

**CARLISLE SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 8, 2025
6:00 PM
COMMUNITY ROOM, ROBBINS BUILDING
AND REMOTE ZOOM ACCESS**

Present – School Committee: Scott Jamison, Julie Viola, Brian Waterson, Sharon Whitt, Sara Wilson
Present – School Administration: James O’Shea, Superintendent; Mary O’Regan, Assistant to the Superintendent

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 Meeting 1-8-25

Time: Jan 8, 2025 06:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://carlisle-k12-ma-us.zoom.us/j/86591524805?pwd=YbNZoDGpTLa8nK0Ck2VlbKtxaYPfkV.1>

Meeting ID: 865 9152 4805

Passcode: 813463

I. Call to Order

School Committee Chair Whitt called the meeting to order at 6:01 PM and announced the meeting was being recorded.

II. Public Comments - There were no comments.

III. Consent Agenda

A. CSC Meeting Minutes 12.11.24

B. Warrants

a. Accounts Payable Warrant 25SE12; \$154,918.02

b. Accounts Payable Warrant 25SE13; \$50,770.51

c. Payroll Warrant 25PR12; \$446,896.95

d. Payroll Warrant 25PR13; \$420,070.90

Motion to approve the Consent Agenda with the correction of removing the track project from the capital projects listed under the Regional School Committee Update in the 12.11.24 meeting minutes was made by Ms. Viola and seconded by Mr. Waterson. The motion passed unanimously.

Vote: Jamison, aye; Viola, aye; Waterson, aye; Whitt, aye; Wilson, aye

IV. Information/Discussion Items

A. Student Update - Estella Gu joined the meeting via Zoom. She reported that placement tests for next year for 8th graders are coming up for French, Spanish, and science. The basketball teams have won their last two games. Middle School students, including several who usually participate in the student update, are participating in the Collage Concert being held tonight at CCHS. Model UN students are looking forward to participating in an event at Concord Academy. Ms. Pixley is overseeing the 8th grade cabaret. Practices have begun for the 7th garage play, Alice in Wonderland Jr. The CCHS parent night is coming up at the end of the month. 6th grade students held a

- Science Space Museum just prior to break. Student Council/Early Act ran a fundraiser, 12 days of Giving, before break and gave donations to Open Table.
- B. Superintendent's Update - Mr. O'Shea reported that Middle School Parent conferences and an Elementary professional development day took place prior to break. SEPAC members, CPS staff, and community members are continuing to take part in the APPLE Program. A meeting is scheduled this week with a focus on building relations and the new IEP. Work has begun on the district section of the 2024 Town Report. Two book groups, one for staff and one for community members, are starting this week with members reading *The Anxious Generation*. The community book group starts tonight. The Collage Concert is tonight. The School Start Time Committee is doing further investigation on transportation and schedules. The staff will also be surveyed for their input on a possible change in start time. The committee has decided that if they can not make a recommendation prior to February vacation, school schedules will remain status quo for the 25-26 school year. The Calendar Committee is meeting again next week and will be adding a School Committee member to the committee. Tomorrow night there is a meeting scheduled with the Carlisle Finance Committee regarding the FY26 Budget. Teacher contract negotiations are ongoing. Grade 8 ELA teacher Marcella Pixley has written several books and has proposed to hold a book launch for her latest book in the CPS library in the spring. Should any School Committee members have concerns about this event they should contact Superintendent O'Shea. The Drama Club Sound of Music production was amazing. Both choir and band held a joint concert before the break. The Preschool held a Solstice Celebration on the plaza in December. Mr. O'Shea thanked Preschool Teacher Stephanie Schneider for coordinating the event.
- C. Auditorium Lighting Update - Jeremy Behrle reported out on the lighting project which began in June of 2022. Mr. Behrle explained that in 2000 problems were identified with the lighting board and a local MIT engineer created a box to run the lighting system. The box lasted for 20 years. Volunteers from the 7th grade play documented issues with the auditorium lighting over the years. The system was in failure following COVID but patchworked together to keep going for a few more years. In May of 2023 funding for the project was appropriated at Town Meeting. Additional funds came from the state and when safety issues were identified the town provided ARPA funds to correct these issues. The Carlisle Sustainability Coordinator worked to get an energy incentive refund. Mr. Behrle was pleased to report that the project came in under budget and that money will be returned to the town. The new system is energy efficient and savings are expected for both light bulb and electrical costs. There is now a modern system with upgraded features. There are still a few challenges to be addressed including emergency lighting battery packs and architectural lights. Mr. Behrle thanked those who worked on the project with him. Mr. O'Shea pointed out that Mr. Behrle is a volunteer who shepherded the project over the years. The Superintendent and School Committee are thankful and appreciative for all the work that Mr. Behrle has done.
- D. Highland Building Update - Ms. Viola and Mr. Jamison have been working with Krissy O'Shea from the Carlisle Historical Commission regarding a possible renovation and new use for the Highland Building. There was a review of a timeline regarding what tasks would need to be completed in order to move forward by Town Meeting in May. Historical background has been gathered from Jack Troast and John Ballantine. Ms. Viola is working to collect and synthesize data to present to the full School Committee for review. Once a decision is made as to what the potential use for the building, it will need to be determined how to fund the project. A formal presentation will be made at an upcoming School Committee meeting.

