CARLISLE PUBLIC SCHOOLS www.carlisle.k12.ma.us
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CARLISLE SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2026
6:00 PM
COMMUNITY ROOM, ROBBINS BUILDING
AND REMOTE ZOOM ACCESS

Present – School Committee: Lynette Kelleher, Scott Jamison, James Steele, Brian Waterson
Present via Zoom – School Committee: Sharon Whitt
Present – School Administration: James O'Shea, Superintendent; Mary O'Regan, Assistant to the Superintendent
Present via Zoom – School Administration: Deb Bookis, Interim Assistant Principal; Val Gransewicz, Director of Student Support Services; Dennet Sidell, Elementary Principal

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 2-11-26
Time: Feb 11, 2026 06:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)
Join Zoom Meeting
https://carlisle-k12-ma-us.zoom.us/j/85194205610?pwd=ikIrqLmfM1IeAjXXFaEUyEACKdcnUb.1
Meeting ID: 851 9420 5610
Passcode: 668265

I. Call to Order
School Committee Chair Waterson called the School Committee meeting to order at 6:00 PM and announced the meeting was being recorded.

II. Public Comments
- Jack Troast, 151 Concord Street, Carlisle
- Kathleen Keller, 14 Westford Street, Carlisle
- Annette Lee, 65 Lowell Street, Carlisle

III. Consent Agenda
A. CSC Meeting Minutes 1.14.26
B. CSC Meeting Minutes 1.28.26
C. Policy Subcommittee Minutes 1.16.26
D. Warrants
   a. Accounts Payable Warrant 26SE14;$77,618.40
   b. Accounts Payable Warrant 26SE15;$163,195.68
   c. Payroll Warrant 26PR14; $435,259.24
   d. Payroll Warrant 26PR15; $461,046.39

Motion to approve the Consent Agenda was made by Mr. Steele and seconded by Mr. Jamison. The motion passed unanimously.
Roll Call Vote: Jamison, aye; Kelleher, aye; Steele, aye; Waterson, aye; Whitt, aye

IV. Information/Discussion Items -

A. Student Update - Student representative Ms. Svatek reported that the girls basketball team went undefeated while the boys also had a successful season. Students participated in the Lunar New Year Celebration held at CCHS. Songs and dances were coordinated by Carlisle Chinese teacher Ms. Huang. The Multicultural Fair was held earlier this month at the Carlisle School. French Teacher Ms. Rivier played a large role in planning the event. Parent Teacher Conferences for Middle School students were held. Model UN recently participated in an event at Tufts University and several Carlilse students received recognitions. The February Friday Night Live, FNL, was basketball themed and featured a team from the Carlisle Police Department. Students are looking forward to school break next week.

B. Superintendent Update - Mr. O'Shea reported that Grade 8 transition meetings and course selection for next year are underway, and that Concord-Carlisle High School continues its work on developing its Portrait of a Graduate. In the coming weeks, he will attend several meetings, including a Finance Committee meeting, to review the FY27 budget and capital plans. He noted that the 2025 Town Report has been submitted. A working group of School Committee members and administrators is researching communication platforms to help families more effectively manage school communications. The Multicultural Festival and the Lunar New Year Celebration were both highly successful, and Mr. O'Shea thanked Ms. Rivier and Ms. Hung for their time and efforts. The Youth Risk Behavior Survey will be administered in March, and this year parents will have the opportunity to review survey questions online. Staff carefully review all questions to ensure they are age and grade level appropriate. A kitchen audit is currently underway with DESE, and results will be shared when available. A meeting has been scheduled with CEF regarding the Media Lab project. Technology presentations by Richard Gurney for both middle school students and elementary students were held at the end of January. These presentations were sponsored by the PTO. Mr. O'Shea also highlighted recent student activities and events, including the successful girls' and boys' basketball seasons, the strong showing at a Model UN conference, the Kindergarten Mitten plays, and band and chorus participation in Junior District tryouts. Finally, he noted that indoor recess has been necessary due to winter weather conditions and that the school is experiencing some drainage issues caused by frozen pipes, resulting in minor water backup in the building.

