

Carlisle School Committee
Public Meeting
December 22, 2005
Ruth C. Wilkins Library, Robbins Building
7:00 PM

Present – School Committee: David Dockterman, Chair; Nicole Burkel, Vice-Chair; Christy Barbee; Wendell Sykes; Michael Fitzgerald.

Present – School Administration: Marie Doyle, Superintendent; Steven Moore, Business Manager; Stephen Goodwin, Principal; Michael Giurlando, Assistant Principal.

David Dockterman called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm.

Review of minutes

Nicole Burkel made a motion to approve the minutes of the meeting of December 7, 2005. Wendell Sykes seconded the motion. Two corrections were noted, and all members present voted in favor of approving the amended minutes.

Communications/Correspondence

The 2004 – 2005 Management Information Report for School Committees has been received from the Massachusetts Association of School Committees. Two copies were sent to the School, and Mr. Dockterman was given one of the copies.

Superintendent's Report

- A. Parent Discussion Series. Marie Doyle reviewed the upcoming parent discussion series regarding issues encountered when raising school-aged children. School Committee members received copies of the flyer in their packets.
- B. Louise Thompson. Ms. Doyle reported that Ms. Thompson had visited the school and worked with curriculum coordinators on essential understandings. She also met with grade-level teams to discuss benchmarks.
- C. Professional Days/Parent Conferences. Parent conferences were held, and Ms. Doyle extended special thanks to the staff for putting in very long hours on the days of the conferences.
- D. Winter Concerts. The winter concerts were a great success with many students involved in bands and choruses. Mr. Dockterman noted the growth in the choral programs and stated that Megan Fitzharris has done an outstanding job with the choruses.

- E. Eighth Grade Field Trip. David Dockterman, who missed the previous meeting, asked if there would be a second discussion about the trip. Ms. Doyle stated that this topic would be on the agenda for a meeting later in January. Mr. Dockterman noted that the original purpose of the trip has changed and he would like to discuss this further. Students should be invited to the meeting to provide input.

Members'/Committee Reports

Regional School Committee. Michael Fitzgerald was pleased to report that the two students receiving the superintendent's award were both young women from Carlisle. They are Katie Swanson and Katie DeGuglielmo. The resumes of the two girls were outstanding, and it is wonderful that both are from Carlisle. Ms. Doyle stated that she would let the school staff know about this achievement. Mr. Fitzgerald also reported that the RSC passed a budget, which will require an override for the town of Concord. If the override fails, there is a danger that programs will be cut. Two programs noted by Mr. Fitzgerald were the STEP program, and the Radio Station, both of which serve students who are not typically involved in other activities. Ms. Burkel noted that the potential list of cuts is very difficult this year, and academic programs might have to be reduced if the override fails because there isn't much else to cut. There will be no override required for Carlisle because we will have fewer students next year at the high school.

School Building Committee. Christy Barbee stated that Waste Water Treatment Facility project is progressing well. The building now has a roof, and an RFP will be sent out in early January for bids for operation of the plant. The SBC is starting to get more detailed drawings from the architects. They are looking at plans that might result in tearing down the Spalding Building and not re-building it. The need for modular classrooms was discussed, and it was agreed that the budget should include a placeholder for modulares to ease the immediate space crunch. There will be two community meetings with the architects: January 19th in the evening and the morning of January 20th to begin to involve parents and get their input into the building project. SBC will meet with the architects on January 12th in advance of the parent meetings. Mr. Sykes suggested that the architects should pay close attention to the impact implementing a plan will have on the school during the actual building process. We need to understand how the school will be affected and what the costs will be

Information/Discussion Items

- A. **Fiscal 2005 End of Year Report.** Steven Moore gave a copy of the report to Mr. Dockterman; it has also been submitted to the state. The report follows a format required by the state.

