

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 6:01 PM and then Ms. Rainey called the CSC meeting to order. Roll Call attendance was taken: Anderson, aye; Booth, aye; Marano, aye; Rainey, aye; Rankin, aye; Wilson, aye; Mostoufi, aye. Ms. Wilson welcomed new School Committee member, Carrie Rankin.

A. Executive Session. A motion was made by Mr. Booth, seconded by Ms. Anderson, 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 litigation regarding the EDCO Collaborative, and return to Open Session at 6:30 PM. The motion passed by roll call: Anderson, aye; Booth, aye; Marano, aye; Mostoufi, aye; Rainey, aye; Rankin, aye; Wilson, aye.

The School Committee returned from Executive Session at 6:34 PM and Ms. Rainey noted that the meeting was being recorded.

Mr. Booth noted the passing of beloved CCHS teacher, Peter Nichol, extending sympathies to Mr. Nichol's family, coworkers and fellow community members. He noted the celebration of life being held for Mr. Nichol on Saturday, March 5th at 1:00 PM at First Parish. The School Committee took a moment of reflection.

PUBLIC HEARING ON SCHOOL CHOICE

A motion was made by Mr. Booth, seconded by Ms. Anderson, to open the Public Hearing on School Choice and the Public Hearing opened at 6:41 PM. There were no public comments for or against school choice. A motion was made by Mr. Booth, seconded by Ms. Marano, to close the Public Hearing on School Choice. The motion was approved by roll call: Anderson, aye (for both); Booth, aye (for both); Marano, aye (for both); Mostoufi, aye; Rainey, aye (for both); Rankin, aye (for both); Wilson, aye, and the Public Hearing closed at 6:42 PM.

Dr. Hunter stated that the district must consider participation in School Choice by June 1st each year, noting that voting to not participate means the district would not receive students, but that families could enroll in districts that are accepting students. She stated that, based on the capacity of buildings and not having the transportation to ensure all students could attend, she recommended not participating in School Choice.

A motion was made by Mr. Booth, seconded by Ms. Anderson, to not participate in School Choice for the school year 2022-2023 for the reasons so stated. The motion was approved by roll call: Anderson, aye (for both); Booth, aye (for both); Marano, aye (for both); Mostoufi, aye; Rainey, aye (for both); Rankin, aye (for both); Wilson, aye.

II. CCHS STUDENT UPDATE

Student reps, Harry Crowley and Darcy Keenan-Mills, provided an update from CCHS. Harry stated that he and Darcy attended the MASC conference and participated in subcommittees on mental health and the pandemic, noting that the district is handling the pandemic very well compared to other districts and also doing better than most other schools in terms of mental health. Darcy noted the high vaccination rate at CCHS compared to other schools. She stated that Student Council will be connecting with CMS Student Council over the next few weeks and noted all of the various tournaments and spring events that Student Senate is currently working on. She shared some suggestions in improving the mental health of students as well as looking at adding dual enrollment options for students in the future. Harry stated that students seem split on removing the mask mandate.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

1. Anthony Scaduto, 9th grade CCHS student, 1212 West Street, Concord, MA. Anthony cited several reasons why he was in favor of removing the mask mandate.
2. Gail Hire, CPS parent, 54 Nancy Road, Concord, MA. Ms. Hire cited several reasons why she was in favor of removing the mask mandate.
3. Heather Martino, CPS/CCRSD parent, 69 Southfield Circle, Concord, MA. Ms. Martino cited several reasons why she was not in favor of removing the mask mandate.
4. Colleen Walston, 1 Hawthorne Village, Concord, MA. Regarding ELL, Ms. Walston stated that the LLI is mentioned as a curriculum in use, but stated that this is not an evidence-based curriculum.
5. Todd Benjamin, 333 Sudbury Road, Concord, MA. Mr. Benjamin cited several reasons why he was in favor of removing the mask mandate.
6. Monica Granfield, 110 Carlisle Pines Drive, Carlisle, MA. Ms. Granfield cited several reasons why she was in favor of removing the mask mandate.
7. Meredith Rose, 473 Powdermill Road, Concord, MA. Ms. Rose cited several reasons why she was not in favor of removing the mask mandate.
8. Terri Bono, 73 Catherina Heights, Concord, MA. Ms. Bono cited several reasons why she was in favor of removing the mask mandate.
9. Carolyn Mowat, 111 Silver Hill Road, Concord, MA. Ms. Mowat cited several reasons why she was in favor of removing the mask mandate.

IV. RECOGNITIONS

- A. New School Committee Member Carrie Rankin. Ms. Rankin introduced herself, noting that she was thrilled to be on the committee and was looking forward to getting to know everyone.

V. READING OF THE MINUTES

A motion was made by Mr. Booth, seconded by Ms. Anderson, to approve the CCRSD open session minutes from 1/11/22 and 1/18/22. The motion was approved by roll call: Anderson, aye (for both); Booth, aye (for both); Marano, aye (for both); Mostoufi, aye; Rainey, aye (for both); Rankin, abstained; Wilson, aye.

