

Carlisle School Committee
Minutes
Wednesday, August 26, 2020
7:00 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; 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/85077109211?pwd=OGRLMHFLQk1OSkgrZINQTGJoSGIZQT09>

Meeting ID: 850 7710 9211

Passcode: 0\$hAeb

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 7:05 p.m. Ms. Lear stated that the meeting was being recorded.

II. Review/Approve Minutes

- A. Meeting of August 17, 2020 and Meeting of August 19, 2020. Ms. Mostoufi made a motion to approve the minutes of August 17, 2020 and August 19, 2020; 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. School Reopening. Mr. O’Shea expressed gratitude to the many people who have worked so hard over the last several months. He thanked the administrative team for their tireless efforts. He thanked the custodial staff and the support staff. He thanked the entire faculty and staff for their collaborative work, and gave a special shout out to Linda Vanaria. He thanked the School Committee, in this unprecedented year, for digging into the work. He also thanked the Carlisle families for their patience, respect, and voiced appreciation of the tone and tenor of parent communications. He appreciates that

conversations have been positive. Ms. Lear added her thanks to Mr. O'Shea for all of his hard work. Mr. O'Shea continued with the school reopening update. The faculty and administration have been working together to plan for school reopening on September 15. Teachers return on Monday. Dr. Sidell and Dr. Mehler hosted family forums this past weekend to answer questions about the back to school plan. As additional questions are generated, more family forums will be held on September 3 and September 10 at 7:00 p.m. Lori Bruce will also be available to answer questions at the forums. There will be a SEPAC meeting on September 22 at 7:30 p.m. Anne Mahan shared a school reopening presentation with FinCom this past Monday evening and shared the presentation. Ms. Mahan said that there is COVID-19 Grant Funding available to the School. Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER) for \$20,000 is available and can be used through April of 2022. There is also the School Reopening Grant for \$128,250 (that equates to \$225 per student) which can be used through December 31, 2020. Currently, that is a total of \$148,250 in grants. Grant money can be used for staff, student technology, student assessment, student furniture, facilities projects such as HVAC, and PPE. The School purchased see-through masks for staff with part of this funding. Ms. Mahan then reviewed the total COVID Related Expense chart. The estimated funding required for School reopening is \$150,000. The estimated funding required for staffing (estimated 12 staff members) is \$150,000. Subtracting the DESE grants (\$148,250), the total estimated funding required is \$151,750. Ms. Mahan noted that Chapter 70 funds for FY21 increased to \$1,012,143. Ms. Huntress added that the School informed FinCom that there may be other expenses with regard to air quality and testing. This amount is what is needed right now; it's a fluid situation. It was noted that CARES funding can be used for COVID testing for anyone in the Town departments. Ms. Wilson asked if the Chapter 70 funds were final numbers; Ms. Mahan will check. Ms. Mostoufi asked if the School is anticipating any technology needs. Mr. O'Shea answered that there may be additional requests, but currently, technology is available for all K-8 students. Rob Fortado gave a Facilities update addressing the indoor air quality. There have been steps taken to ensure healthy air will be provided to faculty and staff. There has been a complete assessment of all rooftop units. Whether in a cooling or heating mode, fresh air will still be circulated. The system was assessed on Friday in both heating and cooling modes. It was noted that air is circulated 4 times per hour in classrooms and administrative spaces; every 15 minutes there is outside air brought in. Filters were updated on the gym units; these filters increase air quality by catching airborne viruses, bacteria, and airborne particulates. Preventative maintenance schedules have been increased to 4 times per year, and are handled by Mr. Fortado and Rich Price. Disinfecting has been done, filters have been upgraded and replaced. We have increased the run time of the HVAC system. Now units come on a few hours before the building is occupied (flushed with cool air from overnight) until a few hours after occupants leave to flush out air. Screens will be installed in Wilkins and Grant classrooms. Ms. Wilson said that there were a lot of concerns about upgrading the filters at the Region, and asked how do you tell if there is too much pressure on the system? Mr. Fortado answered that you can tell by the static pressure which would trip an alarm. He and Mr. Price check regularly on the pressure. Ms. Mostoufi asked if there is a need for opening the windows. Mr. Fortado said the more open windows the better, it is best to have as much fresh air as possible. Mr. O'Shea asked if it would be beneficial to install individual air purifiers or

