**CARLISLE PUBLIC SCHOOLS** [www.carlisle.k12.ma.us](http://www.carlisle.k12.ma.us)
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# CARLISLE SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
# MINUTES
# WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 14, 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: Brad Crozier, Interim 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 10-14-26
Time: Oct 14, 2026 06:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)
Join Zoom Meeting
https://carlisle-k12-ma-us.zoom.us/j/84588536835?pwd=94mI60YEc7dgeCGJeWz2wIf9qdXr3f.1
Meeting ID: 845 8853 6835
Passcode: 231753

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

## II. Public Comments
- ZuZu Dailey, 42 Calderwood Way, Carlisle
- Rachel Freed, 790 Concord Street, Carlisle

## III. Consent Agenda
A. CSC Meeting Minutes 8.26.26
B. CSC Meeting Minutes 9.16.26
C. Warrants
   a. Accounts Payable Warrant 27SE06; $123,119.67
   b. Accounts Payable Warrant 27SE07; $88,593.39
   c. Payroll Warrant 27PR06; $466,542.81
   d. Payroll Warrant 27PR07; $472,195.62

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

## IV. Information/Discussion Items

A. Student Update - Alex Lehmann was introduced as the student representative that will join the School Committee throughout the 26-27 school year. He reported that the year is off to a good start. The cross country and field hockey teams are doing well so far this season. The math team has their first meet tomorrow. Model UN has had one conference where they won several awards and are preparing for the next conference. The Drama Club will present Frozen, Jr. later this fall. The 7th and 8th Grade Band concert is scheduled for November 18. The 6th grade class is currently at Outdoor Education and next week will host the annual Spaghetti Supper.

B. June 2-4, 2027 Grade 8 Washington DC Trip - Grade 8 Social Studies Teacher Mickey Kilmartin joined the meeting and presented an overview of the trip. The cost will be approximately the same as last year. The district is once again working with Capital Tours. Flights and hotel information will not be available until we get closer to the trip. There is financial assistance for families in need. The itinerary remains very similar to past years with strong ties to the curriculum. This year a baseball game at Camden Yards is being added. In response to questions, Mr. Kilmartin confirmed that for the most part it is the same trip that has been planned for the past 7-8 years with the same company and same chaperone structure (10-1). A vote on the trip will be held at the November meeting.

C. Superintendent's Update - Administration is working on making two paraprofessional hires.
    a. FY27 Grants - Mr. Crozier shared grant history and noted that there are no Title I funds this year due to a drop in our student population eligible for free or reduced meals. Work will be done to find alternative funds to offset this loss.
    b. Professional Development (PD) Plan 26-27- A list of PD opportunities planned for the 26-27 school year was linked to the agenda. Planning for the entire year and for all staff was done in response to feedback from staff. One series of meetings which have already begun, is incorporating an outside facilitator to bring staff together as one school and facilitate discussion of what the staff perspective of what one school means. To date there has been positive feedback. Also, the district contracted with an outside facilitator around responsive classroom and have offset a portion of the expenses by filling some seats with educators from surrounding districts.

D. Strategic Planning Update - Between January and June 2026, the Committee, which included a variety of stakeholders, met to review and develop the district's Vision, Mission, and Core Values, establish objectives, and create an action plan. Mr. Waterson reviewed the draft plan linked to the meeting agenda. The Committee discussed the next steps, including a vote on the plan at this meeting, as well as how the plan would be implemented to address the school's broader needs and priorities including an administrative structure and the one school model.

E. Superintendent Search - The Committee identified hiring a superintendent as a goal for this year. Ms. Kelleher reported that she has been working with a representative from the Massachusetts Association of School Committees (MASC) to develop a survey on what qualities the district is looking for in a superintendent. MASC will collect the responses and present the data at the November School Committee meeting. The survey will seek feedback from students, staff, parents, and the broader community, ensuring that input extends beyond school families. Following the presentation of the survey results, the School Committee will determine the next steps in the process. MASC expressed support for the current process and noted the importance of clarifying the position being recruited for, specifically whether it would be a superintendent or a combined superintendent/middle

school principal role. Mr. Crozier shared that he has spoken with the current administrative team and researched the administrative structures of other Massachusetts schools operating under a PreK-8 model. He found that many of these districts have approximately 2.5 administrators and four building-based mental health staff members. The discussion included consideration of the administrative structure the district would like to establish in the future, recognizing that implementation may take several years. It was clarified that the survey and search process will focus exclusively on hiring a superintendent.

