spacing on the bus, and Mr. O'Shea said we will and each bus will carry up to 11 students. Currently about 12% of students need transportation and we should be able to make that work with distancing in place. Mr. Model revisited the idea of holding classes in other spaces around Town. Ms. Comperchio asked if there are security concerns with doing that. Mr. O'Shea said once a plan is approved, we can look into implementing some of these ideas. Mr. O'Shea then presented the School Reopening plan. He started by thanking faculty, staff, parents and families for sending their thoughts and ideas. Mr. O'Shea presented a Phased Hybrid approach. This slow rollout provides students and faculty with opportunities to become familiar with new practices. It uses data to inform decision making, has a built-in timeline and is adaptable and fluid. It was noted that the Family Choice Remote (FCR) model, which 18% of families chose, will be supervised by Carlisle teachers. In this model, middle school students will interact with their teachers

for core classes, and elementary students will access daily teacher-led meetings and Zoom lessons. Parents are asked to commit to FCR through the first trimester, which is through December 9. For the in person models, the students will be thoughtfully placed in three cohorts, A, B and C, with Cohort C consisting of the most vulnerable students such as ELL and special education, and also children of Carlisle faculty. Phase I runs for the first two weeks. Week 1, 9/15-9/18 would be a hybrid half day, Grades K-8, with Cohorts A and C attending Tuesday and Thursday, and Cohorts B and C attending Wednesday and Friday. Week 2, 9/21-9/25 would have Pre-K students attend, K-8 students continue with the ½ day hybrid model, with Cohorts A and C attending Monday and Thursday and Cohorts B and C attending Tuesday and Friday, with a half day remote learning day on Wednesday morning. On Wednesday, 9/23, there will be an assessment of the metrics and if the experience is positive, the School will move to Phase II, which runs for the next three weeks. For 9/28-10/2, 10/5-10/9 and 10/12-10/16, Pre-K will attend full in person, and there will be a full day hybrid program with the same cohorts as before. These students would stay for lunch and have a half day remote instruction on Wednesday morning. This phase will be assessed on 10/14 and if the experience is positive, the School will move to Phase III, which is a Pre-K-Grade 8 full in person model starting on 10/19. The success of these phases relies on the School's ability to manage protocols and manage cases. It is understood that we may have to stop at any point if the decision making framework indicates too many positive cases in the school, community or State, and then the School would go into full time remote learning. It is also understood that risk reduction plans are in place, including the wearing of masks, disinfecting spaces, 6 foot distancing, no visitors to the building and limited contact among faculty and staff. Masks will also be required on busses. There will be comprehensive training for staff on new procedures and protocols. The School is moving forward with developing a MOA with the CTA to negotiate changes in the contract. The School is also reconsidering the deadline for teachers to decide if their children can attend CPS. Ms. Wilson wanted to highlight awareness of allergies in any return to school plan. Mr. O'Shea confirmed that the faculty and staff are aware of allergy protocols in all situations. Ms. Wilson also asked about visitors and new hires. Mr. O'Shea answered that we will be posting for positions because extra supervision is needed. He added that if people have symptoms, even a cold, we do not want them coming in. People will respond to 3 questions each day. Ms. Comperchio asked about the criteria for success for moving to different phases. Mr. O'Shea said there will be direct feedback groups and if we run into problems, we will make modifications. Mr. O'Shea stated that this plan is his recommendation and the CSC can vote on whatever model they would like to implement. Alan Lewis, BOS, said the slow rollout is very wise, especially where there is so much anxiety. Ms. Mostoufi asked what students are doing once they get home in the hybrid model? Mr. O'Shea answered that teachers will work with students to help them connect with their school and peers. Many of the initial days are focused on expectations and protocols. Then teachers will ease into instruction with a full, comprehensive curriculum. There will be work to do for students when they are not in school to address the curriculum. Ms. Mostoufi asked if teachers feel safe with this plan. Mr. O'Shea answered that we are trying to make this a successful opening for everyone. The teachers' association has shared its thoughts, and this plan may be disappointing for some faculty and staff. The faculty presented Mr. O'Shea with

another plan today. Ms. Lear advocating making a decision so families and faculty know how to move forward. Mr. Huntress recognizes the need to make a decision yet understands the challenges and anxiety for teachers, students and parents. Kate Reid, BOS, said the earlier you can make the decision, the better. Mr. O'Shea said once we have a plan, we can finalize cohorts and class lists. Mr. Huntress said as a matter of practice, because the CSC just received this plan and there is a lot to process, he would be in favor of voting on Wednesday. Ms. Mostoufi said she is prepared to vote tonight on a slow reentry, as it is a good and safe plan. Ms. Comperchio is prepared to vote tonight because the different models have been discussed for a long time. Mr. O'Shea said the design of the slow phased approach would reassure people by giving them positive and successful experiences, and it would also decrease anxiety and fear. Ms. Wilson agreed that a slow approach is best, and said Mr. O'Shea's plan is equitable. She said we have to pick a course and supports voting today, understanding that information is changing. Mr. Huntress can see the point of voting tonight and added that this plan has lots of elements that have been processed for a long time. Ms. Lear would like the CSC to vote tonight with the understanding that the plan may change.

