CARLISLE PUBLIC SCHOOLS www.carlisle.k12.ma.us
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CARLISLE SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, MAY 13, 2026
6:00 PM
COMMUNITY ROOM, ROBBINS BUILDING
AND REMOTE ZOOM ACCESS

Present – School Committee: Scott Jamison, Lynette Kelleher, James Steele, Brian Waterson, Sharon Whitt
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:
When: May 13, 2026 06:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)
Topic: CSC Meeting 5-13-26
Join from PC, Mac, iPad, or Android:
https://carlisle-k12-ma-us.zoom.us/j/88497817084?pwd=g2fdbTc2I2ZU4fG4UApM5GiLsAKBRm.1
Passcode:116149

I. Call to Order

School Committee Chair Waterson called the School Committee meeting to order at 6:02 PM and announced the meeting was being recorded.

Mr. Waterson made a statement regarding the interim superintendent search.

II. Consent Agenda

A. CSC Meeting Minutes 4.8.26
B. CSC Meeting Minutes 4.27.26
C. CSC Meeting Minutes 5.8.26
D. Warrants
   a. Accounts Payable Warrant 26SE20;$49,738.55
   b. Accounts Payable Warrant 26SE21;$248,653.53
   c. Accounts Payable Warrant 26SE22;$50,505.98
   d. Payroll Warrant 26PR20; $481,265.96
   e. Payroll Warrant 26PR21;$483,926.65
   f. Payroll Warrant 26PR22;$429,985.07

D. Approval of Out of State, Overnight Field trip for Grade 6 to attend Nature's Classroom October 13-16, 2026

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

III. Public Comments

- Katharine Boylan, 135 Kimball Road, Carlisle, MA
- Joshua Noble, 54 Twin Beech Road, Carlisle, MA
- Sesha Gadey, 62 Hart Farm Road, Carlisle, MA
- Navneet Hundal, 52 Daniels Lane, Carlisle, MA
- Justin Harrison, 847 North Road, Carlisle, MA
- Carrie Patel, 2 Russett Road, Bedford, MA
- Tessa McKinley, 637 Massachusetts Avenue, Acton, MA
- Abbye Ognibene, 121 Hartwell Road, Carlisle, MA
- Yashmeen Desai, 186 Hutchins Road, Carlisle, MA
- Brooke Mackintosh, 303 Russell Street, Carlisle, MA
- SusanMary Redinger, Harvard, MA

IV. Information/Discussion Items -

A. Student Update - Student Representative Ms. Svatek reported that the Drama Club is preparing for its upcoming production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. She noted that the WBYC Ultimate Frisbee Tournament is scheduled for Friday, May 15, and that the eighth-grade students are visiting CCHS as part of their transition to high school. Ms. Svatek also shared that the recent foreign language trips were successful and that the eighth-grade trip to Washington, D.C., is scheduled to take place in a few weeks. Additionally, MCAS testing is ongoing. Both the volleyball and ultimate frisbee teams continue to perform well. Looking ahead, the annual staff-versus-student volleyball game will be held next week, and field days are planned for the end of the month.

B. Interim Superintendent Candidate Discussion & Vote - At the March School Committee meeting, the Committee decided to shift its superintendent search process to focus on appointing an interim superintendent for a one-year term. A 15-member Search Committee representing various stakeholder groups throughout the community was established to support the process. The interim superintendent position was posted, and candidates who had previously applied for the permanent superintendent position were contacted to determine their interest. A total of 36 candidates were reviewed by the Search Committee, whose responsibilities included screening applicants, developing interview questions, and recommending finalists to the School Committee.

During discussion, the School Committee acknowledged concerns expressed by some community members regarding communication and transparency throughout the search process. Members noted that the upcoming search for a permanent superintendent, anticipated to begin later in the fall, would provide greater opportunities for community engagement and feedback due to its different structure and timeline. Committee members also discussed the challenge of balancing input from the community and district staff while maintaining a focus on what is best for students.

