

**Carver Public Schools**  
**School Committee Meeting**  
**MINUTES –MAY 14, 2018**

School Committee Present:

James O'Brien  
Andrew Soliwoda  
Andrew Cardarelli  
Stephanie Clougherty

Tardy: (9:10 p.m.)

Gina Marie Hanlon-Cavicchi

Also Present:

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

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

**Recognition:** *High School Culinary Management team* members Kevin Shott and Darren Foster were commended for their outstanding participation in the 17<sup>th</sup> Annual National Restaurant Association's National ProStart Invitational. They placed 4<sup>th</sup> place in the competition competing against teams from across the nation. This is the first time any team from Massachusetts placed in the top five at this invitational. Advisor Chef Daniel Portelance and former Business Manager Patrick Meagher, who worked with these students, were in attendance to congratulate them. The boys were awarded scholarships to several state and private colleges. They plan to compete next year as seniors.

**Student Council** Advisor Chris Tresca was recognized for being named SEMASC Advisor of the Year with the John "Jack" Scanlan award. Also Jenna Sweeney and Josh Kennedy were named to positions at SEMASC and were in attendance to explain the responsibilities. Jenna will be SEMASC regional webmaster, Josh will be the regional publicity coordinator and Samantha Santos (not in attendance) was the recipient of the John Schrader Leadership Spirit Award.

**School Committee Re-organization:** The Superintendent asked for a motion to re-organize the School Committee for the 208-2019 school year by nominating a chairperson.

**Chair:** Andrew Soliwoda made a motion to nominate **James O'Brien** as Chairperson, Andrew Cardarelli second. Approved 4-0.

**Vice Chair:** Andrew Cardarelli made a motion to nominate **Andrew Soliwoda** as Vice Chair, James O'Brien second. Approved 4-0.

**Recording Secretary:** Andrew Soliwoda made a motion to nominate **Stephanie Clougherty** as recording secretary for Executive Sessions. Andrew Cardarelli second.  
Approved 4-0.

**Subcommittees:** Andrew Soliwoda made a motion to keep all Sub-Committee appoints the same for the 2018-2019 school year as they are currently. Andrew Cardarelli seconds the motion. Approved 4-0.

**Policies:** **Andrew Cardarelli** and **James O'Brien**

**Superintendent's Evaluation:** **James O'Brien** and **Andrew Soliwoda**

**Building Committee:** **James O'Brien** and **Andrew Soliwoda**

**Capital Outlay:** **James O'Brien**

**Negotiations:**

Teachers: **James O'Brien** and **Andrew Soliwoda**

Paraprofessionals: **James O'Brien** and **Andrew Cardarelli**

Custodians: **Andrew Soliwoda** and **Stephanie Clougherty**

Food Services: **Andrew Cardarelli** and **Stephanie Clougherty**

Secretaries: **Gina Marie Hanlon-Cavicchi** and **Andrew Soliwoda**

Bus Drivers: **Gina Hanlon-Cavicchi**

Old Colony Regional District Appointing Authority: **Andrew Soliwoda**, Andrew Cardarelli and Stephanie Clougherty. Chairperson serves as ex officio.

- I. **Comments from General Public:** None
- II. **Comments from EAPC:** Tom Pinto wished all the upcoming retirees the best and thanked them for their years of service.
- III. **Updates from Student Council:** Jenna Sweeney announced elections have been held for the 2018-2019 executive board and results are as follows. President, Clare Manning, Vice President, Josh Kennedy, Secretary Maya Magnussen, Publicity, Brenna Weston, Spirit Coordinator, Jenna Deluca, Historian Bella Teebagy, and Delegates: Brenna Lagerquist and Jenna Sweeney. The National Association of Student Councils annual conference will be in Minnesota this summer and Jenna Sweeney and Brenna Lagerquist will attend. Student Council ran registration for the 10-mile Walker for

Hunger. 31 students attended the walk and a donation of \$465 was made to Project Bread.

