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, JANUARY 29, 2026, 9:30 AM

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

Present – School Committee: Sharon Whitt, Lynette Kelleher
Present – School Administration/Personnel: Jim O'Shea, Superintendent; Val Gransewicz, Director of Student Support Services; Deb Bookis, Interim Vice Principal; Mary O'Regan, Assistant to the Superintendent
Present – SEPAC Members: Jessie Pescatore, Almudena Pacheco, Meredith Bielecki, Sabrina Graves
Present via Zoom – SEPAC Member: Daniel Rubio

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: SESC-SEPAC Meeting 1-29-26
Time: Jan 29, 2026 09:30 AM Eastern Time (US and Canada)
Join Zoom Meeting
https://carlisle-k12-ma-us.zoom.us/j/81384575243?pwd=4G9hYLtbWyJhTCT0Ku1DmEnmQDGIgG.1
Meeting ID: 813 8457 5243
Passcode: 954971

I. **Call to Order** - Ms. Whitt called the meeting to order at 9:36 AM.

II. **Approval of Meeting Minutes** - The meeting minutes from the 12.4.25 joint meeting were approved.

III. **Update on Student Opportunity Act (SOA)** - Ms. Gransewicz, Ms. Bookis, and Ms. Whitt met to discuss the scope of the Student Opportunity Act (SOA) plan. They are seeking to further define the student group that will be used to measure the achievement gap, with an emphasis on social-emotional learning, noting that students who are dysregulated often do not perform to their full potential. A meeting has been scheduled with school psychologists to review the proposed plan and the data points that will be used for measurement. The district intends to develop a multi-year plan using nationally normed data, and will collaborate with psychologists to determine the most appropriate measures. To support meaningful progress, the group of students to be monitored will be narrowed to a subset of students on IEPs. It was noted that the SOA plan is typically submitted every three years and may be updated annually. The team expressed its commitment to continuing this work and adapting the plan as needed.

IV. **Update of the CPS Special Education web page -** It was reported that additional materials have been linked to the website, and it was suggested that website content could serve as a helpful discussion topic at the next SEPAC meeting. The intent is to provide more information to support new parents and help families better prepare for the IEP process. It was noted that some of the content was developed during the APPLE program, and those documents will be shared with Ms. Gransewicz. The overall goal is to reduce anxiety for families by increasing access to clear and useful resources. The materials will be placed in a shared folder for district staff to post on the website.

V. **Discuss ways to ensure Special Education is represented in the District Strategic Plan -** SEPAC reported that an email was sent to Leslie Leslie of the Federation for Children with Special Needs seeking guidance on how special education is incorporated into district Strategic Plans. She indicated that practices vary across districts. Members requested that additional details be shared regarding SWOT survey responses so they can better understand who has participated. It was noted that the Strategic Planning facilitator has been trained by DESE and was hired by the School Committee. Participants emphasized the importance of including student voice in the process. Mr. O'Shea observed that many attendees at this meeting are also members of the Strategic Planning Committee, which provides an opportunity to ensure that special education perspectives are represented. There was further discussion regarding the size and composition of the committee, with members expressing a shared interest in ensuring broad and inclusive representation.

VI. **ESY 2026 Planning -** Ms. Gransewicz stated that the majority of students will have an ESY experience similar to that of prior years, while a more intensive program is being developed for students with higher-level needs. Afternoon logistics are still being finalized, along with plans to ensure the program is engaging for students. She reported that a large group of staff have expressed interest in working at ESY. Case managers will be gathering information on student needs over the coming weeks, and letters regarding ESY will be sent to families prior to February vacation.

VII. **Public Comments** - There were no public comments.

VIII. **Adjourn**
The meeting was adjourned at 10:37 AM.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary O'Regan
Assistant to the Superintendent
January 29, 2026

List of Documents Viewed and/or Reviewed
Joint SESC/SEPAC Meeting 12.4.25