

CARVER SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Thursday, June 11, 2020

7:00 p.m. OPEN MEETING

Online Video Conference

This meeting is being held virtually in accordance with the Governor of Massachusetts' March 12, 2020 Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law G.L. c. 30A, Section 20. Members of the Public can access the meeting online with the following information.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89048488051>

School Committee Present:

Andrew Cardarelli
Jason Greenwood
Stephanie Clougherty
Jennifer Pratt

Not Present:

James O'Brien

Also Present

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

Meeting Opened: Mr. Knief opened the meeting at **7:03 p.m.** and reviewed the virtual conference procedures. Mr. Knief then led the pledge of allegiance.

Recognition:

Mr. Knief thanked former School Committee member Andrew Soliwoda for his service on the school committee since 2014. Mr. Soliwoda was a 1999 graduate of Carver High School and has two children in the Elementary School currently in grades 2 and 4. He served as School Committee Vice Chairperson since 2017 and was passionate about both the school building project at the elementary school and the track and field project at the middle high school. He was gifted with a framed and matted oil pastel picture from local artist, Gail Marie Nauen, entitled "Judy's Bog" and a fruit basket which were both delivered to his home. Mr. Soliwoda was unable to attend the meeting that evening.

Mr. Greenwood thanked Mr. Soliwoda for his guidance and said he learned a lot just by speaking with him.

Mr. Cardarelli added that Mr. Soliwoda has been an invaluable member of the school committee during which time they made mutual hard decisions, faced a lot of difficult issues and also bright spots like the new elementary, rehabilitation of the high school gymnasium and the track and field complex. He said Mr. Soliwoda would be missed very much on the committee and it was a pleasure to serve with him.

Mrs. Clougherty thanked Mr. Soliwoda for his service as well and his passion noting that it was a pleasure to serve on the committee with him as well. The committee wished him well and shared their hopes that he would be able to attend a future meeting so they could thank him in person.

Mr. Knief also recognized the following students from Carver Elementary School who were chosen as MIT

Curiosity Challenge winners for 2020: Mason Lukasik (Mrs. Swanton), Lia Cokinos (Mr. McEachen), Tyler Johnson (Mrs. Harkins), Jason Virden (Mrs. Thomas), Nathanael Mercer (Mrs. Champignie), Abigail Costa (Mrs. Burr), Michael Clark (Mr. Baldo), Alexis Gavin (Ms. Smith). The Curiosity Challenge is an annual contest that kicks off in the fall of each year, with entries due in February. It is open to students ages 5-14. This year there were close to 4000 entries from Massachusetts and beyond. There were 180 student winners selected. Students were asked to Write an essay or poem, create a drawing, take a picture about your curiosity and tell us how it prompted you to explore your world.

The committee congratulated the students on a great job. Mr. Knief will be sending letters of recognition to these students following the meeting.

School Committee Reorganization: Motion to elect:

- A. **Chairperson:** **Andrew Cardarelli**
Motion: Jason Greenwood
Second: Jennifer Pratt

Roll Call Vote:
Andrew Cardarelli ***Abstained***
Stephanie Clougherty **Yes**
Jason Greenwood **Yes**
Jennifer Pratt **Yes**

Approved: 3 - 0, 1 Abstention

Mr. Cardarelli thanked the committee for their faith and trust in his leadership.

- B. **Vice Chairperson:** **Stephanie Clougherty**
Motion: Jennifer Pratt
Second: Jason Greenwood

Roll Call Vote:
Andrew Cardarelli **Yes**
Stephanie Clougherty ***Abstained***
Jason Greenwood **Yes**
Jennifer Pratt **Yes**

Approved: 3 - 0, 1 Abstention

- C. **Recording Secretary:** **Jennifer Pratt**
Motion: Jason Greenwood
Second: Stephanie Clougherty

Position was clarified, recording secretary actions are needed only in the absence of the Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent, who acts as the recording secretary for the School Committee as well.

Roll Call Vote:
Andrew Cardarelli **Yes**
Stephanie Clougherty **Yes**
Jason Greenwood **Yes**
Jennifer Pratt ***Abstained***

Approved: 3 - 0, 1 Abstention

D. Subcommittees:

Mr. Knief reviewed who held the previous positions last year. As a point of order, Mr. Greenwood inquired what the procedures were for appointing these positions if Mr. O'Brien was not present. Discussion was had on whether to hold these appointments until the next school committee meeting.

