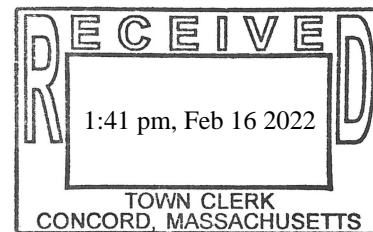


JOINT SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Concord-Carlisle School Committee
Concord School Committee
Virtual Meeting via Zoom
January 18, 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

Ms. Wilson called the CCSC meeting to order at 6:32 PM and then Ms. Rainey called the CSC meeting to order. Roll Call attendance was taken: Anderson, aye; Booth, aye; Marano, aye; Mostoufi, aye; Rainey, aye; Wilson, aye. Ms. Wilson noted that the meeting was being recorded.

Dr. Hunter provided some background on Discussion Item C – Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Operations Search. She stated that Mr. Stanton shared that he is taking another position and that he will be with the district until the end of May.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT

1. Jim Bozak, Custodial Union President. Mr. Bozak expressed his appreciation for Mr. Stanton’s work.

III. CORRESPONDENCE

Ms. Wilson stated that CCSC received one correspondence on facility fees.

IV. CHAIRS & LIAISONS REPORT

Ms. Marano stated that she has an outline of IDEAS training.

V. DISCUSSION

A. FY23 CCRSD Budget. Dr. Hunter stated that the budget reflects the DEI Director split to 60/40. Mr. Stanton stated that \$240,813 was needed to get to the Concord Finance Committee’s guideline. He stated that, to reach the guideline, he recommended \$50,000 for Chapter 71, \$87,000 for Chapter 70, \$40,000 reduction of the salaries going to the for METCO Supplemental Special Ed Grant and \$35,238 in Circuit Breaker Offset. He noted that the DEI Director position split change is reflected in the circuit breaker amount. Including these changes, he stated that the recommended budget amount is \$36,541,181.

B. Second Reading School Committee Policies. KF – Facility Use Policy and KF-R – Community Use Regulations and Fees. Mr. Booth stated that he had hoped to adopt these policies at this meeting, but noted that a little more time is needed with Administration to interpret the 2014 Agreement regarding certain groups not being charged for outdoor fields. Ms. Wilson asked if the new fees could become effective September 1st, keeping the current fees in place for the time being. Mr. Stanton stated that the budget did not incorporate any additional revenue from the fee increase, so it would be fine to wait until after the summer to activate the new fee schedule. The SC agreed to send any questions on fees to Mr. Booth, Chair of the Policy Subcommittee.

C. Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Operations Search. Dr. Hunter shared a draft of the job posting for the Asst. Supt. of Finance and Operations position, noting that the posting had been previously updated prior to Mr. Stanton’s

hiring. She stated that they are trying to encourage as much interest as possible. The SC discussed the qualifications and increasing the span of the salary range to \$165,000 - \$185,000.

VI. ACTION ITEMS

A. Vote to Approve FY23 CCRSD Budget. Ms. Wilson stated that there is some question around the diesel bus leases in the budget, noting that some SC members do not believe the leases align with the district's sustainability goals. Mr. Booth stated that diesel is not healthy for people or the environment, noting also the current climate crisis and the EPA's bus standards. John Arena, Transportation Manager, stated that these issues have been in the district's foresight, noting that they are slowly working electric buses into the fleet. He stated that the infrastructure needs to be in place for additional electric buses prior to purchasing them, noting that there are constantly new updates being made on electric buses and something being done today may be obsolete a year from now. Mr. Arena stated that the buses need to be charged every day and require a certain set of skills to maintain, noting that the warm weather climates seem to do better at this point with electric buses. He stated that there are currently 2 charging stations for the 2 electric buses, noting that the power comes from off the street currently and that the building would need to be upgraded for additional electric buses. Mr. Rhames noted that 2020 Town Meeting voted to fund the infrastructure developments to lay the conduit for a fully electric fleet someday in the future. He stated that the first electric bus the district received was like a prototype and is very different from the electric buses being developed now. He noted that the district is getting a third electric bus in FY23, but it is currently on backorder. Ms. Rainey suggested creating a working group to coordinate with other town groups on this issue and decrease the 4 buses in the FY23 budget to 3. Mr. Booth noted that the mileage on the current buses does not alarm him. Mr. Arena stated that the body rot is what is pulling the buses out of service, not the mileage, noting all of the bodywork that is being done on the bus fleet. Ms. Wilson suggested that a working group work on this prior to the district signing a lease for diesel buses over the summer, noting that they could vote the current budget number in the meantime. Ms. Marano asked Mr. Arena if he needed the 4 buses and he stated that the district could use 6, but 4 would help and keep the district running efficiently with all of the sports trips, field trips and activities in addition to home and school runs. Mr. Arena noted that if buses are turned in with some life left in them, the district can get about \$30,000 for them, but when they are used into the ground, they can only be turned into scrap metal. Ms. Anderson stated that this should be on the School Committee goals moving forward. Mr. Arena noted that the bus drivers feel the School Committee's support. Dr. Hunter stated that she could talk to Kerry Lafleur regarding the creation of a working group.