- IV. Approval of Minutes:** Motion was made by Andrew Soliwoda to approve regular meeting minutes of April 9, 2018. Andrew Cardarelli second the motion. Approved 4-0.

Andrew Soliwoda made a motion to approve executive session minutes of April 9, 2018 not to be released. Andrew Cardarelli second the motion. Approved 4-0.

**V. Reports from Superintendent**

- A. Personnel Updates:** The following new hires were announced. Gina Marie Rush, Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent, Reegan Whipple, MHS Foreign Language Teacher, Ben Tan, Elementary Music Teacher and Mary Guiney, MHS Science Teacher.
- B. Day on the Hill Update:** Scott Knief and Brad Brothers attended this annual event sponsored by MASS/MASC on April 25<sup>th</sup>. The principle of the day's advocacy agenda was that the current education funding realities are neither adequate nor equitable if schools are to meet the ever-increasing needs of students. MASC outlined 11 public policy priorities. Mr. Knief noted the following topics would be key to Carver. Funding Revision to Chapter 70 Aid to reflect 21<sup>st</sup> century needs, full funding of Special Education Circuit Breaker and Charter School Funding Reform. Mr. Knief shared some thoughts on these topics.
- C. Mass Next Generation Accountability System:** Scott Knief shared in the fall of 2018, the Department of Education will publish accountability results for all public schools using a new system. The new system meets the requirements of ESSA (Every Students Succeeds Act) which replaced No Child Left Behind as the federal standard for education and school district accountability. An overview of how this new system is different from the current one was highlighted including accountability indicators such as achievement (MCAS), student growth, ELL proficiency, student attendance, high school completion, extended engagement rate and annual drop-out rate. ESSA requires a focus on closing achievement GAPS. In addition to meeting targets for the school as a whole, the performance of lowest performing 25% of students will be measured.
- D. School Safety Form:** On April 30 a forum on safety was held at the Middle High School auditorium. School committee members who attended made the following comments. Andrew Cardarelli said although the crowd was limited, there were good questions presented. He would like to see the supplies for safety "buckets" added to the budget to keep children and staff safe. Andrew Soliwoda stated the event was needed, it gave the community the opportunity to ask great questions and information clarified. Stephanie Clougherty said she would have liked to see more parents but everyone who was present was actively engaged and the community could see the

Superintendent, police and fire are dedicated. She said at MHS there is a need for barricades or bolts. A request to FinCom will be made for safety bucket supplies and barricades. She also said this forum could be an annual event. James O'Brien said the Superintendent and police department have built excellent communication around safety issues and felt there were good recommendations from the crowd. The Superintendent stated both himself and the Chief of Police were hopeful to add a second SRO (school resource officer) or more patrol presence.

#### **E. Handbook Reviews:**

(1) Middle School revisions and changes were presented by Christine Cabral, Assistant Principal. Primary changes are: teacher forecasts will be available on Jupiter Grades program; cell phones will be allowed for usage during breakfast and lunch inside the cafeteria; Saturday detentions for tardiness will be changed to additional detentions will be issued for every 5<sup>th</sup> tardy during the same term. For dismissal of students, a photo ID will be required at the time of dismissal. Also, the 8<sup>th</sup> grade teams of teachers presented the idea of 8th grade students being able to carry their back packs or store them during the school day. School Committee members had considerable discussion as to whether this was a good idea to change. They felt the reasons the backpack policy had been put in place initially in order to alleviate some hall way traffic and for safety held merit. Mrs. Cabral stated she wished to support the teachers request because in some instances 8<sup>th</sup> graders do cross over to the High School side for shared classes. The policy will be revised for 2018-2019 but will be reviewed to see if it is working.

A motion was made by Andrew Soliwoda to approve the changes to the Middle School Handbook for 2018-2019. Andrew Cardarelli second the motion. Approved 3-1. Stephanie Clougherty disapproved.