- B. 2020-2021 School Calendar. It was noted the start date of school is changing to 9/15. There will be weekly Early Release days on Wednesdays, and there are 3 floating professional days to still be scheduled. Ms. Wilson said the revised calendar is essential to the plan. The CSC will vote on the Calendar on Wednesday. Mr. O'Shea also proposed that the CSC vote on extending the deadline for faculty who want their children to come to Carlisle.

III. Public Comments.

Ms. Lear said there would be 15 minutes for public comments. It was noted there were 272 people are on the call. She asked that people be succinct. Catherine Fink said she does not agree that the surveys gave the opinions of the parents and teachers. She hears anxiety, socialization and other concerns, and allocating funds toward hiring school staff to act as supervisors in remote situations. Kristen Amanti asked if the School considered putting younger children in Cohort C that attends school more often. Carly Cox, 318 Maple Street, asked about the other proposal that the teachers brought forth today. She added that for any in-person model, specials are a weak point, and recommended that all specials be remote. She also said that with the increased numbers of students not riding the bus, pick up and drop off will be challenging, and asked if that has that been considered. Leslie Bailey, 800 Concord Street, is curious about HIPAA laws with requiring and managing test results for students and staff. She was also curious why staff children would be considered as part of Cohort C. Mr. O'Shea said our teachers are essential workers so we are providing them with a support so they can come to work and teach. Kim Boschi, 127 Laurelwood, said that if we reach 5 cases, that is very high. Deepa Chungi, Virginia Farme, asked if we are considering siblings when establishing the cohorts. Mr. O'Shea answered that we will keep siblings on the same days. Shawna Simek said that in the hybrid model, if kids only go for 2 days, they can't learn on the days they are not in school. She wishes that the rollout wasn't so long, and also that school wasn't starting so late. Bridget Ferrari, 95 Hemlock Hill, asked if we have indicators as weeks pass, so as we see how things are going, can we extend that time in the phases. Mr. O'Shea answered that we do have metrics, we will look at positive cases in the community and state, and that will inform the decision to move to a different stage. Carrie Patel asked if all faculty have access to health insurance through the

school. Mr. O’Shea said that all full time employees, and part time over .5 FTE, have access to insurance. Kim Tresch, 125 Meadowbrook Road, said as a primary care pediatrician, she sees children in person, does Coronavirus testing, and understands anxiety. She said the School has considered a lot of factors. She said kids are taught to wear a mask, and she’s impressed with how well kids do in the office. Addressing concern about the spread of the virus, 2.2% of close contacts spread the disease, so masks and PPE do work. She added her thanks for all of the work that has been done. Liz McIntosh, 84 Carlisle Pines Drive, said that nothing that’s happening now is normal. Having the right expectations going into this is best for people. She doesn’t expect a typical year, there are other lessons to learn. She is concerned about teachers. Karen Fardig, 7 Audobon Lane, asked when the assessment of the HVAC will be done. Mr. O’Shea said that recommendations will come out in the next couple of weeks. Sam Verge, Indian Hill, said he needs to hire someone to help his kids with instruction, and would like a vote tonight. Olga Kaminski, echoed what the pediatrician said about masks. She felt as a parent of a young child, she and other parents have to know their children will be cared for. Navneet Virk Hundal, echoed the pediatrician and the last caller. She works at MGH. The spread of the virus is low in hospitals because they are designed for infection control. She has respect for teachers and knows it is not easy to limit the distance between students. Abby Zimmerman thanked the volunteers that are figuring this out. Linda Vanaria said that Carlisle teachers have a mindset of yes we can and yes we do. Our responsibilities are to our students, who we instruct and keep safe. She said that she urged the CSC to consider a remote start. If we can’t start remotely, teachers worked to create a hybrid model that had a very slow approach to a half day cohorted model, that is much slower than the one presented. Everyone has worked hard to see if we can get back safely but there is not a lot of joy on our faces. Our staff is hoping for a slower roll.

IV. Action Items

- A. Vote School Reopening Plan. Ms. Comperchio made a motion to waive the practice of discussing an issue at one meeting and voting on it at the next; Ms. Mostoufi seconded the motion. Ms. Comperchio said that voting today would provide parents the opportunity to plan for child care. Ms. Wilson added that this is a starting point. The following votes were taken in roll call: Comperchio, aye; Huntress, aye; Lear, aye; Wilson, aye. Ms. Mostoufi had exited the meeting. Ms. Wilson made a motion to accept the school reopening plan as presented by Mr. O’Shea; Ms. Comperchio seconded the motion. There was discussion about Ms. Mostoufi not being able to participate in the vote. The following vote was taken in roll call: Comperchio, aye; Huntress, aye; Lear, aye; Wilson, aye. Ms. Lear called Ms. Mostoufi and she was able to participate so the vote was repeated. The following vote was taken in roll call: Comperchio, aye; Huntress, aye; Lear, aye; Mostoufi, aye; Wilson, aye. Ms. Lear encouraged people to email or call members with questions or concerns. She values everyone’s input.
- B. Vote 2020-2021 School Calendar. This vote was tabled until Wednesday. Ms. Anderson will send the calendar to members.

V. Adjourn Meeting

Ms. Wilson made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Mr. Huntress seconded the motion. The following votes were taken in Roll Call: Comperchio, aye; Huntress, aye; Lear, aye; Mostoufi, aye; Wilson, aye. The public meeting was adjourned at 10:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Nancy Anderson".

Nancy Anderson
Assistant to the Superintendent