

M I N U T E S  
**CARVER SCHOOL COMMITTEE**  
**Monday, NOVEMBER 5, 2018**  
7:00 p.m. OPEN MEETING

**School Committee Present:**

James O'Brien  
Andrew Soliwoda  
Andrew Cardarelli  
Stephanie Clougherty

**Absent:** Gina Marie Hanlon-Cavicchi, Jenna Sweeney, Student Advisory Council

**Also Present:**

Scott Knief, Superintendent  
Brad Brothers, Chief Operations and Finance Officer

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**Meeting Opened:** Andrew Soliwoda opened the meeting at **7:00 pm** with Pledge of Allegiance.

Recognition: James O'Brien thanked and recognized Mr. Scott Knief, Superintendent of Schools with a certificate of service as November celebrates 25 years of service to Carver Public Schools as a student teacher, teacher, coach, Assistant Principal, Principal and Superintendent.

**Recognition:** Villa Per Se Immersion Program, Carver Elementary

Several Carver families participated in hosting five (5) 4th and 5th grade students from Peru the last week in October. Principal, Ruby Maestas was the coordinator of the experience and shared an overview of the program as well as a slideshow of images that highlighted the students experience throughout the week.

The goal of the program is for students from Carver and Lima to gain a better understanding of each other (language, culture, traditions, etc.) Peruvian students traveled with a parent and stayed with host families for 5 days (6 nights) and attended classes and in-school activities at Carver Elementary School and enjoyed experiences after school in extracurricular activities and Halloween traditions, family dinners, etc.

Mrs. Maestas recognized the following families and teachers thanking them for their generosity and warm welcome to Carver and our schools: The Blackwell's, Duffy's, Gingrich's/Crump's, Ryan's/Nelson's, Sexton's and Lyman's as well as teachers Mrs. Tarquini, Mrs. Balboni, Mr. Maceachen, Mrs. Lewis and Mrs. Cassani. Several of the families were present at the meeting and parents and students shared a little bit about their experience:

The overwhelming response from the testimonies shared by families were the lasting relationships built between the Carver and Peruvian families and the amount that they had learned from one another. Mr. Knief thanked the families once more and Mrs. Maestas for her leadership.

**I. Comments from the General Public:**

None

- II. **Comments from the EAPC:** Tammy Johnson, EAPC Vice President responded first to the last school committee meeting and shared her desire for the public to know that over 60 people showed up to show their support for the Teachers Union at the last meeting and are represented at school committee meetings throughout the year as well as presenting with their students. Teachers want what is best for our students and support each other. The EAPC is afraid that we are headed down a direction that will not keep and maintain all of the teachers in the district. The Carver teachers are waiting for the school committee to provide for the teachers and children .

Mr. O'Brien responded to Mrs. Johnson's comments to clarify of his statement made at the end of the last school committee meeting sharing that his point made in the statement was not conveyed as it was meant or intended.

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

None

**IV. Approval of Minutes**

October 15, 2018 - Regular Session Minutes

**Motion:** Andrew Soliwoda

**Second:** Andrew Cardarelli

**Vote:** Unanimous

October 15, 2018 - Executive Session Minutes

**Motion:** Andrew Soliwoda

**Second:** Andrew Cardarelli

**Vote:** Unanimous - Stephanie Clougherty - abstained as she was not present.

**V. Reports from the Superintendent:**

**A. Personnel Updates**

The following personnel updates were announced: A new hire Debora DeMeireles, Food Service, who was a food service sub at beginning of the year, and the resignation of Jacqueline Murtha, Bus Driver. The following personnel changes were also mentioned: Jill Tabke to Cook/Manager at MHS, in the place of the late Eileen Walling and Denise Manning, Special Ed Para moved from a part time position to a full time paraprofessional position at Carver Elementary.

**B. [October 1 - Student Migration Data](#)  
[Private Schools/Outside Enrollment](#) | [10 Year Review](#)**

Last month, the school committee looked at the school districts' October 1 enrollment numbers. The enrollment total was down by twenty-one (21) students as compared to 2017. Several documents were provided for review: A list of students who live in Carver but are being educated in another way (Private School) and a 10 year review of the number of students who live in Carver and have been educated in another way. (10-Year Review). A review of the data revealed:

- In 2018 there are 5 additional students who live in Carver but are seeking educational alternatives. These 5 students represent 23% of the decrease of enrollment (5 of 21 students). Last year, the decrease in enrollment was 52 students and 17 of the 52 still lived in Carver but were seeking educational alternatives. So the decrease in enrollment has been reduced by 60% in a year over year comparison. The five (5) additional students seeking educational alternatives represents a 2% increase over last year.
- 16 of the 21 student decrease in enrollment is the result of demographic changes (students moving out of town and changes in total population)
- The percentage of students who live in Carver but are seeking educational alternatives has grown steadily over the past 10 years. At the same time students options have increased through charter schools and virtual academies.
- Charter School enrollment decreased from 42 to 38 students
- School Choice enrollment increased by 1 student from 7 to 8
  - Carver has 30 students enrolled via school choice, including 10 additional students when we opened school choice for grades 6-9 to date this number has already grown to 35 since October 1 numbers.
- Virtual Academy enrollment stayed level at 10 students
- Agricultural school enrollment increased from 3 to 7
- Old Colony Vocational enrollment decreased from 92 to 91 students
- Religious Private School enrollment increased from 47 to 51
- Home School students increased from 28 to 29 students
- Students attending private academies remained steady at 8 students