(2) High School handbook revisions and changes were presented by Mark Souza, Assistant Principal. Primary changes are: for mid-year exams, students are responsible if they are absent to arrange makeups with the teacher on the day they return to school, for High Honors, the removal of "except one grade which cannot be lower than an 85"; under suspension, Code of Conduct and Chemical Health Guidelines for participation in student organizations was discussed. There was some concern regarding random drug testing, however, this aligns with MIAA guidelines followed for participation in athletics. The Committee asked to have the Chemical Health Guidelines distributed and signed by students participating in Extra-Curricular activities. Also, in the same topic under Insubordination, the phrase ....and will be held to school discipline polices as described in the code of conduct. Academic consequences for poor attendance will now include absences will only be authorized when accompanied by documentation with one (1) week of the absence.

A motion was made by Andrew Soliwoda to approve changes to the Middle School Handbook for 2018-2019. Andrew Cardarelli second the motion. Approved 4-0.

- F. Upcoming Spring Events:** A list of events through May and June were shared with the Committee including concerts, graduations, and year-end celebrations. Notably, the Elementary School Fond Farewell will be Saturday, June 9<sup>th</sup> from 3-7 p.m. There will be an opportunity for the community to go through the school, write farewell sentiments, purchase commemorative bricks, take photos, enjoy food and music and sharing of memories.
- G. Monthly Building Update:** Our new Elementary School project continues on time and on budget. Staff are busy packing and preparing for the move to the new building. The Grand Opening celebration has been moved to Wednesday, August 29<sup>th</sup> from 5-8 p.m.

**VI. Recommendations from Superintendent:**

- A. Old Colony School Committee appointment:** Donald Williams, current Old Colony member was the only applicant for the appointment for the 2018-2021 term. Andrew Soliwoda made a motion to re-appointment Donald Williams to a three year term. Andrew Cardarelli second the motion. Approved 4-0.
- B. School Committee Meeting Schedule for 2018-2019:** The committee discussed meeting dates for next school year. Ordinarily, the Committee meets the second month of each month unless there are exceptions (i.e. holidays). The August meeting was moved to August 13, the October meeting moved to October 15 and the November meeting moved to November 5.
- C. Field Trip Requests:** Andrew Soliwoda made a motion to approve the following out of state trips: Lady Crusader Basketball Team to Presidential Mountain Range and Six Flags on July 20, 2018 and International Trip to Italy, France and Spain for April 12 to April 20, 2019. Andrew Cardarelli second the motion. Approved 5-0.
- D. Budget Transfers** Brad Brothers presented several line item transfers and gave explanations for the request for FY 18 budget. Andrew Soliwoda made a motion to approve the transfers as presented, Andrew Cardarelli second. Approved 5-0.

**VIII. Reports from the School Committee:** Andrew Soliwoda thanked the Student Council and Culinary Team for attending the meeting and for their outstanding accomplishments. Gina Hanlon-Cavicchi asked if the topic of school field upkeep could be placed on the June agenda. Mr. Knief stated that Mr. Brothers would coordinate with Mr. Siedentopf and present the information on June 11<sup>th</sup>. Stephanie Clougherty encouraged the committee and the community to participate in the upcoming Memorial Day parade. Andrew Cardarelli said he was impressed with the student presentations this evening and wished them every success. He also congratulated the Senior Class of 2018 on their upcoming graduation and activities. He reminded people the Carver Sportsman's Club has their annual scholarship breakfast on Saturday 5/19 from 8-11 a.m. James

O'Brien asked the community to take time for remembrances on Memorial Day and to be thankful for the good things happening in our town.

**IX. Executive Session:** James O'Brien asked for a motion to adjourn regular session and to enter into executive session not to return to open session for the purpose of conducting strategy in preparation for negotiations and collective bargaining with union personnel. Andrew Soliwoda made the motion, and Andrew Cardarelli second the motion. Unanimously approved 5-0, by roll call.

Meeting adjourned at 9:28 p.m.  
Respectfully submitted by Annmarie Metrano