Motion made to table section D. 1-5 of the current agenda until the next School Committee

meeting: Jason Greenwood

Seconded: Stephanie Clougherty

Roll Call Vote:

Andrew Cardarelli **Yes**

Stephanie Clougherty **Yes**

Jason Greenwood **Yes**

Jennifer Pratt **Yes**

Approved: 4 - 0

I. Comments from the General Public:

None

II. Comments from the EAPC: EAPC President, Tom Pinto and EAPC Vice President, Tammy Johnson

Mr. Pinto greeted the committee and shared his hope that everyone is able to enjoy time off with their families over the summer before planning for next school year. Mrs. Johnson greeted the committee. She acknowledged the peaceful remembrance of George Floyd held in the center of town last Friday. She highlighted the resolution proposed to the committee and stated that parents, students and educators understand this indeed for strong public education and urged all to put kids first and invest in their future. With this resolution proposed, the EAPC is asking the School Committee to make a commitment to work with them and others to fund public schools beyond the federal heroes' acts and look at all levels; local, state and federal. Before pandemic, she said, the district identified the need for more counselors, nurses and educational support professionals (ESPs). In the fall, students will return from a trying period and the need for more nurses, counselors and ESPs will be more than ever. She added that less staff means less activities, less support and less opportunities such as the pathways program currently being developed and implemented at the Middle High School. She urged the committee to assist in ensuring that the state funds schools through the Student Opportunities Act and that the federal legislators improve and implement the Heroes Act. She shared that from 2011-2016 the revenue from local receipts has been underestimated on average by 40% and that Carver needs to use their resources to invest in our children. She read from the resolution and informed the committee that the Heroes Act is only one important part of the resolution. She said that far too long our children have been the ones short changed due to austerity budgets. Investing in public education is investing in our future and now more than ever, our students need all the support our schools can provide. This is not a time to look to reducing or diminishing our school budgets in any way.

III. Approval of Minutes

May 14, 2020 - Open Session Minutes

Motion: Jason Greenwood

Second: Stephanie Clougherty

Roll Call Vote:

Andrew Cardarelli, Chairperson: **Yes**

Jason Greenwood: **Yes**

Stephanie Clougherty: **Yes**

Jennifer Pratt: *Abstained*

Approved: 3 to 0 - 1 abstention

IV. Communications:

A. Class of 1948 - Graduate Gifts

Mr. Knief informed the committee that the Plymouth High School class of 1948, which was not Plymouth-Carver yet but became eventually, thought it would be nice to donate ice cream gift certificates to the graduating seniors of Plymouth and Carver Schools. The leader of this is Mr. George Scotti. The class of 1948 was passionate about doing something for the class of 2020 and recognizing them. It was outstanding and thoughtful that they included Carver as well. Mr. Knief offered thanks to Mr. Scotti and the class of 1948 for their donation.

V. Reports from the Superintendent:

A. Personnel Updates:

Mr. Knief reviewed the following changes in personnel at Carver Public Schools. **New Hire: Theresa Vernazzaro, Food Service Director (7/1/20); Jennifer Wilson, Girls Varsity Soccer Coach**

B. Heroes Act Resolution

Mr. Knief informed the committee that at the last school committee meeting the EAPC asked the committee to consider discussing and passing the Heroes Act Resolution that was shared for the committee to review. The Heroes Act is an extensive federal stimulus package that has been passed by the House of Representatives. The Act contains 90 billion to be distributed to states as a stabilization fund for public K-12 education. The committee was provided with additional information about the bill including a title by title review of the Heroes Act that summarize the provisions.

Mr. Greenwood thanked the EAPC for spearheading the initiative and resolution noting that he has seen it on social media, in text messages, emails, etc. While he believes that no one would disagree that putting out kids first shouldn't happen, his thought is that this is not a school committee issue or responsibility. In looking at the review of the bill, he said there were 71 pages of the overview that showed about 326 different items that would be funded by the Heroes Act, only 3 of which would be school related. He agrees with the three statements regarding school, however the whole act is global and honestly doesn't think it's appropriate for the school committee to take up, perhaps the select board.

Mrs. Pratt asked for clarification that if the committee chose to just not take a vote on this, would it put the district at risk for not receiving funds if it passes.

Mr. Knief and Mr. Cardarelli confirmed that the district would not lose funding if they did not vote on the resolution.

Mr. Clougherty shared that while she understands Mr. Greenwood's point, the odds of a bill just supporting schools would be slim. She supports this as a member of the community, however she understands if the committee doesn't want to adopt or support the resolution and would advocate individually instead knowing that school districts need funding across the nation. She said she would be

fine moving forward and adopting it, but also understands the position of the committee as a whole. She added that anything she is behind anything to support schools especially during this time.

Mr. Cardarelli shared his point of view, that if it was solely a school funding issue, he would have no problem, however as Mr. Greenwood noted, it is a global and partisan piece of legislation. He believes even if it is supported, it is not the whole bill that will be passed through the senate. Mr. Cardarelli gave three examples of articles about this bill that have nothing to do with education and said that he cannot vote in the positive for this 4 trillion dollar bill knowing that the country has already spent 2 trillion dollars on the Cares Act and believes it would be leveraging children's futures.

Mr. Greenwood asked if the committee would be able to revise the wording of the resolution.

Mr. Knief said the school committee could certainly make their own resolution stating that they fully support funding schools without necessarily supporting the Heroes Act.

Mr. Greenwood added that the point for him is the entire Heroes Act and can support some of it, especially regarding the schools. Mrs. Cloughety added that she too was going to ask if they could amend the resolution. Discussion was had on what an amended resolution would look like.

