

M I N U T E S
CARVER SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Monday, OCTOBER 15, 2018
7:00 p.m. OPEN MEETING

School Committee Present:

James O'Brien
Andrew Soliwoda
Andrew Cardarelli

Absent: Gina Marie Hanlon-Cavicchi, Stephanie Clougherty,
Jenna Sweeney, Student Council Representative

Also Present:

Joshua Kennedy & Claire Manning, Student Council Representatives
Scott Knief, Superintendent
Brad Brothers, Chief Operations and Finance Officer
Meredith Cargill, Director Curriculum, Instruction and Technology

Meeting Opened: Andrew Soliwoda opened the meeting at **7:01 pm** with Pledge of Allegiance.

Special Presentation: Representative, Susan Gifford

State Representative, Susan Gifford, attended the meeting and presented a citation from Governor, Charlie Baker, recognizing the construction of the Carver Elementary school. In response to visiting the school building she said, "It was amazing, words cannot describe it!"

I. Comments from the General Public:

Alan Dunham, 11 Rickard Street:

Mr. Dunham shared his concerns that there have been some social media statements concerning the new sports complex and the funding. These social media statements by community members alleged that there was no money for the concession stand because the town bought two (2) dump trucks with that money. Mr. Dunham wanted to clarify that the social media allegations were incorrect. The extra money went towards equipment to maintain the new facilities.

Jim Hoffman, 8 Great Meadow Drive:

Mr. Hoffman came forward to thank Andrew Soliwoda for organizing and attending a meeting with the youth sports leaders in the Carver community. Mr. Soliwoda and the Superintendent allowed a meeting with the youth leaders to clarify questions in regards to the proposed building policy. My Hoffman also inquired as to whether or not anyone had anyone reached out of the town for additional funding from the solar projects in order to help support the field use fees and keep fees down.

II. Comments from the EAPC: EAPC President, Tom Pinto shared that the teachers present attended the evening's meeting to show their united front in achieving the contract that is "rightfully deserved". The EAPC is appealing to the school committee to agree to a fair contract. Tammy Johnson, EAPC

Vice President shared their concerns that where the town funding seems to be doing better, the school has experienced cuts in the recent past and are still operating on a cut staff. She also shared that the teachers' compensation in Carver is among the lowest in the state and this directly affects how our children are educated. She pleaded for the school committee and town to please hear them, stating "We need your support, not just in words but in action. We need to be treated with dignity and respect."

III. **Update by Student Advisory Council:**

Josh Kennedy, Student Council Vice President and Claire Manning, Student Council President
Last week Student Council attended Fall SEMASC (Southeastern Massachusetts Association of Student Councils) conference at Silver Lake Regional High School. This conference helps students to foster their leadership skills. The Student Council Executive Board also attended a state-wide Officer Workshop at Holy Cross college where they learned how to "Leave your mark as a leader."

Upcoming events for the Student Council include the following:

Oct. 19th - Tailgate outside of new sports complex, dress as homecoming theme. \$10 admissions to game, food, etc. Opportunity drawing for free thanksgiving admission tickets.

October 24th - Annual Apple Pie Social for 55+ adult communities.

Oct. 31st - Costumes for a Cure - \$1 or more donations to the Make a Wish Foundation.

IV. **Approval of Minutes**

September 17, 2018 - Regular Session Minutes

Motion: Andrew Soliwoda

Second: Andrew Cardarelli

Vote: Unanimous

September 17, 2018 - Executive Session Minutes 6:30p

Motion: Andrew Soliwoda

Second: Andrew Cardarelli

Vote: Unanimous

September 17, 2018 - Executive Session Minutes 9:30p

Motion: Andrew Soliwoda

Second: Andrew Cardarelli

Vote: Unanimous

V. **Communications**

[TeachPlus Commonwealth Policy Fellowship:](#) Jasvir MacIntosh

The Carver Public School Administration recognized Mrs. Jasvir MacIntosh, Math Teacher at Carver Middle High School for having been selected as a Teach Plus Commonwealth Fellow. Teach Plus is an organization that provides teachers an opportunity to learn about how education policy is made and how teachers can use their experience and voice to influence policy. There are twenty-four (24) teachers from across Massachusetts in the group. So far, the fellows have met with Commissioner Jeff Riley, and have also learned about writing effective op-eds and how to use research to support our positions. Moving forward, the fellows will work in smaller groups to

