

**Carlisle School Committee**  
Minutes  
Wednesday, September 23, 2020  
7:00 p.m.  
Carlisle School Community Room  
and Zoom Remote Access

Present– School Committee: Christine Lear - Chair, Amanda Comperchio, Jack Huntress  
Present – School Committee via Zoom: Eva Mostoufi  
Present– School Administration: James O’Shea, Superintendent  
Present – School Administration via Zoom: 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.

In order to adhere to social distancing guidelines, 5 members of the public were allowed access to this meeting in the Community Room at the Carlisle School. Per Governor Baker’s order suspending certain provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A sec. 20, members of the public who could not access this meeting in the Community Room were able to access it via live stream at:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83319243813?pwd=aVJ0dIZITUp0SEZja2lZOVhTNzN5UT09>

Meeting ID: 833 1924 3813

Passcode: L\$+QE7

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 7:03 p.m. and stated that the meeting was being recorded.

**II. Review/Approve Minutes**

- A. Meeting of September 16, 2020. Ms. Comperchio made a motion to approve the minutes of September 16, 2020; Mr. Huntress seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The following votes were taken in roll call: Comperchio, aye; Huntress, aye; Lear, aye; Mostoufi, aye.

**III. Information/Discussion Items**

- A. State and Local COVID Dashboard. Mr. O’Shea said the State Dashboard has not been updated today. Raw data from yesterday showed that there were no COVID cases in Carlisle, which remains in the “gray” area. Members of the school community have been tested and all have had negative results. The positivity rate in Massachusetts is .8 percent.
- B. School Reopening. Mr. O’Shea presented feedback on Phase I. Positives include: students are being compliant (wearing masks, observing distancing), pick-up and drop-off procedures are going well, and spacing is working in teaching areas. Challenges include: remote instruction for elementary grades, logistics of cleaning and disinfecting

throughout the day, student behavior on the plaza after school, cohort mix-ups, Zoom schedule mix-ups, and the difficulty for teachers to respond to parent emails in real time during the day due to teaching responsibilities. Mr. O'Shea also shared family feedback from a survey sent on Monday. Approximately 110 people responded. Feedback included: pick up and drop off for elementary worked well but middle school needs more coordination, there is satisfaction with the communication from the school, there is satisfaction with the process and procedures in place at school, there is mixed feedback on remote instruction, there are concerns and questions about mask breaks, and questions about the mobohubb app. Mr. O'Shea said that there has been extensive planning for Phase II, which starts Monday with full days continuing in a hybrid model. Dr. Sidell, Dr. Mehler and Ms. Bruce will host a family forum tomorrow night to present information and answer questions about Phase II. Major challenges in this phase include lunch and recess. It was noted there are new smaller tables set up in the cafeteria and cleaning protocols will take place between lunches. Phase III planning is also underway. Challenges include: maintaining physical distancing in classrooms, specific distance challenges in classrooms of grades 5 and 7, the need to relocate classrooms to meet 6 feet distancing, distancing in the cafeteria, and opening windows given the cooler temperatures. There is also an ongoing challenge of hiring additional personnel to help with cleaning protocols. The School is purchasing High Efficiency Particulate Air (HEPA) purifiers for enclosed instructional spaces and classrooms. This is another layer of safety that benefits faculty, staff and students. It is recommended that people get tested if they exhibit any symptoms. People can use Emerson Urgent Care for testing; there is a 24-48 hour turnaround for results. Riverside Trauma Center is hosting a support orientation for families on September 29 at 7 PM. The Social Justice Committee and the Community Book Club are meeting as well. Mr. O'Shea reviewed the communication schedule; he will communicate with families on Mondays, School Committee (CSC) meets on Wednesdays, and the principals send communications on Fridays. Ms. Bruce hosted the first SEPAC meeting this week. Mr. O'Shea ended by thanking the administrative team, faculty and staff for their ongoing efforts with school reopening. It requires a great deal of organization and coordination to make phases work, and ongoing adaptations are needed as each phase creates challenges. He also thanked the families and reminded them that lunch is free to all this year. Ms. Comperchio asked if there is a way for CSC members to participate in book club or at least get updates on what people are reading and discussing. Mr. O'Shea will discuss this with Ms. Lydon, the Chair of the committee. Mr. Huntress asked if there are any health advisors/professionals to help us with the challenges of students taking mask breaks. Mr. O'Shea will reach out to the health professionals for more guidance. He noted that faculty and staff are not seeing unhealthy kids in school. It is the expectation of 100% compliance with the mobohubb app on any day a child is in school. Mr. Huntress shared that it is very challenging for elementary students to get through a day of remote learning. He has heard from other parents who share this opinion. It was noted that this has nothing to do with the teachers or curriculum. The content and delivery are fine, but in a remote setting, the parents have to be the teachers and troubleshooters, and it is extremely challenging. Ms. Mostoufi asked if we have to change anything in policies to support the process of the daily health screening. Mr. O'Shea said there is no need to modify policies at the present time. He noted it is important to communicate with Lauren Sawyer about symptoms, which may

be allergies, but no matter what the cause, parents have to then work with their child's pediatrician to make a plan for testing and to move forward. Ms. Lear asked if signage should be posted on the school grounds saying people are gathering on school property at their own risk after school hours; they should stay 6 feet apart and wear a mask.

