

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

School Committee Present:

James O'Brien
Andrew Soliwoda
Andrew Cardarelli
Stephanie Clougherty

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 7:08 pm with Pledge of Allegiance.

Recognition: Renee DeMarsh, CES Physical Education Teacher, was recognized for her accomplishment of running 7 Marathons, 7 Continents, 7 Days including Cape Town, South Africa, Perth Australia, Dubai, UAE, Lisbon, Portugal, Cartagena, Columbia and Miami, Florida. She maintained a consistent pace, came in second or third for each race. Renee partnered with Big Brothers/Big Sisters for this event. Approximately \$20,000 was raised for the running track at the new Elementary School. There is a possibility for another \$10,000 through a grant recently submitted.

- I. **Comments from General Public:** Tammy Johnson spoke to the Committee regarding the need for fully funded services and the implications of any reductions to the budget that will fall onto the teachers and ultimately on to the students.

- I. **Comments from EAPC:** Deb Gesualdo addressed the Committee on behalf of the EAPC and said the union understands these are challenging times but she implored them fully fund our schools. She asked to make sure to put the Children First when making their budget decisions and their vote.

- II. **Updates from Student Council and Captains Council:** Jenna Sweeney reported the Student Council recently attended the 41st annual MASC Spring Conference in Hyannis. Carver Stu-Co won Gold Council Award for the 6th year in a row for their Excellence Book. Spirit week is coming up with the following themes: Monday, miss matched, Tuesday, twin, Wednesday, PJs, Thursday, salad dressing and Friday class colors. The week will conclude with a Spirit Pep Rally.

IV. Approval of Minutes:

Andrew Soliwoda made a motion to approve regular session and executive session minutes of February 12, 2018. Andrew Cardarelli second the motion. Approved 4-0.

Motion was made by Andrew Soliwoda to amend previous motion to approve February 12th Regular minutes Session minutes only and to hold Feb. 12 and Feb. 27 Executive Session minutes until April meeting for review and vote. Stephanie Clougherty second the motion. All in favor.

Andrew Soliwoda made a motion to approve joint meeting minutes with Select Board on February 15, 2018. Andrew Cardarelli second the motion. Approved 3-0. Stephanie Clougherty abstained.

Andrew Soliwoda made a motion to approve Annual Budget Hearing minutes of February 27, 2018. Andrew Cardarelli second the motion. Approved 4-0.

V. Communications:

- A. Day on the Hill:** The annual event will be held at State House on April 25th. Scott Knief and Brad Brothers will attend. Topic is Education Reform: The Next 25 Months. The Committee was invited to attend as well.
- B. Mass Pro Start Invitational: Congratulations to** Carver Middle High School Culinary who competed in Mass Pro Start on March 6, 2018. The Culinary Team of Torri Dibble, Trevor Drakakis, Alexi Durham, Kailey Neil and Sawyer Shaw won second place in the competition. The Management team of Darren Foster and Kevin Shott won the State Title and will compete in Providence, RI in April.

VI. Reports from Superintendent

- A. Personnel Updates:** The following retirements were announced: Susan Spillane, MHS Foreign Language Teacher and Annmarie Metrano, Admin Asst. to Superintendent.
- B. Elementary Data:** Michelle Taylor and Jen Kelley gave a presentation about what happens at Elementary School data meetings and how the teachers use the data to increase student learning. The role of “data” is to monitor student’s response to instruction and intervention. The information is triangulated for standardized assessment, curriculum based measures and learner profile information. Also the role of the Director of Literacy and Math Coach on supporting teachers implementation of best practice was discussed. Andrew Soliwoda thanked the ladies for their informative presentation.
- C. Elementary School Moving Update:** Brad Brothers provided information on the timeline and process for moving materials from the old school to the new school and for moving and disposing of materials and equipment that we will be donating, recycling or throwing away from the current school buildings. Bids from vendors are being reviewed.
- D. School Committee Protocols:** James O’Brien suggested this topic be moved to the next meeting and suggested as a general process the protocols should be reviewed in May of each year especially as new members might join the Committee. Andy Cardarelli suggested revising #7 to include channeling information through the

Chief Operations and Finance Officer as well. James O'Brien said he thought it was best to keep it as written. Scott Knief said the intent is to equally distribute information. He asked the Committee to review the protocols that were established in Fall 2016 to see if anything needs to be revised. Once the Committee has reviewed for any changes, the Protocols will be posted to website on School Committee page.

