

# CARVER SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Thursday, October 10, 2019

7:00 p.m. OPEN MEETING

Town Hall, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Meeting Room 1

## **School Committee Present:**

Andrew Cardarelli  
Jason Greenwood  
James O'Brien

## **Not Present:**

Stephanie Clougherty  
Andrew Soliwoda

## **Also Present:**

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

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**Meeting Opened:** Andrew Cardarelli opened the meeting at **7:01p.m.** with the Pledge of Allegiance.

## **Recognition** - Madalin Vaillancourt - Grade 6

Madalin Vaillancourt, current grade 6 student donated \$205 to the running path and also donated to the Carver Food Pantry in lieu of her birthday gifts. She was recognized for her generosity and her great civic action by recognizing needs in the community. Mr. Knief shared with Madelin and the committee that the Carver Elementary has been raising money from different avenues, currently at about \$50,000, and are now looking at contractors to start the running path project. The project cannot begin until ownership of the fields has been taken back from Central Nurseries which is due to be turned over upon completion in November and that they are likely to see movement on the running path in the spring as they decided how to best to invest the \$50,000 into building the path. Anyone who wants to donate to the Carver Education Foundation for the running path can send a check to the school department made out to "CEF."

## **Introduction of New Teachers:**

The administrative team including Mr. Knief, Superintendent; Mr. Schultz, Middle High Principal; and Mrs. Maestas, Elementary Principal, agreed and acknowledged that the hiring of staff is the most important job they do. "The teachers are our foundation," they said, "and the key to educational success in the classroom." The processes and procedures they have in place for hiring include administration as well as teachers on the panel and they really look closely at the characteristics they are looking for in an educator, seek to hire the best they can, and support them the best they can so our children have the most important experiences.

Principals, Ruby Maestas and Michael Schultz introduced the following new teachers to the School Committee:

**Jocelyn Kelley:** Grade 5 Teacher; Certified Teacher for grades 1-6; working on Masters from American International College; worked at Carver Elementary School as a special education paraprofessional for 4 years and served as a long term sub in grade 3 last year

- Kaitlyn Cronin:** Grade 5 Teacher; Certified Teacher for grades 1-6; served as a long term substitute teacher in grade 5 in another district last year.
- Kate Moore:** Reading Specialist/Coach; Masters from Lesley University and CAGS from American International College; formerly a classroom teacher, a special ed teacher and instructional coach with expertise in her position; Recipient of award to study in New Zealand
- John Phipps:** Speech & Language Pathologist; Masters in Communication; has worked at Boston Medical Center and Puddingstone Place in Middleboro; formerly a teacher in South Korea for several years
- Christine Thomas:** Grade 4 Teacher; Masters in Elementary Education from Curry College; a part time Pre-K teacher last year; worked on her practicum in grade 4 at Carver Elementary.
- Sean Allaire:** Physical Education Teacher; Certified in physical Education in grades K-12; Graduate of Plymouth State, NH; Formerly a student teacher and long term substitute teacher in Fairhaven.
- Michael Doyle:** Special Education Teacher; working in C.A.P. program; formerly a paraprofessional in the same program and was a long term substitute teacher last year.
- Sarah Varnerin:** Math Teacher; Graduate of U-Mass Lowell and Bridgewater State University; formerly a math teacher grades 6-8 in Somerset and in Fall River school systems.
- Dawna Vella:** English Teacher; grade 7 “phoenix” team; Graduate of Bridgewater State University; was a student teacher at Carver Middle High School last year; taught in Ecuador
- Jillian Griffin:** Music Teacher; former teacher at Bridgewater-Raynham Schools for over 10 years where she taught both instrumental and choral music; Graduate of Stanford and Boston Conservatory
- Unable to attend:**
- Lindsay Swanton:** PreK Teacher;
- Zach LeBlanc:** Special Education Teacher; liaison in grade 4
- Bonnie Moran:** Adjustment Counselor, Middle High; formerly worked in the private sector and was a consultant with Old Rochester Regional.

