

CARVER PUBLIC SCHOOLS
School Committee Meeting
MINUTES –April 11, 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

Gina Hanlon-Cavicchi opened the meeting at 7:00 pm with Pledge of Allegiance.

Student Recognition: The Mock Trial competition is sponsored by the Massachusetts Bar Association. The competition places high school teams from across the state in simulated courtroom situations where they assume the roles of lawyers, defendants and witnesses in hypothetical cases triad before sitting judges in district courthouses, whenever possible. This year more than 1,500 students from 132 High School participated.

The Carver Middle High School Mock Trial went 3-0 during the regular season to win the regional competition and advance to the state quarterfinals for the second straight year. The advisor is Jacqui Perkins. Team members: Natalie Mosher (12); Ryan Semple (12); Caitlyn Weston (12); Darren Foster (11); Doria Gedraitis (11); Nathan Miller (11); Dalton Souza (11); Mary Lanagan (10); Evan Peirce (10); Kevin Shott (10); Chris Showan (10); Cam Tait (10); Emily Orzechowski (9); Daniel Shannon (9); Lauryn Steed (9); and Hailey Young (9). The students thanked their advisor, Jacqueline Perkins, for all her support throughout the year.

I. Comments from General Public: None

II. Comments from EAPC: Tom Pinto, EAPC President, thanked the Superintendent for his open relations and being responsive and available during the budget process. He addressed a comment made by Chairman of Selectmen at joint meeting of School Committee and Board of Selectmen about their being an “elephant in the room” that the teachers would not sit down to talk. He said the comment is not truthful because EAPC has met on several occasions. Unfortunately the comment appears to stem from the fact that the EAPC will not open its contract. In 2010, the teachers did open their contract and made deep concessions. As we head to town meeting, he hopes the community of Carver will come out and support the teachers.

III. Updates from Student Council: None

IV. Approval of Minutes: James O'Brien made a motion to approve regular meeting minutes from March 13, 2017, second by Andrew Soliwoda. Approved with one abstention from Gina Hanlon-Cavicchi. Approved 4-0.

V. Communications:

A. READS Collaborative: James O'Brien made a motion to appoint Scott Knief, Superintendent, to serve as the Carver Public Schools representative to the Board of Directors of READS. Andrew Cardarelli second. All in favor.

VI. Reports from Superintendent

Instructional Leadership - Standard I

A. MCAS Questions: Meredith Cargill presented the Committee with sample MCAS questions in Literacy and Math. She demonstrated how the students access the questions and maneuver through the testing process. She highlighted key components and integration.

B. Technology Vision Updates: Last March, the district Technology Plan was approved by Committee. Meredith Cargill provided a historical overview, progress to date and next steps. In the current school year, teachers have been assisted with migration to google drive; we have targeted existing curriculum technology components, and utilized existing FOSS units and other STEM curricula to develop project-based learning opportunities. For next steps, the plan will be modified as necessary based on budget, we will continue to engage educators in differentiated professional development relative to their individual technology integration, we will promote the use of technology as an instructional tool and we will maintain a continuous improvement cycle.

C. Proposal of Social Emotional Program: Karen Teichert, Director of Special Education presented background for the proposal of a new SED program at the MHS. The program would provide services for grade 9-12 students that are struggling to attend school primarily due to anxiety, depression, and/or PTSD. In addition, the program would have the flexibility to provide short term transitional services to students returning from hospital placements. Main program components are: ability to be self-contained and not be tied to the rotating schedule; flexible start time; MCAS prep and credit recovery for those that need it; option for internships or work experiences; daily counseling; option for self-paced and/or online classes to engage interests. The financial discussion gave an example of 4 students currently in outside placement at a cost of \$139, 956; the cost to bring the students back in district in the SED program would be \$129,284 so the program would be self-supporting and would potentially realize a savings. Mrs. Holley, MHS Principal joined the discussion and the Superintendent supports the concept. The Committee commended Mrs. Teichert and the SED work group for their efforts to support these students.

