

CARVER PUBLIC SCHOOLS

School Committee Meeting

MINUTES –March 13, 2017

School Committee Present:

James O'Brien
Andrew Cardarelli
Paula Lowe
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
Jenna Sweeney, Student Council Representative

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

Recognitions: Senior Christopher Willis was recognized for his accomplishments with the Boys Varsity Basketball team. Chris scored 1000 points during this season. Michael Schultz, Director of Athletics and Roger King, Varsity Coach presented Chris with the game ball in an acrylic presentation cube engraved with the details from his 1000 point shot. He was commended for not only being an extraordinary athlete but also for being an outstanding student.

Project 351: Emilee Stagnitta, grade 8, is this year's Carver ambassador to the state-wide program, Project 351. 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. Emilee plans to coordinate a local clothing drive through the Cradles to Crayons program.

I. Comments from General Public: None

II. Comments from EAPC: Tom Pinto, EAPC President, addressed the committee stating in hopes to eliminate layoffs, the EAPC has formed an action plan that they will share with the community.

III. Updates from Student Council: Jenna Sweeney updated the committee on the three day 40th MASC Conference held on the Cape on March 8-10, 2017. Polar plunge for Special Olympics, several workshops, and gold council for 4th year in a row were highlights. Participants refined leadership goals and made many friends.

IV. Approval of Minutes: Andrew Cardarelli made a motion to approve regular meeting minutes from February 13, 2017, second by Andrew Soliwoda. Approved with one abstention from Paula Lowe. Andrew Soliwoda made a motion to approve Budget Hearing Minutes from February 27, 2017, Andrew Cardarelli second. Approved 4-0. Andrew Cardarelli made a motion to approve executive session minutes from February 27, 2017 Andrew Soliwoda second the motion. Approved 4-0.

V. Communications:

A. Letter from Student: Conor Dahill, grade 8 student, sent a letter to the Superintendent thanking his teachers Katie LaLiberte and Deb Pomella for helping him to learn how to read. Conor had attended the December 2016 meeting to give a student's perspective to the Language Live program.

B. Day on the Hill will be April 25, 2017. The Superintendent will attend and asked committee members if any would available to attend as well. James O'Brien asked what the agenda looks like for the day. The event is an opportunity for school representatives to get together to meet with executive and legislative leadership and local representatives to advocate for educational matters.

VI. Reports from Superintendent

Instructional Leadership - Standard I

A. Personnel Updates: Retirement of Deborah Johnson, CES teacher was announced.

B. Family Success Partnership Program: Scott Knief introduced Sarah Corchoran who is working with our school district through the READS –FSP program. The services are being accessed through the Special Education 274 grant with a cap of five families currently to be assisted. Sarah presented details about this model and her training and early interactions with families. Resources for families could include basic needs such as housing, food, insurance, to a variety of social emotional issues. Ms. Corchoran, through this program, assists families to access resources in a variety of flexible arrangements. As a school district, our school adjustment counselor identifies families who might need this program. James O'Brien thanked Sarah for joining with our staff in this effort and also thanked Scott Knief for his foresight in starting this program in Carver.

C. MCAS Updates: Meredith Cargill presented information on the upcoming MCAS exams for students in grades 3-10 and the proposed shifts in the state accountability system. The MCAS Legacy model will sunset and the first run of Next Generation MCAS will start for grades 3-8 in Math and ELA. Grade 10 and Science will stay "as is" until 2019. She explained testing preparation for principals and test coordinators as well as technology needs and setup. James O'Brien asked for a presentation of actual test questions/practice for members at next school committee meeting.

Management and Operation Standard II

A. Consolidation of IT Services: The operational model that is being discussed if the Committee agrees to share IT services with the town was shared. In this model, the Schools would take the leadership in providing IT services to both the school and town. The Superintendent would have joint oversight and management of the position with the Town Administrator, but on a daily basis the person in the position would report directly to the Superintendent. The position would be funded through \$25,000 from the school, which we currently pay to LCN Network services to provide network oversight, and \$50,000 from the town operating budget that they currently use for technology support and network oversight. The grant would fund the remainder of the position for the first year then the town has committed to cover additional funding for the position, if needed, in the following years. There are still a lot of details to work out and the next step would be reviewing a proposed agreement.

B. Monthly School Building Report: On March 1, the members of the School Building Committee and teachers from our Elementary School visited Woodland Elementary School in Milford MA, which was also designed by HMFH. The Woodland School had many of the same design elements that our school is going to have including, small group instructional rooms, project areas, and media areas. It gave the committee the opportunity to see how HMFH used colors in the interior design. The interior colors will be a major topic of discussion at the next School Building Committee meeting on Wednesday, March 22 at 7p.m. The building is still moving along on time and under budget.

C. Facilities Updates: Brad Brothers shared repair work at MHS will start after May 15th. The bids came in under budget from what town meeting had authorized for a bond authorization. Two school buses and four vans have been unused at transportation department. A couple will be brought into service, a couple will be given to fire department for Jaws of Life training and two buses (2002 and 2007) will be sold to Cranston Public Schools in Rhode Island. For food services, we are in access of \$13,000 short. The Director of Food Services is working with Business Office for remedies. There is a possibility of increasing lunch costs.

Family and Community Engagement Standard III

A. Peyton Packs: Krystal McColgan, mother of Peyton and Shane McColgan explained how the Peyton Packs program started. She said the objective of the program is to provide children who are eligible for free or reduced lunch at Carver Elementary School meals over the weekend if they would otherwise go without. The pack that students take home over the weekend contains: 2 breakfast options, 2 lunch options, vegetables, fruit and a snack item. The students are given the packs at the end of the day on Friday to take home. This program is at no cost to the student and their family. This is a totally volunteer program with all food products being donated. The Superintendent and Committee thanked Krystal and her children for the all the work they have done in support of our students. James O'Brien said he would like to bring this up for discussion at a joint meeting of the School Committee and Board of Selectmen to see what could be done to support this worthwhile program.

Professional Culture Standard IV: None

VI. Recommendations from Superintendent

A. Student Activities Transfers: Brad Brothers explained the rationale for requesting money in student activities account to be transferred. Andrew Cardarelli made a motion to approve the transfer of monies within student activities accounts as presented by the Chief Operations and Finance Officer. Andrew Soliwoda seconds the motion. Approved unanimously.

VIII. Reports from School Committee

Mr. Knief gave each committee member a copy of the rubric to assist in ratings of each indicator for his evaluation which will take place in April.

Andrew Soliwoda thanked the people in the community for all the work they do for spring sports for the students.

Paula Lowe made a motion to adjourn at: 9:06 p.m. The motion was seconded by Andrew Soliwoda. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted by Annmarie Metrano