- B. Recreation Commission/Banta Davis Letter of Support.** The School Committee considered a draft of a letter, and Mr. Fitzgerald and other members suggested some changes in wording and in the order of items in the letter. It was also noted that the letter should be addressed to the Selectmen. All changes will be incorporated, and the letter will be sent to the Selectmen. Maureen Tarca, who was present at the meeting from the Recreation Commission, stated that RecCom has looked further into the footpath requested by the School Committee. They are planning to ask the Trails Committee to put the footpath on their priority list for 2007 so Community Preservation Act funds could potentially be used for the path. The path is important because it provides land contiguous to the existing school land.
- C. Continuation of Budget Discussion.** Steven Moore began by informing the Committee that the bid for the bus contract had been received and opened. The cost has gone up 10% over the current contract. He asked that the School Committee vote to accept the bid. He noted that there is a fuel escalator in the contract, which protects the school up to a price of \$2.80 per gallon of diesel fuel before we would have to pay a surcharge. The price is guaranteed for the next three years. The student fee (\$395) will not have to be increased with the new contract.

Mr. Moore then reviewed the proposed operating budget for next year. Negotiated raises and new initiatives are still not included in the planned budget. Added since the last meeting were the final fee for the bus contract, a line item for professional development (5K) for the superintendent to allocate as she deems appropriate, and the cost for an ELL tutor. With these additions, the budget is still within the FinCom guidelines. Mr. Fitzgerald asked for clarification on the professional development line item addition. Mr. Dockterman noted that he had asked to have this added to better fund professional development.

The remaining new initiatives total 53,000 and may or may not be included in the budget which will be submitted, depending on the outcome of negotiations.

Mr. Moore then discussed capital budget items for next year and presented the Administrative Team's prioritization of the requests as follows:

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|------------------------------|---------|-------------|
| Temporary classrooms | 800,000 | priority 1a |
| Wilkins Boiler replacement | 70,000 | Priority 1 |
| Robbins Roof repair | 5,000 | Priority 2 |
| Locker replacement | 7,000 | Priority 3 |
| Safety Railings | 20,340 | Priority 4 |
| Classroom furniture | 2,780 | Priority 5 |
| Technology Replacement Cycle | 36,000 | Priority 6 |
| Technology Upgrade | 24,900 | Priority 7 |
| Science Tables | 9,240 | Priority 8 |

He noted that the \$800,000 cost for temporary classrooms is a placeholder at this point. He also stated that he and David Flannery have been working on determining costs for replacement of the Wilkins boiler, which may be done this year. If the work is not done during the current budget cycle, it will need to be done next year.

There was discussion regarding the Technology Upgrade line item and Mr. Moore reported that faculty, through the recent technology survey, requested much of the equipment. Ms. Doyle stated that a number of teachers have asked for Active Boards. Deb Butts, fifth grade teacher, who was present at the meeting, stated that using the Active Board has changed the way she teaches. She invited the School Committee to visit her class at anytime to see how she uses the Board in her teaching. She noted that the boards really need to be fixed in a classroom, and she felt it would not work to have them shared among teachers. She began using the board for Geometry, and found it to be extremely valuable. Ms. Butts offered to do a demo for the School Committee, and it will be scheduled for an upcoming meeting.

In concluding the budget discussion, Mr. Moore stated that until the new contract is in place, there would really be nothing new to add to the budget discussion.

Action Items

- A. Bedford Charter Contract. Mr. Sykes made a motion to accept the new 3-year contract with Bedford Charter service for \$1,228,830. Nicole Burkel seconded the motion and all members voted in favor.**
- B. Re-affirmation of Policy #11.01.2000, Safe Bus Riding. Mr. Fitzgerald made a motion to re-affirm the Safe Bus Riding Policy, #11.01.2000. Mr. Sykes seconded the motion and all members voted in favor.**
- C. Acceptance new Policy #07.13.2005, Physical Restraint. Mr. Fitzgerald made a motion to accept the new Physical Restraint Policy, #07.13.2005. Mr. Sykes seconded the motion, and all members voted in favor.**

Citizens' Comments

Cynthia Sorn asked how close the Committee and teachers were to agreement on a new contract. Mr. Dockterman stated that the process is moving along

Adjournment

There was no additional business, and **Ms. Burkel made a motion to adjourn to Executive Session for the purpose of discussion negotiations. The meeting would not return to a public session. Mr. Sykes seconded the motion, and members voted as follows: Ms. Barbee, yes; Mr. Sykes, yes; Mr. Fitzgerald, yes; Ms. Burkel, yes; Mr. Dockterman, yes.**

The public meeting was adjourned at 8:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Claire M. Wilcox
Assistant to the Superintendent