- E. Drop Out Report:** The 2016-2017 school year was recently released. Drop-out rate is calculated by dividing the total number of students in grades 9-12 who left school during a given school year compared to the number of student reported enrolled on October 1 of any given school year. For example, during the 2016-2017 school year; we had 3 students drop-out of school and had a October 1 number of 416 for a drop-rate of .7%. Drop-out rates over the past several years were reviewed for comparison.
- F. School Committee Petitions Against Gun Violence:** James O'Brien opened this discussion asking the Committee for their thoughts on this important and difficult topic. He asked if the Committee wanted to support signing and sending letters on this topic. Andrew Cardarelli was not sure signing form letters would contribute to any solution. James said he would sign a letter that our Committee would create. Scott Knief said the take away from this discussion is what are we doing in Carver for safety – what needs to be changed – a statement of what we feel and need to implement locally should be drafted. Andrew Soliwoda asked if we should have some sort of open forum for the community to include police and first responders, teachers and parents. Mr. Knief will work on setting up a forum for the public.

VII. Recommendations from Superintendent:

- A. FY 18 Budget Transfers:** Brad Brothers highlighted several budget transfers that he suggested be made for FY 18. Andrew Soliwoda made a motion to approve the FY 18 transfers as described. Stephanie Clougherty second the motion. Approved 4-0.
- B. School Choice:** The Superintendent recommended the approval of 5 slots in Kindergarten, and new this year, grades 6-9. The increased slots could potentially increase our budget offset for FY19 by \$90,000 based on adding School Choice at these grades levels. Andrew Soliwoda made a motion to approve 5 slots in each grade level of Kindergarten, grades 6-9 for the 2018-2019 school year. Andrew Cardarelli second the motion.

Discussion: Andrew Soliwoda wanted to make sure the impact of this decision would be reviewed each year to see if it was beneficial or not. Superintendent stated it is an annual vote. Stephanie Clougherty said she had mixed feelings and asked if the motion could be changed to approve only kindergarten and not grades 6-9. Andrew Cardarelli asked what the objection was for grades 6-9. She indicated she had listened to some objections from community. James O'Brien said he has confidence in what Scott Knief has reported as positive impacts to the school district. Vote taken and Motion passes for School Choice for 2018-2019 for grades K and 6-9, vote 3-1.

C. FY 19 School Budget: The Superintendent recommended a vote for the budget number of \$23,259,768. This number matches the number recommended by the Town and does not include reduction of any staff or pending contract negotiations. A reminder, that the budget is essentially a level service budget with the addition of a .5 ELL teacher. Andrew Soliwoda made a motion to approve the FY 19 budget of \$23,259,768 Andrew Cardarelli second the motion. Approved 4-0.

D. School Calendar: Andrew Soliwoda made a motion to approve the proposed 2018-2019 school calendar. Andrew Cardarelli second the motion. Approved 4-0. Of note, the primary change on this calendar is the start of school after Labor Day and moving three teacher professional days to the week before school opens to assist with Elementary School transition to new building.

E. Field Trip Request: Andrew Soliwoda made a motion to approve the out of state Culinary Field Trip for 3/23-24/18 for the team to compete in South Portland, Maine. Andrew Cardarelli second the motion. Approved 4-0.

VIII. Reports from School Committee: Andrew Soliwoda noted the grade 5 Science Fair will take place on March 21st, and on March 15th the Community Readers program will be at Elementary School and also High School Senior Show on that date.. Andrew Cardarelli wished everyone safety from the impending storm. Stephanie Clougherty reminded the community the Annual Town Meeting has been moved to Tuesday, April 24th at 6:30 p.m. at the Middle High School. Also, on March 28th the Middle High School will have their March Music Madness at 7 p.m. Mrs. Clougherty will be participating again this year on June 23rd for the Heidrea for Heroes fundraiser by skydiving. She encouraged her committee members to come on board!

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 session for the purpose of conducting strategy in preparation for negotiations and collective bargaining with union personnel. Stephanie Clougherty made the motion, and Andrew Cardarelli second the motion. All in favor 4-0, by roll call.

Meeting adjourned at 9:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Annmarie Metrano