filtration systems. Mr. Fortado answered that this would be beneficial if a space was isolated and not on the system, but we do not have any spaces like that in the School. Ms. Mostoufi asked where the students with respiratory issues or symptoms would go for an isolation room. Mr. Fortado said we have looked at different areas. The current thought is using the conference room for regular knee scrapes, and the nurses' office with windows for staff or students that are symptomatic. It was noted that the facilities department would go through cleaning and disinfecting protocols of those spaces. Mr. Fortado added that he worked with Ms. Mahan, and purchased outside tents. Double sink hand stations will be rented because it is more cost effective. The rental company is local and comes out weekly to take away waste water, refill the units, clean them and stock them with paper towels and soap. Facilities will do the wipe downs and disinfecting through the week. The capacity is 600 hand washings per unit before water has to be changed. Mr. O'Shea shared that the Carlisle metrics for in-person vs. remote instruction have been updated to align with State guidance and Harvard Global Health Institute. It was noted that as soon as there is one case, there will be communication with the BOH, the DPH, and DESE, which could result in a State directive to close School. The thresholds were lowered at the Town and State level. If the test positivity rate is lower than 3%, school will be in session. Mr. Huntress noted that we are still talking about 14 day rolling averages; all cases within a 14 day range. Ms. Lear asked for discussion about extending the deadline for faculty children to attend CPS this fall. Mr. O'Shea shared the list of faculty who have asked that their children attend CPS. The following teachers and students were read: Jessica Montague's son, Jack, in Kindergarten; Aria Niemierko's daughter, Zoe, in Grade 1; Bethany Boglarski's son, Charlie and Leanne Christmas's son, Alex, in Grade 2; and Bethany Boglarski's son, Oliver, in Grade 4. Ms. Wilson made a motion to accept all of these children to Carlisle Public Schools for the 2020-2021 school year; Ms. Mostoufi seconded the motion. The following votes were taken in roll call: Comperchio, aye; Huntress, aye; Lear, aye; Mostoufi, aye; Wilson, aye. Mr. O'Shea talked about teachers as essential workers. If we declare Carlisle residents who are Massachusetts public school teachers as essential workers, then would we also allow their children to become part of cohort C? Commissioner Riley said last week that he recommends Districts that are hybrid or remote should prioritize kids of teachers and high risk students. Mr. O'Shea believes the School can manage this so public school educators that live in Carlisle and work in MA can have their children attend in Cohort C. Ms. Lear said we need to know the numbers. They make work for the hybrid model, but not sure about the numbers would work in a full in-person learning model. Mr. O'Shea said we could send another survey, then we would have the data to discuss it. Ms. Wilson suggested that if numbers are large, we could prioritize elementary students. Dr. Mehler asked if the CSC could look at it by grade level. He shared that we currently have 83 students in 7th grade and we have large 5th grade classes too. Mr. O'Shea will get the numbers; he will label the survey for public school teachers in other towns. Ms. Comperchio asked for the capacity we would have per grade. Ms. Bruce added that there are a large number of students with special education needs in Cohort C. Ms. Mostoufi asked if there is capacity for other special needs students to be part of Cohort C. Mr. O'Shea answered that if we expand it more, the hybrid model wouldn't work well. Ms. Bruce explained the criteria for students being part of Cohort C. The state said to include high need students; Carlisle said any student

