

JOINT SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Concord-Carlisle School Committee
Concord School Committee
Ripley Conference Room 4 & Zoom
March 22, 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
Carrie Rankin, CSC; CCSC

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

I. CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Wilson called the CCSC meeting to order at 6:00 PM, noting that the meeting was being recorded. Ms. Rainey then called the CSC meeting to order.

A. EXECUTIVE SESSION. A motion was made by Mr. Booth, seconded by Ms. Rainey, that the Concord School Committee and Concord-Carlisle School Committee would enter into Executive Session under Purpose 3 of the Open Meeting Law to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining with the CCHS tutors and CPS/CCHS bus drivers unions and return to Open Session at 6:30 PM. The motion was approved by roll call: Booth, aye; Marano, aye; Mostoufi, aye; Rainey, aye; Rankin, aye; Wilson, aye.

The Committees returned from Executive Session at 6:37 PM and Ms. Wilson noted that the meeting was being recorded.

II. CCHS STUDENT UPDATE

CCHS Student Rep, Darcy Keenan-Mills, provided an update from CCHS. She stated that Monday was the first day of spring sports, today was the first day for MCAS, many students were still wearing masks, Q3 is coming to a close, and class government held a successful dodgeball tournament, St. Patrick's Day Luncheon and blood drive. She stated that students recently met with Principal Mastrullo to discuss changes to the attendance policy. She also noted that students are thinking of the missing CCHS student and wishing her family well.

Ms. Wilson stated that there were two troubling situations over the weekend, thanking the Administration and law enforcement for their engagement. Ms. Rainey thanked the CMS staff and nurses, as well as Dr. Hunter, for their work on the recent COVID cases at CMS.

Ms. Wilson noted that other members have reminded the Chairs about the Public Comment protocol, noting that she and Ms. Rainey recognize the need to exercise greater restraint in Public Comment practices.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

1. Akia Obas, Boston resident. Ms. Obas stated that the Zoom meeting that Dr. Hunter held in response to the letter dated March 8th from the Concord METCO Families Collective limited the number of parents who could attend due to the time of day the meeting was held, and noted that parents were unable to view the recorded link after the meeting. She asked the SC for a response to their letter and asked when regular representation will become an agenda item. She stated that leadership does not understand the magnitude of the issues around inclusion, equity and systematic oppression. She demanded that two seats be opened on the SC by nomination from the Concord METCO Families Collective to be part of the decision making process.

2. Kristen Ferguson, 95 Revolutionary Road, Concord MA. Ms. Haggerty stated that she was yielding her time to Ms. Obas. Ms. Obas stated that she believes the current METCO Director was placed on leave in retaliation to her advocating for METCO families. She stated that it is impossible to think Mr. Nyamekye can now serve in roles of DEI Director and METCO Director. She stated that they demand for a quick return of Ms. Harris-Lemmel and request Deborah Jemison serve as Interim METCO Director, requesting that the job descriptions be emailed to the parent group. She also requested more information on the Superintendent's Parent Advisory Committee.

3. Erin Fife, 174 Hill Street, Concord MA. Ms. Fife yielded her time to Ms. Obas. Ms. Obas listed the parents interested in participating in the parent advisory group. She stated that strategies needed to be implemented to support the Strategic Plan immediately. She stated that the group is interested in having more transparency around policies and are seeking a more comprehensive conversation on the process.

4. Rose Felix Cratsley, 79 Hillcrest Road, Concord MA. Ms. Cratsley yielded her time to Ms. Obas. Ms. Obas stated that transportation continues to be a concern with METCO students, noting that they do not have the same access as Concord and Carlisle students have to extracurricular activities. She noted all of the challenges with the Franklin Park bus stop. She stated that the district's response to the concerns has been demoralizing, condescending and patronizing. She stated that the Collective would continue to stand as a united source for families demanding accountability, transparency, care and respect they deserve.

5. Brad Hubbard-Nelson, 221 Shawtuck Road, Concord MA. Mr. Hubbard-Nelson stated that he was a parent, part of the Sustainability Committee and ConcordCAN. He noted his concern for replacing the Alcott boilers with gas boilers, noting that the town hopes to lower emissions in this decade. He urged the CSC to put the Alcott project on hold to evaluate efficient alternatives and choose the lower emissions option.

IV. RECOGNITIONS

A. CMS Teachers. CMS Principal, Justin Cameron, thanked the Concord ED Fund and the Concord Garden Fund for their help on the hydroponic project at CMS. CMS Science teacher, Tara Fernandez-Davila, and Maria McDermott, CMS Family & Consumer Science teacher, presented on the STEM and FACS/Health food growing curriculum, explaining how the program works from growing the plants, to harvesting, to preparing the produce to eat. CMS student, Dominick Sabatino, spoke about how much fun it was to take care of the plants and watch them grow.

V. READING OF THE MINUTES

A motion was made by Ms. Anderson, seconded by Mr. Booth, to approve the open session minutes from 2/15/22. The motion was unanimously approved.

