

Carlisle School Committee
Minutes
April 15, 2009
Carlisle School Robbins Library
7:00 PM

Present – School Committee: Chad Koski, Chair; Wendell Sykes, Vice Chair; Bill Fink, Dale Ryder, and Louis Salemy.

Present – School Administration: Marie Doyle, Superintendent; Heidi Zimmerman, Business Manager; Joyce Mehaffey, Principal; Patrice Hurley, Principal; Karen Slack, Director of Student Support Services; Claire Wilcox, Assistant to the Superintendent.

Chad Koski called the meeting to order and opened the public hearing on school choice.

Ms. Doyle discussed the Massachusetts School Choice program and asked for input from members regarding setting up a study committee to look into Carlisle's participation in the program for the 10 - 11 school year.

At , Mr. Sykes made a motion to close the School Choice public hearing. Mr. Fink seconded the motion and all members present voted in favor.

Public Comment Period

Mr. Koski asked if any members of the public had comments. There were no comments.

Review of minutes

Mr. Fink made a motion to approve the minutes of the meeting of March 18, 2009. Mr. Sykes seconded the motion. All members present voted in favor of approving the minutes.

Administrator Reports

Elementary Principal Patrice Hurley reported on the following:

- Student leadership activities
- Gene Stamell's class song about re-cycling

Middle School Principal Joyce Mehaffey reported on the following:

- Fifth Grade Colonial Road Show

- Sixth Grade Outdoor Education
- Eighth Grade anti-bullying efforts

Karen Slack, Director of Student Support Services reported on the following:

- Transition to high school
- Pre-school transition

Mr. Koski opened the public hearing on the budget for fiscal 2010.

Ms. Doyle and Ms. Zimmerman presented a series of slides describing the budget for fiscal 2010. First Ms. Doyle reviewed the mission, vision, and core values and the District Goals. She reviewed the year's main accomplishments and showed a table of how Carlisle MCAS scores compare with those of similar districts. She showed a comparison of financial information for several similar districts. Ms. Doyle discussed class sizes recommended at each grade level and showed the actual class sizes for the current year. Ms. Doyle reviewed the budget drivers and assumptions used in developing the budget.

The Finance Committee has provided \$65,000 in funds, which have allowed the restoration of a .5 psychologist position to the budget. Ms. Zimmerman reviewed the proposed fee structure for next year and then showed a history of school budgets. There will be an increase of 0.74% compared with last year's budget. Ms. Doyle reviewed the actions taken to keep costs down and meet this budget. Ms. Zimmerman displayed a chart showing the expenditures in the following categories: operations, administration, special education, and regular education.

Mr. Koski opened the hearing to the public for questions. Alex Krapf of Ice Pond Road suggested updating the enrollment number to more accurately reflect expected kindergarten enrollments. He further asked for details regarding the number of psychologists. He also suggested that care should be taken when discussing historical budget increases because this is highly dependent on staff turnover and changes.

Mr. Sykes made a motion to close the public hearing. Mr. Fink seconded the motion and all members present voted in favor.

Members'/Committee Reports

Regional School Committee. The regional committee has met but there were no significant issues to discuss.

School Building Committee. Mr. Fink deferred his report to Mr. Storrs who was present at the meeting.

Technology Committee. Ms. Doyle reported on a recent meeting of this committee and distributed a copy of the updated technology benchmarks. The committee has also been working on an updated technology plan as required by the DESE.

Information/Discussion Items

- A. **Seventh Grade presentation.** Ms. Doyle introduced the members of the 7th grade team: Susie Brinner, Brad Cranston, and Cheryl Hay. The teachers focused on hands-on student centered learning in math, science, and language arts. Ms. Hay discussed activities in poetry, speech, and the Odyssey and showed clips of students involved in these activities.

Ms. Brinner showed a clip of students studying geometry, which is one of the units covered in 7th grade math. She distributed geometric drawings and a device students use to study mirror images to each member.

Mr. Cranston described pond water studies he has done with the students and showed slides of them studying pond water. Students have made cell posters and posters of animal dissections. He also showed students working on dissections and students using an ActivBoard to play a Jeopardy game. Mr. Cranston described a project he did with the biotechnology teacher at Minuteman, who came to class to teach the students about possible careers in biology.

- B. **School Building report.** Lee Storrs, chair of the School Building Committee discussed the status of the project and the warrant article. Members of the committee were at the Transfer Station Saturday to hand out literature and talk with residents about the warrant article. Flyers have been sent to all homes with information about the project and a new website has been developed. Mr. Salemy thanked Mr. Storrs and the committee for all their work. The Selectmen, Finance Committee, and School Committee have all voted to support the project.

Mr. Storrs asked if members had any suggestions as to other ways the School Building Committee might garner support. All agreed that the SBC has been doing an outstanding job and suggested the addition of lawn signs. Mr. Fink added that a YES committee has also been formed to get additional support among townspeople.

- C. **Budget flyer.** Ms. Zimmerman distributed a copy of the latest budget flyer draft to members. She stated that she and Ms. Doyle had incorporated comments from all members and administrators to the best of their ability. The flyer will now go to the printer and additional copies for town meeting distribution will be printed.

Mr. Fink stated that he would like to have one more meeting with Ms. Zimmerman to go over one more change he would like to see. Ms. Zimmerman agreed that this would be possible.