School Committee members reviewed the qualifications and professional strengths of the two finalists recommended by the Search Committee. Concerns were raised regarding both candidates, and several School Committee members expressed the view that neither candidate would be positioned for success given the concerns identified by community members and district staff. Mr. Waterson reported that he had consulted with MASC regarding available options at this point in time. MASC advised that the School Committee could make an internal appointment, request that the Search Committee identify additional candidates, or review a list of vetted and experienced interim candidates provided by MASC. It was noted that any candidate selected must hold the appropriate licensure and that discussion and appointment of the candidate must occur during a public meeting.

Following discussion, the School Committee determined that requesting the Search Committee to identify additional candidates was not a viable option based on the existing candidate pool. It was also noted that only one current staff member was both qualified and willing to serve as interim superintendent should the Committee choose to make an internal appointment. Additional discussion focused on the option of reviewing a short list of qualified interim candidates provided by MASC and the process that would entail.

Mr. Jamison made a motion to reject the two finalists for the interim superintendent position, which was seconded by Ms. Kelleher. The motion passed unanimously.
Vote: Jamison, aye; Kelleher, aye; Steele, aye; Waterson, aye; Whitt, aye

The School Committee noted that the search process provided valuable information and lessons for future searches. Members emphasized the importance of developing a clear vision for the qualities and qualifications sought in a superintendent candidate and effectively communicating that vision to the community. Additional research will be conducted regarding the possibility of an internal interim appointment and the option of working with MASC to identify qualified interim candidates.

C. Superintendent Update - Mr. O'Shea reported that it is Teacher Appreciation Week and expressed his gratitude to the PTO for its support and the events it organized for staff. He noted that the PTO's "So Called Prom," held the previous week, was a great success. Mr. O'Shea shared that the administration recently met with Town Hall staff to discuss human resources support and to ensure that district staff feel adequately supported. He also noted that a Finance Committee meeting is scheduled for Friday, May 15 and that Town Meeting will be held on Monday, May 18. Mr. O'Shea explained that the district has removed the out-of-district contingency funds from the FY27 budget but now anticipates needing additional funding for students requiring out-of-district placements. He stated that the district hopes to use available end-of-year funds to cover a portion of these costs and that discussions on this matter will continue. Mr. O'Shea reported that Ayesha Lawton from CCHS visited campus to meet with 8th grade students about the METCO program and student participation. He also noted that an informational meeting regarding the upcoming TimberNook summer program was held the previous evening. Additionally, two district students applied to and were accepted at Minuteman High School, which he described as positive news for the community because it highlights educational options available beyond CCHS. A parent meeting regarding the transition to CCHS is scheduled for Tuesday, May 19. Mr. O'Shea shared several upcoming school events, including kindergarten screening on Monday, May 18, during which current kindergarten students would not attend school. He also noted that kindergarten students will present the annual "Chicka Chicka Boom Boom" production on Friday, May 15. Field trips are ongoing, and the world language trips held in April were successful. He reported that the middle school band and chorus concert was held the previous week and that the band would perform at the Memorial Day ceremony. Additional upcoming events include the staff-versus-student volleyball game on Monday, May 18 and the WBYC Ultimate Frisbee Tournament on Friday, May 15. Finally, Mr. O'Shea answered questions related to tuition costs for students attending vocational schools that are funded through the town budget. The committee also engaged in a discussion regarding how information about CCHS is communicated and shared with Carlisle families.

D. Special Education Update - Mr. O'Shea shared a presentation on special education data for the current school year. He thanked Student Support Administrative Assistant Lori Aquavella for gathering the data. It was noted that the Director of Student Support

Services has been out on medical leave and it has created challenges for the staff. Mr. O'Shea thanked all special education staff for stepping up and taking on additional responsibilities during this time. Mary Emmons, retired Special Education Director, has been providing support to the district. Data shows the district has had more evaluations this year than last year. There was further review and discussion of the data shared in the presentation.

