

**Carlisle School Committee
Special Education Subcommittee**

Minutes

Friday, March 26, 2021

7:30 a.m.

Zoom Remote Access

Present – School Committee via Zoom: Amanda Comperchio, Eva Mostoufi

Present – School Administration/Personnel via Zoom: Jim O’Shea, Superintendent; Lori Bruce, Director of Student Support Services; Linda Vanaria, Teacher and CTA President; Nancy Anderson, Assistant to the Superintendent.

Per Governor Baker’s order suspending certain provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A sec. 20, members of the public were able to access this meeting via live stream at:

<https://carlisle-k12-ma-us.zoom.us/j/87380942507?pwd=V1pTMzJycFplRUhONTdvaEZTWjh5UT09>

Meeting ID: 873 8094 2507

Passcode: 585316

Public comments were posted via the chat box. Questions/Comments were read and answered by the School Committee via live stream.

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:37 a.m.

II. Approve Minutes

Ms. Comperchio made a motion to approved minutes from February 26, 2021; Ms. Mostoufi seconded the motion. The following votes were taken in roll call: Comperchio, aye; Mostoufi, aye.

III. Post IEP Survey

Ms. Bruce has shared the Post IEP Survey with staff and received positive feedback. She will share it with SEPAC at its next meeting in April. After getting feedback from SEPAC, she will begin sending it to families. The plan is to send it on the last Monday or Friday of the month to the families that had IEP meetings that past month. There are approximately 15-20 IEP meetings per month, and meetings take place through the year. Sending the survey this way will solicit valuable information that is fresh in everyone’s mind and also allow for privacy. Families have been surveyed twice already by DESE so Ms. Bruce feels it’s fine to wait until May and June to send this survey. Ms. Bruce can report on survey results twice a year.

IV. Subcommittee Goals

Mr. O’Shea discussed goals which are: Provide a venue for open and honest communication among District constituents as it pertains to Special Education services and programs; create opportunities for CSC members to gain insights, and provide feedback in an environment more appropriate for the nature of discussions and the size of the school community; support our special education students, families and faculty through the ongoing engagement of the CSC

with the Special Education department; and monitor the work progress and needs of the Special Education Department in order to be better able to serve and advocate for students, families and the department. Ms. Bruce noted that there were unplanned events this past year, including dealing with student anxiety and accommodating students with significant needs that moved into the District. Mr. O'Shea stated that the purpose of this Subcommittee is to make sure the CSC is informed about what is happening in special education and understand when the School has needs that impact the budget process. Ms. Bruce echoed the importance of being able to explain budgetary needs or staff training needs to the CSC. Ms. Mostoufi supported continued communication and planning for student special needs. Ms. Bruce will present trends in Special Education at an upcoming CSC meeting. Mr. O'Shea said Ms. Bruce will give the presentation after she receives the DESE report, so she can speak about trends, needs and also feedback from the State about special education in Carlisle. Ms. Mostoufi questioned if Tier II could be included in the presentation. Ms. Bruce's presentation will focus on Tier III, Special Education. Mr. O'Shea said he will contact the Tier II support staff and see if they can also present to the CSC. Ms. Comperchio supported this plan, and questioned if the special education presentation could happen twice a year. Mr. O'Shea answered that the conversation can happen often, but a bigger presentation would be an annual event. The Special Education Subcommittee can share updates through the year to the CSC to bring awareness. Mr. O'Shea asked if the Subcommittee wanted to identify some areas of focus and accomplishments for this past year. It's difficult to identify in advance what the subcommittee will be focusing on each year. Mr. O'Shea suggested asking Ms. Bruce at the beginning of the school year what her goals are and how the subcommittee can support her in achieving the goals. Ms. Bruce said the department has moved forward from the now outdated WestEd report. The focus is on communication with families, parent satisfaction, and taking care of children and families. She noted that Carlisle did incredibly well with DESE review and this was due to the excellent work of the special education department. She added that it is important to move forward, and we want to see continued progress. Ms. Mostoufi recognized that in this unusual year, Carlisle has provided supports to Special Education students and she felt the survey results would be very positive. She was not sure we would see the same results once academic expectations have ramped up. Ms. Bruce asked Ms. Vanaria, 2nd grade teacher, to comment on what her students have done academically this past year. Ms. Vanaria said parent conferences start this week and it's important to share all that teachers have done with all of our students. She said teachers have not cut back. Teachers are dealing with the array of issues that children present with this year, for example, handwriting challenges. But she and other teachers have worked on the challenges and have continued teaching the grade level curriculum. She said that "Our curriculum today is where it would be any year." Ms. Bruce added that there were students with gaps, but pace and content have been full on. Mr. O'Shea noted that Ms. Bruce came to Carlisle, did her own assessment and also considered the WestEd report, and worked under pressure to get programs and procedures in place. She instigated a plan for how to deliver literacy services, putting in place a specialist that works with all grade levels. This is why we have had successes. Ms. Comperchio said it would be helpful for this subcommittee to meet early in the year to discuss student needs and areas of focus. Ms. Mostoufi wants to best support Ms. Bruce and the department. Ms. Comperchio supported listing the accomplishments of this subcommittee for the CSC. Mr. O'Shea will revise the document to list overarching and areas of focus and accomplishments and a plan to move forward. This will be shared at a CSC meeting in April. Ms. Bruce will present at the May CSC meeting. This subcommittee will meet for the last time

this year before the May CSC meeting. He noted that our special education team did amazing things during a pandemic. The plan is for this subcommittee to meet in August, to align with Ms. Bruce's goals in special education. The subcommittee may meet with SEPAC in September and see what its goals are as well.

V. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

VI. Adjourn Meeting

Ms. Comperchio made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Ms. Mostoufi seconded the motion. The following votes were taken in roll call: Comperchio, aye; Mostoufi, aye. The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Nancy Anderson".

Nancy Anderson
Assistant to the Superintendent