

**SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10, 2024
5:00 PM
LIBRARY, ROBBINS BUILDING
AND REMOTE ZOOM ACCESS**

Present – School Committee: Julie Viola, Brian Waterson, Sharon Whitt, Sara Wilson
Present via Zoom – School Committee: Carrie Patel (joined the meeting in-person at 5:25 PM)
Present – School Administration: James O’Shea, Superintendent; Mary O’Regan, Assistant to the Superintendent; Matthew Mehler, Principal Middle School; Stephen Connearney, Facilities Director
Present via Zoom – School Administration: Lori Bruce, Director of Student Support Services; Andy Paquette, Business Office

Per the governor’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: CSC 4-10-24

Time: Apr 10, 2024 05:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://carlisle-k12-ma-us.zoom.us/j/83729168019?pwd=Rk42UzBYaGZpYVNrL3dvUW0xVzZWZz09>

Meeting ID: 837 2916 8019

Passcode: 534221

I. Call to Order - Ms. Wilson called the meeting to order at 5:02 PM.

II. Public School Choice Hearing

A motion to open the Hearing on Public School Choice was made by Ms. Whitt and seconded by Mr. Waterson.

The motion passed unanimously.

Roll Call Vote: Patel, aye; Viola, aye; Waterson, aye; Whitt, aye; Wilson, aye.

There were no public comments.

A motion to close the Hearing on Public School Choice was made by Ms. Viola and seconded by Mr. Waterson.

The motion passed unanimously.

Roll Call Vote: Patel, aye; Viola, aye; Waterson, aye; Whitt, aye; Wilson, aye.

III. Consent Agenda

A. CSC Meeting Minutes 3.13.24

B. Warrants

a. Accounts Payable Warrant 24SE19; \$71,454.31

b. Payroll Warrant 24PR19; \$430,796.91

Motion to approve the Consent Agenda was made by Mr. Waterson and seconded by Ms. Viola.

The motion passed unanimously.

Roll Call Vote: Patel, aye; Viola, aye; Waterson, aye; Whitt, aye; Wilson, aye.

IV. Information/Discussion Items

A. Student Update from Model UN and Project 351

Model UN - Student Idan Chen was welcomed by Superintendent O'Shea. Idan is a Model UN participant as well as the district's Project 351 representative. Idan was joined by other Model UN members Teddy Jiang & Luke Gettings. The students reported that Librarian Maya Berry is the Model UN club advisor and that the group has been to five conferences so far this year. At each conference students act as a country or historical figure. They discuss current issues in the world, learn about negotiations, and work on public speaking/presentation skills. Participants learn a lot about politics and world affairs. Carlisle Model UN has approximately 20 members who meet on Mondays during lunch. This has been a good opportunity for CPS students to meet students from other school districts and learn how to work with and collaborate with others.

Project 351 - The organization is named after the 351 towns in the state of Massachusetts and brings students and districts together to provide service and support to charities.

Project 351 started in 2010 and to date has had over 2000 student representatives. The most recent activity Idan was involved with was a clothing drive for Cradles to Crayons. The group hopes to create positive change. Local representatives also work on smaller regional events in between larger state-wide events. For example, for Earth Day local students are helping to create a community garden at Acton-Boxboro High School. Students become representatives as 8th graders but many stay active as ambassadors through their high school years and beyond.