F. Grant Proposal for Partnership with Cartwheel - The grant proposal was linked to the meeting agenda. Cartwheel partners with school districts to provide students and families with timely access to services without lengthy wait times and offers educational resources for parents. School counselors would refer families to the platform as needed. The proposal is to submit a grant application to the Board of Health (BOH), with support from the School Committee, to access opioid funding to cover the cost of Cartwheel. The approximately $10,000 grant request would support a pilot program to evaluate the platform's effectiveness, gather data, and assess potential alternative funding sources for future years. The Committee discussed the evidence supporting Cartwheel as a helpful resource and its potential as a proactive approach to supporting students and families. It was noted that Concord-Carlisle High School (CCHS) has used Cartwheel for several years with positive results. The proposed vote is for the School Committee to support the grant application, which would then be submitted to the BOH for review and approval.

G. Middle School After Dismissal Use of Grounds - The Committee discussed the use of school grounds following dismissal, noting that various perspectives had been shared by students, parents, and teachers. Mr. Crozier provided an overview of the situation, explaining that the policy had not been consistently enforced in recent years and that enforcement began during the second week of school this year when Homework Club started. He acknowledged that, had he been aware of the inconsistent enforcement, he would have communicated the expectations differently to students and families. He emphasized that the plaza is a shared space and that elementary students need access to it through elementary dismissal. Mr. Crozier reported that several communications had been sent to families in response to feedback, an FAQ document had been posted on the website, and an area outside the gym had been identified as an alternative gathering space for middle school students at dismissal. He also noted that supervised options are available through Homework Club and student athletic activities at Spalding Field. Elementary Principal Dr. Sidell referenced previous issues involving middle school students during elementary dismissal. It was noted that information about space at the Gleason Library as an alternative space had been included in a family communication approximately two weeks earlier. Mr. Crozier has spoken individually with students and plans to discuss the issue at an upcoming Student Council meeting. The Recreation Department had also offered to assist with supervision on the plaza; however, the space continues to be used by elementary students, and the Highland Building area is used for dismissal. Alex Lehmann shared that students perceive the alternative gathering area as significantly smaller than the plaza and noted that the former principal had communicated different expectations regarding plaza access after middle school dismissal. Mr. Jamison clarified that the student handbook identifies middle school dismissal as 2:22 PM and states that the plaza and playground are not available until 3:15 PM. He proposed that the Policy Subcommittee review policies related to the use of school grounds and that the full School Committee review and approve the Student/Parent handbook. Mr. Jamison reported that he had met with elementary staff, who expressed support for enforcement of

the policy. Ms. Kelleher also noted support from elementary families. Mr. Jamison voiced his support for Mr. Crozier's handling of the situation. Ms. Whitt emphasized the importance of ensuring that the discussion did not create division between groups. Mr. Crozier expressed hope that further dialogue with students at the next Student Council meeting would help address their concerns. The Committee also discussed the challenges of moving to a single school dismissal time, including the financial implications of adding more buses and modifying the existing transportation agreement. Mr. Jamison thanked everyone for their time and input on the issue.

H. Diment Park Design - Sara Weingart, Vice Chair of the Recreation Committee, joined the meeting to present the proposed new design for Diment Park. She reviewed the presentation linked to the meeting agenda and explained that the park is aging, with outdated equipment that is beginning to deteriorate and does not meet ADA accessibility requirements. The proposed design includes modifications to the parking area to provide accessible parking spaces and the addition of ADA-compliant walkways throughout the park. Ms. Weingart explained that the design was shared in order to answer questions and gather feedback from the School Committee. She noted that the School Committee will eventually need to review and approve the design.

I. CFC Request: Little Free Library - Lauren Catacchio, representative from the Carlisle Family Connection, was unable to attend the meeting. Mr. Jamison reviewed the Carlisle Family Connection's request to install a Little Free Library at Spalding Field. The request will be discussed further at a future meeting. Ms. Catacchio is available to answer any questions that may arise.

J. FY28 Budget Timeline - Mr. Crozier reviewed the timeline linked to the agenda. He discussed how the timeline was created. Over the next few weeks, budget requests will be reviewed with staff and work with the town will continue.