- I. **Comments from the General Public:** None
- II. **Comments from the EAPC:** EAPC Vice President, Tammy Johnson shared that it has been great working alongside these new teachers and the schools are so lucky to have them. The Student Opportunity Act that the MTA and EAPC has been working hard to support was passed at the Senate 39 to 0 and they were pleased to hear that they also kept the control to local communities as opposed to DESE and the Commissioner of Education. This act will give 1.4 billion dollars to education over 7 years. The process, however, is not over yet as it will still need to go to the House and Governor. The MTA and EAPC will be working hard over the next few weeks making phone calls, talking to legislators, etc. The EAPC feels strongly that needs at the top of the list for Carver is the funding for full-time Kindergarten paraprofessionals as they believe strongly that providing early childhood education is best to provide optimal chances for growth and development. In addition Mrs. Johnson shared that a new paraprofessional evaluation tool is in the works at Carver Schools and there has been a lot of positive feedback from it. She thanked the administration and school committee for their work at the recent workload committee meeting and said the teachers feel heard and listened to and it's

appreciated.

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

Student Council Representatives: Morgan Campbell, President

The month of September has consisted of a lot of planning, meetings and events for student council. At their first full Council Meeting they had 7 new members join, ranging from freshmen to juniors. On October 31st, Halloween, student council will encourage students to dress up and donate to the Make-A-Wish Foundation as they have done in years past. In order to increase participation from last year, the week before Halloween the Student Council members plan to ask teachers for a donation over five dollars to have their door decorated blue to advertise to students the importance of donating. In the month of October, the student council will have a number of leadership training opportunities. Morgan already attended the Massachusetts Association of Student Councils (MASC) Presidents' dinner in Franklin which invites every student council President in Massachusetts to come together to share ideas and go back to their schools feeling empowered. The executive board will get a similar experience at the MASC Officer Shop this week and later in the month, on October 25th, 16 students in the council will be attending a region wide conference to get the same experience as the executive board. Ms. Campbell also made it a point to thank Mr. Schultz on behalf of the student council for the effort he has put into their group. They have started to meet with him monthly to update him on what they have done and plan to do. Mr. Schultz will also be attending the full council Meeting this Tuesday and the regional conference at Walpole High School on the 25th. They feel as though his appearance in the council has helped tremendously due the support the feel from the staff behind the events they put on.

Captain's Council Representatives: Hayden Roche and Chirstopher Vincent, Boys Soccer Captains

The sports programs are at the midpoint of the fall season and Chris and Hayden were happy to share that the boys soccer team qualified for the tournament. All the sports are eager to play at night as the EEE ban still in effect. The Captains' Council has been planning for their events this year and will begin by sponsoring the annual Powder Puff Football game for Grades 9-12. This fundraiser will go towards school-wide activities and service programs. They also have plans for community service efforts like the P.A.Collation Holiday fund where last year they were able to donate \$2,000 in gifts from the teams as well as the "Be an 11" program which is a day long training day for grade 7 students which gives students an introduction to the sports available at Carver Middle High School, an opportunity to team build with their peers, and promote interest in all school activities and school pride. New this year will be the introduction of Health and Wellness week. The planning for this is still in the works, but they are hoping to sponsor it in the springtime.

### IV. **Approval of Minutes**

September 12, 2019: Open Session Minutes

**Motion:** James O'Brien

**Second:** Jason Greenwood

**Vote:** Unanimous

September 26, 2019: Joint Meeting of the Select Board and School Committee

**Motion:** James O'Brien

**Second:** Jason Greenwood

**Vote:** Unanimous

V. **Communications:** Mr. Knief reminded the Committee about the upcoming MASS/MASC Joint Conference to be held in November in Hyannis.

VI. **Reports from the Superintendent:**

A. **Personnel Updates:**

Mr. Knief reviewed the following changes in personnel at Carver Public Schools.

New Hire: **Paul Bevacqua**, *Bus Driver*; **Corinne Sherwood**, *Special Ed. Para, MHS*; **Hayley Snow**, *Special Ed. PreK Para, CES*; **Vanessa Cokinos**, *Food Service*