VI. CORRESPONDENCE

Ms. Wilson stated that the CCSC received a correspondence on masks. Ms. Rainey stated that the CSC received two emails regarding the gas boilers and one from COAR.

VII. CHAIRS & LIAISONS REPORT

Ms. Marano stated that the SC DEI training started last week with Dr. Paula Martin and Ed Byrne, noting that the next sessions will be held on March 28th and April 12th. She stated that it has been challenging to schedule the April DEI Subcommittee meeting, noting that the next one will be May 11th from 10:30-12:00.

Ms. Anderson stated that SEPAC met on March 15th, noting how productive the meeting was, and that SEPAC is interested in adding a METCO family rep to its board. She stated that the SEPAC Board has put out a formal request to the Select Board for a seat on the CMSBC, noting its interest in ensuring the new building is designed with inclusivity in mind.

Mr. Booth stated that the CMSBC Design Subcommittee met last week to discuss the changes brought forward by the architects to address value engineering. He stated that they also reviewed exterior facings, which would be rolled out at the full committee meeting on Thursday morning.

VIII. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Hunter stated that she is working with SEPAC, Ms. Dixon, and the building based leaders to review the continuum of programs. She stated that Ms. Dixon is reviewing what is working and what needs tweaking, noting that Ms. Dixon

is working on tightening up systemic processes with changes being well received. Dr. Hunter stated that they would be working with the inclusion consultant on the CMS building design development, noting the partnership with SEPAC. She stated that she, in conjunction with HR, is working on having Ms. Dixon remain as Interim Director for an additional year. Regarding literacy, Dr. Hunter stated that they continue to work with the MTSS team on a literacy forum with a big picture view of best practices. She stated that summer school would be held July 11th through August 5th.

IX. DISCUSSION

A. COVID Update. Dr. Hunter stated that there was a COVID surge the previous week at Peabody and that, due to the absence rate, Peabody was closed on Friday. She stated that there have only been a handful of cases district wide since Friday.

B. World Language Teachers Instructional Update. Ms. Herbert recognized the World Language Program, stating that the district is one of the only districts to offer world language to all students and that the program is engaging to students and multicultural windows and doors used to teach students. Iolanda Volpe, Facilitator of the Concord Induction Mentoring Program, reviewed the core curricula according to DESE, the benefits of acquiring more than one language, DEI within the world language program, and the alignment with American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages and MA Foreign Languages Curriculum Framework. Annette Howard, Spanish Teacher at CPS, presented on the CPS Elementary Spanish Program. She reviewed the instruction time, proficiency levels, and examples of how the language is taught to the students with group work, visual tools and engaging activities and games. CMS World Language Chair and French Teacher, Courtney Sawicki, presented on the world language program at CMS. She shared samples of class instruction, student work, and instruction by thematic units. CCHS French Teacher and World Language Department Chair, Caitlin Smith, presented on the world language program at CCHS. She shared information on languages offered, interactive cultural events at CCHS, program structure, how students make connections and widen horizons, sample classes and student presentations, interdisciplinary field trips, and cultural exchanges and educational trips.

C. Concord Public Hearing – Articles 22 & 44. Dr. Hunter stated that they met with the Concord Town Moderator following the realization that the capital article to pave the roadway had not been put on the ballot in time for the April election. After reviewing options, she stated that the consensus was to put the vote on the primary vote on September 6th, pending successful passage at both town meetings. Ms. Wilson stated that the SC would need to keep this on its radar. Ms. Wilson stated that Carlisle FINCOM met and unanimously supported the paving project. Ms. Rainey stated that Article 44 is an authorization to make upgrades to the cable access facilities, including the Ripley SC conference room, seeking the SCs support of the article.

X. ADDITIONAL PUBLIC COMMENT

1. Maxime Ernst, 204 Virginia Road, Concord MA. Maxime stated that she was a CCHS Senior and leader of Concord Carlisle Sunrise Movement Chapter. She stated that the goal of the chapter is to stop climate change and urged the SC to reconsider the Alcott boiler plan and consider a better option.

2. Sydney Haddad. Sydney stated that she was a junior at CCHS, a member of the CC Sunrise Movement and the District Sustainably Committee. Sydney asked the SC to reconsider a greener energy option instead of the current plan for the new boiler at Alcott.

3. Jerry Frenkil, 132 Jennie Duggan Road, Concord MA, Chair of CSEC (Comprehensive Sustainability and Energy Committee). Mr. Frenkil referenced a letter he sent regarding the Alcott boilers, asking the SC how they arrived at this point and how they plan to address sustainability issues.

4. Domingos DeRosa, METCO parent group. Mr. DeRosa thanked the SC for allowing the group to voice their concerns as parents, but noted that issues they presented continue to occur. He noted that they have yet to receive a response from the SC after reaching out via email and in person, noting that the issues presented do not seem to be at the top of the SCs priority list. He stated that the situation is unbearable, asking the SC to take it seriously.