#### **IV. Members'/Committee Reports as Needed**

Special Ed Subcommittee: Ms. Comperchio would like to set up a meeting of the special ed subcommittee. The membership for the Federation for Children with Special Needs (FCSN) is coming up. The FCSN offers information, support and assistance to families and professionals who support children with disabilities. There are workshops and training for parents through the year. Ms. Comperchio also questioned if there were enough subs at school if people get sick. It was noted that getting subs for any given day is an ongoing challenge. Mr. Huntress asked if there were updates on assessments of students. Mr. O'Shea answered that the start of the year is about students meeting teachers and making connections, but students will be assessed sooner rather than later. After that is done, teachers will be able to calibrate instruction to meet the needs of the students. Mr. Huntress asked if discussions with FinCom have to take place. Mr. O'Shea answered that there are presently no scheduled meetings with FinCom but we can schedule a meeting to inform them on what's happening at school.

COVID Task Force: Ms. Lear reported that the task force discussed Halloween. The Carlisle Cheer project is deciding what Halloween will look like this year. The thought is to organize neighborhoods to distribute candy; where people sign up, residents bring goodies to the end of driveways, and kids pass by a table and grab a treat so nobody is close to one another. This would possibly be staggered by age group. Whatever the plan is, the School can communicate it to families. There is only so much we can control, but guidelines will be provided. The BOH wants to think about the Halloween plan until its next meeting during the second week of October. It was noted that signage is going up around town to remind people we are in a pandemic and to take proper steps (wear a mask, distance, etc.)

Ms. Lear reported that the Highland building is deteriorating, and the BOS wants to put together a task force. Alan Lewis from the BOS was recognized. He added that the Highland building has been condemned by building inspector, and the BOS would like to put together a recommendation to bring to town meeting in the spring and would appreciate someone from the CSC being involved. Ms. Lear will get the representative's name to Mr. Lewis by the end of the week.

CCRSD: No update.

#### **V. Warrants**

There were no warrants.

#### **VI. Action Items**

Ms. Lear discussed the necessity to plan a CSC goal setting meeting. Mr. O'Shea suggested he give a short update next week then proceed to CSC goal setting. Ms. Mostoufi said it is difficult with the many meetings taking place during the week; the Master Planning committee also meets Wednesdays at 7 and plan to meet on 9/30 and 10/7. CCRSD meets on Tuesday. A suggestion was to move one CSC meeting from Oct 7 to Oct 6 at 7 p.m. The next CSC meetings will be on September 30 at 6 p.m. and Oct 6 at 7 p.m.

## **VII. Public Comments**

Jenn Kuivinen was recognized, and had several questions. She asked how busses would work with the additional children attending school in Phase 3. Ms. Anderson answered that the busses have no more than 12 children onboard in Phase 3. Currently, about half of those riders take the bus to and from school due to the hybrid model. There will be no space issues on the bus in phase 3. Ms. Kuivinen asked if people test positive on day 13, is the School still requiring a 14 day quarantine from that point in time. Mr. O'Shea answered that the procedure is that if a person has symptoms, we ask them to get tested. If there is an exposure, they get tested and then they are in quarantine. Once they have a negative test, and the symptom subsides, they can return after 24 hours. She asked about the cafeteria and how the 6 feet distancing would work with kids moving around. Dr. Mehler answered that he staged the cafeteria today. There will be tables, divided in half, where kids sit by themselves, and all face the same way. In one lunch, kids sit on one side of the table, in next lunch, they sit on other side of the table. All children will be 6 feet apart at minimum, with the most being 7-8 feet apart. The cafeteria can accommodate 60-70 kids. There will be one way in and one way out. Students enter by the elevator, in a line with physical spacing, and exit at the other door the same way. If students need to get up, they put on their masks. Dr. Mehler noted that he built in a mask break between period 2 and 3 for the middle school. Dr. Sidell added that there will be more mask breaks in elementary because there are more recesses. Grades K, 1, and 2 have a morning break, grades 3 and 4 break by Highland, where they have a mask break and eat outside. Dr. Sidell has been planning spaces for recess and kids have to stay in their groups. There will be an adult with every group outside. It was noted lunches will be eaten in the cafeteria or the classroom. Recess is held at the same time, so kids can't eat outside. Ms. Kuivinen asked about rainy days and there will be a plan in place for those. She is also concerned about allergies and kids eating in classrooms and volunteered to help. She thanked everyone and noted everyone's efforts are appreciated.

## **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. The public meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Nancy Anderson  
Assistant to the Superintendent