Mr. Cardarelli asked where the resolution would go if it were revised and approved.

Mr. Knief said the resolution would be recorded with the school committee minutes in public record, it could also be published in the newspaper and sent to legistors if requested by the committee.

It was decided that the language would be revised and brought before the committee at the next school committee meeting in July.

Mrs. Pratt noted that she is, like the committee, in support of fully funding schools, but wondered why, if the school district was not going to see any lack of funding by not signing the resolution, would they seek to revise and adopt a resolution if there would not be an impact to funding one way or another. In response to Mrs. Pratt's inquiry, Mr. Knief added that this resolution is being presented across the state of Massachusetts and likely similar in other states in order to have a collective voice in making a statement to lobby on behalf of schools and that multiple entities supporting and initializing it could help gain support through legislators.

Mr. Cardarelli thanked Tammy Johnson for her passion, bringing this to their attention, and always advocating for more funding. He also thanked all of the community members who reached out via email to share their thoughts with the committee and hopes that the discussion that evening helps the community to understand where we are coming from.

Mr. Greenwood added that perhaps the resolution is something to include the Select Board in for them to review and stand behind as well.

In closing, Mr. Cardarelli said that there are things sometimes that are proposed and put in front of the committee that are not in their lane, sometimes they are political stances, beyond personal, but the committee always seeks to put those aside and do what is best for the community and schools and students.

C. FY 21 Budget

Mr. Knief gave a presentation overview of the FY21 budget and the current plan and approach by the town. This presentation was also shared with the district staff as well. At this time the town's plan is to present the budget that the School Committee passed in March at Town Meeting on Tuesday, June 29, 2020 with a plan to pass budgets approved in March.

The FY21 expenses have been calculated at \$25,857,721. Offsets for this budget come from Federal Grants, Circuit Breaker, School Choice, Plymouth County Retirement, and Pre-K Tuitions for a total budget request of \$24,237,099. The breakdown of the funding of the school budget is as follows: 42% comes from the state, 58% comes from the town budget.

In January, the Governor proposed a state budget of 44.6 billion dollars for FY21. The state is now projecting a 6 billion dollar shortfall which is 13.4% of the Governor's proposed budget. The town is also projecting shortfalls in local receipts.

Mr. Knief said there are many unknown factors still to be determined, i.e., what the state's final budget will be and how they are going to deal with the shortfall; how will it affect Chapter 70 aid or the Student Opportunity Act; will there be another federal stimulus package; and what will school look like in the fall.

Everyone has acknowledged that there will have to be a second Town Meeting in the fall where they will have to make a reduction to the budget. In October, they will better know what school looks like, know accurate numbers, including outstanding factors to the town budget like the opening of King Richard's Faire. Mr. Knief reviewed the areas in which the district has flexibility in the FY21 budget to meet anticipated reductions including the following:

- **Funds received from the Cares Act** of \$140,000 will be available to access and use in FY21 order to offset any budget reductions.
- **Realized savings** from a number of areas from the school closure such as utilities and purchasing.
- **Shifting money from Circuit Breaker, School Choice, etc.** Mr. Brothers said that the Circuit Breaker funds can only be carried over by one year, so the district used everything they could this year and next year it will be funded at 75%. The district has worked in years past to build this account back and have a year of savings to the good to utilize for FY21. School choice has also been built up in order to weather the storm for next year in the event of reductions. This would be a one time use for FY21 and Mr. Brothers said the real shortfall the district may see might be in effect for FY22. If revenues stay down the town and school may not be able to weather beyond one year.
- **Prepay an out of district (OOD) placement**, one of the few things allowed to be paid in advance, which would equal a savings of \$55,000 savings for next year's budget. Mr. Brothers added that with OOD placements, you can only pay a full year in advance for a collaboratives only and for private tuitions you can pay up to 3 months worth.
- **Utilizing town reserve accounts.**

Mr. Knief stated that he and Mr. Brothers have been looking thoroughly at everything they can to bring savings from this year to help get through next year. Additional areas of flexibility may be in making minor adjustments in operational line items and depending on what school looks like in the fall some

staffing changes. He added that if school goes back to the buildings in full force, the goal is to maintain all staff and programs. He acknowledged during the remote learning period that the majority were working as many hours if not more than they had before, while others were working less hours and still getting paid their full salaries and even some based on their roles were not working at all and were still being paid. If there are employees who were not working, he said, based on what school looks like in the fall the district may have to make those staffing changes.

Mr. Knief also shared that the district has been actively purchasing personal protective equipment (PPE) and using some of this year's money to do that based upon the guidance from the state. Through the Cares Act, Plymouth County received 90 million dollars that can be distributed to towns and districts for expenses incurred for COVID19 procedures (with certain criteria) such as PPE and there is a good chance that Carver can get reimbursed for the PPE costs.