E. Strategic Planning Update - This agenda item will be moved to the June 10, 2026 School Committee meeting.
F. DEICAC Update - This agenda item will be moved to the June 10, 2026 School Committee meeting.
G. The Story of Our School - Ms. Whitt expressed her appreciation to Chris Winders and others who collaborated to compile information for *The Story of Our School* document. She noted that this is the first time the district has produced the publication and explained that its purpose is to provide the community with greater transparency regarding school operations, programs, and budget information. The document also highlights the various organizations that work together to support the school community. Ms. Winders joined the meeting to discuss the publication and respond to questions from the committee. Ms. Whitt stated that the hope is for the document to continue to evolve and become more comprehensive in future years. She also stated that the publication will be completed prior to Town Meeting and that a limited number of printed copies will be available.
H. Highland Building - A group of community members are currently working to identify a future use for the Highland Building. The Select Board has established a deadline of the 2027 Town Meeting for the group to develop and present a proposal for the building's use. A request has been made for the School Committee to appoint a liaison to work with the group. The School Committee will appoint a liaison at its meeting on June 10, 2026.
I. Review Town Meeting Warrant Articles - The committee discussed the warrant articles scheduled for consideration at the upcoming Town Meeting and whether the School Committee should take a position on any of the articles. Following a review and discussion, the committee determined that it would not take a position on any of the articles.
J. Facility Naming - The committee revisited prior discussions regarding ways to recognize Jeremy Behrle for his significant contributions to the auditorium lighting and sound system projects. The School Committee has determined that the auditorium will be named in his honor. A plaque commemorating this recognition will be presented and a certificate given to Mr. Behrle following the Drama Club's next production, with a member of the School Committee making the presentation. The committee also discussed the possibility of updating the current CPS logo.
K. Superintendent Evaluation: Superintendent Goal Progress Report, Timeline - With the upcoming retirement of Mr. O'Shea, members reviewed what portions of the superintendent evaluation need to be completed. There was a brief review of the timeline linked to the agenda.
L. School Committee Goals 25-26 - The Committee reviewed the current goal tracking document and activities related to goals. Mr. Waterson and Mr. O'Shea highlighted a recent meeting with Town Hall regarding shared Human Resources supports.

V. Communications/Correspondence - The Committee received thirty-three (33) emails since the April 8, 2026 meeting; thirty-one (31) regarding the superintendent search, one (1) regarding *The Story of Our School* publication, and one (1) regarding a Holi Celebration event at CCHS sponsored by the South Asian Society.

VI. Members'/Committee Reports as Needed

A. Regional Committee - The School Committee received an update regarding the Amenities Building project, which is scheduled for a revote at the Carlisle Town Meeting. It was noted that Carlisle's share of the project funding has increased due to higher student enrollment. The committee was also informed that Concord has approved the Amenities Building project and recently seated a new school committee.
B. MFC - Mr. Jamison reported that funding for facilities projects related to the front stairs and retaining wall may become available through the state.

VII. Action Items

A. Vote on *The Story of Our School* Publication
A motion to approve *The Story of Our School* publication was made by Mr. Jamison and seconded by Mr. Steele.
The motion passed unanimously.
Vote: Jamison, aye; Kelleher, aye; Steele, aye; Waterson, aye; Whitt, aye.
B. Potential Vote on Support of Town Meeting Warrant Articles - No vote was taken
C. Vote on Facility Naming
A motion to approve the Facility Naming of the auditorium in honor of Jeremy Behrle was made by Mr. Jamison and seconded by Mr. Steele.
The motion passed unanimously.
Vote: Jamison, aye; Kelleher, aye; Steele, aye; Waterson, aye; Whitt, aye.

VIII. Public Comments -

- Brooke Mackintosh, 303 Russell Street, Carlisle, MA

IX. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Ms. Whitt and seconded by Ms. Kelleher.
The motion passed unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 9:44 PM.
Roll Call Vote: Jamison, aye; Kelleher, aye; Steele, aye; Waterson, aye; Whitt, aye.

Respectfully Submitted
Mary O'Regan
Assistant to the Superintendent
May 13, 2026

List of Documents Viewed and/or Reviewed:
CSC Meeting Minutes 4.8.26
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Accounts Payable Warrant 26SE20;$49,738.55
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Out of State, Overnight Field trip for Grade 6 to attend Nature's Classroom October 13-16, 2026
Special Education Presentation
The Story of Our School
Superintendent Evaluation Timeline