

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

Absent: 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 6:31 PM and then Ms. Rainey called the CSC meeting to order. Ms. Wilson noted that the meeting was being recorded. Roll Call attendance was taken: Anderson, aye; Booth, aye; Marano, aye; Rainey, aye; Wilson, aye.

II. CCHS STUDENT UPDATE

CCHS student rep, Darcy Keenan-Mills, stated that many people were out recently due to the Omicron virus, but noted that it seems to be getting better. She stated that midyears were optional in counting towards grades, which helped to relieve student stress. She stated that seniors are hearing back from college decisions and senate is looking for ways to reduce student stress and are planning for the next Senior Week.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

1. Nancy Confrey, LWV. Ms. Confrey read a statement from the LWV board regarding the video of their January 27th Concord SC candidate forum.
2. David Hosford, Concord resident, Target Soccer Camp Director. Mr. Hosford stated that the potential fee increases would have a huge impact on Target Soccer Camp, increasing its fees by 400%, noting that this would be tough to absorb. He stated that there are over 300 Concord residents per year in the program, noting that it is a grass roots effort. He stated that the camp is hoping the SC reconsider the increase given the timing and small size of the program, noting that they would need to either find a different venue or pass on the costs to other Concord residents.
3. Nat Carr, Director of Star Camp. Mr. Carr stated that Star Camp has been in Concord for 39 summers operating out of CCHS, noting that the fee increase would have a huge impact on the program. He stated that the fee increase would impact many factors, including the cost of the program and ability to pay employees. He requested that the SC not move forward with the fee increases.
4. Todd Benjamin, SC candidate. Mr. Benjamin made a comment regarding the video of the LWVCC January 27th Concord SC candidate forum.

IV. RECOGNITIONS

Former CCHS student, Anna Brooks, presented a book that she co-created with Sola Stacey with the Intersections Club entitled "What Can't Kids Do? You Can Take A Stand Too!". She stated that the Intersections Club raises awareness for different types of diversity, equity and inclusion efforts, noting that the program within the Intersection Club that created this book is called Crossroads, which operates in the elementary and middle schools. Anna stated that the intention with this book was to highlight the work that was done in the Intersections Club and to motivate young adults towards social justice and activism.

V. READING OF THE MINUTES

A motion was made by Mr. Booth, seconded by Ms. Marano, to approve open session minutes from 12/21/21 and executive session minutes from 1/1/22. The motion was approved by roll call: Anderson, aye (for both); Booth, aye (for both); Marano, aye (for both); Rainey, aye (for both); Wilson, aye.

VI. CORRESPONDENCE

Ms. Wilson stated that there was no correspondence since the last meeting.

VII. CHAIRS & LIAISONS REPORT

Ms. Marano stated that there is a DEI Subcommittee meeting the following day at 11:30 AM via Zoom.

Mr. Booth stated that the Policy Subcommittee met and the material is in front of the SC tonight for consideration.

VIII. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Hunter shared highlights from her report, stating that she has been meeting with Ms. Herbert and the elementary principals on the approach to reading instruction, materials and research. She stated that they are looking at the winter literacy data from the elementary schools and the literacy specialist held a session during an all school staff meeting on reading instruction and research. She stated that they have begun to look at summer school and use the data to identify participants. She stated that they are beginning to build monthly meetings with the three elementary schools to focus on literacy with the literacy specialists, noting that she is working on bringing a presentation to the SC in the spring. Regarding student wellbeing, she stated that they are rolling out CareSolace, to connect families and staff with mental health service providers. She stated that the new adjustment counselor at CMS started last week and that she is working with families through supportive roles to the administration to students and families in crisis. Dr. Hunter stated that the high school developed a focused effort around midterms to reduce stress.

IX. DISCUSSION

A. COVID Update. Dr. Hunter shared COVID data, noting that cases have greatly decreased since the break. She stated that the total case count in 689 over the course of the year, vaccination rates are stable at the high school and middle school, and 82% of students are fully vaccinated at the elementary level. She stated that as the cases have declined, DESE has updated protocols and antigen testing is now being offered at home in combination with the pooled testing. She stated Test and Stay has been eliminated and distancing has been discontinued in classrooms, also noting that elementary lunches have returned to the cafeterias. Dr. Hunter thanked everyone across the districts for making shifts, noting the extraordinary collaboration.