Mr. Knief said that most times schools know by June if there are reductions needed and is certainly not good for a school to face reductions in November. He assured the committee and community that they have taken a hard look at the district's budget and believe we will be able to withstand FY21 and not have to make any cuts to staff. They believe we are in a good place and will be able to manage the reduction for the next year.

Mrs. Clougherty offered thanks for the information and for their diligence in keeping such a close eye on things and keeping the committee and community informed.

Mrs. Pratt echoed the sentiments and acknowledged that it is great to be proactive and that like Mrs. Clougherty is also hopeful with a good confidence level.

Mr. Cardarelli agreed, thanking them for the update and feeling sure that they will keep a close eye on it all.

D. Summer Programming - Karen Teichert

Mrs. Teichert, Director of Special Education, informed the committee about the district's plans for Summer School this year. The formal guidance on summer school from DESE that was released that week was shared with the committee. The guidance recommends that districts consider doing some face to face summer offerings for the most at-risk students. The majority of Carver's program offerings this summer will be virtual but they will be offering some face to face experience for our intensive special education students and for some therapies as well as some face to face testing.

Mrs. Teichert shared that a full menu of remote services has been established, however, that cover everything that is usually done in the summertime and through remote access are also able to offer extra services like, summer reading, which is open to all MHS students, credit recovery, open for all high school students as well, and enrichment programs at the elementary level, which will also be open to all students.

They are still planning the details for in-person summer programming for severe special needs students but the plans are that these students would work in small groups of 3 or 4 students with 2 staff and each group would have their own room for roughly two hours per day, 3 days per week. A number of parents have offered to drive their students to the summer programs which would help the district to keep the busses to under 6 students on each bus for a morning session and afternoon session. Most parents have opted to enroll in the in-person experience. If families don't want to participate in-person, the district would still need to provide virtual experiences and are ready for that as well.

Mrs. Teichert continued that they are currently waiting for more details on safety precautions, which are due to be announced next week including different PPE that needs to be used for different types of student needs. The district has already purchased some of the items needed.

Mr. Cardarelli shared his concern through remote learning was that intensive special education students in particular may have been dropping behind and asked Mrs. Teichert if she had seen that happening coming out of remote learning during the school closure.

Mrs. Teichert responded that it actually has been amazing to see how much our teachers, students and families have been able to do virtually. That population was the one that people were so worried about, she said, and they are the ones who jumped on right away and have been consistently participating. There has been some strain on families, but as mentioned last meeting, some of the siblings have really stepped up and helped out as well. She recognized the special education staff for their great work.

E. School Improvement Plans

Principals, Ruby Maestas and Mike Schultz reviewed their 2020-2021 School Improvement Plans.

■ **CES:** Ruby Maestas

Mrs. Maestas thanked the elementary school council made up of the following teachers Annmarie Blackden, Patricia Tobin, Joyce Macina and parents Michelle Upton, Bill Cullum, Ryan Racette and Shannon Alsheimer. She said this group met monthly throughout the year to work on this plan with the assistance and guidance of associate principals, Tanya Dawson and Paula Foley, academic coaches, Jenn Kelley and Kate Moore as well as district administration, Meredith Erickson and Karen Teichert.

The whole school improvement plan was shared with the committee. Mrs. Maestas reviewed the plan which is made up of 10 big picture goals. The first few are a continuation or enhancement of things they have been focussing on for the last few years.

Safe and Supportive Schools Goals:

- Continue to strengthen safety protocols and ALICE procedures.
- Working with the administrative leadership team and teachers to establish a school safety team which will also assist in preparing for re-entry.
- Continue to increase Social/Emotional Learning competencies among students and increase SEL needs, with regards to experiences especially from the COVID-19 closure.

Community Engagement Goals:

- Continue development of focused outreach and community partnerships by offering professional development opportunities to community child care centers, etc.
- Increasing home support with regards to parent/teacher relationships.
 - Teaming groups looked for a way to have more time with parents for conferences. and the elementary administration is going to work with teachers and parents to find opportunities to connect as a team rather than just one teacher.
 - Combine back to school and find your classroom and meet your teacher night for the upcoming school year.
 - Offer mental health support by partnering with community mental health

organizations for site based counseling after school or in the evenings.

Elevate Teaching and Learning Goals:

- Continue to provide professional development inline with teacher feedback and student need
 - Bridges in Math curriculum training for teachers grade 3-5.
 - Year 2 teaming Implementation for grades 3-5
 - Increasing staff awareness of diverse needs of the students and community
 - Humanities and writing
- Continue the NAEYC accreditation process for PreK and Kindergarten.
- Adjust professional learning plan to address areas of weakness resulting from the COVID-19 closure.

Leverage Leadership, Policy and Funding

- Encourage strategic use of data through the thoughtful and flexible use of resources
 - Expand the Preschool to utilize space and service maxim students.
 - Pilot NWEA-MAP assessment tool in grades 1-5.
 - Review and revise staff handbooks to reflect latest policies and procedures

Mr. Greenwood inquired as to whether or not to use the word implement instead of encourage on item 4.1. Mrs. Maestas agreed that the wording was difficult to construct and responded that the goal is going to be a creative focus area for the school.

