

JOINT SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Concord-Carlisle School Committee
Concord School Committee
Zoom Meeting
January 26, 2021

Present: Sara Wilson, Chair, CCSC
Heather Bout, Vice Chair, CCSC; CSC
Courtland Booth, Chair, CSC; CCSC
Cynthia Rainey, Vice Chair, CSC; CCSC
Eva Mostoufi, CCSC
Alexa Anderson, CSC; CCSC
Fatima Mezdad, CSC; CCSC

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

I. CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL

Mr. Booth called the CSC meeting to order at 5:01 PM and Ms. Wilson then called the CCSC meeting to order. Roll call attendance was taken: Anderson, aye; Booth, aye; Bout, aye; Mezdad, aye; Mostoufi, aye; Rainey, aye; Wilson, aye.

A. Executive Session. A motion was made by Mr. Booth, for CSC and CCSC, seconded by Ms. Rainey, for CSC and CCSC, that the Concord School Committee and Concord-Carlisle Regional School Committee will enter into Executive Session under Purpose 3 of the Open Meeting Law: To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body, and return to Open Session at 5:45 PM. The motion passed by roll call: Anderson, aye (for both); Booth, aye (for both); Bout, aye (for both); Mezdad, aye (for both); Mostoufi, aye; Rainey, aye (for both); Wilson, aye.

Mr. Booth called the CSC back to order at 5:47 PM and Ms. Wilson then called the CCSC back to order.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

III. CHAIRS & LIAISONS REPORT AND STUDENT UPDATE

CCHS Student reps, Amy Tedeschi and Linda Xu, provided updates from CCHS. Ms. Tedeschi stated that the semester just ended, noting that they just had a homework free weekend. Ms. Xu stated that she went full remote after the winter break, stating that the teachers have given her equal attention remotely as they had when she was in person. She noted that she feels it is more distracting being at home attending classes. Ms. Tedeschi noted the decreased class time.

Ms. Mezdad stated that they are bringing recommendations from the Policy Subcommittee to the SC.

Ms. Bout stated that the CMSBC held a community forum last night, noting that it was well attended and that there would be additional community forums and focus groups coming up.

Mr. Booth stated that the CMSBC Design Subcommittee would meet February 4th at 7:30 AM. Dr. Hunter noted that there is also a Sustainability Subcommittee meeting as well this Thursday, at 7:30 AM.

Mr. Booth stated that he attended the Audit Subcommittee for the Town of Concord, noting that the audit was in order for FY20. He stated that there was a Concord Town caucus the previous night, noting how well it was run.

Ms. Rainey stated that Concord FINCOM met and set preliminary guidelines for CPS at 1.81% and the 3.9% for the region, due to the assessment shift. Ms. Bout noted that the budget would not increase by 3.9%, but that the 3.9% increase is in assessments, not an operational increase.

IV. CORRESPONDENCE

Mr. Booth stated that CSC received emails on middle school math and electromagnetic frequency, and a letter from Commissioner Riley regarding student MCAS testing. Ms. Wilson stated that the CCSC received the letter from Commissioner Riley as well.

V. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Hunter stated that the only information from DESE on MCAS is a modified version for grades 3-8, noting that she has not heard on high school testing as of yet. Regarding asymptomatic COVID testing, she stated that the district is ready to test interested staff on Thursday, noting that the state has released subsidized program info with a timeline of February 8 through the end of March. Dr. Hunter stated that about 400 staff out of 700 have shown interest, and 900 students out of 3,300 K-12. Dr. Hunter stated that there have been 109 COVID cases to date in the schools. She stated that Mr. Stanton is working on the budget, noting that they will be bringing budgets to the SC towards the end of February. Mr. Booth noted the appreciation of everyone in the district of keeping the schools safe. Ms. Rainey noted the CDC report about the low numbers of school spread, also noting the importance of not traveling. Ms. Anderson suggested creating a COVID testing information summary for families to reference. Ms. Mostoufi recognized CCHS nurse Lisa Koski for her work both during and outside of school time, noting her dedication to public health.

VI. DISCUSSION

A. Updates Superintendent Evaluation. Ms. Bout stated that the goal of the midyear update is to make sure each member checks in with Dr. Hunter. She noted that Dr. Hunter's Superintendent reports are considered her update packet for review prior to meeting with Dr. Hunter. Ms. Bout stated that once the meetings have occurred, she would update the SC.