focus on specific projects. Participants in this program had to apply for a slot and only twenty four teachers were selected among the many applicants throughout the state. “This is a distinguished honor.” Superintendent Knief shared and also added that they are hoping to have Jasvir back towards the end of the year to share an update.

VI. Reports from the Superintendent:

A. Personnel Updates

Present at the meeting and welcomed and introduced by building principal, Janelle Holley was new teacher: Molly Travers, MHS Science.

Janelle Holley: Molly Travers, MHS Science Teacher: SMolly is joining the grade 6 MS Omega team. A graduate of UMASS Amherst with a major in Environmental Science, Molly is seeking to get her Masters degree in Education. Already, in new role as a teacher at the Middle High School, Molly has helped students transition quite smoothly.

Shw was welcomed by the School Committee and upon inquiring “What made carver stand out to you?” by Vice Chairperson, Andrew Soliwoda, Molly stated that she had worked in Plymouth and grew up in Sandwich which was a similar size to Carver and she was attracted by the smaller size district and the Middle and High School combination.

The following new hires were announced: Nicole Crowe, *Food Service*; Molly Travers, *MHS Science Teacher*, Amanda Rebelo, *MHS Special Education Paraprofessional*. The following resignations were announced: Janie Marois, *Food Service*

B. [Enrollment Report](#)

Linked above is the Official October 1 enrollment numbers. Carver’s total enrollment is 1,575 students and is down twenty one (21) students from last October. The district is still finalizing the enrollment report for students attending other schools as they collect the information and will present those numbers in November which will include what students live in Carver and don’t attend Carver Public Schools. When this report is presented, the expectation is that there is not a large shift in kids leaving Carver Schools. (i.e. The charter school number is down a bit from last year). Last year at this time, the school committee started to question why kids were leaving and at the end of the 2017-2018 school year into the 2018-2019 school year the district tried to survey students as they have left. This data will be presented at the next school committee meeting in November as well as the student exit data as well in terms of choices students are making and why they are enrolling elsewhere.

C. [AP and SAT Score Report:](#) Janelle Holley

Principal, Janelle Holley provided an overview of Carver’s AP scores from last spring and our SAT scores for the graduating class of 2018. The SAT scores were shown in comparison not only to our scores in the past but also the the past and current state and global scores. While reviewing the data, that showed how many of our students scored above the benchmarks, she explained that the Evidence based reading and writing (ERW) and math benchmarks were different with benchmark scores of 480 and 530 respectively. As a community we are out performing both the state and globally. Massachusetts has the highest SAT rates in the country. 4% of our students from last

year scored among the 1400 -1600 range.

There was a significant amount more to look at in regards to Advanced Placement (A.P.) data. 85% of Carver AP students scored 3 or higher which was a difference from 61% last year. Mrs. Holley shared that although many AP courses are offered at the Middle High School, some AP courses are not offered in a traditional classroom setting but Carver offers additional opportunities with AP via online classes (i.e. Art history) Administration uses the data presented to find out where students need more support to achieve success. Mrs. Holley acknowledged that most of the dips in scores have been in science and shared that the standards for Science have changed and they are moving as a department and district in working towards an upward trend.

There is tremendous push nationwide for students to take A.P. courses. With the concept of a college level curriculum, the College Board recommends that every student should take at least one (1) A.P. class in order to prepare them for a college level course and workload. Psychology is one A.P. course that has been considered an accessible A.P. course in addition to A.P. Language & Composition. Carver has also been encouraging our students to take more classes, Psychology being one of those areas where we are seeing more students participate. Knowing these trends helped the committee to view the data and reflect effectively knowing so many students take these particular exams.