■ **MHS:** Michael Schultz

Mr. Schultz thanked the Middle High School Council this year which consisted of teachers, Jacqui Perkins and Dillion Antell, parents Nikki Simons and Sue Vincent, and students Hayden Roche and Lauren Todd. They met on a monthly basis while school was in session to develop the plan. He also thanked assistant principals, Christine Cabral and Mike Martin and district administrator, Meredith Erickson who helped the group in regards to planning and professional development.

Mr. Schultz reviewed the plan which many are a continuation or enhancement of things they have been focussing on for the last few years as well.

Safe and Supportive Schools Goals:

- Continue the implementation of ALICE based protocols and drills for students and staff through the committee in place at school that meets frequently and plans protocols
- Continue to explore and pilot the concept of the Crusader Hour tiered accountability system which is a break in the day which allows flexibility in the schedule to check into an accountability system, get additional help, etc.

- The Middle High School administration feels this is an important piece for next year, specialil after having gone through the school closure.
- Expand the PBIS “Check-in/Check-out” (CICO) 5 min accountability and
- Use the district based Social Emotional Resource Site, to inform staff and provide strategies to support SEL students.
- Continue the work on the Safe and Supportive Schools action plan: develop and implement procedures and practices that promote diversity, equity and inclusion
- Promote the transition to ASPEN by supporting training for students, faculty and families.

Community Engagement Goals:

- Continue to establish annual events for community wide engagement and supporting students in and out of the class.
- Working with Carver cares and partnership with BRYT program substance abuse prevention and mental health programs.
- Expand partnerships with local businesses and organizations to expand the internship program and also financially support school-wide initiatives.
- Continue to develop the CMHS Parent Teacher Organization, to include members of all grade levels and create annual fundraisers.
 - Currently the PTO has 10 members and continues to grow. The goal is to have representatives for each grade level to support the programs, field trips, etc. that is happening in each grade.
- Advertise and promote CTE Pathways programs through a series of promotional videos, programs and presentations.
 - Just before the closure, they were planning a promotional video and parent presentation which is on hold, but they do have the promotional items ready to go and waiting to complete the video piece.
- Promote, celebrate and share instruction and learning activities with families through a weekly newsletter, Carver Chronicles
 - Mr. Martin has been spearheading the newsletters and the whole school together makes it happen by sharing all of the amazing things that go on in the building and in learning.

Elevate Teaching and Learning Goals:

- Continue to provide professional development inline with teacher feedback and student need
- Create a vision of the graduate and ensure the core values and beliefs promote a commitment to continuous learning as future planning for NEASC
- Enhance/promote the CTE Pathways program with the phasing in of additional courses and evaluation of year one programming.

- There is certainly concern with the closure and tracking the standards and content that may or may not have been covered and reviewed and then help build from there for a seamless transition.
- Fortify transitions for students (through horizontal/vertical collaboration among educators)
- Increase opportunities for integrating technology by teachers/students to support innovative and relevant learning.
- Provide opportunities to collaborate and revise curriculum in all content areas
- Pilot the Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) assessment in grades 6/ and in conjunction with the CES

Leverage Leadership, Policy and Funding

- Access professional development funds through district support and other funding sources
- Continue to collaborate with the district to apply for programmatic funding (grants) to move college and career-ready/pathways opportunities.
- Continue to pursue grants and creative funding to help promote career-ready pathways (e.g Project Lead the Way) Encourage strategic use of data through the thoughtful and flexible use of resources

Mr. Greenwood asked if there were any other PBIS initiatives at the Middle High School other than check in and check out. Mr. Schultz confirmed that there are several PBIS initiatives that happen throughout a school year led by Mrs. Cabral. She encourages the students with “Words of Wisdom” announcements daily, which has even continued throughout the closure. In addition they have the “Crusader Cash” contents which are similar to the “Caught Being Good” at the elementary level in which students earn crusader cash which can be entered into raffle contests as well as other initiatives throughout the building for positive behavior or being good citizens.

Mr. Greenwood inquired as to whether any of the grants received have changed due to the closure. Mr. Knief answered that currently nothing has changed in regards to the grant funding. Mr. Schultz added that they are also applying for an innovation grant through the department of education to support the pathways program.

Mrs. Clougherty offered thanks for the school improvement plan presentations and noted that from what she has seen from afar in regards to these programs, she is hearing great feedback from parents and students.

Mr. Cardarelli asked if the ALICE procedure planning was just in communication with just the SRO or with the police chief as well.

Mr. Schultz clarified that when the interior team meets they also work with and invite chiefs of police and fire as well. They have also done a series of barricading drills, blocked drills and presentations, that involve local law enforcement and fire departments. Oftentimes the deputy fire chief will join the meetings, as well as officer ritz and other members of the police and fire who are involved on a regular basis.

Mr. Cardarelli asked if the emergency buckets from a couple years ago were all set and if all of the classes still have those and the door jams.