C. Strategic Planning/Superintendent Succession Planning - A Strategic Planning Committee meeting was held in January, with additional meetings scheduled in the coming months. It was noted that more community members have expressed interest in participating, including CCHS students who are graduates of Carlisle Public School, which will bring valuable perspectives to the strategic planning process. It was clarified that a Superintendency Union is different from Regionalization. Mr. Waterson noted the difficulty in locating clear information about how a Superintendency Union is established and stated that due to time constraints it would not be a viable option for the upcoming school year, even if it were the preferred option. The School Committee invited current administrators and representatives from the Carlisle Teachers Association (CTA) to share feedback regarding the superintendent search. Elementary Principal Dennett Sidell would like to see a model that will provide stability. Ms. Gransewicz expressed that strategic planning should move forward prior to finalizing an administrative model, while Interim Assistant Principal Ms. Bookis emphasized that the evolving demands on schools require careful consideration of the benefits and challenges of different leadership models. CTA representatives David Zuckerman and Stephanie Schneider shared staff perspectives. It

was reiterated that the School Committee is responsible for hiring and overseeing the superintendent. Mr. Waterson reviewed the proposed timeline and encouraged finalizing a job description in order to post the position. Members discussed whether to post for a Superintendent or Interim Superintendent. Mr. O'Shea recommended posting for a Superintendent, noting that the Committee could adjust if necessary. It was suggested that the position be posted and that the district engage in a thorough and rigorous hiring process. After reviewing the job description, the Committee agreed to move forward with posting a superintendent position, with the goal of identifying a candidate who can support and advance the strategic planning process. It was also noted that the district may need to post for a middle school principal in the near future. The School Committee will continue engaging stakeholders and may use a portion of an upcoming Strategic Planning meeting to gather additional feedback. Mr. Waterson recognized Carlisle Special Education Teacher Tessa McKinley, who shared her thoughts on the superintendent search process.

D. School Choice - The School Committee is required to review School Choice on an annual basis, and a School Choice hearing will be held during the March meeting. Mr. O'Shea provided an overview of how School Choice operates in Massachusetts and explained that the Committee's vote will determine whether the district chooses to participate or not participate in School Choice. It was noted that, if the district were to participate, families would be responsible for providing transportation. It was also shared that Concord-Carlisle High School has historically not participated in School Choice.
E. Highland Building Recommendations - The Select Board requested that the School Committee provide a recommendation regarding potential uses of the Highland Building, and a working group was formed to review the matter. The Committee sought clarification from the Select Board regarding the nature of the request. Following discussion and research, it was determined that the district does not have a current need for the building. Members reviewed the history of discussions surrounding the Highland Building over the past 40 years, noting that no long-term use has been identified. Mr. Waterson recognized Mr. Troast, who provided additional information to clarify the building's history. School Committee members emphasized that their position is not anti–Highland Building, but rather a response to the Select Board's request. It was acknowledged that the district has space constraints and a need to modernize some existing spaces; however, the Highland Building would not address those needs. Members noted that the land, if cleared, could potentially be used by the school in ways that would provide more immediate benefit to students.
F. Superintendent Goals Mid-Year Update - Mr. O'Shea shared his list of goals for the school year with a visional chart of the status of the goals listed in red, yellow or green. It was noted that the use of color coding the chart streamlines the tracking process.
G. Staff Request to Enroll Child at CPS - The CTA contract permits members to request that their child(ren) attend Carlisle Public Schools. Peter Proulx has submitted a request for his child to enroll in kindergarten for the 2026-2027 school year. Current enrollment projections indicate a class of approximately 52-53 students, resulting in three sections of roughly 17-18 students each. It was noted that enrollment projections can fluctuate from year to year. Mr. O'Shea will ask staff to gather kindergarten enrollment data from the past few years. A vote on the request will take place at the March meeting.
H. Policies for Review - A document was included in the agenda containing links to each policy and the recommended revisions. Mr. Steele reviewed the process the subcommittee used to examine the policies and noted the benefits of conducting a review on a three-year cycle. School Committee members were encouraged to continue

reviewing the proposed revisions and bring questions to the next meeting. A vote on policy revisions will appear on the March agenda.