D. **2018 MCAS Scores:** Meredith Cargill

Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Technology, Meredith Cargill, presented the annual overview of the schools' MCAS scores for students in grades 3-10 as well as as the transition to the Next Generation MCAS Exam. The state of Massachusetts is influx when it comes to the MCAS assessment statewide. The Next Generation MCAS exams were given to students in grades 3-8 in ELA and Math where the Legacy MCAS (former MCAS) was given in grade 10 for ELA and Math - the high school graduation requirement - and Science in grade 9 - also a high school graduation requirement - as well as grades 5 and 8.

The MCAS scores are based upon students ability to access content and skills outlined in the updated Massachusetts frameworks. For the Next Generation test, 500 - is the line of demarcation between meeting and not meeting the expectations. These tests are significantly more difficult.

Achievement & growth:

In grade 5, Carver students exceeded the state standards. In grade 7, were we above the state by about two-thirds (%) and although we didn't meet the 500 benchmark, we still exceeded the state average. In grade 5 math, Carver exceeded the state as well. Once more in grade 7, we fell below the state average, but still exceeded the state by percentage.

In regards to how many of the scores fell under the benchmark and how immediate the need is to address the issues it is important to look at some of the scores that are very close to the line, that could be a difference of only one or two students. A complete and accurate review would also have to look at data trending overtime in order to properly review and perfect data, keeping in mind also that students in Massachusetts in a short time have gone from MCAS Legacy to PARCC to computer based testing and now to MCAS Next Generation.

With all of those things are being looked at and addressed, Mr. Knief shared that administration takes an immediate look for concern as to why the data fell that way, (i.e. is there an instructional or curriculum issue that needs to be addressed? and then also looks over time to get a more accurate snapshot. He noted that as a committee and school they also have to be globally minded and look at the fact that overall, Carver is above the mark when looking at grade 10 MCAS scores, A.P. scores and SAT scores) Meredith Cargill has also spent time with the District's Math Coach, Jenn Kelley and Director of Literacy, Michelle Taylor, looking at the numbers and analyzing the data, looking year to year in each grade level to see where they are improving - for instance in grade 6 to grade 7 there was an improvement in the overall scores.

Gap Narrowing: (cpi - advanced or proficient)

The data showed that achievement percentile for students with disabilities are outperforming in comparison to all students, meaning that Carver is performing at the 65th percentile in that area. and Carver is doing well with those subgroups in the elementary / middle school levels.

MCAS Comparison Data

In terms of grades 5 - 8, and then to grade 10, we are seeing the grade 10 scores really soar as opposed to middle school where we are creeping up leaving one to wonder if it is because it is a high stakes test and grade 10 students are taking it more seriously? It's important also to keep in mind that these students are taking different tests, as grade 10 is still taking the paper based Legacy exam and grade 8 students are taking the computer based Next Gen. test. Science tests are not administered every year either, only in grades 5, 8 and 9, so it is also difficult to track progress and there is also a lot of varied curriculum in those three years. Proving an accurate comparison to the surround districts and state is also difficult because schools are offered a choice of which science curriculum they are going to test their students in. More schools than not are taking the Biology MCAS where Carver students are taking the Physics MCAS. Carver administers the Physics test, as that is what our students are learning in their 9th grade year and we have chosen to give the Science MCAS in grade 9 so the MCAS graduation requirement of the three different tests (ELA, Math, and Science) are not all given in one academic year. The grade 9 students last year performed well. The data provided is summary data of the overall percentage of students taking different tests in different grades in 9th or 10. This data is just a piece of the larger picture. Administration is always looking at all kinds of data to make sure they are making the best decisions on how to best support our students.

Accountability Changes:

Carver's designation on the presented data is: "Partially meeting targets - not requiring assistance."