Mr. Schultz confirmed that Bolo sticks are present in every classroom and all offices, classrooms and open spaces have the safety buckets as well. In terms of implementation, Mr. Schultz said they have been doing this for several years now and believes they would have an opportunity for a full drill with the meet up at a safety site and that is the next step.

Mr. Cardarelli asked to be included in all email communication from both schools.

F. End of Year Activities

Principals, Ruby Maestas and Mike Schultz will review the end of the year activities and events that will be taking place at the Elementary School and Middle High School. Throughout the district the teachers and administrative team have worked hard to plan to offer some of our regular end of the year events virtually.

■ Elementary School Events

Mrs. Maestas and the elementary school administration and staff have been talking about the importance of closure that both staff and students need and the events that traditionally happen towards the end of the year that were missed like field trips, assemblies, etc.

- Teachers are doing a lot of classroom and team things with the kids through video conferencing, google classroom or projects that they are doing to keep the end of the year things happening still
 - The schoolwide art show was also shared with the committee and Mr. Knief acknowledged the administration in both buildings who have done great job highlighting the students' achievements.
- Kindness week activities where students sent lots of pictures to their teachers and for kids to write poems or talk about things that are kind and helpful to others.
- Student belongings pick up. Teachers worked hard to gather student belongings. It was important for students to come in and get their things and say goodbye which has offered another opportunity for some level of closure.
- Flag day presentation which for many years has been such an important event at Carver elementary and on Monday, kids and families will receive a video from several teachers who have been working on what we would typically do together but virtual.
- Coyote clap up is when we typically clap kids up and move them onto the next level. A special message from teachers to encourage the move up will be released by video through the newsletter to congratulate and recognize students.
- End of Year parade which will be a drive through even on the school grounds. It will be

staggered beginning at 9:00 a.m. and as families drive through the back of the school with the assistance of the fire department and police dept. teachers will be there socially distanced to wish them well and say goodbye for the summer. Typically 5th graders would parade through the school and the whole building of staff and students would clap them up so the parade will finish with the fifth grader who would make two drives through the back of the building and finish with gift bags for each of those students.

Mr. Greenwood inquired if all the teachers would be there for each parade or will the grade level teachers only for each grade be there at the allotted times. Mrs. Maestas said that all teachers are welcome to be there all day if they are able and willing and so far out of 135 staff members, 95 have committed to attend. She said that parents with students in multiple grades can come through at either time that works or to both parade times. Her sense is that teachers will be there for the whole time. will be there for all of it.

- Sign off video for students on the last day where the “Coyote Cool Off Challenge” will be highlighted. The “Coyote Cool Off Challenge” was initiated because we noticed a lot of kids were starting to lose motivation, so a message was sent from Mr. Allaire encouraging the kids to finish strong and if they did the teachers will do a “cool off” which is basically a bucket of ice water over their head.
- Report cards for elementary students will be sent home on June 22.

Mrs. Pratt had parents ask if the teacher assignments will be on the report cards as they have in years past and Mrs. Maestas confirmed they would be and that she would be certain to communicate that in the parent newsletter.

Mr. Knief added that both buildings are planning for school as if it were business as usual next year. The Middle High School schedule is close to completed and the Elementary School is doing placement as they have always done and then we will make adjustments as needed from there.

■ Middle High School Events

Mr. Schultz said that the main focus for the end of the year events as of late has been on the seniors. As they move towards the last week of school they will be focussing on events they have done in the past typically and seeking alternative ways to have these events.

- Crusader Pride for Middle School Students will be a pre-recorded video for students that will be aired on local access television on Thursday, June 18 at 7 p.m.
- HS Academic awards will be done the same way, and aired on June 17, at 7 p.m.
 - Mr. Shultz thanked the facility, staff, administration and support staff for their assistance in pulling both of those presentations together.
 - In addition to television viewing, there will also be links to these presentations in the last Carver Chronicles newsletter for the year.
- Several teams and clubs have been doing their own ceremonies and presentations, ie. athletics who honored senior athletes, best buddies, and chorus and band.

Mr. Knief noted that everyone worked really hard to maintain normalcy. These presentations and events are hard to put together in person and are still difficult to do virtually.

Mr. Cardarelli appreciated the efforts of all staff and administration in this odd year and thanked them for doing what they can to make it as normal as possible for the students.

G. Re-Opening Committee

Mr. Knief shared that he is in the process of establishing a Re-Opening Committee to plan for the reopening of our schools in the fall. The Re-Opening Committee will have four sub-committees:

- Teaching and Learning
- Student Support Services
- Facilities and Operations
- Scheduling

He said that there are so many complexities, one committee couldn't cover all. Sub-committees would discuss and plan, then representatives would report back to the larger committee to develop a plan which would then come back to the school committee before sharing with the community. The groups would be made up of teachers, ESPs, bus drivers, etc. as well as members of the community such as Police, Fire, Health Agent (BOH).

