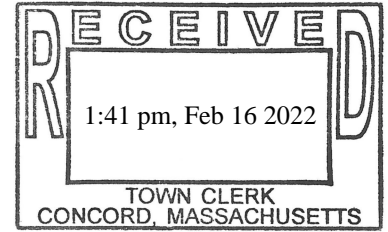


JOINT SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Concord-Carlisle School Committee  
Concord School Committee  
Virtual Meeting via Zoom  
January 11, 2022

Present: Sara Wilson, Chair, CCSC  
Cynthia Rainey, Chair, CSC; CCSC  
Courtland Booth, Vice Chair, CCSC; CSC  
Alexa Anderson, Vice Chair, CSC; CCSC  
Tracey Marano, CSC; CCSC  
Eva Mostoufi, CCSC



Present from Administration: Dr. Laurie Hunter, Superintendent of Schools, CPS & CCRSD  
Jared Stanton, Asst. Supt. of Finance & Operations, CPS & CCRSD

**I. CALL TO ORDER - CSC**

Ms. Rainey called the CSC meeting to order at 6:00 PM. Roll call attendance was taken: Anderson, aye; Booth, aye; Marano, aye; Rainey, aye. A motion was made by Mr. Booth, seconded by Ms. Anderson, to enter into Executive Session under Purpose 1 of the Open Meeting Law to consider an Open Meeting Law complaint against public officers, namely the members of the School Committee, filed with the Committee by Michael Murray on January 1, 2022 and under Purpose 7 of the Open Meeting Law to comply with or act under authority of, any general or special law or federal grant-in-aid requirements, specifically M.G.L. c.30A, §22(f) and (g) with regard to the review, approval, and/or consideration for non-disclosure of executive session minutes from June 15, 2021, and under Purpose 3, under which the June 15 executive session was held and return to Open Session at 6:30 PM. The motion was approved by roll call: Anderson, aye; Booth, aye; Marano, aye; Rainey, aye.

The CSC returned to Open Session at 6:34.

A motion was made by Mr. Booth, seconded by Ms. Anderson, to open the Public Hearing on the CPS Budget FY23. The motion was approved by roll call: Anderson, aye; Booth, aye; Marano, aye; Rainey, aye.

**PUBLIC HEARING CPS BUDGET FY23**

Dr. Hunter noted that the DEI position has now been included within the budget, instead of the METCO grant as previously presented in previous budget presentations. Mr. Stanton reviewed the FY23 budget of \$43,323,170, including: timeline, budget numbers by 1000 function, budget drivers and cost savings by expense type, requested FTE's, grant/revolving account salary offsets, special education tuitions, early retirement projected savings, transportation, budgets by location (preschool, District Wide Elementary, Alcott, Thoreau, Willard, CMS, and District Wide), CARES Act/ESSER funds, and ESSER III.

After no public comments or questions, a motion was made by Mr. Booth, seconded by Ms. Anderson, to close the Public Hearing on the FY23 CPS Budget. The motion passed by roll call and the CPS Public Hearing closed at 6:57 PM.

**II. CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL - CCSC**

Ms. Wilson called the CCSC meeting to order at 6:59 PM. Roll call attendance was taken: Anderson, aye; Booth, aye; Marano, aye; Rainey, aye, Wilson, aye.

**PUBLIC HEARING CCRSD BUDGET FY23**

Ms. Wilson opened the CCRSD Public Hearing on the FY23 Budget at 7:00PM. Dr. Hunter noted that, at the request of the SC, the DEI director position is now embedded within the operating budget and other costs have been reallocated to the METCO grant. *Ms. Mostoufi joined the meeting.* Mr. Stanton reviewed the FY23 CCRSD Budget of \$36,644,994, including: timeline, budget by 1000 function, budget drivers and cost savings by expense type, requested FTEs, grant/revolving account salary/expenses offset, special education tuitions, excess & deficiency projections, early retirement incentive

projected savings, other post-employment benefits, transportation, health insurance, debt service, CARES Act/ESSER/ESSER III Funds, general fund revenue estimates, and assessments.

After no public comments or questions, a motion was made by Mr. Booth, seconded by Ms. Anderson, to close the CCRSD Public Hearing on the FY23 budget. The motion passed by roll call and the CCRSD Public Hearing closed at 7:19 PM.

### **III. PUBLIC COMMENT**

1. Karlen Reed, 83 Whits End, Concord, MA. Ms. Reed stated she was speaking for the League of Women Voters Voter Service Committee, along with Nancy Confrey, announcing the candidate forum for the two school committee candidates. She stated that the forum would be held on Thursday, January 27<sup>th</sup> from 7:30-8:30 PM over Zoom, noting that it will be moderated, recorded and open to the public. Ms. Confrey noted that questions for the candidates could be sent ahead of time to voterservice@lwwcc.org.