The state wants to be sure that all students achieve at a higher level. In order to make certain they achieve this goal, the state and federal government through E.S.A. identified subgroups who had historically performed low. The subgroups differentiated between all students, economically disadvantaged and students with disabilities Anytime a district has 20 students or more, the state has to report it. Mr. Knief will cover the accountability changes in an additional presentation at the November school committee meeting.

E. **Grand Opening Ceremony Track & Field**

The first game played on the new turf field was Friday, October 12, which was also the Middle High school's homecoming football game. Mr. Knief shared: "The students were so excited and proud. Their pride was tangible." Administration is in the process of planning the Grand Opening Ceremony for the new track and field. The delay was in part in an effort to be certain the field and track were ready and completed before planning the event. The ceremony is tentatively scheduled for Saturday, November 3, 2018. They are also working with members of the Hitchcock family, the brothers and sister of PFC William F. Hitchcock, the gentleman whom the field is dedicated, to make sure they can be there as well. The ceremony will include several speakers including representatives from the Carver Preservation Committee (CPC), the Field Study Committee, and the school. There will be an official ribbon cutting and then the track and field will be open to the public to tour. There is also plans to have a jamboree of youth sports during that day.

F. [School Committee Policy Manual](#)

The School Committee Policy Manual has been placed on the school website with links to each individual policy. There is more discussion to be had in order to add the additional links to "frequently referenced policies" for ease of navigation.

VII. **Recommendations from the Superintendent**

A. **Capital Outlay Plan**

[Capital Outlay Plan Presentation](#) | [Capital Outlay Plan Spreadsheet](#)

Brad Brothers presented an overview of the 10 year Capital Plan proposal which has been reviewed by all school administration. There is a small amount of funds in the Capital Improvement available for **FY20** based on many current capital fixed expenses (MHS renovations, new Fire Department building, etc.) being charged to this account. A PowerPoint and excel document were attached to the agenda and shared. In total the school is asking for support of their budget: \$577,000 out of an estimated \$949,217 total available from last year (new totals to come from the town) Below is an abbreviated summary of areas of priority:

Carver Elementary:

Replacement plans for capital items. TBD

Townwide Technology:

PC replacement

50 Chromebooks

Townwide Comcast One (recurring and townwide server system)

Transportation:

Replacement of 2008 busses

7-D minivan for Special Education

The current van has high mileage

7-D wheelchair minivan.

This purchase would provide the district with a third as one year use of new van already has 25,000 miles.

Middle High School:

Upgrades to the Camera system

Basketball Baskets/Hoops in Gym

Repaint the Tennis and Basketball courts.

Perhaps it would be possible for this to come from a CPC budget line.

Update Culinary Classroom

Administration is looking into restructuring and adding more programs. The culinary department is already a strength and operates in an antiquated space. Scott Knief shared that it is tremendous what Chef Portelance is able to do in such a outdated space and that if we have programs like this outside of core classes, we can invite students to stay in Carver schools that would like additional opportunities.

FY21:

Add Irrigation Systems to fields that don't have it

Middle High School Cafeteria Equipment

They have continued to updated a little year to year.

Middle High School Speakers

Middle High School Gymnastics Equipment

Locker room replacement (whole total represents all 4 locker rooms)

FY 24:

Auditorium renovation

Track repainted

Although it was just completed the track will need to be repainted every 6-7 years and so the school has planned for that for the future with time to think about where that would come from.

The estimate figures for the repairs came from old estimates (Habeeb and Scott) who did a total assessment of the entire Middle High School building 3 - 4 years ago. Mr. Brothers shared that while all of these items are top priorities, laying it out the way they have was the best way to make it all work.

- Camera System MHS
- Town Wide Technology - Yearly expenditure
- Culinary Classroom
- Irrigation of Fields
- Concession Stand
- Bathroom Fixtures
- Library Renovation
- Auditorium Renovation
- Locker rooms
- Lockers
- Parking Lot

Motion: Andrew Soliwoda made a motion to approve the Capital Outlay Plan.

