CARLISLE PUBLIC SCHOOLS www.carlisle.k12.ma.us
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JOINT SCHOOL COMMITTEE SPECIAL EDUCATION SUBCOMMITTEE (SESC) AND SPECIAL EDUCATION PARENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SEPAC) MEETING MINUTES

THURSDAY, MAY 8, 2025, 10:15 AM

SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE, CARLISLE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Present – School Committee: Brian Waterson, Sharon Whitt
Present – School Administration/Personnel: Jim O'Shea, Superintendent; Lori Bruce, Director of Student Support Services; Linda Vanaria, Teacher and CTA; President; Mary O'Regan, Assistant to the Superintendent
Present – SEPAC Members: Jessie Pescatore, Almudena Pacheco, Lynette Kelleher

I. **Call to Order**
Ms. Whitt called the meeting to order at 10:21 AM. There was discussion regarding posting upcoming joint meetings and a request was made that meetings moving forward be hybrid and contain a Zoom link.

II. **SEPAC Participation in the CCHS School Committee Meetings** - Goals in the APPLE Action Plan include increased participation in the CCHS meetings as well as establishing relationships with Concord SEPAC. There was discussion regarding the logistical issues with participating in Concord-Carlisle Regional SEPAC meetings. Mr. Waterson will reach out to the regional SEPAC contact in an attempt to get Carlisle SEPAC members on the Concord email list. Issues continue with Carlisle families not feeling connected or included in the CCHS SEPAC. Ms. Bruce will reach out to families with students in both the Carlisle School and CCHS to see if they are open to Carlisle SEPAC reaching out to them to gather more feedback. It was suggested to include a SEPAC update at a future School Committee meeting.

III. **APPLE Action Plan - Goals to be executed before the end of the school year**:
   A. Special Education website to be updated to include new resources elaborated from the APPLE 25 work - School personnel are working on identifying a list of new resources to be posted on the website. The goal is to have this project done by the end of the school year,
   B. SEPAC presence in the Town meeting (May 18th) - SEPAC was approved to have a table on the plaza on the day of Carlisle Town Meeting. Members are working on graphics to have available and logistics to setting up the table.

IV. Hiring of the New Director of Student Services - SEPAC has sent out a survey to families and will provide feedback for interview questions. The Hiring Committee has met, reviewed applications, and narrowed the list down to four candidates. Interviews are being set up for Monday 5/12 and Tuesday 5/13. If a candidate comes out of those interviews, they will be invited back for a visit to the school to meet with staff as well as further discussion with Administration.

V. ESY 2025 and Beyond - There was review of summer programs and which students qualify to attend. The pilot program with the Recreation Department worked well and the plan is to keep the lines of communication open. The District is not paying student registration fees for Recreation Summer Programs, families pay those fees. The District does pay for paras to accompany specific students to the Recreation Programs. Ms. Bruce will include an overview of the ESY program in her presentation at the May Carlisle School Committee meeting.

VI. Recreation/Extracurricular Activities for Students with Higher Needs - There was discussion surrounding education of Recreation Department staff working with students with higher needs. There was a question if an outside trainer will be used for this or if it will be district staff. Ms. Bruce will follow-up with the Recreation Department.

VII. Public Comments - There were no public comments.

VIII. Adjourn

Ms. Whitt made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Waterson seconded the motion and the meeting was adjourned at 11:25 AM.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary O'Regan
Assistant to the Superintendent
May 8, 2025