

JOINT SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Concord-Carlisle School Committee
Concord School Committee
Hybrid Meeting (Zoom & Ripley Conf. Rm. 4)
June 15, 2021

Present: Sara Wilson, Chair, CCSC
Cynthia Rainey, Chair, CSC; CCSC
Alexa Anderson, Vice Chair, CSC; CCSC
Courtland Booth, CSC; CCSC
Tracey Marano, CSC; CCSC
Fatima Mezdad, CSC; CCSC (via Zoom)
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 & ROLL CALL CSC

Mr. Booth called the CSC meeting to order at 5:01 PM, noting that it was being recorded. Roll Call attendance was taken: Anderson, aye; Booth; aye; Marano, aye; Mezdad, aye; Rainey, aye.

ORGANIZATION OF THE COMMITTEE

A. Seating of the Concord School Committee members. A motion was made by Ms. Rainey, seconded by Ms. Anderson, to recognize Alexa Anderson, Courtland Booth, Tracey Marano, Fatima Mezdad and Cynthia Rainey as members of the Concord School Committee. The motion was approved by roll call: Anderson, aye; Booth; aye; Marano, aye; Mezdad, aye; Rainey, aye.

B. Election of Chair and Vice Chair for the Concord School Committee. A motion was made by Mr. Booth, seconded by Ms. Anderson, to nominate Ms. Rainey as Chair of the CSC. The motion was approved by roll call: Anderson, aye; Booth; aye; Marano, aye; Mezdad, aye; Rainey, aye. A motion was made by Ms. Rainey, seconded by Mr. Booth, to nominate Alexa Anderson as Vice Chair of the CSC. The motion was approved by roll call: Anderson, aye; Booth; aye; Marano, aye; Mezdad, aye; Rainey, aye.

C. Appointment of Concord School Committee Recording Secretary. A motion was made by Mr. Booth, seconded by Ms. Anderson, to appoint Erin Higgins as CSC Recording Secretary. The motion was approved by roll call: Anderson, aye; Booth; aye; Marano, aye; Mezdad, aye; Rainey, aye.

II. OLD BUSINESS

A. CPS End of Year Close Update. Mr. Stanton stated that there is just over \$800,000 in unencumberences, noting that CPS has until July 15th to close. He stated that he does not anticipate there to be a surplus, noting that the goal is to have all of the circuit breaker revolving accounts be 100% fully funded and prepay the first 3 months of tuitions. Mr. Stanton stated that the 3rd round of the COVID emergency funds were released, noting that Concord is receiving \$995,139. He stated that he believes the district can carry this forward, possibly to FY24. He stated that CPS would be carrying over \$112,000 from the original relief funds as well as \$443,900 from the second round of funds. He stated that they are projecting a deficit in food services, noting that it will not be going into the red but will have a shorter balance.

III. ACTION ITEMS

A. Vote to Surplus Books at Alcott Library. A motion was made by Mr. Booth, seconded by Ms. Marano, to surplus books at the Alcott library. The motion was approved by roll call: Anderson, aye; Booth; aye; Marano, aye; Mezdad, aye; Rainey, aye.

B. Vote to Accept Grade 5 Class Gift to Alcott. A motion was made by Mr. Booth, seconded by Ms. Marano, to accept the gift to the Alcott School from the 5th Grade Committee, as outlined in Principal Krakow's memo dated June 8, 2021. The motion was approved by roll call: Anderson, aye; Booth; aye; Marano, aye; Mezdad, aye; Rainey, aye.

C. Vote to Prepay Special Education Tuitions. Mr. Stanton stated that approximately \$400,000 has been identified as eligible to be prepaid. A motion was made by Mr. Booth, seconded by Ms. Marano, to authorize the prepayment of FY2022 tuitions in accordance with MGL Chapter 71, Section 71D, and MGL Chapter 40, Section 4E. The motion was approved by roll call: Anderson, aye; Booth; aye; Marano, aye; Mezdad, aye; Rainey, aye.

IV. EXECUTIVE SESSION

A. Executive Session. A motion was made by Mr. Booth, seconded by Ms. Anderson, that the Concord School Committee would enter into Executive Session under Purpose 3 of the Open Meeting Law: To conduct strategy sessions concerning whether to hear a Step 3 Grievance filed by CTA, and return to Open Session. The motion was approved by roll call: Anderson, aye; Booth; aye; Marano, aye; Mezdad, aye; Rainey, aye.

V. CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL CCSC

The CSC came back into session and Ms. Wilson called the CCSC to order at 5:55 PM. Roll call attendance was taken: Anderson, aye; Booth; aye; Marano, aye; Mezdad, aye; Rainey, aye; Wilson, aye.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENTS

1. Karlen Reed, 83 Whits End, Concord, MA. Ms. Reed thanked the SC for having the meeting available in person and via zoom, but noted it was difficult to see the members' faces and was also a little hard to hear.