Second: Andrew Cardarelli

Vote: Unanimous

With the intent to build the concession stand in 2022, Committee members inquired as to

whether or not we could ask students from Old Colony to build it as a project for them. Mr. Brothers shared that there have been many other options as well, people have even offered to build it, if the school will purchase the materials, however one of the concerns would certainly be code and regulations, etc. This item was pushed back to 2022 because it was either the concession stand or irrigation and the use of the fields as compared to the concession stand is a greater need. It was also acknowledged that there are certain things that students deal with on a daily basis that need to be attended to that have been pushed back like the lockers at the Middle High School. The lockers have been pushed back on the list of urgency, because there is a trend across the area and schools are finding that students aren't really using the lockers anymore, more specifically in high school. The bathroom updates are currently being attended to as all the partitions are being replaced in the high school. . In closing the discussion, the committee said that they would like to see a more accurate quote for the upgrades and renovations of the locker rooms.

B. Policy KG | KGR: Community Use of School Facilities

[original policy](#) | [proposed revision](#) | [Survey](#)

This will was the third reading of the Community Use of School Facilities Policy. On Wednesday, October 3, 2018, Andrew Soliwoda, School Committee Vice Chair, hosted a meeting of representatives from all the local sports organizations and the Recreation Committee to review and discuss the proposed policy and fees. The consensus of the meeting of the recreation organizations was that the new fields need to be maintained and that the cost should be carried by all parties, but how much should be carried on whose shoulders. Each of the leaders showed the impact of their organizations under the new fees structure. As a school committee we are committed to looking at other options for our local groups. As a result of the meeting, the administration is considering looking at different options for a fee structure. The school administration would like to begin charging fees as appropriate for Non-Carver groups and would propose that we approve the policy except for the fee structure for community groups.

The school committee thanked those 12 -15 youth leaders in the community. The school committee and administration felt as though everyone has a united goal: how best to support kids in the community. The committee is planning to have something more concrete for 2019 which would give spring sports time to lay this out for their seasons. Mr. O'Brien shared that he would love to see these meeting continue, as it's nice to hear from all angles and work together for what is best all around.

Motion: Andrew Soliwoda made a motion to approve Policy KG: Community Use of School Facilities except for the fee structure for Carver Youth, Recreation, and Non-Profit groups. Allowing the opportunity to look at outside groups and what they would bring in before creating a fee structure for the youth organizations in town.

Second: Andrew Cardarelli

Mr. Knief supported the motion as his recommendation as well. He noted that throughout the process the intent was to have these fees roll out next year and it is important to take the time now to look into what's best. There will be a fee structure of some sort, but the administration and school committee is certainly willing to modify the proposal.

With the adoption of this policy, the fees for outside use or for profit would go into effect immediately (Clarified by Michael Milanowski, Town Administrator) The language will be adopted, the fees structure under OTHER is also adopted. Anyone using the building for profit would incur these fees immediately. Under item number 6 (Police), current practice would be followed based on recommendation from police department and largely based upon number of people in attendance. Security guards would also be paid for by outside groups. Current, protocol for custodial or police fees in the spring for town groups would be followed and is decided on a case by case basis by the Director of Facilities. The turf fees will go into a separate account to specifically take care of the turf.

Michael Milanowski, Town Administrator, addressed the committee acknowledging that what lies before the school committee with this policy is a difficult position. The town has made significant efforts to improve recreation and part of that is to offer kids more opportunities. The town has not been able to maintain the level of expectation without funds and there does have to be a revenue source coming in to maintain this level of maintenance worthy of these great fees. With lots of competing interests within the town, it is important to take a long term view on how to maintain.

Vote: Unanimous

Discussion about access of the field and track continued after the proposed motion was voted. The Superintendent shared that they are looking for guidance on when the community can access and that the school has been looking to balance security vs. access. Custodians are not on shift from Friday night to Monday morning, on weeknights a custodian could go out and lock the facility at dusk, but there is still a question about weekends and summer time. In order to protect the field in un-monitored hours, the school is looking at redesigning the gate entry in order to prohibit vehicle access.