a. A2 Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Disability
b. A8.2 Non-Discrimination Policy Including Definitions and Resources
c. B2 School Committee Ethics
d. C1 Administrative Structure
e. C2 Damage and Vandalism
f. C3 Distribution of Information
g. C7 School Visits
h. E1 Communicable Diseases Policy
i. E4 Medication Administration Policy
j. E5 School Bus
k. E6 Athletic Concussion Policy
l. F1 Buildings and Grounds Safety and Security
m. F4 No Idling
n. F7 Tobacco Products on School Premises Prohibited
o. G3 Emergency Plans
p. G5 Professional Staff Hiring
q. I8 Teaching about Drugs, Alcohol, Tobacco and Controlled Substances
r. I11 Remote Learning Policy
s. J2 Bullying Prevention
t. J3 Prohibition of Hazing
u. J6 Entrance Age
v. J8 Physical Restraint Policy
w. J11 Student Welfare
x. J12 Residency and School Admission Policy
y. J13 School Attendance
z. J14 Student Discipline
aa. J16 Student Rights and Responsibilities
bb. J17 Students Transportation by Staff in Private Vehicles
cc. J19 Student Dress
dd. J20 School Choice
ee. K3 Public Gifts to the Schools
ff. K2 Gifts to and Solicitations By Staff

I. School Committee Goals 25-26 - The Committee reviewed the current goal tracking document and activities related to each goal. Members noted that the goals were established for the full school year and, given that it is only February, there remains sufficient time to continue making progress toward completion.

V. Communications/Correspondence - There were no communications/correspondence.

VI. Members'/Committee Reports as Needed

A. SESC - Joint meetings with SEPAC continue. At the last meeting plans for Extended School Year (ESY) for the upcoming summer were discussed. Students will no longer go to the Recreation Department programs in the afternoon. Work is ongoing to identify alternative afternoon programming options. Families will be notified in March if a student is eligible for ESY.

B. Regional Committee - The FY27 Budget is currently the major focus of the Regional Committee. Carlisle Finance Committee asked for a reduction in the FY27 Budget. Discussions are underway concerning a potential cell phone policy for CCHS
C. Trust Fund Update - The Select Board has a working group focused on town trust funds and several funds are related to the school district. Mr. Waterson reported that no one has been administrating the funds for some time. As School Committee Chair, he was contacting regarding the funds that were identified as student scholarship funds. Mr. Waterson will share additional information regarding these funds with the full committee and would like to start a conversation about how students can benefit from these funds.

VII. Action Items

A. Vote to approve School Committee recommendation for the Highland Building
A motion was made to recommend to the Select Board that the Carlisle Public School District does not have a use for the Highland Building; however, the district would have use for the land in lieu of the building being used by the town for a synergistic purpose. The motion also includes the creation of a memo to the Select Board outlining this recommendation. The motion was made by Mr. Jamison and seconded by Mr. Steele. Discussion regarding the motion included content of the memo, timeframe for identifying a use of the building, and Mr. Jamison offered assistance in crafting the memo.
The motion passed unanimously.
Roll Call Vote: Kelleher, aye; Jamison, aye; Steele, aye; Waterson, aye; Whitt, aye.

VIII. Public Comments

- Jessica Pescatore, 509 South Street, Carlisle

IX. Adjournment to Executive Session pursuant to MGL Chapter 30A, Section 21(a) with no intent to return to Open Session: (Purpose 2) To conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with nonunion personnel (Administrators)
A motion to adjourn to Executive Session pursuant to MGL Chapter 30A, Section 21(a) with no intent to return to Open Session: (Purpose 2) To conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with nonunion personnel (Administrators) was made by Mr. Jamison and seconded by Ms. Kelleher.
The motion passed unanimously and the meeting adjourned to Executive Session at 8:33 PM.
Roll Call Vote: Kelleher, aye; Jamison, aye; Steele, aye; Waterson, aye; Whitt, aye.

Respectfully Submitted
Mary O'Regan
Assistant to the Superintendent
February 11, 2026

List of Documents Viewed and/or Reviewed:
CSC Meeting Minutes 1.14.26
CSC Meeting Minutes 1.28.26
Policy Subcommittee Minutes 1.16.26
Accounts Payable Warrant 26SE14
Accounts Payable Warrant 26SE15

Payroll Warrant 26PR14
Payroll Warrant 26PR15
Superintendent Goals Mid-Year Update
Policies for Review

- A2 Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Disability
- A8.2 Non-Discrimination Policy Including Definitions and Resources
- B2 School Committee Ethics
- C1 Administrative Structure
- C2 Damage and Vandalism
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- E1 Communicable Diseases Policy
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School Committee Goals 25-26 Tracking Sheet