B. Assistant Superintendent Search Timeline and Process. Dr. Hunter shared the Assistant Superintendent Search timeline, tonight that they are actively collecting candidates at this time. She then reviewed the proposed roles and membership of the committee. She stated that the committee would be meeting to organize and collect questions, with the hopes of interviewing on February 15th and 16th remotely and interviewing finalists in district March 7-11th. After discussion, the SC agreed Ms. Anderson and Mr. Booth would be the SC representatives on the Search Committee.

C. Representatives for Collective Bargaining: CCHS Tutors and Transportation. Ms. Wilson suggested that a representative from last year be included as well as a member that was not part of last year's collective bargaining. Mr. Booth and Mr. Marano agreed to be representatives on the CCHS tutors bargaining and Ms. Rainey and Ms. Anderson agreed to be representatives on transportation bargaining. Mr. Stanton stated that he was hoping to have the tutors start the following week and then transportation shortly after.

D. DEI Professional Development for School Committee Members. Ms. Marano reviewed the proposal for SC workshops, noting that they would be three, three-hour sessions every other week from 3:30 – 6:30 PM over Zoom. She noted that the sessions would be considered SC training and would not be open sessions, noting that she would follow up with the Town Clerk's office. Ms. Rainey noted her concern with the zoom format and timing, noting the issues with keeping attention for a long time on a screen and the complications with working around work/commute schedules. Ms. Marano asked the SC members to email her their availability so she could work on a schedule. Mr. Booth questioned the last item of the sessions "next steps – exploring SC's areas of concern, influence, control", asking if there was any opportunity to shift from personal development to school committee leadership development. Ms. Marano stated that it is more professional than personal development, noting that it is the same road as the educators are taking when they

come to the district. She noted that interested school committee members may attend the IDEAS PD course our educators take, though they would need to take it when offered at another district.

E. 2022-2023 Draft Calendar. Dr. Hunter shared the 2022-23 draft calendar, reviewing: staff return on August 29th with two days of PD, students return on Aug 31st, early release in October for CCHS and CMS, CCHS conferences on October 28th, elementary conferences in November, CMS conferences in December, 2nd PD path December 14th, PD day for CMS and CCHS in January, 3rd early release in February and 4th for the high school in March, 2nd day of conferences in elementary in April, graduation June 3rd, and students last day June 14th and staff June 15th.

F. Cost Sharing Ripley Capital Improvements. Dr. Hunter noted that Tim Goddard, Carlisle's Town Administer, asked the district to propose a formula for Ripley capital improvement cost sharing, but noted that they need to give this proposal to the Concord Town Manager who is in charge of capital funds for CPS. Mr. Stanton reviewed the recommendation, noting that he based the recommendation on the K-12 enrollment on 10/1/21. He stated that, if the two town managers agreed to this, Carlisle would write a check to Concord, who would apply it against the \$900,000 for capital improvements.

G. First Reading School Committee Policy: JJIF-R – Athletic Concussion Regulations. Mr. Booth reviewed Policy JJIF-R – Athletic Concussion Regulations, noting the changes that were made to the policy around symptomatic students going home with parents/guardians following a head injury. He noted that the subcommittee was impressed with the Athletic Director, trainer and nurses, noting that the policy is very effective in practice. Mr. Booth thanked the Business Office, Aaron Joncas, Lisa Koski and Pattie Vasiliadis for their work on the policy.

H. Second Reading School Committee Policies: KF – Facility Use Policy and KF-R – Community Use Regulations and Fees. Mr. Booth shared the Facility Use Policy, noting that several links were added to the document. He stated that the Business Office would be reviewing summer requests on February 1st, going over the additional changes to the policy and fee schedule. Ms. Marano noted that she missed one of the subcommittee meetings and questioned the frequent user discount and Mr. Stanton provided information on the savings for the two camps that frequently use the facilities. Ms. Anderson asked for clarity around the February 1st date with regards to enrollments for some of the camps and the single transactions in terms of the frequent user discount. Ms. Marano suggested discussing this one more time with Ms. Mostoufi present. Mr. Booth noted that the increases were not across the board, but included many 12-year corrections. Ms. Marano stated that one more discussion with her, Mr. Booth and Ms. Mostoufi would help to provide some clarity and Mr. Booth suggested meeting sooner than later.