### C. [Student/Family Withdrawals Survey Data](#)

For the past year, Carver Public Schools have been asking parents to complete an exit survey when they leave the district for any reason. To date, fifty-four (54) families have completed the survey. Mr. Knief reviewed several documents including a chart review of where these students are attending, and a graph which identified the students reasons for enrolling in another school.

The largest response was vocational and seventeen (17) families said they were moving. When looking at the data it is important to note that several families checked off more than one box when providing their reasons for withdrawal (i.e. they were moving to a different town, but may have also checked athletics or peer relations as an additional reason) Administration didn't find that parents or students identified any one particular theme or direction of a red flag of things that they need to be particularly concerned about, but are carefully combing through the data as all opinions are valued.

In looking at the data, Mr. Knief shared that of course demographic shifts can not be controlled and students choosing vocation will happen no matter what as the trend shows true for over 20 years at Old Colony with a consistent 90-95 students on average that enroll from Carver Public Schools per year. The withdrawal survey data is one of three presentations that will link together including accountability data and then a vision statement on the school's direction on how to mitigate the movement towards other schools by offering additional opportunities, vocationally, etc. The focus would be what can be done to retain kids from school choice or attending charter schools, etc.

Mr. Soliwoda thanked the school administration for this data as it is been something the School Committee has been looking forward to seeing for sometime. A shared concern and hope was given in regards to looking at this data and identifying and filling in the gaps.

D. [Accountability Data](#) - Scott Knief, Superintendent of Schools

Mr. Knief reviewed the basics concepts behind the new accountability process from DESE and explained the districts rating in the system. The system has to include indicators beyond test scores, student growth and participation rate. The new indicators include chronic absenteeism, graduation rate, dropout rate and students taking advanced coursework in grades 11 and 12.

The main difference in the new system from the former is the discontinuation of the level system and the placement of districts in accountability categories to include additional accountability indicators, which provide information about the district beyond test scores. This new system seeks to raise performance for students all around using various focuses. There is no connection between old data and new data and it was stressed upon the schools not make connections with the previous systems, as there is no linking bridge. Compared to old system which had five (5) levels, the new system has only two (2). Rob Curtain, developer of the system found that so many schools and committees would get so stuck on levels of their school and the data didn't really even support that. This new system is not vertical and instead is a horizontal scale. The accountability categories are as follows:

Schools without required assistance/intervention (-85%)				Schools requiring assistance/intervention (-15%)	
Schools of recognition	Meeting targets	Partially meeting targets	Not meeting targets	Focused/targeted support	Broad/comprehensive support
Schools demonstrating high achievement, significant improvement, or high growth	Percentage of Target Points 75-100	Percentage of Target Points 50-74	Percentage of Target Points 0-49	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Schools with percentiles 1-10</li> <li>Schools with low graduation rate</li> <li>Schools with low performing subgroups</li> <li>Schools with low participation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Underperforming schools</li> <li>Chronically underperforming schools</li> </ul>

In order to establish these targets, the DESE placed schools in quartiles according to schools performance on MCAS or PARCC from 2013-2016 the DESE then determined what reasonable growth looked like in each quartile based over that time period. The DESE placed schools into quartiles based on 2017 scores and established each schools growth target based upon the reasonable growth from 2013-2016. The key is that schools and districts growth target was based

on 1 year of scores. If your school's scores were in the Top 10% of the state you would earn 3 or 4 points whether or not you meet your target. If your average scale score is in the top 10% of the state, whether you meet target or not, you automatically get 4 points. We do have an example of that - at the Middle High School for grades 10 ELA grade 10 (reminder the legacy mcas scoring system) we didn't meet targets but we got all 4 points for each of those that each of these scores were in the top 10 of the state scores. You could go down .3 and have no change. Over down by more than .3 then you get a negative or decline. Lowest performing students are also included in your "all students" category which means your lowest performing students are in fact carrying quite a bit of the data and a real focus on improving your lowest scoring students.

After a review of Carver's data, the important information to note is:

- Targets were established based on only 1 year of data.
- The students identified as "Lowest 25%", "High Needs" and "Special Education" performed well
- We need to evaluate and look to strengthen the performance and growth of all students
- Our rating puts Carver as an improving school district partially meeting targets
- The accountability points measure how much your student grew. Any school with a score over 50% you are an improving school district. Carver's score is 60%. We are an improving school as a whole.
- We need to focus on new performance indicators:
  - Chronic Absenteeism - CES and CMHS
  - Advance Coursework - CMHS
  - Graduation Rate - CMHS
  - Drop-Out Rate - CMHS
- Rob Curtin, Associate Commissioner of Data and Accountability DESE, said it best: "The accountability system is one piece of evidence, it is certainly not the only element that represents a quality school"

School Committee Chairperson, James O'Brien noted he was glad to know that the data is going to be based on a range over years because things are changing for students and educators alike and are still in such transition as our data systems and student assessments moved from MCAS to PARCC to MCAS next Gen, paper-based to computer based, etc.