Management and Operation Standard II

A. Consolidation of IT Services: In this model, the Schools would take the leadership in providing IT services to both the school and town. The Superintendent would have joint oversight and management of the position with the Town Administrator, but on a daily basis the person in the position would report directly to the Superintendent. The position would be funded through \$25,000 from the school, which we currently pay to LCN for network service, \$50,000 from the town operating budget that they currently used for technology support and network oversight. The Community Compact Grant would fund the remainder of the position for the first year then the town has committed to cover additional funding for the position, if needed, in the following years. Mr. Knief supports the consolidation of services. The Select Board voted unanimously to approve this consolidation. James O' Brien made a motion accept this plan, Andrew Soliwoda second. All in favor.

B. Monthly School Building Report: On Thursday, March 30th, there was the "Topping Off Ceremony" and MSBA Ex Jack McCarthy attended the ceremony. We are moving along ahead of schedule at this time. The naming of the new school will follow the School Committee Policy #FF – Naming New Facilities. The Committee will draft a list of possible names, present the list to the school building committee and then a vote would take place. The Committee could direct the Superintendent to include community input. There are six colors; each wing of the building will be represented by a color, primarily by stripe on the floor.

C. Updates Accelerated Repair Project MHS: Scott Knief stated the kick off meeting for our accelerated repairs project at the Middle High School took place on March 29. The general contractor is JJ Cardosi, the Project Manager is Leftfield Associates, and the architect is Johnson Roberts. We are looking to begin construction as early as May 15th in the boiler room with the entire project being completed by the start of school in September 2017.

D. Budget Transfers: Brad Brothers presented a list of line items that require transfer amounts. James O'Brien made a motion to approve the requested budget transfers. Andrew Cardarelli second. All in favor.

Family and Community Engagement Standard III

A. Carver Education Foundation

As a result of participation by Scott Knief and Michael Schultz in the Dream Ride2 last year, a goal was to raise seed money to begin the growth of a Carver Education Foundation. During this year we have begun the process of forming the organization. We have received designation as a 501 (c) 3 non-profit organization and have recruited a board of teachers, staff and community members which include Michelle Nickerson, Paula Foley, Brie Wall, and Leslie Ritz. We will be sponsoring a dinner from Olive Garden at the Middle High School on Wednesday May 10th at 6:00 as a kick-off event for the Foundation. The dinner will be free of charge - the goal is to get our name, mission and goals out to the public. All are welcome to attend.

The first fundraiser will be Saturday, June 10th from 7-10 pm at Pinz in Kingston. The cost will be \$25 per person. The event will include bowling, ping, pong, light refreshments, a cash bar and raffles.

Professional Culture Standard IV: None

VI. Recommendations from Superintendent – None

VIII. Reports from School Committee

Superintendent's Evaluation: The Committee rated the Superintendent on four standards: Instructional Leadership; Management and Operations; Family and Community Engagement; and Professional Culture. Each standard has several indicators. Each member gave a rating on each indicator. The rating choices are: Unsatisfactory; Needs Improvement; Proficient and Exemplary. The Committee also rated Mr. Knief on his three goals.

The Chair will take the ratings and in coordination with the Co-Chair will complete the official rating form for the evaluation.

James O'Brien asked Scott Knief about the Administration giving up their 2% increases to help with budget crisis. It would save about \$22,000 if Administrators did not take an increase. James said the fact that the administrators are willing to make that proposal shows their continual willingness to work together and supports Scott as a leader who is modeling what is best for the school district.

Scott Knief publicly thanked Paula Kibbe Lowe for her 9 years on the Committee, for commitment to our children and her passion for getting the new elementary school built and technology into the classrooms

Paula Kibbe read a parting statement to her fellow Carver residents. She implored the community to be involved.

Paula Kibbe made a motion to adjourn at 9:38 p.m. The motion was seconded by James O'Brien. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted by Annmarie Metrano