CARLISLE PUBLIC SCHOOLS www.carlisle.k12.ma.us
83 School Street, Carlisle, MA 01741 Phone: 978-369-6550 Fax: 978-371-2400

CARLISLE SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 8, 2026
6:00 PM
COMMUNITY ROOM, ROBBINS BUILDING
AND REMOTE ZOOM ACCESS

Present – School Committee: Lynette Kelleher, Scott Jamison, James Steele, Brian Waterson, Sharon Whitt
Present – School Administration: James O'Shea, Superintendent; Mary O'Regan, Assistant to the Superintendent
Present via Zoom – School Administration: 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 4-8-26
Time: Apr 8, 2026 06:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)
Join Zoom Meeting
https://carlisle-k12-ma-us.zoom.us/j/86283431105?pwd=0ylv0AHa9IaPK4qDWE2CyNMcUoPyAd.1
Meeting ID: 862 8343 1105
Passcode: 979566

I. Call to Order
School Committee Chair Waterson called the School Committee meeting to order at 6:01 PM and announced the meeting was being recorded.

II. Public Comments - There were no public comments.

III. Consent Agenda
A. CSC Meeting Minutes 2.6.26
B. CSC Meeting Minutes 3.11.26
C. Warrants
   a. Accounts Payable Warrant 26SE18;$26,214.83
   b. Accounts Payable Warrant 26SE19;$248,545.76
   c. Payroll Warrant 26PR18; $456,022.53
   d. Payroll Warrant 26PR19; $465,778.34

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

IV. Information/Discussion Items -

A. Student Update - The student representative, Ms. Svatek, reported that the 7th Grade Challenge Day recently took place. She shared that international trips are scheduled for next week and noted that April break is an upcoming highlight that students are looking forward to. She also reported that spring athletics have begun, with the Ultimate Frisbee team scheduled to compete in its first match next week and cross country already underway.

B. Superintendent Update - Mr. O'Shea provided a special education update, noting that the Director of Student Support Services has been facing medical challenges and expressed appreciation to the Special Education staff for stepping up during this time. He acknowledged that there are still some gaps and challenges within the department, and shared that retired Special Education director, Mary Emmons, has been brought in as a resource for district staff. Mr. O'Shea also recognized Special Education Administrative Assistant Lori Aquavella for her hard work over the past few weeks. Extended School Year (ESY) planning is underway, and the district is collaborating with TimberNook this year to expand programming. A targeted group of students attending ESY will participate in the afternoon program, with additional spots available to community members. He noted that, in past years, the Recreation Department supported afternoon programming, but that model did not fully meet student needs. Mr. O'Shea also highlighted recent school events, including the successful 7th grade production of *Willy Wonka, Jr.*, and thanked the adults and parents who supported the performance. He shared that PTO Enrichment sponsored the "Living Voices" program for 7th and 8th grade students and recognized the many contributions of the PTO throughout the year, including Read Across America, book fair, teacher appreciation luncheon, student supply kits, and Carlisle merchandise. Earlier in the week, students attended a performance by the Cultura Latina Dance Academy, co-sponsored by the PTO and DEICAC. He reported that Spring 2026 MCAS testing is underway and that Grade 5 recently attended a field trip to the Concord Museum. Looking ahead, a Band and Choir concert for 7th and 8th grade students is scheduled for May 6. Finally, he noted that at a recent SAC meeting, staff from CCHS attended to gather input on their vision of graduate work.

C. Facilities Budget - In 2023, a joint meeting between the School Committee and the Select Board addressed the potential unification of the Facilities Department between the school district and the town. A memorandum of understanding was developed, indicating that the two budgets would be combined in FY26; however, this did not occur. As part of the FY27 budget development process, discussions regarding the transfer of the Facilities Budget have continued. Committee members inquired about how facilities projects and needs would be prioritized under a unified structure, as well as the reporting and evaluation process for the Facilities Director, which would involve collaboration between the Town Manager and the Superintendent. Town Manager Ryan McLane and Town Accountant Kelly Beyer were recognized. Mr. McLane stated that the town is prepared to assume oversight of the Facilities Department and would welcome input from the School Committee on the Facilities Budget moving forward. Facilities Director Stephen Connearney also joined the discussion and indicated that he did not anticipate issues with the proposed shift. Mr. Waterson expressed concern about implementing this change during a period when an interim superintendent may be in place as well as about the potential reallocation of funds to or from the Facilities Department. Ms. Beyer noted that, should budget issues arise, the department could work with the town Finance Committee to make adjustments.

D. Story of the School - Ms. Whitt explained that work is underway for a community facing booklet to provide an overview of activities in the district. Mr. Steele and Ms. Whitt have been collaborating with staff to create content. Parent volunteer Chris Winders is working on the layout. The focus of content is academic excellence, creativity, respect, and responsibility. A draft version will be available for review at the May School Committee meeting. The goal is to have an electronic version on the website as well as a printed version to distribute prior to town meeting in May.

