CARLISLE PUBLIC SCHOOLS www.carlisle.k12.ma.us
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CARLISLE SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 28, 2026
1:00 PM
COMMUNITY ROOM, ROBBINS BUILDING
AND REMOTE ZOOM ACCESS

Present – School Committee: Lynette Kelleher, Scott Jamison, Brian Waterson, Sharon Whitt
Present via Zoom - School Committee: James Steele
Present – School Administration: James O'Shea, Superintendent; Mary O'Regan, Assistant to the Superintendent

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 to the deliberations of the Carlisle School Committee. Members of the public can access the meeting via live stream at:
Topic: CSC Meeting 1-28-26
Time: Jan 28, 2026 01:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)
Join Zoom Meeting
https://carlisle-k12-ma-us.zoom.us/j/89223879411?pwd=gNbb3eRXbzW0RqxzPNcF2HhhL5dyEu.1
Meeting ID: 892 2387 9411
Passcode: 407457

I. Call to Order
School Committee Chair Waterson called the School Committee meeting to order at 1:01 PM and announced the meeting was being recorded.

II. Public Comments
John Ballantine, 268 Fiske Street, Carlisle
Rebekah Vieira, 48 Bingham Road, Carlisle

III. Information/Discussion Items -
A. Preschool Tuition Fees for FY27 - The School Committee set FY27 Preschool fees prior to the budget vote supporting a two-classroom model. It was suggested that the fee structure be revisited. Mr. Waterson researched preschool fees in neighboring districts and presented comparative data. Members agreed that Carlisle's current fees are generally in line with similar districts and expressed openness to considering an increase. Discussion focused on what level of increase would be reasonable and how any change would impact the overall district budget. It was noted that several community members had indicated a willingness to pay higher fees for the preschool program. The Committee also emphasized that scholarships or other financial assistance could be made available for families with demonstrated need.
B. Superintendent Succession Planning - Mr. Waterson presented slides outlining a proposed timeline and several potential options for the district's next steps, including recruiting a new superintendent, exploring a Superintendent Union model, and considering regionalization. It was noted that the latter two options would require significant time to implement. Committee members discussed the possibility of appointing

an interim superintendent for one year to allow adequate time to research and evaluate models. It was acknowledged that the community may not currently have an appetite for regionalization, while the Superintendent Union model could potentially be a viable alternative. There was discussion surrounding prioritizing a superintendent search to maintain stability in the district, while remaining mindful of the budget and the current financial landscape. Committee members also stressed that preserving the district's strong community culture is essential. There was a suggestion to look internally at current staff for potential candidates to provide continuity, trust, and leadership.

Committee Chair Waterson recognized former School Committee Chair Melissa McMorrow, who shared reflections from the previous superintendent hiring process during her tenure as chair.

Following additional discussion regarding timelines for the various models, the Committee determined that a job description for a superintendent will be developed for review at the February 11, 2026 meeting. School Committee members will meet with current administrators to discuss possible administrative structures for the coming year, continue to solicit feedback from parents and community members, as well as conduct further research on the Superintendent Union model.

IV. Action Items

A. Vote to amend Preschool Tuition Fees
A motion to amend Preschool Tuition Fees for FY27 for the full day program from $10,600 to $11,500 and for the half day program from $7,200 to $7,900 was made by Mr. Jamison and seconded by Mr. Steele. The motion passed unanimously.
Roll Call Vote: Jamison, aye; Kelleher, aye; Steele, aye; Waterson, aye; Whitt, aye

V. Public Comments - There were no public comments.

VI. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Mr. Jamison and seconded by Mr. Steele. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 2:19 PM.
Roll Call Vote: Jamison, aye; Kelleher, aye; Steele, aye; Waterson, aye; Whitt, aye

Respectfully Submitted
Mary O'Regan
Assistant to the Superintendent
January 28, 2026

List of Documents Viewed and/or Reviewed:
Preschool Tuition Fees
Preschool Fee Analysis
Superintendent Succession Planning