K. Fee Discussion - Mr. Crozier reviewed the Fee List that was linked to the agenda. The Athletic Family Cap and Preschool fees need to be reviewed and voted for the 27-28 school year. Votes will be scheduled for the November meeting. There was discussion of the fee setting approach. Mr. Steele will spearhead review of fees and provide recommendations on the FY28 and FY29 fees.

L. Superintendent Goals 26-27 - Mr. Crozier took feedback from School Committee members and made some minor edits to his goals. It was noted that the Superintendent goals align well with the School Committee goals and the draft strategic plan.

M. School Committee Goals Tracking Update - The committee reviewed goals and activities since the last meeting as well as discussed timelines for future activities. Mr. Crozier noted that Carlisle administrators, teachers and parents are participating in development of the CCHS portrait of a graduate process. During the 26-27 school year, tours will be offered to Select Board and FinComm members. The School Committee will hold fall and spring coffee hours. MASC has offered to conduct a Special Education training for the Committee.

**V. Communications/Correspondence** - The Committee received nineteen (19) emails since the September 16, 2026 meeting. A majority of the emails were related to use of the plaza and playground following middle school dismissal.

**VI. Members'/Committee Reports as Needed**

A. Regional Committee - Regional Chair Mr. Waterson reported that the Amenities Building broke ground last week. A Climate and Culture framework was adopted to look at data. A training entitled Governing for Belonging Using Culture, Climate, and Equity Data to Ask

Better Questions is scheduled for October 21. The District Community Technology Committee will begin meeting next week. Carlisle will have a parent on the committee. On November 6 the Region Committee will hold a coffee at Carlisle Town Hall. Mr. Waterson noted the collaboration between superintendents at CCHS & Carlisle. Mr. Crozier indicated that this is opening doors to other collaborations within the two districts as well.

## VII. Action Items

A. Waive usual voting practice and vote at this meeting to support grant proposal for partnership with Cartwheel
A motion to waive usual voting practice and vote at this meeting to support grant proposal for partnership with Cartwheel was made by Mr. Steele and seconded by Mr. Waterson. The motion passed unanimously.
Vote: Jamison, aye; Kelleher, aye; Steele, aye; Waterson, aye; Whitt, aye

B. Vote to support grant proposal for partnership with Cartwheel
A motion to support the grant proposal for partnership with Cartwheel was made by Mr. Steele and seconded by Ms. Kelleher. The motion passed unanimously.
Vote: Jamison, aye; Kelleher, aye; Steele, aye; Waterson, aye; Whitt, aye

C. Vote to approve the Superintendent Goals for 26-27
A motion to approve the Superintendent Goals for 26-27 was made by Mr. Steele and seconded by Mr. Waterson. The motion passed unanimously.
Vote: Jamison, aye; Kelleher, aye; Steele, aye; Waterson, aye; Whitt, aye

D. Vote to approve the Carlisle School District Strategic Plan 26-29
A motion to approve the Carlisle School District Strategic Plan 26-29 was made by Mr. Steele and seconded by Ms. Whitt. The motion passed unanimously.
Vote: Jamison, aye; Kelleher, aye; Steele, aye; Waterson, aye; Whitt, aye

## VIII. Public Comments

- Devon Freed, 790 Concord Street, Carlisle
- Katharine Boylan, 135 Kimball Road, Carlisle
- Rachel Freed, 790 Concord Street, Carlisle

## IX. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Waterson and seconded by Ms. Whitt.
The motion passed unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 8:50 PM.
Vote: Jamison, aye; Kelleher, aye; Steele, aye; Waterson, aye; Whitt, aye

Respectfully Submitted
Mary O'Regan
Assistant to the Superintendent
October 14, 2026

List of Documents Viewed and/or Reviewed:
CSC Meeting Minutes 8.26.26
CSC Meeting Minutes 9.16.26
Accounts Payable Warrant 27SE06; $123,119.67

Accounts Payable Warrant 27SE07; $88,593.39
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June 2-4, 2027 Grade 8 Washington DC Trip Presentation
FY27 Grants
Professional Development (PD) Plan 26-27
Strategic Planning Presentation
Draft Strategic Plan
Grant Proposal for Partnership with Cartwheel
Diment Park Design
FY28 Budget Timeline
Fee Discussion
Superintendent Goals 26-27
School Committee Goals Tracking Update