The committee agreed to address agenda items out of order.

I. Facility Naming - Mr. O'Shea provided background information on Mr. Behrle's contributions to the school, including his work on auditorium lighting and sound system projects as well as the significant time he has volunteered during productions. There was consensus among School Committee members that Mr. Behrle should be formally recognized for his dedication and service. Drama Club Advisor and teacher Marcella Pixley was recognized by the committee and discussed the possibility of installing a plaque in the auditorium, as well as presenting a certificate to Mr. Beherle at the final spring Drama Club performance. Ms. Pixley read the proposed language for both the plaque and certificate. Committee members discussed the option of naming the auditorium in Mr. Behrle's honor versus installing a plaque. Ms. Pixley formally requested that the auditorium be named after Mr. Behrle, and the School Committee indicated its support. A vote on facility naming will be placed on the agenda for the next School Committee meeting.

E. Strategic Planning/Superintendent Succession Planning - Mr. Waterson reported that work is ongoing in the areas of strategic planning, the search for an Interim Superintendent, and the development of an administrative model for the district. The Strategic Planning Committee has one additional meeting scheduled following April break. He noted that communication has emerged as a key area of focus through the Strategic Planning process, aligning with a School Committee goal for the 2025-2026 school year. Overall, the process has been positive, with the benefit of student participation. Findings suggest that the district is performing well, with most recommendations focusing on refinement rather than major changes. Mr. Waterson also provided an update on the Interim Superintendent search, noting that a 15-member Search Committee selected five candidates from a pool of 36 applicants for in-person interviews. The Committee anticipates identifying two or three finalists to advance to the School Committee for the public interview process. Discussion included elements of the hiring process, such as conducting reference checks. Finalists will be invited to visit the campus for a tour, to participate in meet-and-greet sessions with faculty and staff, and opportunity to engage with students. The questions used by the Search Committee will be shared with School Committee members. During the next year work will begin to put in place a new administrative structure to support a one school model. This process may take several years to complete. There is also a need to determine what the skills the Interim Superintendent will bring to the district to support this process. Conversation regarding the administrative model will continue at the next School Committee meeting.

F. Review Town Meeting Warrant Articles - The Committee reviewed several warrant articles for the May 2026 Carlisle Town Meeting. Discussion will continue at the May School

Committee meeting to ensure all articles have been reviewed, at which time a vote may be taken if the Committee determines it appropriate to take a position on any article.

G. Nature's Classroom Presentation for Fall 2026 - There was discussion regarding the plans for Grade 6 students to attend Nature's Classroom in September 2026. It was noted that the specific location has not yet been determined. As the trip will include an overnight component, School Committee approval will be required. Members reviewed the pros and cons of potential locations, and it was noted that the approval vote may be placed on a future consent agenda.

H. Case Collaborative Capital Plan - The Committee reviewed a memo from CASE Collaborative. Mr. O'Shea explained that Case provides programming and coordinates transportation services and has been a vibrant organization in recent years. He noted that CASE relocated its programming to a facility in Acton several years ago and developed a capital plan at that time. CASE is now seeking to access those capital funds. It was explained that, by taking no action, the Committee effectively supports access to the funds. As members expressed no concerns, no action was taken.

I. Facility Naming - This item was addressed earlier in the meeting.

J. School Committee Goals 25-26 - The Committee reviewed the current goal tracking document and activities related to goals.

V. Communications/Correspondence - The Committee received six emails since the last meeting regarding National School Breakfast Week, a webinar focused on the upcoming DESE Tiered Focused Monitoring review, and the superintendent search process.

VI. Members'/Committee Reports as Needed

A. Regional Committee - The amenities building is coming up for vote in Concord after April school break. Mr. Waterson will participate in a podcast for the Carlisle community focusing on the amenities building. CCHS continues to work on a cell phone policy.

VII. Action Items

A. Vote on Transfer of Facilities Budget to the Town
A motion to transfer the Facilities Budget from the district budget to the town was made by Mr. Jamison and seconded by Mr. Steele.
The motion passed unanimously.
Vote: Kelleher, aye; Jamison, aye; Steele, aye; Waterson, aye; Whitt, aye.

VIII. Public Comments - There were no public comments.

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 8:07 PM.
Roll Call Vote: Kelleher, aye; Jamison, aye; Steele, aye; Waterson, aye; Whitt, aye.

Respectfully Submitted
Mary O'Regan
Assistant to the Superintendent
April 8, 2026

List of Documents Viewed and/or Reviewed:
CSC Meeting Minutes 2.6.26
CSC Meeting Minutes 3.11.26
Accounts Payable Warrant 26SE18;$26,214.83
Accounts Payable Warrant 26SE19;$248,545.76
Payroll Warrant 26PR18; $456,022.53
Payroll Warrant 26PR19; $465,778.34
Facilities - FY27 Consolidation Spreadsheet
Case Collaborative Capital Plan Memo