

CARVER PUBLIC SCHOOLS
School Committee Meeting
MINUTES – February 12, 2018

School Committee Present:

James O'Brien
Andrew Cardarelli
Stephanie Clougherty
Andrew Soliwoda

Absent: Gina Marie Hanlon-Cavicchi

Also Present:

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

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

Recognition: Grade 8 student, Olivia Simmons was introduced and recognized as Carver's Project 351 ambassador for this year. She was nominated by teachers at the Middle High School. She attended full day training in Boston with students from across the state. Ambassadors share a common passion for making a positive difference in their community and our world and are invited to participate in 12 months of unique service and leadership development opportunities. Olivia plans to work with the Cradles to Crayons program in Carver.

I. Comments from General Public: None

II. Comments from EAPC: None

III. Updates from Student Council: Jenna Sweeney reported StuCo secretary, Brenna Lagerquist has been working on her campaign for MASC Secretary. On Feb. 11, 2018, a Putting for Patients event was held raising \$675 for Dana Farber and Jimmy Fund Cancer research. On Feb. 1st, the Student Council MASC Excellence book was submitted. Carver is aiming for its' 5th consecutive Gold Award.

Updates from Captains Council: None

IV. Approval of Minutes:

Andrew Soliwoda made a motion to approve regular session minutes of January 8, 2018. Andrew Cardarelli second the motion. Approved 4-0.

A motion to approve, but not release, Executive Session minutes of January 8, 2018 was made by Andrew Soliwoda. Motion seconded by Andrew Cardarelli. Approved 4-0.

V. Communications:

- A. Circuit Breaker Support Letter:** At the request of the Mass. Association of Superintendent's, Mr. Knief shared the letter he sent to Sen. Pacheco & Rep. Williams-Gifford requesting assistance in addressing a very serious gap in the state's obligation to fund special education with Circuit Breaker money. Mr. O'Brien asked if the School Committee should send a similar letter to encourage better funding. He also asked Tammy Johnson from EAPC if the union would be interested in getting behind this initiative.
- B. Exxon Mobile Educational Alliance:** Carver Middle High School has been informed they are the recipient of a \$500 grant from Exxon Mobil Educational Alliance. The manager of New England Farms in South Carver submitted an application on behalf of Carver Schools to be used for math and science. The Committee thanked New England Farms for their thoughtfulness.
- C. Classmates Today-Neighbors Tomorrow:** The Superintendent announced this years' nominee is Nathan Miller. The recipient is selected by the staff at CMHS based upon community citizenship, school citizenship and the exemplification of the spirit of goodwill. The nominated student is entered into the scholarship selection process run by the Jewish War Veterans. Three nominated students will receive a \$1,000 scholarship and three will receive a \$500 scholarship.
- D. Pratt Trust Fund:** E. Tillson Pratt was a teacher and educator in Carver who established a trust to be used for the benefit of the students of the Carver Public Schools. The Trust has been administered over the years by several individuals including Erwin K. Washburn and Donna Mountain. Throughout the years, interest earned from the trust has been dispersed in support of our students. The current trustees have decided to dissolve the trust and make a one-time donation to the Carver Education Foundation in the amount of \$17,622. Some of that money will be used for the Elementary walking trail and some will be used to offer for grants. Andrew Soliwoda asked if a representative from the CEF could attend an upcoming meeting to present their mission and financial awards.

VI. Reports from Superintendent

- A. Wellspring Farm:** Jim Vogel, owner of Wellspring Farm gave an overview of their therapeutic program. Two groups of grade 5-8 students have been attending weekly therapy sessions at Wellspring Farms. Students in our grade 5-8 alternative learning programs and in the Middle School Pathways program have gotten the opportunity to receive therapy session in a farm/nature environment. They get to interact with farm animals and ride the horses and ponies. Wellspring Farms establishes grant funded opportunities through various foundations, and this year offered some of those slots to Carver students. Founded in 2000, Wellspring Farm Learning Center offers a wide range of mental, behavioral, and rehabilitative health services to both children and adults in a pristine outdoor setting. Mr. Vogel complimented our teachers and staff who come to the farm with the students. He extended an invitation to the School Committee to visit the farm at any time.