VII. CHAIRS & LIASIONS REPORTS

Ms. Anderson stated that SEPAC held its monthly board meeting and elected new members, noting almost all positions were seated.

Mr. Booth thanked everyone for a successful Concord Town Meeting.

Ms. Wilson stated that she, Dr. Hunter, and Mr. Stanton met with Carlisle FINCOM to discuss surplus funds, noting that it was a productive conversation.

VIII. CORRESPONDENCE

Mr. Booth stated that CSC received correspondence regarding the school resource officers and an email acknowledging Dr. Hunter's efforts over the past year. He stated that the CCHS Green Team sent a letter of thanks to the SC.

Ms. Wilson stated that CCSC received correspondence regarding curriculum content.

IX. SUPERINTENDENTS REPORT

Dr. Hunter noted what a collective effort this school year has been, also noting all of the amazing community partnerships. She stated that there has not been a COVID case in the schools or related to the schools since May 19th, noting how validating this is to return to normal routines in the fall. She stated that end of year activities have been occurring at all of the schools. She stated that there are 21 students attending summer programming at CCHS and K-8 programming will be housed at Willard for 3 weeks, noting that there are both general and special education students attending. She stated that Thoreau would be hosting the CASE Collaborative summer program. Dr. Hunter stated that Alcott and Ripley buildings would be having energy work done over the summer.

X. DISCUSSION

A. Superintendent Evaluation. Heather Bout, former SC member, provided an overview on the Superintendent Evaluation process, noting that she and Ms. Anderson compiled SC members' comments for the summative comments section. She stated that Dr. Hunter received an overall Exemplary rating, noting Dr. Hunter's leadership during the global pandemic. Ms. Bout reviewed the goals and standards sections, stating that Dr. Hunter met all goals within professional practice, student learning and district improvement. Regarding the standards, she stated that Dr. Hunter was Proficient in Standards 1, 3 and 4 and was Exemplary in Standard 2. Ms. Bout read many of the evaluation comments, which shared common themes around collaboration, communication, high standards, compassion, integrity, optimism, innovative

vision, exceptional management and planning skills, inclusive approach, and leadership. Ms. Bout noted many of Dr. Hunter's accomplishments around bargaining with seven units, budgeting, RTI, CMSBC, and DEI, noting that there were also comments around the desire to showcase innovative practices and instructional leadership, provide more social emotional and special learning needs in special education, more defined process for the CMSBC, and more development in goals related to DEI. Ms. Bout stated that the summative conclusion is that Dr. Hunter is Exemplary in her role, noting that she is a leader among leaders.

Ms. Anderson reviewed comments on the four standards. She stated that Dr. Hunter received a Proficient rating in Instructional Leadership, noting that the SC used the lens focused on COVID. Regarding Management and Operations, in which Dr. Hunter received an Exemplary rating, Ms. Anderson noted the combination of Dr. Hunter's management team and the interface with other town committees and the public. Regarding Family and Community Engagement, Ms. Anderson stated Dr. Hunter received a Proficient rating, noting Dr. Hunter's outstanding engagement with the community during a very difficult time, as well as the interface with community groups. Regarding Professional Culture, Ms. Anderson stated that Dr. Hunter received a Proficient rating, noting that the themes that emerged were collaboration and sense of community in diversity, equity and inclusion work.

Ms. Bout noted that there were some comments around the process and possibly considering separate feedback by district. Ms. Anderson noted that there were a few focus indicators that focused more on CPS than the region, so it may make sense to differentiate. Mr. Booth noted the time that Dr. Hunter has put into her role, acknowledging that the SC is in debt to her family. Dr. Hunter noted the united team effort, thanking families, teachers, and support staff. Ms. Bout presented Dr. Hunter with a nameplate, which read "Dr. Laurie Hunter, Super Hero of Schools".

B. School Committee Calendar Update. Ms. Wilson noted that there is a doodle poll to determine the July meeting date.

C. CCRSD End of Year Close Update. Mr. Stanton stated that he anticipates a surplus and noted that he would also recommend purchasing a grid convertor for the electric school bus to sell power back to CMLP, for about \$50,000. He stated that the district starts the closeout around May, noting that: the \$297,000 from the CARES Act has been spent, the \$26,000 from initial DESE emergency relief will be rolled over to future years, and \$85,886 in DESE emergency relief 2 will be rolled over to future years. He stated that they also just received \$192,889 in relief funding. He stated that there are three main revolving accounts, including the athletic revolving account, noting that this will be carrying a budget of \$300,000 going forward to help pay for capital projects if the community so chooses. He stated that the Food Services revolving account is self-funded, noting that he feels CCRSD would get the balance back up. He stated that he anticipates carrying over \$872,560 in Circuit Breaker into FY22. Mr. Stanton stated that he recommends covering the \$1.3 surplus with the special education tuitions, freshman MacBooks and electric bus, noting that the recommendation is to put the remaining surplus of \$200,000 into the capital stabilization account. He stated that there is a chance they will have additional monies that cannot be spent that will be returned to the towns once they estimate the District's E&D.