Mr. Milanowski continued the discussion by sharing that C.P.C. funds were used to build the field, and the intent is that this facility is available for townspeople to use. During the academic year the hours would be restricted, and townspeople can not have access to the facility on school grounds during the school day, understandably so, but afterwards they should have the right to do so. It is the town's intention, he said, to prosecute to the full extent for any damage done to the facility. He also offered kudos to the Superintendent for making the clear distinction that this facility is the "Carver Field" not just for the Crusaders Middle High School teams.

James O'Brien, School Committee Chair, liked the dusk to dawn hours of access under the management and jurisdiction of the schools, however weekends are still the issue with no one scheduled to be there. Mr. Milanowski added that there are options for weekend coverage, like coordination with the Police Department and the Town Facilities Department. Superintendent, Scott Knief agreed with the dusk to dawn hours of access, stating that all want to maintain the field, yet it is a community project that was funded by community and should be appreciated by community.

C. [FY 19 Budget Transfer Requests: Brad Brothers](#)

Brad Brothers, Chief Operations and Finance Officer, reviewed a series of budget transfers for FY 19. There were no major changes from large scale items. He highlighted the follow items:

Line 166: A savings from vocational due to contracted services with Plymouth and Middleboro.

Transportation: Reflecting a poor scenario this early in the year.

Utility Lines: There is not enough data yet for Natural Gas, but the electricity at Carver Elementary is in. The electricity use of the climate control system has already been scaled back due to the frequency of the fans, which were continually running. The construction company was paying this bill until they recently turned it over. The schools will have a different rate as a municipality that will also reflect some cost savings, but if they only see a 10% savings back they still are not in a great spot. Mr. Brothers projects that the school will exceed this projected cost. They do however, have one time money set aside to offset this, so it won't affect the overall budget.

Special Ed Tuitions: Currently, the school is \$80,000 short for Special Education tuitions. The number has increased by \$30,000 already since preparing the document for the meeting. The school had two unanticipated outplacements this year in addition to the rising cost of tuition. Overall there is a shortfall of \$555,000, but the town does have an account to offset this.

Motion: Andrew Soliwoda made a motion to approve the FY19 Budget Transfers

Second: Andrew Cardarelli

Vote: Unanimous

D. **Field Trips:**

[Grade 8 - New York City, 12/14/2018](#)

Motion: Andrew Soliwoda.

Second: Andrew Cardarelli

Vote: Unanimous

[Grade 7 - Trinity Repertory Theatre - Providence, 12/4/18](#)

Motion: Andrew Soliwoda.

Second: Andrew Cardarelli

Vote: Unanimous

VIII. **Reports from the School Committee:**

Andrew Cardarelli: Congratulated Mr. Ward. He is deserving and I am proud to call him my friend. He is a genuinely good person and really cares about people. From our last meeting I also want to thank everyone who came out to our "Fill it Up" food pantry event.

James O'Brien: Was disappointed to have to have contentious issues in order to fill the room, however he is looking forward to the incredible things that are happening and to come in the future. There is a long road to go, but let's keep communication open and keep looking ahead.

Andrew Soliwoda: The event for Mr. Ward really went great, I was really proud to attend and he

was someone I really looked up to, so many others felt the same way. He offered kudos to Scott Knief and Ruby Maestas for orchestrating such a great event.

IX. Executive Session:

Motion: Andrew Soliwoda made a motion to go to executive session and not return to regular session in order to conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiation/collective bargaining with union personnel not to return to regular session.

Second: Andrew Cardelli

Vote: Unanimous

Meeting Moved to Executive Session at 9:25p

Minutes respectfully recorded and submitted by: Gina Marie Rush

NEXT REGULAR MEETING:
Monday, November 5, 2018
7:00 p.m. OPEN MEETING