The data report for Carver Public Schools is shared publicly and can be found online at [www.doe.mass.edu](http://www.doe.mass.edu).

#### E. [Educational BluePrint - Budget Planning](#)

This presentation is the beginning of the budget process for FY19. In the presentation, Mr. Knief linked new positions designed to assist the district in restructuring to the Educational Blueprint. It assumed a level service budget and made a clear statement of the positions the school district believes it will need to fill over the next 5 years to achieve their objectives.

The presentation focused on six key areas of development:

- Implement Safe and Supportive Schools Initiative
- Increase Supports for Early Childhood Education
- Develop a Career and Technical Education Program at CMHS
- Increase Enrollment in AP Courses
- Increase Dual Enrollment Opportunities
- Integrate Technology to have students Explore, Design and Create
- Work Effective with Town to Maintain New School Facilities

Tier III Funding has supported funding in positions. The administration would like to take some of that funding and move it towards program and away from people or positions.

The Career and Tech education would require a restructure of program of studies at the Middle High School. The school has sent a team of teachers to Bourne and Mashpee (CTE program) to look at their Pathways in education programs, which are core classes aligned with electives that support them. For instance, electives like Culinary and Health and Wellness would support a career path in Nutrition or EMTs. Career paths or interests in manufacturing, engineering, or technology would align with classes based in robotics, programming or CAD. Business Entrepreneurial career tracks would offer electives in economics and personal finance and Graphic Arts interests would allow for electives like yearbook as course and an offering of performing arts beyond chorus and band. Some of these changes can be achieved by reshuffling things we already have in place, where some of these items will take more to build. Our MHS Math department has already shown an interest in and is working with programming and coding courses. Middle High School Principal, Janelle Holley, Assistant Principal Michael Schultz and Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Technology, Meredith Cargill will propose what a full structure would look like and will be looking at many other districts that are supporting these needs with this grant.

The implementation of the safe schools initiative would allow for an additional Elementary School adjustment counselor and a MHS Guidance Counselor, an additional Health Teacher (which would allow for a health curriculum for all students in grades 6-8) as well as a BCBA Behavioral Assistant and Social Coaches.

The additional of townwide positions would also be implemented in a .4 Technology Support person and a .4 Groundskeeper to help maintain facilities and programs.

The presentation contained a full list of positions with associated costs that the school administration would be proposing to add in FY19 including but not limited to a full time ESL teacher for the MHS (currently a .5 position) and the re-assignment of full time paraprofessionals at the Kindergarten level. This plan is a build out over time, but the administration feels it its important to engage in the discussion about where we are hoping to go as a district.

## VI. Recommendations from the Superintendent

### A. First Reading of Policy KHB: Advertising [original policy](#) | [proposed revisions](#)

The Policy sub-committee brought forward a revision to the School Committee Advertising Policy. (KHB) This was the first reading of the policy that would allow advertising on school property and grounds. The policy would also allow the school and committee to make regulations on the ads and permissions. No action was taken or required. The second reading of this policy will be scheduled for the December school committee meeting.

The committee expressed their recommendations perhaps changing some of the language such as “at the discretion of the Superintendent” with no disrespect intended, but to move to more uniform language for future planning. All members agreed there was a lot to think about in regards to this policy and they felt it would be important to have very clear distinctions on the policy as well as how to move forward.

## VII. Reports from the School Committee:

**Andrew Cardarelli:** Happy Veterans Day and Happy Thanksgiving!

**James O'Brien:** Regardless of who you're going for, your voice is always important. Have a safe and Happy Thanksgiving.

**Andrew Soliwoda:** Within the next 24 - 48 hours, field hockey and boys soccer teams will be playing in next round of tournaments. Wishing them luck, wishing football team best of luck on Thanksgiving. The sectional semifinals for boys soccer will be Thursday evening, November 8 in Carver and the Co-ed Field hockey team will play in the Semi-finals on Wednesday, November 7 in Taunton, this is the first time in history they have made it this far in their season.

**Stephanie Clougherty:** Congratulations to everyone and best of luck to all of our teams. Thanks to our veterans - Cranberry Village will be having a breakfast for veterans and the Elementary school will have their Veteran celebration on Friday, November 9. The Athletic Boosters will be having their annual fundraiser at Cabby Shack on November 17 and Happy Thanksgiving. In light of most recent news, please do not drive around school busses.

## VIII. 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:** Stephanie Clougherty

**Vote:** Unanimous

Meeting Moved to Executive Session at 9:25p

Minutes respectfully recorded and submitted by: Gina Marie Rush

**NEXT REGULAR MEETING: Monday, DECEMBER 10, 2018 7:00 p.m. OPEN MEETING**