The committee was provided with the membership of each of the Committees. Mr. Knief added that he would like to have one or two members of the School Committee serve on the Reopening Committee.

The Commissioner of Education and DESE plans on releasing guidance for the fall and re-opening school the week of June 15th. The Re-Opening Committee will begin meeting after the guidance is released. Mr. Knief added that there has been a lot of conversation based on the summer school guidance and people have been extrapolating what is in the summer guidance and assuming it will be the same for fall. The commissioner sent an email to superintendents only and said clearly not to use the summer school guidance to start planning for the fall. The commissioner has stated that 80-85% of the guidance will be mandated and not optional as compared to the guidance for remote learning in order to ensure a more consistent experience for students across the commonwealth.

Mr. Cardarelli asked if the re-opening committee meetings be held virtually, or in person, and at what time during the day. Mr. Knief shared that his thoughts are that the meetings will likely be during the daytime and virutaly to start and depending on the guidance, transition back to meeting in person.

Mr. Cardarelli asked Mr. Knief if he has communicated any of this to Mr. O'Brien and if he knows whether or not he would be interested in serving on the re-opening committee. Mr. Knief did not know of Mr. O'Brien's interest level.

Stephanie Clougherty, Jennifer Pratt and Jason Greenwood were all interested in serving on the committee. Mr. Knief reminded the committee that three members could not serve, because it would be considered a meeting of the school committee. He added that he would like to have the first group get together in the next week.

Motion to appoint Jennifer Pratt and Stephanie Clougherty to the Re-Opening Committee: Jason Greenwood

Seconded: Stephanie Clougherty

Roll Call Vote:

Andrew Cardarelli, Chairperson: **Yes**

Jason Greenwood: **Yes**

Stephanie Clougherty: **Yes**

Jennifer Pratt: **Yes**

Approved: 4 to 0

Mr. Cardarelli asked if there would be minutes taken in the reopening committee meetings. Mr. Knief confirmed that while it would not be a formal committee meeting with motions, etc., notes would still be taken.

H. Class of 2020 Graduation

Mr. Knief informed the committee that the Department of Public Health and Massachusetts Department of Education has released guidance that allows for in person graduations after July 19, 2020. Carver is planning to hold an in person graduation on the morning of August 1, 2020. The guidance from DESE was shared with the committee. Mr. Knief added that the plan has to be approved by the health agent and was approved when he met with him last week. The following guidelines must be followed:

- Social distancing
- All attending must wear masks
- Immediate family members only and kids under 5 and elderly family members are encouraged not to attend.
- Only 4 members of each family may attend.
- All graduates will be spaced 6 feet apart and chairs will be in groups of 4 with six feet between.
 - A display of the proposed layout on the football field was shown to the committee and community. (football field)
- All participants and attendees will be asked to leave immediately after the event.

Additionally, Area 58 will broadcast the event LIVE on local access television. If able, they are also planning a socially distanced event on Wednesday, July 29 at Southers Marsh Golf Club for the seniors.

Mr. Cardarelli asked how the number of 4 people per family was decided upon. Mr. Knief replied that 4 was actually a high number on their end, but in working with the health agent, all believed that 4 was a good number to bring per graduate. Mr. Knief also confirmed that parents/families would have to RSVP to attend the event. As part of the guidance from DESE, families will have to make known who is coming specifically.

Mr. Cardarelli asked if families could request to bring more guests and Mr. Knief said that per the guidance and the circumstances that would not be possible that a family who does not use their 4 seats could not give their remaining tickets to another family. The rain date for this event will be the next day.

Mr. Cardarelli shared that a member of the community, Bryan Griffin had contacted him to offer his services with the ability to broadcast over an FM radio if needed, ie. if the graduation had to be done from in cares and were unable to do it in person. Mr. Cardarerlli made note that given the plans in place they would not need his services, but thanked him publicly for the generous offer.

Mr. Schultz added that they are looking for a P.A. system to use and be set up on the ground level with the ability to project, as the stadium system has a delay. The would be deferring to Area 58 on the amount needed in order for them to hear it and tie it into their feed to go live.

Mrs. Clougherty thanked everyone for their efforts in planning and in having spoken with some seniors,

they are thrilled with the prospect of having a graduation at the school. Mr. Knief added that parents have been informed of a graduation on August 1, 2020, and a letter will be going home to the families with additional information.

VI. Recommendations from Superintendent

A. Recreation Committee Re-Appointments: K. Miller & M. Ross

Mary Ross and Karl Miller have both expressed interest in staying on as members of the Recreation Committee. Mary has been on the committee for several years and Karl has served for the last two years.

Motion to re-appoint Karl Miller and Mary Ross to the Recreation Committee: Jason Greenwood
Seconded: Jennifer Pratt

Mrs. Clougherty thanked them both for serving on the committee.