### **IV. READING OF THE MINUTES**

A. Open Session 11/30/21 and 12/7/21. A motion was made by Ms. Anderson, seconded by Ms. Marano, to approve the Open Session minutes from 11/30/21 and 12/7/21. Mr. Booth noted small edits in wording. The motion passed by roll call: Anderson, aye (for both); Booth, aye (for both); Marano, aye (for both); Mostoufi, aye; Rainey, aye (for both); Wilson, aye.

### **V. CORRESPONDENCE**

Ms. Wilson stated that CCSC received one correspondence and Ms. Rainey stated that CSC received one correspondence regarding literacy.

### **VI. CHAIRS & LIAISONS REPORT**

Ms. Anderson stated that she and Ms. Mostoufi attended the SEPAC Board meeting, noting that the meeting was very robust. She stated that the SEPAC Board is no longer subject to open meeting law and is amending its bylaws. She stated that SEPAC is working on best practices to maintain the benefits of Open Meeting Law. Ms. Anderson stated that SEPAC is hoping that the Administration will provide a presentation on the new dyslexia guidelines. She stated that the larger SEPAC committee and its literacy subcommittee would be each compiling a list of goals.

Ms. Mostoufi stated that SEPAC would like to set up coffees with the CCHS special education coordinators in February, noting that there is a lot of interest in how the district is working through the MA guidelines. She stated that SEPAC is also working on how to bring in more engagement from families. Ms. Anderson noted that SEPAC has open position on its board.

Mr. Booth stated that the Policy Subcommittee meets on Thursday at 10:00 AM.

Ms. Marano stated that the DEI Subcommittee met on January 5<sup>th</sup>. She stated that Mr. Nyamekye continues to meet with many groups in the district and to focus on developing his strategic plan. She stated that the equity survey results will be coming in February. Ms. Marano stated that the next DEI Subcommittee meeting is February 2<sup>nd</sup>.

### **VII. DISCUSSION**

A. COVID Updates. Dr. Hunter stated there have been 217 cases over the previous week, noting that it was similar to other districts. She stated that the numbers seem to be stabilizing this week and most seem to be having mild symptoms. She stated that, based on CIC and DESE, the testing pools will now be made up of 3 people instead of 10. She noted the cluster in a Thoreau kindergarten class, stating that in conjunction with DESE and public health officials, it was determined that the classroom would go remote for 3 days. Dr. Hunter stated that 76% of K-5 students are fully vaccinated and 8% are partially vaccinated. She stated that the district is averaging 8-10% of staff out each day and there are about 150 student absences daily at CCHS, just under 100 at CMS and around 50-70 at the elementary schools. She stated that DESE has extended the mask mandate through February 28, 2022 and the district is working on a vaccine clinic at the end of January to be held at CCHS. Dr. Hunter recognized the principals and nursing staff for all of their hard work, noting that the parents feel very supported.

B. First Reading School Committee Policies. KF – Facility Use & KF-R – Community Use Regulations and Fees.

Mr. Booth reviewed policies KF and KF-R, noting that the last time they were updated was 2009. He stated that the Business Office has notified summer users of the potential change in fees and thanked the Business Office for all of its work on these policies. Mr. Booth noted the newly added frequent user discount for groups that reserve a bulk of time, noting that they are just facility discounts, not discounts on the personnel rates. He stated that the fees were scrutinized and were determined to not discourage community users, but to not be so low as to be subsidized and too attractive to distract from K-12 education. Ms. Marano noted that the subcommittee looked at fee schedules at other districts as well. Ms. Mostoufi noted that the state links included in the policy may change, suggesting that the title of the linked documents be added as well in case the links change. Ms. Rainey questioned the group definitions, noting that, based on the agreement signed, the district cannot charge youth sports. Mr. Booth stated that the Policy Subcommittee would make sure this was reflected in the policy. Ms. Rainey also suggested differentiating the fees for custodians after 2:00PM on weekdays on the fee schedule.

C. FY23 Budget. Dr. Hunter stated that the Concord guideline delta is \$240,813 overall. Mr. Stanton reviewed recommendations to meet the guideline, including: increasing Chapter 71 transportation revenue by \$50,000, increasing Chapter 70 by \$87,000, reducing special education salaries and moving them to the METCO Supplemental Special Education Grant as an offset, and increasing circuit breaker offset by \$63,813. Ms. Rainey questioned the METCO Director position being .4 at CPS and .6 at CCHS. Mr. Stanton stated that they adjust based on where the position spends the most time. Ms. Rainey asked what the plan is for buses in terms of reimbursements and grants. Mr. Stanton stated that there is no new information on the VW Fund. He stated that if CPS gets an electric bus, there is no regional reimbursement, but if the region got an electric bus, the state of MA will reimburse 70% over the following 5 years once the bus is on the road and reported to them. Dr. Hunter stated that the intent of the state with Chapter 71 is to motivate regionalization, not sustainable transportation, and noted that there will be federal money over the coming years. Mr. Booth and Ms. Rainey voiced their concerns for having two diesel buses in the CCRSD budget and two in the CPS budget, suggesting more diligence be done. After discussion, Dr. Hunter asked for clarity on how the SC would like to move forward with the budget and if they were looking to decrease the budget number and remove the buses or increase the budget and add electric buses, noting that she does not recommend cutting the buses out of the budget.