Resignation: **Jessica Friberg**, *Food Service*; **Judy Perry**, *Bus Driver*

B. **Virtual and Augmented Reality at CES** - Jane Kent, Teacher, Tech Media Specialist

Jane Kent has been a teacher at Carver Elementary School since 1996 and has been in the role of Technology and Media instructor for the past four years. Through the support of Donors Choose and other grants available through MassCue she has been able to fund a variety of instructional support items from “code and go mice” to “ozobot bitz.” This year, the Elementary School has purchased virtual and augmented reality devices. Donors Choose offered a cart of thirty of the virtual reality devices for classroom use, complete with an Acer laptop and it’s own wifi access signal. Google matched the grant monies plus the donors from the carver community and the Carver Elementary P.T.O. stepped up and came up with the rest. Mrs. Kent will be using these as part of her technology instruction at the Elementary school. She will also be working with teachers on how they can integrate the devices into their instructional practices. Google offers has hundreds of different excursions that teachers can take classes on through these devices with lessons that correspond allowing students to see the things they are learning about in an up close and interactive way enhancing teaching and learning. Mrs. Kent brought the devices to the meeting and took the committee on a virtual field trip to the reefs in the Philippines, Mount Everest, and even inside a shark cage in the ocean. The devices also allow for augmented reality to scale which allows students to take a look inside a volcano for instance or at a dinosaur or tornado virtually placed in their classroom that they can walk around and observe from all angles.

Mrs. Kent has used this with a variety of classes grades 2-5 and the students have really responded well to it. The committee was very impressed with this new option for learning and Mr. O’Brien added that it really expands the options of what you’re able to do with it and will only grow. He thanked Mrs. Kent for being so proactive, getting kids involved in the future of learning, and for making these opportunities happen for both students and teachers to get into the next level of learning and teaching.

C. **Enrollment Report**

Carver Public Schools total enrollment is at 1,597 which is up 22 students from last October. The enrollment report for students attending other schools has not been finalized yet, as the information is still being collected. Mr. Knief will present that report to the committee in November.

D. **AP and SAT Score Report:** Michael Schultz

Middle High School Principal, Michael Schultz provided an overview of the Advanced Placement (AP) scores from last spring and the SAT scores for the graduating class of 2020. The SAT Scores were shown as a projection over 5 years and the SAT scores reported the district, state and global are averages

based upon each student's best scores in each of the categories. Our district is out performing state and globe on SATs and have been consistently through the years. Historically, Massachusetts has been the benchmark as Massachusetts generally has scores that are stronger and have been the strongest in the country.

In regards to AP scores, overall the scores in the district are on par. This data is more complex to look at because there are lots of factors that play into it like different sized classes, several kids taking multiple tests, etc. Mr. Schultz showed the various AP results over 5 years of students who scored 3 or more on each particular exam. Students tests scored showed much higher than the state and global scores in both Calculus AB and Language & Composition. Scores were on par with state and global in both Environmental Science and European History. Any scores that dipped from the state/global average and/or from last year has been noted and the administration is meeting with department chairs and teachers to assess curriculum, and look deeper into data to be better informed. It is important to note that all percentages are skewed based upon the number of students taking the exam as well, for instance AP Psychology is one that is taken in mass quantities all around.

E. **2019 MCAS Scores:** Meredith (Cargill) Erickson

Meredith Erickson gave an overview of the 2019 MCAS scores to the committee. Having different lenses with which to look at the data, she said, is helpful to gain perspective and the opportunity to look at multiple measures. She showed the committee an example of parent report which has a scoring scale of 440 - 560 points with categories: Not Met, Partially Met, Meeting, and Exceeding. Parents who want to take a deeper look can have access to the questions in the test at the Department of Education website: [www.doe.mass.edu/mcas/parents](http://www.doe.mass.edu/mcas/parents).

In an overview, she informed the committee that the 8th grade science has the best achievement in its history at Carver Middle High, our 10th grade does consistently well on MCAS exams each year, and the number of students that meet or exceed standards is below the state average.

This data informs instruction priorities, coaching and professional development, classroom implementation, assessment, etc. for increased student achievement. She outlined the various tests results by category reviewing the following:

- **ELA:** For grades 3-8 and 10 the district reports on students meeting and exceeding show that we are below the state average in the elementary levels, but in grade 8 and 10 we have exceeded the state number. Although the Elementary levels were below average, Grade 4 showed 53.2% in growth which was above the state number of 50%.
- **Math:** For grades 5 and 10 the district reports on students meeting and exceeding show that we are above the state number and in addition grades 5, 7 and 10 had large growth percentages over 50%

In regards to gap narrowing looking at the sub-sects such as students with disabilities, economically disadvantaged students, etc., which the state takes a sample size of 10 or greater students to develop, the district's scores in ELA for students with disabilities is performing 55% greater than others in the state. In Math at the middle high school the same group is at 58% and has hit the 50.4% growth target.