that qualified for summer services as well as any student that had more than one service provider on the service delivery grid would qualify for Cohort C. Mr. O'Shea discussed the need for after school child care and the School's ability to provide it. He contacted Holly Mansfield at Carlisle Rec who has put together programming that might be available, but capacity may be limited. Currently they are looking to identify spaces that may be used for such a program. Such a service would be beneficial to families when Carlisle is in the hybrid model for at least the first two weeks of school. Ms. Mostoufi shared that Concord is using Concord Recreation to provide child care supervision, and Concord Rec also serves the children lunch. Mr. O'Shea said other districts are working with their YMCA or recreation depts to provide programs but Carlisle does not have these resources. Ms. Lear revisited the testing question and is looking for answers from the COVID task force. Ms. Mostoufi said they will meet tomorrow and work on testing questions and review literature because they understand the School is asking for guidance. Ms. Lear joined the BOH Communications Subcommittee and that group is designing a campaign for the town, including ideas such as seniors protect children, and children protect seniors, to stop the spread of COVID. That group meets tomorrow as well. Ms. Lear noted that Susan Rask offered to share a summary report every Thursday, that includes data points with test cases, that we could distribute to our members. The report could address the framework.

- B. Policies. The policy subcommittee met Monday but did not review all of the COVID policies. The subcommittee will meet again on Friday. The meeting has been posted and members were asked to attend if they were available.

IV. Members'/Committee Reports as Needed

CCRS: Ms. Wilson reported that the Region discussed details of Concord's reopening plans and the HVAC. Ms. Mostoufi added that there was an open campus discussion about allowing juniors and seniors to go off campus. More information is posted on the CCRSD website.

V. Warrants

There were no warrants.

VI. Public Comments

Carrie Patel clarified the discussion about teachers' children attending CPS. She asked to clarify that the CSC just voted for 5 more children to attend CPS but hasn't yet voted that the teachers' students will be part of Cohort C. It was confirmed that information was correct. Ms. Patel shared that in Concord, they are making videos of kids going into school and showing routines. Mr. O'Shea said Carlisle is exploring doing that too because it lowers the anxiety for students and parents. Dr. Sidell added that in his Zoom meetings this week, they talked about doing videos about things that would happen at the elementary school. Anne Mahan shared that for Chapter 70 funds, discussed earlier, DESE confirmed that the School would be level funded for the year; the governor released his budget but it has not been finally approved. Mr. Fortado added that in the week leading up to school reopening, the HVAC system will be running 24/7. Ms. Lear discussed moving CSC meetings into the building. Mr. O'Shea said he can make arrangements for a meeting space. Ms. Comperchio will have to call in to next week's meeting and cannot meet in person. Ms. Wilson asked if we diminish our ability to hear from stakeholders with an in-person meeting. Ms. Lear would ask CCTV to broadcast live but this

wouldn't give people the ability to comment in real time. Ms. Lear wants to find a balance between meeting in person and public access. Mr. Huntress added that we don't want to cut off discussion and questions. Cynthia Sorn, Rutland Street was recognized. She said that per Open Meeting Law, if you hold a meeting in person you have to accommodate those who come in person. If they want access to the meeting and can't access it, you may be putting people at risk. Thought has to be given about holding a meeting in a public setting. If you had zoom going at the same time, that would work. When the public station had technical difficulties a few weeks ago, the meeting was not accessible. Mr. Model, Carroll Drive and a member of the BOS, asked if the School had guidance from counsel on conducting a live meeting with Zoom concurrent. He agreed with Ms. Sorn's and Ms. Wilson's points about not giving up on Zoom. Mr. Model offered to field this question through Town Counsel. Mr. O'Shea asked if anyone has an idea on how we can meet in person with remote access simultaneously and successfully, let him know. Mr. Huntress asked if pre-registration for public meetings is something that could be done. It was answered that per Open Meeting Law, a public meeting is public, and people can't reserve spots. Mr. Huntress asked how many people could be accommodated in the auditorium with 6 feet of distancing. Mr. Model said it is about access. It was stated that we have had 295 participants at a past meeting. Ms. Lear said we will have a Zoom meeting next week, and we will look into technology for future meetings. Ms. Comperchio will look into the technology to make this work. Ms. Mostoufi added that Zoom is convenient, and that's why so many parents are attending the meetings.

VII. Action Items

Action items were addressed earlier in the meeting.

VIII. Adjourn Meeting

Ms. Comperchio 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 8:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Nancy Anderson
Assistant to the Superintendent