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, OCTOBER 23, 2025, 9:30 AM

SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE, CARLISLE PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND REMOTE ACCESS VIA ZOOM

Present – School Committee: Lynette Kelleher
Present – School Administration/Personnel: Jim O'Shea, Superintendent; Val Gransewicz, Director of Student Support Services; Stephanie Schnieder, Preschool Teacher & CTA Vice President; Mary O'Regan, Assistant to the Superintendent
Present – SEPAC Members: Jessie Pescatore, Almudena Pacheco

Pursuant to Governor Healey's approved legislation, H. 62, a bill extending authorizations for all local boards, commissions, and committees to hold public meetings remotely or in a hybrid format Extended Timeline, amending Section 30A of Chapter 20 of the Acts of 2021, most recently amended by Section 40 of Chapter 2 of the Acts of 2023, and replacing the current expiration date of "March 31, 2025" with "June 30, 2027." Therefore, this meeting of the Carlisle School Committee is being conducted via remote participation in order to ensure public access. Members of the public can access the meeting via live stream at:
Topic: Joint SESC/SEPAC Meeting
Time: Oct 23, 2025 09:30 AM Eastern Time (US and Canada)
Join Zoom Meeting
https://carlisle-k12-ma-us.zoom.us/j/83238029368?pwd=EAIDbDaLrf4hNr3vi9CDx4MwBl3Qw4.1
Meeting ID: 832 3802 9368
Passcode: 453902

I. **Call to Order** - Ms. Kelleher called the meeting to order at 9:35 AM.

II. **Approval of Meeting Minutes** - The meeting minutes were held for approval at a future meeting.

III. **Review key insights from previous meeting -** There was discussion of the following items in follow-up to the September joint SESC/SEPAC meeting:

A. School Committee Goals - Feedback from SEPAC was brought to the October School Committee meeting and the School Committee members voted to modify their goals. School Committee members will participate in a special education training at some point during the school year.
B. Apple Program Follow-Up - Meetings with participants from the Apple program will continue to be held.
C. Initiatives for Website Implementations - SEPAC has several documents they would like to post on both the CPS and SEPAC websites. Ms. Gransewicz indicated that the CPS website needs an overhaul but until that can be addressed some interim smaller improvements can be made.

IV. Strategic Priorities Discussion - Several focus areas for the school year were discussed.

A. Updating the Student Opportunity Act.
B. Highlighting the special education training for School Committee members. Determining if funding is needed to put on the training and consider the possibility of making the training an onboarding item for future School Committee members.
C. Creating a strategy to capture the needs of SEPAC and students with special needs. There was a suggestion to develop a survey that can be sent out to families periodically. The hope is to have inclusive events for all students. SEPAC is willing to help identify challengers and figure how to make adjustments to events and activities to make all students feel welcome and included. There was a suggestion to reassess this goal to track activity at each meeting. Review of the events calendar will begin to collect suggestions to implement changes in order to make school events inclusive for all students. It was noted that many events held during the school year are PTO run events and not school run. One option would be to identify students who want to participate in an activity and ask what accommodations they may need. Some accommodations may be very minimal and easy to provide.

V. Parent/Guardian Voice - This item was not addressed due to time constraints.

VI. Carlisle's Targeted District Review Spring 2025 - The DESE Targeted Review took place in the spring of 2025 and identified updating the Student Opportunity Act (SOA) as an area of growth. Mr. O'Shea gave an overview of the past few years with regard to school budgeting and funding. The SOA directs districts to identify how they are spending funds to close achievement gaps. Since Carlisle is such a small district there is a challenge to identify student groups with achievement gaps. Data is available for students with disabilities in the district. There was further discussion surrounding achievement gaps.

VII. Public Comments - Sesha Gadey, 62 Hart Farm Road, Carlisle

VIII. Adjourn
The meeting was adjourned at 10:34 AM.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary O'Regan
Assistant to the Superintendent
October 23, 2025