A motion was made by Ms. Anderson, seconded by Ms. Marano, that the Town raise and appropriate the sum of \$36,541,181 as the Town's apportioned share of the Concord-Carlisle Regional School District budget for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023; and that the same be expended only for such purposes and under the direction of the Concord-Carlisle Regional School Committee. Concord's total assessment is \$25,136,529 and Carlisle's total assessment is \$7,335,411. The motion was approved by roll call: Anderson, aye; Booth, aye; Marano, aye; Mostoufi, aye; Rainey, aye; Wilson, aye.

B. Vote to Approve CCRSD Capital Article. Mr. Stanton shared the two estimates for the paving at CCHS: 1) \$903,124 for asphalt and 2) \$1,053,665 for granite curb. Russ Hughes noted that both estimates include lighting, recommending the granite curb over the asphalt. Mr. Booth noted the importance of determining how much of the current granite that could be reused when going out for bid. Ms. Rainey stated that the SC would need to take a vote in order to use the stabilization fund. After discussion, the SC agreed to move the article for \$200,000 less. A motion was made by Mr. Booth, seconded by Ms. Rainey, that the Town approve \$853,665 of debt authorized by the Concord-Carlisle Regional School Committee for repaving and lighting of the access road. The motion was approved by roll call: Anderson, aye; Booth, aye; Marano, aye; Mostoufi, aye; Rainey, aye; Wilson, aye.

VII. ADDITIONAL PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

VIII. CCSC ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn the CCSC meeting was made by Ms. Wilson, 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 8:10 PM.

IX. DISCUSSION

A. FY23 CPS Budget. Dr. Hunter stated that the budget is \$350,423 over the FINCOM guideline, noting that she is not changing the recommended budget. Mr. Stanton stated that, due to reducing the FTE of the DEI Director at CCHS, it increased the budget on the CPS side. Dr. Hunter stated that they have been through the budget a number of times, noting that any further layers of reduction would have direct impact to students. Ms. Rainey noted her concern for the \$90,000 in the METCO fund returning in next year's budget. Ms. Anderson noted the gains from the three special education programs that were started at the elementary schools, noting that the savings may be hard to quantify. Dr. Hunter stated that Deborah Dixson, Interim Director of Student Services, is working on a model summarizing the continuum of services and savings. Ms. Rainey noted her concern for the CTA salary increases in FY24 and their impact on the budget, noting that the SC needs to keep this on its radar. Mr. Booth suggested going through the exercise of showing FINCOM how the district would meet FINCOM's 2.8% increase guideline through services or other spending. Dr. Hunter stated that they have to be cautious of the message they are sending, noting that in the past, the district has brought the SC a menu of choices. A motion was made by Mr. Booth, seconded by Ms. Marano that the Town appropriates the sum of \$43,186,745 for the necessary and expedient purposes of the public schools of the Town for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023; and that the same be expended only for such purposes and under the direction of the Concord School Committee. The motion passed unanimously by roll call.

B. Special Town Meeting Preparation. Ms. Rainey stated that the CSC would be meeting at 6:30 PM in the Learning Commons at CCHS prior to Special Town Meeting to discuss its statement, suggesting everyone arrive at 6:15 PM. Ms. Anderson stated that there is a final coffee on zoom at 1:00 PM the following day, noting how well attended the coffees have been. Ms. Rainey stated that voting from vehicles would be available at Special Town Meeting as well, noting that directions could be found on the Town's website. Ms. Anderson noted that parking spots are limited.

C. Release of June 15 Executive Session Minutes. Ms. Rainey stated that the SC voted to release the minutes from June 15, 2021.

X. ACTION ITEMS

A. Vote to Approve FY23 CPS Budget and Capital. (*budget vote taken during budget discussion*) A motion was made by Mr. Booth, seconded by Ms. Anderson, that the Town appropriates the sum of nine hundred thousand to be expended under the direction of the Concord School Committee for remodeling, construction, reconstructing or making extraordinary repairs, including original equipment and related work at various Concord Public School buildings; and further, to meet this appropriation, authorize the Town Treasurer with the approval of the Select Board to borrow nine hundred thousand and to issue bonds or notes under the provisions of M.G.L. c. 44, §7, or any other enabling authority; and further that, in accordance with M.G.L. c. 44, §20, the premium received by the Town upon the sale of any bonds or notes thereunder, less any such premium applied to the payment of the costs of issuance of such bonds or notes, may be applied to pay project costs and the amount authorized to be borrowed pursuant to this vote shall be reduced by the amount of any such premium so applied. The motion passed unanimously by roll call.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn was made by Ms. Anderson, seconded by Ms. Marano. The motion was unanimously approved and the CSC meeting adjourned at 8:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Erin E. Higgins

Approved: 2.15.22

Abbreviations:

CCHS	Concord-Carlisle High School
CCRS	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
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
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