

**JOINT SCHOOL COMMITTEE & SELECT BOARD MEETING
MINUTES
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2025
7:00 PM
CLARK ROOM, TOWN HALL
66 WESTFORD STREET, CARLISLE, MA 0174 AND REMOTE ZOOM ACCESS**

Present – School Committee: Scott Jamison, Julie Viola, Brian Waterson, Sharon Whitt
Present – School Administration: James O’Shea, Superintendent
Present via Zoom – School Administration: 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:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81829533309?pwd=agtl7cZ9BVK6s9maqCbOSbFVhqV0az.1>

Meeting ID: 818 2953 3309

Passcode: 292853

I. Call to Order

School Committee Chair Whitt called the meeting to order at 7:09 PM.

II. Appointment of Carlisle School Committee Member

Select Board Chair Travis Snell summarized the vacant School Committee position, candidates, and process. He explained that one of the two candidates had withdrawn their application. The Select Board and School Committee interviewed the remaining candidate, James Steele. Mr. Steele expressed he had been considering the position and now has the time to devote to the position. He emphasized a desire to serve the community without a specific agenda or “pet projects.” Mr. Steele spoke passionately about the Carlisle schools and value of the education his children are receiving there, expressing a desire to “help shepherd it along for a little while.” He then spoke about his qualifications as a business lawyer and mediator through the Woburn Court, his experience in negotiating, and collaborative problem-solving skills. Ms. Viola spoke to her positive personal experiences with Mr. Steele, indicating he would be a welcome addition to the Carlisle School Committee.

Mr. Waterson made a motion to appoint James Steele as a member of the Carlisle School Committee. Ms. Whitt seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

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

Ms. Reid made a motion to appoint James Steele as a member of the Carlisle School Committee, term to end at the next Annual Town Election, Spring 2025; to complete the term vacated by Sara Wilson. Ms. Arnold seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

III. Highland Building Update

In follow-up to the request by the Select Board that the School Committee provide suggested options for building usage related to school programming, the School Committee provided an update regarding possible uses of the Highland Building. Ms. Viola reviewed the presentation and summarized the work that has been done to date with key stakeholders. They are in an investigation phase and thinking creatively about use of the building, including pre-vocational education programming and multi-generational use. The School Committee is moving forward with creation of a Highland Building Subcommittee that will include School Committee Members as well as members of the community. The Subcommittee will provide further updates to both the Select Board and the School Committee.

IV. Use of Town Land – School Parking lot for Great Brook Farm Ski Touring Center, Inc.

The Select Board summarized the request of Stuart Johnstone, owner of Great Brook Farm Ski Touring Center, to use the school parking lot for overflow parking during the ski season. The Board met with Mr. Johnstone previously and approved the use of town land, but recognized that they do not have jurisdiction over the CPS parking lot. The Select Board requested that the School Committee revisit the topic, noting Mr. Johnstone had reported that he had asked the School Committee about use of the parking lot and was told “no.” Ms. Whitt expressed the concerns of the School Committee, including the for-profit nature of the company, snow removal, liability, and scheduling conflicts. Mr. Waterson clarified that Mr. Johnstone did not attend a School Committee meeting to discuss the topic, the School Committee had received the email request and discussed it during a previous meeting. The Select Board and School Committee discussed the topic. The School Committee may include the topic on a future meeting agenda, at the request of Mr. Johnstone.

V. Town Administrator Bylaw

The Select Board asked if School Committee members had any questions or comments regarding the Town Administrator Bylaw being considered for the Annual Town Meeting Warrant. There was some discussion regarding the list of employees in specific departments that the Town Administrator will have authority to appoint versus those he will not.

VI. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Ms. Viola and seconded by Mr. Waterson. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 7:56 PM
Vote: Jamison, aye; Viola, aye; Waterson, aye; Whitt, aye

Respectfully Submitted
Mary O’Regan
Assistant to the Superintendent
February 11, 2025

List of Documents Viewed and/or Reviewed:
[Highland Building Update](#)