

CARVER PUBLIC SCHOOLS
School Committee Meeting
Monday, December 9, 2013

Minutes

Committee Members Present:

Gina Hanlon-Cavicchi
Lance Kennedy
James O'Brien
Barry Struski

Absent: Paula Kibbe

Administrative Leadership Team:

Elizabeth Sorrell, Superintendent of Schools
Patrick Meagher, Asst. Superintendent of Schools
Meredith Cargill, Director of Curriculum, Instruction & Technology

7:00 P.M. Lance Kennedy opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

I. Comments from the General Public: None.

II. Comments from the EAPC: Jacqui Perkins, EAPC Vice President, shared that although it's a wonderful time of year it can be filled with a lot of stress. Through discussions with the faculty, a decision for No Homework for grades 6-12 has been decided for Holiday Break.

III. MCAS Perfect Score: The following students were recognized and given a certificate from the Superintendent and School Committee for achieving **Perfect MCAS Scores** on the Spring 2013 Testing. Grade 4: William Hill – Math; Grade 6: Michael Desisto – ELA; Grade 8: Caroline Forde – Math; Grade 9: Connor Skinner – Math and Madison Staples – Math and ELA; Grade 11: Olivia Pelletier – ELA; Raquel Perry – Math and ELA; and Brooke Pierce – Math.

IV. Update from Student Advisory and Captains Council: No Captains Council tonight.

Student Government: November fundraiser – “Warm Winter Wishes” raised \$400. The first annual “Mr. Crusader Contest” was held on 12/5. Eight students participated with talent, questions and answers and impressing the judges to win prizes. Nathaniel Singer placed 3rd, Evan Hermenau 2nd and first place to Justin Schindler. Student Council collected \$300 for the pledge to Polar Plunge and Special Olympics.

V. Approval of Minutes: James O'Brien made a motion to approve November 18, 2013 regular session minutes. Barry Struski seconded the motion. Gina Hanlon-Cavicchi abstained. Approved unanimously.

VI. Communications:

1. Anti-Defamation League – letter with Q & A's for religious holidays and a guide to religious display for the December holidays.
2. Boston Fisheries Foundation – letter of congratulations for our culinary students who participated in the second annual Boston Seafood Gala and Festive on September 27th and 28th. The Foundation acknowledged the hard work, and generous volunteerism of such an outstanding group of young people.
3. Richard Ward – newspaper article regarding the nomination of Dick Ward for John Ogonowski award recognizing him as a county leader for distinguished service to agriculture and to the whole community.
4. Thank you note – from Cathy Sharon-Matthews, retired Office Administrator for E.A.P.C.
5. A photo from Carver Reporter was shared. Students in the Carver High School Culinary Program won the prize for best display at the New England Food Festival held as part of America's Hometown Thanksgiving Parade in Plymouth. The students cooked and served pulled pork sliders and oatmeal bacon cookies.

VII. Recommendations from the Superintendent:

- A. **Appointment of John Bandzul to Old Colony Vocational Technical Regional H.S. School Committee:** The Selectmen had previously voted Mr. Bandzul to the OCRVTHS Committee at their 11/26/13 meeting; however, because this is a joint appointment, Mr. Bandzul was invited to School Committee meeting to be appointed from this committee. Mr. Bandzul is a 2003 graduate of South Shore Vocational Tech. He is now a Carver resident who wishes to give back to the community by helping to shape the future for our children of tomorrow. He believes in the vocational school system and how it works. Gina Marie Hanlon-Cavicchi made a motion to appoint John Bandzul to OCRVTHS Committee, for term through June 2016. Barry Struski second. All in favor. There is still one more opening on this board.
- B. **Field Trip:** CoCo Keys Water Resort, Fitchburg – 4/4/14– Grade 6: Gina Marie Hanlon-Cavicchi made a motion to approve the field trip, Barry Struski second the motion. All in favor.

VIII. Reports from the Superintendent:

Standard I – Instructional Leadership

A. Testing Reports:

- i. **Literacy Plan** – Michelle Taylor, Director of Literacy, gave an update on Strategic Implementation & Sustainability Plan. The plan began in June 2011, the work is ongoing and revisions are made annually. A snapshot of the 13 priority goals was presented. Goals are: (1) Continue the use of progress monitoring and data instruction; (2) Continue to include time for collaboration within and outside the master schedule in grades K-12; (3) Further professional development targeting understanding, competency, and instruction of research-based literacy strategies; (4) Incorporate the Gail Briere written language assessment strategies in grades K-10; (5) Develop & implement ELL programs for students with limited English proficiency; (6) Improve communication regarding literacy initiatives; (7) Develop and implement family literacy programs; (8) Develop a protocol for working with ELL students and their families; (9) The ALT and CTL's will continue to support data driven decision-making in order to improve curriculum and instruction and reading and writing; (10) The ALT and the CTL's will continue to support data driven decision making in order to improve literacy instruction at the pre-school level; (11) The ALT and the CTL's will continue the process of examining and then aligning all curricula to meet the literacy goals in the new Common Core State Standards; (12) The ALT will continue to provide research-based, high quality professional development for all teachers of reading and writing and (13) Continue to seek grants and use careful budget planning to support the Literacy Plan.