5. Marlisa Frederick, METCO parent group. Ms. Frederick stated that it was troubling to her that there were comments made about Mr. Nyamekye's presentation being thorough. She asked the SC to recognize the group has sent

two letters and would like a response and to partner with the SC, requesting information on how the METCO budget is allocated.

XI. ACTION ITEMS

A. Vote to Take Action Article 44 Concord Town Warrant. A motion was made by Mr. Booth, for CSC, seconded by Ms. Anderson, for CSC, to move affirmative action on Article 44 on the Concord Town Warrant. The motion was unanimously approved.

B. Vote to Approve CCHS Trip to Junior State of America Convention Washington, DC. CCHS student, Eli Holmes, shared background on the JSA, noting that the 6 seniors in JSA are hoping to attend the spring convention this year. A motion was made by Mr. Booth, for CCSC, seconded by Ms. Anderson, for CCSC, to approve the CCHS overnight trip from April 8, 2022 to April 10, 2022 to the Junior State of America Convention in Washington DC, as outlined, with the condition that a signed district liability waiver (MIIA) is received from all participants. The motion was unanimously approved.

C. Vote to Approve CCHS Exchange Student from Germany. A motion was made by Ms. Anderson, for CCSC, seconded by Ms. Marano, for CCSC, to approve one AFS International exchange student from Germany at CCHS for the 2022-2023 school year. The motion was unanimously approved.

XII. CCSC ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn the CCSC meeting was made by Mr. Booth, seconded by Ms. Anderson. The motion was unanimously approved and the CCSC meeting adjourned at 8:34 PM.

XIII. DISCUSSION

A. Concord Middle School Project Update. Mr. Booth stated that the CMSBC would be meeting on Thursday to review recommendations from the Design Subcommittee. Dr. Hunter stated how positive the past week has been meeting with the Design Team and educators at CMS. Mr. Booth stated that there is a link from the district homepage to the project.

B. CPS Budget Update. Ms. Rainey stated that the Concord FINCOM voted Affirmative Action on Articles 19, 20, and 22 and no action on 18 (the CPS budget) at its hearing last Thursday. Mr. Booth stated that he does not expect the SC to meet this guideline since there has been difficulty to date, but that FINCOM would be grateful if the SC would continue to make a good faith effort. Ms. Marano stated that the SC voted to fully support the budget and Ms. Rainey stated that it should be a dialogue. Mr. Booth stated that the budget should be examined again for any efficiencies and Ms. Anderson stated that the voted budget already includes a level of risk, noting that there are many significant challenges at this time with student achievement and wellbeing due to COVID. Ms. Rankin stated that Administration has already weaned the budget down, noting that further cuts would impact students. Ms. Rainey noted the CTA contract that is escalating next year, stating that they will need a way to reduce costs next year. Ms. Marano stated that any further cuts would affect students, noting that students' mental health and learning loss needs to be prioritized. Ms. Anderson noted her concern with quantifying costs being avoided in the continuum of services at CMS, noting that there are financial and ethical implications. Mr. Booth asked Dr. Hunter to further understand the risk factors already embedded within the approved budget. Dr. Hunter shared the current embedded risks: Kindergarten teacher and assistant at Alcott and Willard based on enrollment, nurse request, \$120,000 in retirements that the district does not have, multiple tutors across different settings, engineering and applied tech out of CMS, supplies and materials, \$75,000 out of circuit breaker and zero based tuitions. She stressed that the budgets have been looked at several times and the next place to look would be further into contingency, circuit breaker or student facing/professional development. Dr. Hunter noted that the CCHS budget came in under guideline, questioning why town cannot be reallocated this money.

XIV. ACTION ITEMS

A. Vote to Take Action Article 20 Concord Town Warrant. A motion was made by Mr. Booth, seconded by Ms. Anderson, to move Affirmative Action for Article 20 of the Concord Town Warrant. Mr. Booth and Ms. Rainey noted that the town is working very hard to ensure support for the CMS building project. The motion was unanimously approved.

XV. ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn was made by Ms. Marano, seconded by Ms. Anderson. The motion was unanimously approved and the CSC meeting adjourned at 9:08 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Erin E. Higgins

Approved: 4.26.22

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
CMS	Concord Middle School
CMSBC	Concord Middle School Building Committee
COAR	Communities Organizing Against Racism
CPS	Concord Public Schools
CSC	Concord School Committee
E&D	Excess and Deficiency
DEI	Diversity, Equity and Inclusion
DPH	Department of Public Health
ELL	English Language Learner
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
FINCOM	Finance Committee
JSA	Junior State of America
LLI	Leveled Literacy Intervention
OPEB	Other Post-Employment Benefits
MTSS	Multi-Tiered System of Support
PD	Professional Development
RTI	Response to Intervention
SC	School Committee
SEPAC	Special Education Parent Advisory Council