XI. ACTION ITEMS

A. Vote to Approve Assistant Superintendent of Finance & Operations Contract. A motion was made by Ms. Rainey, for CSC and CCSC, seconded by Mr. Booth, for CSC and CCSC, to approve the Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Operations contract. Dr. Hunter noted that it was a three-year contract. The motion was approved by roll call: Anderson, aye (for both); Booth, aye (for both); Marano, aye (for both); Mezdad, aye (for both); Rainey, aye (for both); Wilson, aye; Mostoufi, aye.

B. Vote to Approve CCRSD Custodial Unit Three-Year Successor Agreement. A motion was made by Ms. Rainey, for CCSC, seconded by Mr. Booth, for CCSC, to approve the CCRSD Custodial Unit Three-Year Successor Agreement for the period of 2022-2024. The motion was approved by roll call: Anderson, aye; Booth, aye; Marano, aye; Mezdad, aye; Mostoufi, aye; Rainey, aye; Wilson, aye.

C. Vote to Approve Maintenance Two-Year Successor Agreement. A motion was made by Ms. Anderson, for CSC, seconded by Mr. Booth, for CSC, to approve the Maintenance Unit Two Year Successor Agreement for the period of 2022-2023. The motion was approved by roll call: Anderson, aye; Booth, aye; Marano, aye; Mezdad, aye; Rainey, aye.

A motion was made by Ms. Anderson, for CCSC, seconded by Ms. Marano, for CCSC, to approve the Maintenance Unit Two Year Successor Agreement for the period of 2022-2023. The motion was approved by roll call: Anderson, aye; Booth; aye; Marano, aye; Mezdad, aye; Rainey, aye; Wilson, aye.

D. Vote to Prepay CCRSD Special Education Tuitions. A motion was made by Mr. Booth, for CCSC, seconded by Ms. Wilson, for CCSC, to authorize the prepayment of FY2022 tuitions in accordance with MGL Chapter 71, Section 71D, and MGL Chapter 40, Section 4E. The motion was approved by roll call: Anderson, aye; Booth; aye; Marano, aye; Mezdad, aye; Mostoufi, aye; Rainey, aye; Wilson, aye.

E. Vote to Increase the Budget Using E&D in order to transfer to Stabilization Account. A motion was made by Mr. Booth, for CCSC, seconded by Ms. Rainey, for CCSC, to increase the FY21 general fund operating budget to \$35,158,922. This is an increase of \$200,000, which will fund the Stabilization line. The revenue for this increase will come from the Excess and Deficiency account, resulting in no change to the member municipalities' assessments. The motion was approved by roll call: Anderson, aye; Booth; aye; Marano, aye; Mezdad, aye; Mostoufi, aye; Rainey, aye; Wilson, aye.

Ms. Rainey thanked all of the families, teachers, students, building service workers, food service workers and bus drivers for their incredible work and patience throughout the year.

XII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion was made by Mr. Booth, seconded by Ms. Marano, that the Concord School Committee and Concord-Carlisle Regional School Committee enter into Executive Session under Purpose 3 of the Open Meeting Law: To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining with collective bargaining units: Concord Teachers' Association and Concord-Carlisle Teachers' Association, and return to Open Session. The motion was approved by roll call: Anderson, aye (for both); Booth; aye (for both); Marano, aye (for both); Mezdad, aye (for both); Mostoufi, aye; Rainey, aye (for both); Wilson, aye, and Open Session ended at 7:00 PM.

The meeting was called back into session at 7:40 PM

XIII. ACTION ITEMS

A. Vote to Approve CCTA Contract 2021-2024. A motion was made by Ms. Marano, seconded by Mr. Booth, to approve the three year contract (2021-2024) for the Concord-Carlisle Teachers Association. The motion was approved by roll call: Anderson, abstained; Booth; aye; Marano, aye; Mezdad, aye; Mostoufi, aye; Rainey, aye; Wilson, aye.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Booth, seconded by Ms. Rainey. The motion passed by roll call: Anderson, aye (for both); Booth, aye (for both); Marano, aye (for both); Mezdad, aye (for both); Mostoufi, aye; Rainey, aye (for both); Wilson, aye, and the meeting adjourned at 7:44 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Erin E. Higgins

Approved 7.28.21

Abbreviations:

CCHS	Concord-Carlisle High School
CCRSD	Concord-Carlisle Regional School District
CCSC	Concord-Carlisle Regional District School Committee
CCTA	Concord-Carlisle Teachers' Association
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
OPEB	Other Post-Employment Benefits
PD	Professional Development
SC	School Committee
SOI	Statement of Interest