- ##### B. Superintendent's Update - Mr. O'Shea reported on the student production of AI Audience Interaction. Students wrote, produced, and presented the show. Student Luke Gettings was one of the writers and explained how the show went from an idea to the stage. April is Autism Awareness Month. Mr. O'Shea thanked CPS staff members Sherry Langlois and Erin Harrington for creating the Terry posters hung around the building. The posters represent an autistic student and share what thoughts and feelings they may have in different situations during the school day. Many teachers have walked their students through the school to view and discuss them. Mr. O'Shea also thanked Shawna Hunt for promoting Purple Up Day, a day to support Military children and families. Members of the CPS community are encouraged to wear purple on Friday, April 12th. On Monday, April 8th we experienced the eclipse. CPS supplied students and staff eclipse glasses, thanks to Linda Vanaria, and had a viewing party on the plaza hosted by Dr. Mehler. Mr. O'Shea recently attended Iftar and thanked Mahreen Hoda & Lamiae Mrabet for setting up the event in recognition of Ramadan. CPS students also participated in a color event for Holi. Students have been riding their bikes to school via the Bike Bus. Mr. O'Shea thanked Rachel Freed and Brooke Mackintosh for driving/coordinating the Bike Bus. There has been discussion regarding safety concerns about the crosswalk on Church Street. Long term plans include putting up a flashing light at the crosswalk. Mr. O'Shea thanked the WBYC for supporting Challenge Day for students in Grade 7. The 7th grade play Newsies Jr. was a wonderful production and Mr. O'Shea thanked everyone who contributed to the show. The French Trip to Quebec Trip is happening this week. A School Start Time Committee has been formed and will meet for the first time tomorrow. The Dining Room Committee and School Safety Committee are both up and running. Administration is

working on STEM programming for the fall as we would like to have a more robust program. Mr. O'Shea participated in the adult Spelling Bee at Gleason Library. Route to Sustainability Day is coming up on April 27th. The Pride Celebration is being planned for May 31st. Kindergarten Information Night will take place on April 25th. MCAS testing is ongoing. Facilities Director Stephen Connearney pointed out that there is a stop sign at the end of the main parking lot when entering the driveway at 150 Church Street and that it is a two-way drive.

- C. Grade 3 Indigenous Peoples' Project Presentation - Grade 3 Teachers Cindy Morris and Caitlin Green reviewed the presentation linked to the agenda. They explained that adjustments to the annual project are being made after meetings with Harry Harding from LeaderFull Life and his colleague Eden-Renee Hayes during professional development work. They reviewed what was typically done for the unit and what changes are being made during the 2023-2024 school year including adding a Land Acknowledgement, more discussion about colonization, and incorporating present day Native American life. A choice board was added allowing students the opportunity to choose which project they want to complete to show what they have learned during the unit. Over the school year staff have worked collaboratively to update the project. There was a suggestion to share resources about the project with families.
- D. Facilities Project Update - Facilities Director Stephen Connearney shared an outline of current facilities projects. The list included improvements to the wastewater treatment facility, the installation of security cameras, Wilkins HVAC, Grant elevator project, and the auditorium lighting. Mr. Connearney thanked Jeremy Behrle for his work and efforts on the auditorium lighting. Currently the project is in the third round of bidding in the procurement process. There was a brief discussion how ARPA funds have been used to date and may be used in the future. Further research will be done on the timeline for use of ARPA funds.
- E. September 2024 Grade 6 Nature's Classroom Trip - Middle School Principal Dr. Mehler reviewed the presentation linked to the agenda. Costs listed do not include bus transportation. Students present at the meeting shared their experiences at Nature's Classroom. A vote on the field trip will take place at the next school committee meeting.

The committee agreed to address agenda items out of order.

- H. Student Update - Student Council Representative Tenny Sprong reported on recent activities in the schools including a bake sale to raise funds for the French class Quebec trip. The Grade 8 Washington DC trip is coming up soon as roommate decisions, medical forms and meal choices are being finalized. MCAS has begun with ELA testing. Grade 8 students will be taking the Civics MCAS for the first time this year. Early Act worked with the organization Rise Against Hunger to pack approximately 10,000 meals for those in need. The Penny Challenge was recently held and raised \$1,700 with students from Grade 1 winning the challenge. Funds collected are being donated to an orphanage in Tanzania that student Teddy Jiang visited. Terry posters are in the halls for students to

read. Friday, April 12th students are asked to wear purple to support military families. Volleyball tryouts are complete and their first game is coming up. Challenge Day for grade 7 was recently held. This program encourages students to talk about difficult topics and build empathy. The 7th grade play Newsies Jr. was amazing. Students have been brainstorming ideas for an 8th grade class gift and have discussed a vending machine with healthy and happy snacks. There was a brief discussion regarding candy protocol during MCAS testing. The Drama Club is preparing for its next production, High School Musical Jr., which will take place in May.