- B. Budget for FY19:** Brad Brothers presented an update on our current proposed FY19 budget. The School Department has been in discussion with the Town about how they can assist in managing our current projected shortfall. A proposal was developed that would reduce our shortfall by \$200,000. This proposal would use \$200,000 from the Town Reserve Special Education fund for FY18 expenditure, which would allow this amount of funds to be moved back to Circuit Breaker to be used as an FY19 offset. With this adjustment, we will still be facing a shortfall of approximately \$195,000. Some possible ways in which we could meet that shortfall were opening school choice at the MHS, level service funding of the MHS and CES supply lines and district wide professional development which would bring us to approximately \$60,923 shortfall. The goal is to present a budget that could meet the town's number at a formal budget hearing at our February 27th meeting. Karen Teichert, Director of Special Education, also presented information of Special Education budget clarifications showing comparisons of previous years budgeted expenses and actual expenses.
- C. Monthly School Building Report:** Walter Hartley from PMA attended the meeting to give an update to the Elementary Building project. We remain on time and on budget. January progress included installation of translucent panels and metal wall panels, drywall and ceramic tile floor installation and painting. Forecasted for February will be continuation of FF&E/IT procurements with bid opening.
- D. Middle High School Field Project:** Scott Knief presented an overview of the proposed field project. If approved by CPC, the final design plan will go to the voters at April town meeting. This field project will be a Carver Community Field. At this time the breakdown of cost on the project are as follows:
- Total Project Cost: \$4,142,689
 - CPC Share of Total Cost \$3,225,000
 - Town's Share of Total Cost \$917,689
- The project would not increase the taxes of Carver residents if approved at town meeting. The project will go out to bid prior to town meeting and the community will have a finalized number to vote on at that time. The next meeting of the Field Study Committee is on 2/15/18 at 5pm.
- E. Phone System Update:** Stephen Mahoney, District Wide Technology, spoke to the Committee about the problems with the inconsistent school phone service with disruption of service during inclement weather. We have been working with Verizon to diagnose the problem. In essence, the district's phone service is through old copper lines that have degraded and are inconsistent in carrying the signal. Verizon no longer services these lines. For a temporary solution we have to install an internet pipeline and move to a Voice of IP (VOIP) system. The downside is it decreases band-with access but it would be only between now and July 1st. For a long term solution, as part of the new school project, a new server room will be used and fiber loop is being installed.

F. School Committee Protocols: James O'Brien suggested this topic be moved to the next meeting. He asked the Committee to review the protocols that were established in Fall 2016 to see if anything needs to be revised.

VII. Recommendations from Superintendent:

A. Field Trip – Gr. 8 to Canobie Lake Park, 6/9/18. Andrew Soliwoda made a motion to approve the field trip to Canobie Lake Park on 6/9/18, Stephanie Clougherty second the motion. Approved 4-0.

B. Recreation Committee Appointment: Karl Miller submitted his application to fill the vacancy on the Recreation Committee. He addressed the Committee explaining he has always been a part of sports in the town and would like to volunteer his time to assist with the Recreation Committee as the program grows. Andrew Cardarelli made a motion to approve Karl Miller to the Recreation Committee through June 30, 2018. Andrew Soliwoda second the motion. Approved unanimously 4-0.

VIII. Reports from School Committee:

Andrew Soliwoda asked about committee members having tours of school campuses. Scott Knief said the Committee could contact him at any time to arrange to go through both schools if interested.

Stephanie Clougherty congratulated the HS Drama Club on their No One Leaves Hungry performances and also for the caring spirit of donating the proceeds (\$4000) to the Shane Gives Thanks food pantry. She also encouraged the community to attend the Middle School performance of Alice in Wonderland on Saturday 2/17 at 2 and 7 p.m.

James O'Brien wished everyone a safe and relaxing February school vacation break.

IX. Executive Session: James O'Brien asked for a motion to adjourn regular session and to enter into executive session not to return to open regular session to Andrew Soliwoda made the motion, Andrew Cardarelli second the motion. All in favor 4-0, by roll call.

Meeting adjourned at 9:24 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Annmarie Metrano