

**CARVER PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
**School Committee Meeting**  
**MINUTES - January 23, 2017**

School Committee Present:

Gina Marie Hanlon-Cavicchi  
James O'Brien  
Andrew Cardarelli  
Paula Lowe  
Andrew Soliwoda

Also present:

Scott Knief, Superintendent  
Brad Brothers, Chief Operations and Finance Officer  
Meredith Cargill, Director Curriculum, Instruction and Technology

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Gina Hanlon-Cavicchi opened the meeting at 7:05 pm with Pledge of Allegiance.

**I. Comments from General Public:** Tammy Johnson asked the Committee to reconsider cutting the Middle School Drama Club. She presented details about the groups activities. Jen Dowding, President of the Music Boosters read several letters from students as she expressed how important our music program is to our children and school system. She conveyed these sentiments to state the disappointment of the elimination of an elementary music teacher position. Deborah Gesualdo, greeted the Committee as both a grade 5 teacher and a resident asking them to please be cautious with their decisions. The mother of a grade 1 student new to Carver expressed how upsetting it would be to see activities/opportunities slip away from our students due to the budget.

**II. Comments from EAPC:** EAPC President, Tom Pinto thanked Superintendent Knief for his professionalism in meeting with staff members who would be affected by possible cutbacks due to budget. It is a stressful time for our members who will be effected by cutbacks and adjustments. The teacher's unit of EAPC voted after a thorough and thoughtful and difficult discussion not to open their contract based on information that was presented to the union. However, the EAPC has always left the door open for discussion for options with the school department.

**III. School Committee Protocols:** During the fall, the School Committee had two workshops with Dorothy Presser, MASC (Massachusetts Association of School Committees) consultant to focus on vision and goals to best serve the students of Carver and the community as well as Committee protocols. Throughout these workshops, a set of protocols were crafted to commit to specific operation procedures. James O'Brien made a motion to accept the list of protocols as operating procedures. Andrew Soliwoda seconds the motion. All in favor. The Superintendent read the protocols for the community to hear the completed list.

**IV. FY 18 Proposed Budget Reductions:** At this meeting, no vote will be taken on the budget. An annual budget hearing will be set for late February at which time the budget

figure will be voted to bring to annual town meeting in April. At this meeting, budget reductions and fee increase proposals were presented along with the impact of these proposals to try to reach the gap of a FY 17 \$490,000 shortfall along with FY 18 budget deficits. The Town budget is a 2.2% increase over FY 17.

Reductions in staff and programs at each campus were explained. Additionally, the following fees were discussed. At MHS, new club fee of 450 per student; increase athletic fee to \$150 per sport with family cap of \$750; increase intramural fee to \$200 up from \$50; increase parking fee from \$10 to \$50 and at Elementary School establish a pre-school fee depending on amount of days in attendance of \$12 per day. Potential savings were calculated.

Discussion from committee: Our budget needs to be looked at over a longer range rather than a 3- year contract time line. Mr. Cardarelli stated all positions should be looked at in a broad way for possible solutions to shortfalls including support and technology staff. The administrative team investigated at every single position for possible solutions and are open to all different points of view and options. Paula Lowe said she trusts Scott's hard working and transparency. Andrew Soliwoda said the committee respects each other and wants the same thing in the best way we can for the students and teachers.

**V. Executive Session:** Gina Hanlon-Cavicchi requested a motion to adjourn regular session. James O'Brien made the motion to adjourn, Andrew Soliwoda second. All in favor. James O'Brien made the motion to adjourn to executive session for the purpose of conducting strategy in preparation for negotiation/collective bargaining with union personnel not to return to regular session. Andrew Cardarelli second the motion. Gina Hanlon-Cavicchi – Yea; James O'Brien – Yea; Andrew Cardarelli – Yea; Paula Lowe – Yea; Andrew Soliwoda – Yea. Approved by unanimous by roll call

Adjourned regular session at: 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Annmarie Metrano