- F. Superintendent Evaluation Timeline - Ms. Wilson discussed the recent practice of interviewing staff members who work with the superintendent as part of the evaluation process and how the committee would like to continue conducting these interviews. Additional people may be added to the list of those interviewed. Ms. Wilson asked committee members to look at Superintendent goals and ask questions related to these goals during the interviews. Mr. O'Shea noted that this interview practice has not been done with other school administration but he may add it to the evaluation process this year. Review of the timeline was linked to the agenda.
- G. Carlisle School Committee 2023-2024 Goals - There was a brief review of activity surrounding goals.

V. Communications/Correspondence - The School Committee received an email regarding the potential resurfacing of the plaza, an email from an 8th grade student regarding school start times, and several emails regarding the possible solar battery installation at CCHS.

VI. Members'/Committee Reports as Needed

- A. Regional School Committee - The meeting scheduled for April 9, 2024 was canceled and the next meeting of the committee is scheduled for April 23, 2024. Primary focus of the committee has been the FY25 Budget. The Regional School Committee will need to work with Concord's Finance Committee on the district budget. CCHS students had a trip to Vermont for the eclipse and endured a very long bus ride home. Work is ongoing regarding negotiations for the teacher contracts.
- B. Carlisle School Athletics - There was discussion surrounding CPS team sports and students getting cut from teams. The volleyball program has a team and a practice squad. Currently there are 18 students on the team and 17 students on the practice squad. Several students were cut from the program. With one court and one coach there are challenges with space and supervision constraints. Further research will be done regarding how to manage, and hopefully improve, the situation.

VII. Action Items

- A. Vote not to participate in School Choice for the 2024-2025 School Year
A motion that Carlisle School District not participate in School Choice for the 2024-2025 school year was made by Ms. Patel and seconded by Mr. Waterson.

During a brief discussion period members pointed out transportation challenges as families participating in School Choice must provide their own transportation. Previously the School Committee discussed the possibility of alternative options for collaboration with school districts in the area. It was noted that the School Committee is required to

vote on School Choice each year and will revisit the topic next year. Ms. Patel wanted to clarify her position as she was originally pro School Choice hoping it would promote diversity but then learned more about the School Choice process and changed her view. The committee agreed it would update and revisit the School Choice rubric during the 2024-2025 school year prior to voting on School Choice for the following school year.

The motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.

Roll Call Vote: Patel, aye; Viola, aye; Waterson, aye; Whitt, aye; Wilson, aye.

VIII. Public Comments - Cynthia Sorn, 433 Rutland Street, Carlisle

IX. Adjournment to Executive Session pursuant to MGL Chapter 30A, Section 21(a) with no intent to return to Open Session: (Purpose 2) To conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with nonunion personnel (school administration)

A motion to adjourn to Executive Session pursuant to MGL Chapter 30A, Section 21(a) with no intent to return to Open Session was made by Ms. Patel and seconded by Ms. Whitt . The motion passed unanimously and the meeting adjourned to Executive Session at 6:47 PM.

Roll Call Vote: Patel, aye; Viola, aye; Waterson, aye; Whitt, aye; Wilson, aye.

Respectfully Submitted
Mary O'Regan
Assistant to the Superintendent
April 10, 2024

List of Documents Viewed and/or Reviewed:

CSC Meeting Minutes 3.13.24
Accounts Payable Warrant 24SE19; \$71,454.31
Payroll Warrant 24PR19; \$430,796.91
Grade 3 Indigenous Peoples' Project Presentation
September 2024 Grade 6 Nature's Classroom Trip Presentation
Superintendent Evaluation Draft Timeline