B. Updates School Committee Goals 2020-2021. Mr. Booth reviewed the SC goals and Ms. Bout noted that the SC has been on track with the goals, using the Strategic Plan as their roadmap. Ms. Mostoufi and Ms. Mezdad noted that the goals were well written this year and Ms. Anderson noted that they have stayed focused since the goals have been very focused. Ms. Rainey and Mr. Booth agreed with members' comments and Mr. Booth noted the large amount of work coming up, including Town Meeting, negotiations, and the CMS building project

A motion was made by Mr. Booth, for CSC and CCSC, seconded by Ms. Bout, for CSC and CCSC, to move Item VII. B Second Reading School Committee Policies up to this point in the meeting. The motion passed by roll call: Anderson, aye (for both); Booth, aye (for both); Bout, aye (for both); Mezdad, aye (for both) Mostoufi, aye; Rainey, aye (for both); Wilson, aye.

C. Second Reading School Committee Policies: File JIC Student Discipline & File JICFB Bullying Prevention. Dr. Hunter reviewed policies JIC and JICFB, noting that Student Discipline is being revalidated and the bullying prevention policy now includes the legal definitions of cyberbullying, in accordance with MGL.

VII. ACTION ITEMS

A. Vote to Approve School Committee Policies. A motion was made by Ms. Bout, for CSC and CCSC, seconded by Ms. Rainey, for CSC and CCSC, to adopt files JIC and JICFB. The motion was approved by roll call: Anderson, aye (for both); Booth, aye (for both); Bout, aye (for both); Mezdad, aye (for both) Mostoufi, aye; Rainey, aye (for both); Wilson, aye.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

A. FY21 Variance Reports. Mr. Stanton reviewed the Variance Report by 1000 function, noting that the district is in good shape. He then reviewed the Variance Report by 100 function, noting the security officers need to be reclassified to the parking lot account at the end of the year.

IX. ADJOURNMENT - CCSC

A motion to adjourn the CCSC meeting was made by Ms. Bout, seconded by Mr. Booth. The motion passed by roll call: Anderson, aye; Booth, aye; Bout, aye; Mezdad, aye; Mostoufi, aye; Rainey, aye; Wilson, aye, and the CCSC meeting adjourned at 6:45 PM.

A motion was made by Ms. Bout, seconded by Ms. Rainey, to move up the discussion of the CMS Educational Plan to this point in the meeting. The motion passed by roll call: Anderson, aye; Booth, aye; Bout, aye; Mezdad, aye; Rainey, aye.

XI. DISCUSSION

A. Concord Middle School Educational Plan. Mr. Booth noted that the current version for review includes all of the edits that have been made since the first version was presented. Dr. Hunter stated that she tried to incorporate all of the feedback and capture everything as best as she could. Mr. Booth noted that it is not a space plan, but an educational plan and Ms. Bout noted that the design team would bring a response to this plan. Mr. Booth suggested taking the approval piece by the School Committee out of the body of the document and adding it to the cover page. Ms. Rainey asked that the CMSBC present the space summary to the School Committee and asked for a summary document containing current, proposed and MSBA data.

B. Vote to Approve CMS Educational Plan. A motion was made by Ms. Bout, seconded by Ms. Rainey, to approve the CMS Educational Plan, on the premise that the editing notes and formatting notes be teased out so that it is a clean formatted document with the reference to the SC approval date taken out of the body of the document. The motion passed by roll call: Anderson, aye; Booth, aye; Bout, aye; Mezdad, aye; Rainey, aye.

Ms. Mezdad left the meeting at 6:59 PM.

A. CPS Monthly Variance Report/ CPS Quarterly Variance Report. Mr. Booth noted that the report looked in order. Dr. Hunter stated that things are on track, noting how pleased she is with how the cost center leaders are running their operations, allowing them to stay on track with budgeted numbers.

XV. ADJOURNMENT – CSC

A motion was made by Ms. Rainey, seconded by Ms. Bout to adjourn the meeting. The motion was approved by roll call: Anderson, aye; Booth, aye; Bout, aye; Rainey, aye, and the CSC meeting adjourned at 7:02 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Erin E. Higgins

Approved: 2.23.21

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 and Prevention
CMS	Concord Middle School
CMSBC	Concord Middle School Building Committee
CPS	Concord Public Schools
CSC	Concord School Committee
DESE	Department of Elementary & Secondary Education
DPH	Department of Public Health
FTE	Full Time Employee
MASC	Massachusetts Association of School Committees
METCO	Metropolitan Council for Educational Opportunity
MMN	Minuteman Media Network
OPEB	Other Post-Employment Benefits
OPM	Owner’s Project Manager
SC	School Committee