Liz said both Michelle Taylor and Meredith Cargill work very hard to bring all new teachers on-board and up to date with these goals.

- ii. Makepeace Video: Through collaboration with The HILL for Literacy, Mr. Michael Hogan, President of A.D. Makepeace and Liz Sorrell and Michelle Taylor of Carver Public Schools, a documentary series was produced. The first in the series of our Makepeace Literacy Leadership Center was shown to the committee. The video will be "run" for public viewing on CCAT.

Standard II – Management and Operations

A. Personnel Updates:

New Hires: Mary Crovo, Kindergarten Para
Lee Lawson, Special Ed Pre-School Para
Sheena Bellefeuille, Food Service Worker

Resignation: Joanne Byron, Food Service Worker

Retirement: Susan Ferreira, Health Aide

B. CES Budget Presentation: Ruby Maestas presented the Elementary School Budget for FY15 with a proposal of \$137,031, only a \$486 increase of FY14. She explained the budget process and how proposals are decided. The Cost Centers of textbooks, instructional supplies, office supplies, dues and memberships are used to determine the

budget amount. Level II requests include: 30 computer task chairs; 2 color laser printers; 5 document cameras; mount smart boards/projectors and replace hoops in recess yard.

Mr. Patten, member of Fincom, asked if there would be a cost benefit for on-line vs. hard copies of textbook purchases (48% of total CES budget). The superintendent said we only have 60 computers for 800 plus students so we do not have sufficient technology to support full on-line textbooks

C. MHS Budget Presentation: Scott Knief presented the MHS FY15 budget with a proposal of \$212,936, a level funded budget from FY14. Since FY02, the MHS budget has seen a 33% reduction. Budget building blocks are the same as Elementary School, textbooks, instructional supplies, dues/memberships and office supplies and expenses. Level II requests are: textbooks for history, French and AP Statistics, Middle School SEPUP Science curriculum, under technology, Smartboards, LCD projector installations, guidance lap top/television set up, document cameras and 3-D printer. Also, funding for a health teacher and a shredder for Guidance Department. James O'Brien said some of the Level II requests seem manageable to find a solution.

D. Report: 11/20/13 Campaign & Political Finance Workshop: Liz Sorrell, Lance Kennedy and Barry Struski attended the workshop offered to the community for information sharing regarding the Elementary Building project and how Carver can get back into the capital funding pipeline.

E. Facilities Update: Patrick Meagher noted security upgrade info. Security badges for district wide use with photos are being used with proximity readers. A grant from our insurance company will complete visitor management system. Some minor heating problems at CES – Pod 2 are being taken care of.

Standard III - Family and Community Goal

A. December Upcoming Events: A list of dates and events for December and January was shared with committee including all concerts and holiday recess.

Standard IV – Professional Cultural Goal 4:

A. Report on *Teachers as Scholars*: Meredith Cargill gave an overview of TAS – *Teachers as Scholars*. The district purchases a certain number of “seats” each year for faculty enrollment. It is hosted in Boston, a joint collaboration of colleges and universities. Since 2007, 82 faculty from Carver have attended. The faculty feedback is 75% of the participants thought their experience as students in the seminars had benefited their own students. 93% of teacher respondents would participate again, 86% commented that TAS was the best or better than any other professional development programs they had participated in. A testimonial was shared by Tammy Johnson, MHS math teacher. She said there is a sense of renewal, interaction with educational community, and outstanding professors. This professional development is another investment in our teachers.

IX. Reports from School Committee:

Barry Struski attended National Honor Society and it was an inspirational event. MEFA Seminar held through the Guidance Department was very informative. Mr. O'Brien wishes the best to all the students participating in upcoming musical events for holidays and wishes everyone Happy Holidays. Mr. Kennedy also commented on National Honor Society induction and how he was impressed with not only our students but the commitment of our teachers and their very special bond with our students. It was clear evidence of the good work being done in our schools.

Motion to adjourn by Gina Marie Hanlon-Cavicchi, second by Barry Struski. Approved unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 9:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted: Annmarie G. Metrano, Recording Secretary
Approved by Committee: 1/13/14