I. FY22 Variance Report. Mr. Stanton shared the FY22 Variance Report, stating that the district has an unencumbered balance of \$3.7 million, noting some of this is health insurance and vehicle replacement. He stated that the district is tracking well and is in line with a "normal" year.

J. FY23 Budget Updates. Dr. Hunter stated that, since the pervious budget discussion, the Governor put out his cherry sheet. She stated that due to some enrollment increases and inflation, the revenue number for state aid for CCRSD was higher than budgeted. She recommended that the revenue number be increased, which would lower the assessments to the towns. Mr. Stanton stated that the district received a little over \$225,000 in Chapter 70 money. He stated that he increased the Chapter 70 offset to \$3,197,882, decreasing the assessments. He stated that, if the revenue is less than what is received, it could be made up through E&D reserve or by leaving a positive balance in the general fund.

X. ACTION ITEMS

A. Vote on Use of Stabilization Funds. A motion was made by Mr. Booth, seconded by Ms. Anderson, that for the purposes of paying costs of reconstruction of the access road on the District's campus, including the payment of all other costs incidental and related thereto, vote to authorize expenditures not to exceed \$200,000 from the Districts Capital Stabilization fund. The motion was approved by roll call: Anderson, aye; Booth, aye; Marano, aye; Rainey, aye; Wilson, aye.

B. Vote to Approve FY23 CCRSD Budget. A motion was made by Ms. Anderson, seconded by Mr. Booth, 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 \$24,962,356 and Carlisle's total assessment is \$7,284,584. The motion was approved by roll call: Anderson, aye; Booth, aye; Marano, aye; Rainey, aye; Wilson, aye.

XI. ADDITIONAL PUBLIC COMMENT

1. Terry Ackerman, Concord Select Board. Ms. Ackerman stated that she supported the fee structure, thanking Mr. Booth and the Business Office for all of their work on the fee schedule.
2. David Hosford, Concord resident, Target Soccer Camp Director. Mr. Hosford stated that he appreciates all of the work being done by the School Committee, thanking the SC for reconsidering the fee schedule.
3. Nat Carr, Director of Star Camp. Mr. Carr thanked the SC and noted that he appreciates them listening to their comments on the fee schedule.

XII. 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; Rainey, aye; Wilson, aye, and the CCSC meeting adjourned at 8:48 PM.

XIII. DISCUSSION

A. FY23 Budget. Dr. Hunter stated that they ended up looking at the CPS budget through the lens of Special Education, noting that a huge driver in the budget is the special education programming and the expansion of the continuum of intensive special education programming in district. She shared a document created by Mr. Stanton that breaks out the special education lines out of the budget, noting that the increase is 2.26% without special education included and 3.54% with it included. Dr. Hunter stated that Ms. Dixon put together an overview of potential real cost savings of keeping children in the programs as well as out how much it would cost if the kids went out of district. Mr. Booth noted his concern for pulling out special education and costs associated with it. Dr. Hunter stated that this was not the intention of sharing this information, noting that this is advocacy for doing right by the kids. She stated that it is a substantial, unique cost driver in the budget in terms of staffing. Mr. Booth asked Ms. Dixon if this will be cost neutral in a year or two and Ms. Dixon stated that savings would be realized immediately. Ms. Rainey stated that, while she appreciates the work done, she feels they need to look elsewhere because she is concerned that FY24 will be challenging.

B. Concord Middle School Building Project. Mr. Booth stated that they are waiting for the next step in the building project and Ms. Anderson noted that she would be sending out a final reminder to the distribution list about the upcoming vote. Ms. Marano acknowledged the CMSBC and everyone involved and Mr. Booth noted how genuine and authentic Dr. Hunter was at the Town Meeting presentation.

C. FY22 Variance Report. Mr. Stanton shared the FY22 Variance Report, noting that CPS is tracking well and every line is in balance. He stated that \$1.4 million remains unencumbered.

Public Comment: Christine Reynolds, Chair of the Concord Finance Committee. Ms. Reynolds stated that the next Concord FINCOM meeting is on February 24th, noting that the CPS budget gap will be discussed at that meeting.

XIV. 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 9:11 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Erin E. Higgins

Approved: 3.8.22

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