Roll Call Vote:

Andrew Cardarelli, Chairperson: **Yes**

Jason Greenwood: **Yes**

Stephanie Clougherty: **Yes**

Jennifer Pratt: **Yes**

Approved: 4 to 0

B. School Committee Meeting Schedule for 2020-2021:

Mr. Knief presented two School Committee meeting date options for the 2020-2021 school year and asked the committee if they would prefer to meet on Mondays or Thursdays. He explained the cause for the change to Thursday meetings last year and the benefit is that they never run into a Monday holiday conflict. He also recommended the consideration of a July Meeting, when historically the committee has not met in July.

Mr. Greenwood said that it seemed there were a number of events that the school committee meeting ran into on Thursdays this year such as conferences and concerts so he would prefer Mondays.

Mr. Knief added that the only holiday that would interfere with Mondays is in October this coming year.

Mrs. Pratt asked if they were limited to those days.

Mr. Cardarelli noted that with other days they would have to make sure it didn't interfere with other board meetings, such as the Select Board which meets on Tuesdays.

Mrs. Clougherty was agreeable with either day.

Mr. Cardarelli asked the district administration if they had a preference. Mrs. Erickson said she would be fine with the committee's decision either way and Mr. Brothers said he would prefer Thursdays but would do either.

Mr. Cardarelli agreed that he would prefer Thursdays as well.

Mr. Knief added that possible conflicts happened because school members were not used to the school committee on Thursdays and the district would do a better job of communicating the meeting schedule.

Roll Call Vote:

Andrew Cardarelli, Chairperson: **Thursday**

Jason Greenwood: **Monday**

Stephanie Clougherty: **Thursday**

Jennifer Pratt: **Thursday**

Approved: 3 to 1: Thursday Meetings

The next school committee meetings will be July 9 and August 13, 2020.

C. Budget Transfers FY20

Brad Brothers reviewed the following requested budget transfers:

Line 4: All monies from school choice put back into the revolving account which is fully funded from savings in operational budget

Line 14: Sub line savings part of funding Line 4

Line 15: Sub line savings part of funding Line 4

Line 16: Sped lines saving moneys toward next year's budget

Line 18: Savings in ESP sub coverage

Line 40: Homeless transportation - money saved without the buildings open.

Line 45: Spring coach savings

Line 48: 2 custodians who retired in Jan/February

Line 50: Savings in Natural Gas Line.

Mr. Brothers noted that utilities are coming down and that it may be time to lock in a longer term.

Line 62: Mid-year open enrollment

Currently they are projecting to send back \$200-300,000 to the town, as the town is short on local receipts. Mr. Brothers believes turning something back to the town is good faith and reciprocal.

The \$200-300,000 is based on PPE purchases and also the last utility line. There will be \$30,000-45,000 in savings when the final bill comes in.

Motion to approve the the June budget transfers as requested: Jason Greenwood

Seconded: Stephanie Clougherty

Roll Call Vote:

Andrew Cardarelli, Chairperson: **Yes**

Jason Greenwood: **Yes**

Stephanie Clougherty: **Yes**

Jennifer Pratt: **Yes**

Approved: 4 to 0

VII. Reports from the School Committee

Jennifer Pratt: I am excited to be here and look forward to working with everyone. I echo Stephanie's sentiments on how well administration and staff have done in the important times. As a parent of two elementary students, I can say that the elementary school has been wonderful. Ruby, the administration team and staff have done so many things to keep kids engaged. I look forward to serving with all of you on the school committee.

Stephanie Clougherty: Thank everyone for all who attended the meeting this evening, there are over 40 participants and it's great to see so many tuning in to see what was going on. I also went to the vigil in Carver last friday and it was moving and powerful to see current students, alumni, officials and so many in our community come together and solidarity and remembrance. It was great to see, moving forward, we are

facing uncertain times with lack of funding, etc. come together as a community and work together and we will get through. Thanks so those in the district who have worked so hard for all who are working even more hours than usual. Thank you for all done to recognize students and give them life long positive memories and holding events to maintain some kind of normalcy.

Andrew Cardarelli: Congrats to Jenn and Stephanie for their dedication and winning the elections for school committee. Thanks to everyone who ran for offices and didn't win. Thanks for stepping up and giving people in Carver a choice. I also echo the sentiment about the vigil. I was unable to attend, but I hope that with all the work that our school resource officers and police departments do around the country through outreach that these unfortunate incidents and the death of Mr. Floyd, which was terrible, doesn't sour our kids' attitudes for our local police. Hopefully we can come to a resolution in our country and realize there is a problem with excessive force and put an end to it.

Looking forward to a successful opening in September.

Motion Made to move to executive session not to return to public meeting to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigation position of the public body: Jason Greenwood
Seconded: Stephanie Clougherty

VIII. Roll Call Vote:

Andrew Cardarelli, Chairperson: **Yes**

Jason Greenwood: **Yes**

Stephanie Clougherty: **Yes**

Jennifer Pratt: **Yes**

Motion Approved: 4 to 0

Thanks to area 58 and all who attended.

Meeting Adjourned at 10:09 p.m.

Minutes respectfully recorded and submitted by: Gina Marie Russell