E. Carlisle School Committee 2024-2025 Goals - There was a brief review of activity related to the current School Committee goals. The Committee is on task with many activities. There was a request to review district fees at the February meeting. Mr. O'Shea reported that he has met with Town Administrator Ryan McLane regarding potential shared IT services. Another meeting has been planned which will include CPS IT staff.

V. **Communications/Correspondence** - The committee received an email from Grade 8 Social Studies Teacher Mickey Kilmartin regarding the 8th Grade Civics Projects.

VI. Members'/Committee Reports as Needed

- A. Regional Committee - Work continues on the budget. Capital Review with Concord Finance Committee will take place. There are plans for a coffee/forum in Carlisle, possibly January 27th. Upcoming events include a presentation by Wes Woodson on mental health on January 22nd and a Concord SEPAC event on literacy and achievement gaps with Kareem Weaver on March 6th. Different paths for funding the Amenities Building project are being discussed and a working group has been formalized as a subcommittee so that conversations regarding the project will be held publicly and are transparent.
- B. Policy Subcommittee - The subcommittee will meet on Monday, January 13th and the plan is to send policy recommendations to the full committee for review at the February or March meeting.
- C. Municipal Facilities Committee Update - The DPW building study is underway. There are new heaters at the Bog House. The Brick Building is getting a new HVAC system and elevator maintenance is ongoing.
- D. Member Update - Ms. Wilson stated that she is not serving on any subcommittees and her life is not allowing her to be as engaged as she once was. Ms. Wilson informed the committee that this will be her last meeting and she is officially resigning. At this time the Chair will put out a call for interested parties wanting to fill the seat to send a letter of interest and a bio to the School Committee. A joint meeting with the Select Board will be scheduled to appoint a new member to fulfill Ms. Wilson's term. Members thanked Ms. Wilson for her work throughout the years.

VII. Action Items

- A. Vote to accept the FY26 CPS Budget
Mr. O'Shea reported that the budget is going to be revised as some cost savings have been identified. After a brief discussion it was decided that the committee will wait until the next meeting to vote to endorse the updated budget. No vote was taken.

VIII. Public Comments - There were no comments.

IX. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Ms. Viola and seconded by Mr. Waterson. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 7:08 PM.
Vote: Jamison, aye; Viola, aye; Waterson, aye; Whitt, aye, Wilson, aye

Respectfully Submitted
Mary O'Regan
Assistant to the Superintendent
January 8, 2025

List of Documents Viewed and/or Reviewed:

CSC Meeting Minutes 12.11.24
Accounts Payable Warrant 25SE12; \$154,918.02
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Carlisle School Committee 2024-2025 Goals