The following was reflected when looking at comparison data of surrounding towns: Wareham, Halifax, Middleborough, East Bridgewater, Abington, Plymouth, Rockland, Kingston, Pembroke and West Bridgewater.

- **ELA:**                   **Grade 5** was at the bottom 3 and was below the state level  
                                  **Grade 8** was in the top three  
                                  **Grade 10** came in just below state and in the bottom 3
  
- **Math:**                   **Grade 5** was above the state average and was in the top 4  
                                  **Grade 8** was just below the state average and fell in the middle  
                                  **Grade 10** matched the state average and fell in the middle
  
- **Science:**               **Grade 5** was just below the state average and fell in the middle  
                                  **Grade 8** was above the state average and was 2nd to the top  
                                  **Grade 10** was just above the state average and fell in the middle

**Action Steps:**

In response to the scores, math and reading coaches ran data meetings for teachers to review their data and identify student strengths and areas for improvement. There has also been the implementation of teams in grades 3-5 and a new math curriculum introduced. Coaches and team teachers take data to heart and really use it to put it into best practice. For example, data showed that two years ago 1/3 of the students in grade 3 didn't answer the essay questions, in response, there was a new focus for this past year and they saw growth there. A new challenge identified is the equation editor in the Next Generation computer based test, as it seems to be hard for smaller kids to do the work on paper and translate online editor.

At the Middle High School, department chairs have analyzed data with their departments to determine relative strengths and areas for improvement and have also conducted an item analysis of the test and analyzed teacher level data.

Mr. Greenwood asked if there were any other areas of need (ie. fractions) that seemed to be areas of concern. Mrs. Erickson noted that while the data gathering process is still going on at the Middle High School level given their introduction to Next Gen recently, the elementary showed a weakness in number sense algebraic thinking. The new Bridges in Math program is already addressing this with students this year. Kate Moore, the new Reading Coach, has also shared out, based on feedback, some rubrics that are aligned with MCAS that can assist teachers in giving students critical feedback on ways they can perform better or adjust their writing more fully to meet expectations.

Mr. Cardarelli noted how great it was to see the grade 8 science scores at such a high achievement level and also inquired as to why there was such a wide swing in scores from grades 5 to 8 to 10 in ELA. Mrs. Erickson responded that the data is difficult to decipher because it's a cross section of students and can be different classes, etc. She shared that it is more accurate instead to look longitudinally at the same grade level/students over grades 5-8-10 to check progress and growth.

In November, Mr. Knief will give a follow up presentation on the new Accountability System. MCAS scores are one component of the system.



## F. Upcoming Events

A calendar of upcoming events was shared with the Committee for October and November.

## VII. Recommendations from Superintendent

### A. Request to Recycle

Everyday Math Materials

With the district transitioning to the Bridges Math Curriculum in grades K-5, the district sought approval to dispose and recycle the Everyday Math materials. Some of the old materials are being purchased back Follett and other materials are being donated or recycled.

**Motion to approve the recycling of the items presented for approval:** James O'Brien

**Seconded:** Jason Greenwood

**Vote:** Unanimous

Technology Items

The town-wide technology department sought approval to recycle outdated or damaged devices and equipment. It was noted that before they seek to recycle items they look to all townwide resources and needs and look to other avenues for donation.

**Motion to approve the recycling of the items presented for approval:** James O'Brien

**Seconded:** Jason Greenwood

**Vote:** Unanimous

### B. Field Trips

Class of 2021: Grad Bash, April 2021

**Motion to approve the field trip presented for approval:** James O'Brien

**Seconded:** Jason Greenwood

**Vote:** Unanimous

## VIII. Reports from the School Committee

**Andrew Cardarelli:** Wishes everyone a Safe Halloween and reminded everyone about the "Fill it Up" food drive event on October 13, 2019 from 12p until 4p in Shurtleff Park to benefit the Shane Gives Thanks food pantry.

**James O'Brien:** Wished all veterans a Happy upcoming Veterans' Day.

**Motion to adjourn:** James O'Brien

**Seconded:** Jason Greenwood

**Roll Call Vote:**

Andrew Cardarelli, Chairperson: **Yes**

Jason Greenwood: **Yes**

James O'Brien: **Yes**

**Motion Approved: 3 to 0**

Meeting Adjourned at 8:27

Minutes respectfully recorded and submitted by: Gina Marie Rush