- D. **Technology Committee Report.** The Technology Committee met on March 24th. Discussions included a review of the new Technology Plan, changes to the Acceptable Use Policy, and revised Technology Benchmarks. Ms. Doyle distributed copies of the new benchmarks to members and asked for feedback. She also referenced the hardware plan developed last year and discussed increasing the school's infrastructure. Parents will be involved in the planning for enhanced infrastructure. She also stated that the technology infrastructure would be an important component of the building project.
- E. **School Fees for 09 - 10.** Ms. Zimmerman reviewed the suggested fees for next year, which had been distributed to members as part of the meeting packet. She has recommended that all fees remain the same, except the kindergarten and pre-school fees. The kindergarten fee has been adjusted to reflect the new schedule and the three additional hours. The pre-school fee is set yearly based on the fees for other area pre-schools as determined by Ms. Slack.

Mr. Koski raised an issue regarding the sports fees. He stated that it's important that numbers of participants are appropriate for each sport and that numbers for a team should not be decided based on the amount of money needed to cover the sport. Ms. Zimmerman stated that fees have been based on historical participation rates. A vote will be taken on the fees at the next meeting.

- F. **Administrative consolidation with Concord -- process update.** Mr. Koski stated that the consultant study is ongoing and that the consultants have been meeting with various administrators and will meet with others by phone. Mr. Salemy gave the consultants a list of others in the community that they should be contacting. Ms. Ryder asked what the next step would be, and Mr. Koski stated that the NESDEC consultants would be reporting to the School Committee. They will be invited to attend the May 20th meeting, which will be held at the Town Hall for television if possible.

Communications/Correspondence

The following items were reviewed:

- School Food Service Administrative Review follow-up
- Thank you note to the 5th grade team for their School Committee presentation
- Email from Allison Beakley regarding the Kindergarten schedule
- Email from Lorna Phillips regarding the Kindergarten schedule
- Audit report for the End of Year Report

- Office of Campaign Finance opinion regarding the budget and building mailers
- Letter of resignation from Heidi Zimmerman
- Congratulatory letters to Megan Harlow and Deana Saada-Smith for their groups' MICCA gold medals

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Marie Doyle reported on the following:

- School Building Committee LWV Forum and follow-up interviews
- Incredible efforts put forth by the School Building Committee members
- SEPAC meeting
- Anonymous donation of \$2200 for DARE program expenses
- Band and choir to perform at Symphony Hall on April 18th
- Recognition of Heidi Zimmerman and thanks for her service
- Intergenerational choir planned by Megan Harlow

Action Items

- A. **Ms. Ryder made a motion to transfer control of the Highland Building from the School Committee to the Selectmen. This will include responsibility for the budget to maintain the building and will not include the ground under the building. Mr. Sykes seconded the motion and all members present voted in favor.**
- B. **Mr. Fink made a motion that the School Committee vote to support the warrant article to use Community Preservation Act funds to restore the Highland Building to a usable condition and to install fire protection. Ms. Ryder seconded the motion and all members present voted in favor.**
- C. **Mr. Sykes made a motion that if the CPC funding article fails, the committee would support demolition of the building. Mr. Fink seconded the motion.**

Mr. Fink asked why the School Committee would take a stand on this and suggested that it would be to remove a hazard to the school. Ms. Ryder agreed that this was the reason for the article.

The vote carried as follows: 3 in favor, 1 opposed and 1 abstention.

- D. **Ms. Ryder made a motion to approve the change in the kindergarten schedule to full days on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday and half-days on Tuesday and Thursday. Mr. Sykes seconded the motion and all members present voted in favor.**

Ms. Ryder thanked Ms. Doyle for the great job she did on this project.

- E. **Ms. Ryder made a motion to set June 23, 2009 as the last day of school and the date of the 8th grade graduation. Mr. Fink seconded the motion and all members present voted in favor.**

Other Business

Ms. Zimmerman stated that the proposal had gone out for management of the WWTF. Four vendors have expressed interest, and a tour of the facility was held. Ms. Zimmerman is planning to have a subcommittee meeting on April 23rd to review the bids. Ms. Zimmerman reported that the current operator has bid on the contract. She thanked the subcommittee for their time and expertise.

Ms. Zimmerman reported on changes in the 403b process.

Ms. Doyle asked for approval to put together a presentation for Town Meeting if needed.

Citizens' Comments

Carol Yelle stated that the consultant for the superintendent union process should be contacting SEPAC parents as promised. She further stated that the transition process done in Carlisle with the pre-school is exceptional and not done in other communities.

Mr. Krapf asked that our representatives to the RSC look into a situation with the track team at CCHS relative to the no-cut policy of the track team.

Mr. Krapf further stated that he is opposed to the School Building project because he does not see that the risk factor of the project not ultimately going forward has been addressed. He further stated that the economy is such that this is not the right time.

Adjournment

There was no additional business, and **Ms. Ryder made a motion to adjourn the meeting and enter executive session to discuss a performance evaluation. Mr. Sykes seconded the motion, and all members present voted in favor as follows: Mr. Fink, yes; Mr. Sykes, yes; Mr. Koski, yes; Mr. Salemy, yes.**

The public meeting was adjourned at 9:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Claire M. Wilcox
Assistant to the Superintendent