D. FY23 Capital Plan. Mr. Stanton shared the FY23 Capital Plan, noting that the plan is the same as discussed at the December 17<sup>th</sup> meeting. Ms. Rainey stated that they need to figure out a way to determine what Carlisle's piece of Ripley should be and Dr. Hunter stated that she has a meeting scheduled with Tim Goddard and Kerry Lafleur regarding Ripley.

#### **VIII. ACTION ITEMS**

A. Vote to Approve FY23 Budget. *The SC deferred the budget vote to the next meeting.*

B. Vote to Approve FY23 Capital Plan. *The SC deferred the capital plan vote to the next meeting.*

C. Vote to Accept a Donation from Lueders Environmental, Inc. A motion was made by Ms. Rainey, seconded by Mr. Booth, to accept a \$125 donation from Lueders Environmental, Inc. The motion was approved with gratitude by roll call: : Anderson, aye (for both); Booth, aye (for both); Marano, aye (for both); Mostoufi, aye; Rainey, aye (for both); Wilson, aye.

D. Vote to Accept a CEF Donation to the Sharon Young Scholarship Fund. A motion was made by Ms. Rainey, seconded by Ms. Anderson, to accept a \$5,000 CEF donation to the Sharon Young Scholarship Fund. The motion was approved with gratitude by roll call: Anderson, aye; Booth, aye; Mostoufi, aye; Rainey, aye; Wilson, aye. Ms. Marano abstained from the vote because she was involved in the creation of the fund.

#### **IX. ADDITIONAL PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

#### **X. CCSC ADJOURNMENT**

A motion to adjourn the CCSC meeting was made by Mr. Booth, seconded by Ms. Rainey. The motion was approved by roll call: Anderson, aye; Booth, aye; Marano, aye; Mostoufi, aye; Rainey, aye; Wilson, aye, and the CCSC meeting adjourned at 9:13 PM.

#### **XIII. DISCUSSION**

A. CMS Building Project Update. Ms. Rainey stated that the SC would have the opportunity to make a short statement at the upcoming Special Town Meeting. Ms. Anderson stated that people are still attending the zoom events, noting that there are three more prior to Town Meeting. She stated that the CMSBC is sharing out on social media as well. Mr. Booth stated that he was not comfortable with the continued uncertainty around the efforts to be net zero, noting that he is hopeful to learn more at the light plant's meeting the next day. He also noted that value engineering was not completed. Ms. Rainey noted her concerns regarding solar as well, but noted her optimism in working with the light plant. Mr. Booth stated that he feels the SC should reference solar in its statement at Town Meeting and Ms. Marano noted her concern for doing so, suggesting it might create a lot of discussion around the vote. Ms. Anderson stated that they would really need to make sure the language is succinct and clear in the statement so not to confuse people. The SC agreed that Mr. Booth would draft a statement to use at Special Town Meeting.

B. FY23 Budget. Dr. Hunter stated that the Finance Committee guideline has remained the same as its preliminary guideline, noting that the current delta is \$486,848. She stated that, with the recommendations of reducing \$90,000 from the METCO Supplemental Special Ed Grant and offsetting Circuit breaker by \$75,000, this would bring the delta down to \$321,848. Dr. Hunter noted that they have taken risks already with some staff retirements as well and have already slimmed supplies and materials.

## **IX. ADJOURNMENT**

A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Booth, seconded by Ms. Anderson. The motion was unanimously approved and the CSC meeting adjourned at 9:48 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Erin E. Higgins

Approved: 2.15.22

### Abbreviations:

|        |   |
|--------|---|
| CCHS   | Concord-Carlisle High School                        |
| CCRSD  | Concord-Carlisle Regional School District           |
| CCSC   | Concord-Carlisle Regional District School Committee |
| CCTA   | Concord-Carlisle Teachers' Association              |
| CDC    | Center for Disease Control & Prevention             |
| CEF    | Concord Education Fund                              |
| CMLP   | Concord Municipal Light Plant                       |
| CMS    | Concord Middle School                               |
| CMSBC  | Concord Middle School Building Committee            |
| CPS    | Concord Public Schools                              |
| CSC    | Concord School Committee                            |
| E&D    | Excess and Deficiency                               |
| DEI    | Diversity, Equity and Inclusion                     |
| FINCOM | Finance Committee                                   |
| MDPH   | Massachusetts Department of Public Health           |
| MSBA   | Massachusetts School Building Authority             |
| OPEB   | Other Post-Employment Benefits                      |
| PD     | Professional Development                            |
| RTI    | Response to Intervention                            |
| SC     | School Committee                                    |
| SEPAC  | Special Education Parent Advisory Council           |