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, SEPTEMBER 25, 2025, 11:00 AM

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

Present – School Committee: Lynette Kelleher, Sharon Whitt
Present – School Administration/Personnel: Jim O'Shea, Superintendent; Val Gransewicz, Director of Student Support Services; Mary O'Regan, Assistant to the Superintendent
Present – SEPAC Members: Jessie Pescatore, Almudena Pacheco, Meredith Bielecki

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 9-25-25
Time: Sep 25, 2025 11:00 AM Eastern Time (US and Canada)
Join Zoom Meeting
https://carlisle-k12-ma-us.zoom.us/j/84598128063?pwd=2ahtxQ79UygPnaydVe7tScsbBQZ1dU.1
Meeting ID: 845 9812 8063
Passcode: 122043

I. **Call to Order** - Ms. Whitt called the meeting to order at 11:09 AM.

II. **Welcome and Purpose of the Meeting** - Ms. Whitt provided an overview of the purpose of the SESC.

III. **Reflection of the Previous Year** - During the past school year the SESC and SEPAC worked collaboratively. Under the supervision of Athletic Director Lynne Carmel, a unified sports program was launched. A successful search for the Director of Student Support Services was conducted and Val Gransewicz joined the CPS staff on July 1. Also during the 24-25 school year there was an assembly focusing on learning differences which provided positive exposure of neurodiversity for students.

IV. Enrollment & Staffing Updates - Enrollment is currently 614 students in the district. It was noted that multiple families submitted outside evaluations over the summer to the Special Education Department. Ms. Gransewicz has reached out to each of these families. There was a discussion regarding the vacant Middle School Tier 2 Tutor position. Mr. O'Shea gave an overview of the position and noted that this is not a special education position. He explained the organization of Tier 2 tutors and Literacy Specialists, how they work in collaboration with classroom teachers, and that they are overseen by staff with credentials. When asked if staffing would need to increase if the number of students on IEPs increases, Ms. Gransewicz indicated that it is likely that the current staff can absorb additional students. She also pointed out that caseload does not always equate to workload.

V. Student Services Updates - Ms. Gransewicz is in the process of putting together an entry plan. She noted that currently the strengths in the Special Education Department far outweigh any concerns. She has not identified any items that needed immediate attention.

VI. SEPAC Priorities and Parent Voice - SEPAC members voiced concerns that special education was not more explicitly discussed in the school committee goals, especially following participation in the APPLE program. SEPAC indicated that they would like school committee members to understand what success looks like for special education students as they are not always represented in the overall measures of district success.

VII. Next Steps and Meeting Schedule - There was review of a draft meeting schedule. If people have feedback on the joint meeting schedule or suggestions of topics for upcoming meetings, they should reach out to Ms. Whitt. It was determined that a separate meeting would be scheduled to follow-up on the goals and priorities identified during the APPLE program.

VIII. Public Comments - Cynthia Sorn, Rutland Avenue, Carlisle

IX. Adjourn

Ms. Whitt made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Kelleher seconded the motion and the meeting was adjourned at 12:28 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary O'Regan
Assistant to the Superintendent
September 25, 2025