

Carver Public Schools
School Committee Meeting
MINUTES - January 9, 2017

School Committee Present:

James O'Brien
Andrew Cardarelli
Paula Lowe
Andrew Soliwoda
Jenna Sweeney, Student Council Representative

Absent:

Gina Marie Hanlon-Cavicchi

Also present:

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

James O'Brien opened the meeting at 7:00 pm with Pledge of Allegiance.

I. Comments from General Public: None.

II. Comments from EAPC: Tammy Johnson, EAPC Vice President gave an impassioned overview of what activities our teachers accomplish over and above their contract obligations. Although the administration is working very hard on the budget deficit, it has been many years of programs and activities being cut and or at risk.

III. Updates from Student and Captain's Council: Jenna Sweeney explained the Excellence Book being worked on with various indicators. In each indicator, the student council members explain the objective summary, finance and participation of a project. (for example Special Olympics Polar Plunge). The goal is to receive a 48 score (accomplished for the past three years) to be recognized as a Gold Council. On Jan. 10, members will attend the SEMASC leadership conference.

IV. Approval of Minutes:

Paula Lowe made a motion to approve regular meeting minutes from December 12, 2016, second by Andrew Soliwoda. Approved unanimously. Andrew Soliwoda made a motion to approve executive session minutes from December 12, 2016, Andrew Cardarelli second the motion. Paula Lowe abstained. Approved unanimously.

V. Communications: None.

VI. Reports from Superintendent

Instructional Leadership - Standard I

A. Personnel Updates: the following teacher retirements were announced as of June 2017: Jeanne Deane, Pamela Koplan, Pat Lake and Martha Murphy.

B. Math in Action: Jen Kelley, Math Coach presented information on the Math Model (Everyday Math) at the Elementary School. Everyday Math is a researched based curriculum, engineered for learning. The curriculum develops depth of knowledge, focused instruction with engineered spiral and development of problem solving skills. Michelle Lombardi, grade 2 teacher explained the Math Workshop Model: Structured approach to teaching and learning; Differentiated instruction for all students; Small group assisted learning experience; Flexible groups of students for skill and strategy instruction; Teachers guide the learning and Students own the learning. Math Professional development offered to the teachers to support this model were also discussed.

Management and Operation Standard II

A. Retirement Incentive: Scott Knief explained the parameters of the retirement incentive offered to Carver teachers with 20 plus years of teaching service. Teachers have a deadline of February 18, 2017 to respond. James O'Brien applauded the school administration and town for their collaborative thinking of creative ways to reduce budget impacts.

B. FY 18 Proposed Budget Reductions: The budget reductions have been broken down into three phases. Phase I was presented at this meeting which has minimal impacts on staff reductions or direct educational services. Phase I focuses on retirements, operating budget reductions, reductions of some sports teams, a few advisor positions and increasing fees. Phases II and III which represent the majority of teacher and staff reductions will be presented at January 23rd meeting. Information was presented on the phases of budget reductions, comparison of District C Athletic users fees, Mass Public School fee survey and local fee comparisons. James O'Brien reminded the community these are proposals and every option will be considered. Andrew Soliwoda asked Michael Schultz, Athletic Director about family cap structure for athletic fees. Paula Lowe asked if we could give some sort of pass/incentive for families. Mr. Schutz said the athletic department has always worked with families to help with cost of participation. Paula also asked about restructuring of facilities use fees. Mr. Brothers states the discussion at this time was to wait until the new school opens to re-evaluate that fee schedule. Andrew Soliwoda asked about the possibility of having advertising on the athletic fields to bring in revenue. The Superintendent said currently school committee policy prohibits this but it could be re-evaluated. No budget vote taken at this meeting.

C. Facilities Updates: Brad Brothers reported the following: At MHS, trainer's room door installed, curtain divider is in place in gym as well as padding on walls. At CES: buildings are now operating with new wells, DEP was on site for decommissioning of old wells and water quality tests are approved. School building meeting on January 11 at 7 p.m. to discuss exterior colors of new building.

Family and Community Engagement Standard III

A. Upcoming Events: Athletic Boosters Family Bingo Night will be held January 12th at 6:30 p.m. and High School mid-term exams will start week of January 23, 2017.

Professional Culture Standard IV

A. Professional Development: Meredith Cargill described information on professional development offerings throughout the district and their importance. Opportunities for teachers are prepared with MA DESE standards in mind with key components of: collaboration, content knowledge and pedagogy, active learning, deeper knowledge and sustained learning over multiple days and weeks. Professional development this year has included: Universal Design for Learning, STEAM (Science, Tech, Engineering, Art, and Mathematics), Social Emotional Learning; LETRS (Language Essentials for Teachers of Reading and Spelling), Key Vocabulary Routine for Sheltered English Immersion and ESL; Math Academy; The Behavior Code: *Stuck Between a Rock and a Calm Place*; Technology; ALICE School Safety Departmental Work; Mentoring; CPR/First Aid, Suicide Prevention, Anti-bullying, and Responsive Classroom.

VI. Recommendations from Superintendent

A./B. Policy JFBB-1 School Choice and Policy EEAJ Motor Vehicle Idling. Both policies had been reviewed by Committee. No discussion. Paula Lowe made a motion to approve both policies a written, Andrew Soliwoda second the motion. Approved unanimously.

VIII. Reports from School Committee

Andrew Soliwoda wished the community a happy, hopeful New Year. He stated although we are going through difficult fiscal times, the school relationship with the town is positive. Andy Cardarelli stated we are facing some very hard decision but one of the best things we have in our town is our schools. He asked the public to contact the Committee or Superintendent's Office with any comments or suggestions. James O'Brien said we need to be looking long term as solutions, thinking outside the box and to remember we are one entity – school and town.

Adjourned regular session at: 9:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Annmarie Metrano