A motion was made by Mr. Booth, seconded by Ms. Anderson, to approve the CSC open session minutes from 1/20/22 and the revised Exec Session minutes from 6/15/21. The motion was approved by roll call: Anderson, aye; Booth, aye; Marano, aye; Rainey, aye; Rankin, abstained.

VI. CORRESPONDENCE

Ms. Wilson stated that CCSC received 15 plus correspondence regarding the mask policy and one regarding the yearbook. Ms. Rainey stated that CSC received 17 on the mask policy.

VII. CHAIRS & LIAISONS REPORT

Ms. Marano stated that the DEI Subcommittee met the previous week, noting that they are continuing to work together around DEI initiatives in schools, goals and the SC DEI training. She stated that the next Subcommittee meeting would be held the first week of March.

Ms. Anderson stated that SEPAC had a productive meeting focused on scheduling for the spring, noting that they are hoping to present to the SC in May. She stated that Administration is presenting to the SC on early literacy in May, followed by a larger public forum. She stated SEPAC would also be holding its appreciation awards in May. Ms. Anderson stated that Interim Student Services Director, Debbie Dixon, has been working with SEPAC to hold informal coffees with parents and special education coordinators, noting the robust collaboration taking place. Ms. Mostoufi noted that parents were also provided the opportunity to ask Administration and coordinators questions around the transition to CCHS for those on IEPs.

Mr. Booth stated that the Public Access Advisory Committee met the previous week, noting that \$8,000 has been earmarked for upgrades in the Ripley building.

Ms. Rainey provided an update from the recent Select Board meeting, stating that Interim Town Manager, Kerry Lafleur, announced that town staff would be recommending to the Board of Health that the mask mandate be lifted March 7th in Concord. She noted that they had a robust discussion around ARPA, but did not reach a decision. Ms. Rainey noted that they also discussed the Ripley allocation formula and voted to support it.

Ms. Marano stated that she attended the DEI Commission for the Town, noting that she would be happy to liaise for that going forward.

Regarding SEPAC, Ms. Mostoufi also stated that there is a great deal happening with literacy.

VIII. DISCUSSION

A. English Language Learner Update. Ms. Herbert stated that ELL is the program for English Language Learners, noting that these students are part of the general education population. She stated that compliance work is done every 5 years, noting that Emily Ferrara has been leading this for the past 3 years. Ms. Ferrara provided an overview of the ELL program, sharing information on how the students complete the ELL survey and screener, a breakdown of the different home languages for current families, a breakdown of former ELL students, curriculum by grade level, standards, testing and assessments, and translation services. Ms. Herbert noted that the district uses Title 3 grant money to support summer school for ELL students.

B. Assistant Superintendent Search. Dr. Hunter stated that they are interviewing candidates and expect to have the finalists named by Thursday or Friday. She stated that the finalists would each be coming to the district for a day during the week after vacation, with the goal of recommending a candidate to the SC on March 8th.

C. Second Reading School Committee Policy. Mr. Booth suggested postponing the second reading on the Concussion Policy because there was no vote on the agenda for it.

D. COVID Update. Dr. Hunter shared the COVID case data, noting the dramatic decline in cases. She stated that the Governor lifted the mask mandate as of February 28th and the Concord Board of Health is rescinding the mask mandate effective this evening. Dr. Hunter recommended making masks optional for K-12 beginning March 7, having the preschool remain masked until a vaccine is available, keeping masks on while on buses and in health offices per federal orders, having positive COVID individuals mask for 6-10 days per DPH, encouraging unvaccinated students to mask per DESE and DPH, and having unvaccinated staff who were granted exemptions remain masked per district policy. She noted that the district would create an accepting environment where all choices would be respected. She noted that a surge would require a review of the discussion. Trish McGean, Concord Board of Health, stated that she was totally in agreement with Dr. Hunter's proposal. Marcia Rasmussen, Director of Planning & Land Management, stated that the town was rescinding the mandate due to the decrease in case counts and the high vaccination rate among eligible people. Ms. Anderson noted how fortunate the district has been to have the collaboration with the town over the last 2 years. Ms. Rainey asked about how visitors would be handled and Dr. Hunter stated that these recommendations would apply to visitors as well. Ms. Marano thanked Dr. Hunter and Ms. McGean for all of the vaccine clinics and for getting everyone through this time. Ms. Rankin asked what supports were in place for students who wanted to remain masked and Dr.

Hunter stated that elementary families should notify classroom teachers so they can provide support, and middle and high school families should notify the guidance teams so they could provide support. She noted that communication would be key during the transition period. Ms. Mostoufi applauded the students and thanked the community for its support.

IX. ADDITIONAL PUBLIC COMMENT

1. Todd Benjamin, 333 Sudbury Road, Concord, MA. Mr. Benjamin noted that he listened to the Board of Health meeting, noting that they had a split vote for when the mask mandate should be rescinded and that both health care professionals on the SC meeting tonight recommend it be rescinded on February 28th.

2. Joanne Taranto, 8 Crabtree Lane, Concord, MA. Ms. Taranto stated that she was not in favor of keeping the preschool masked, noting that these children need language development and social cues. She also noted that they are not considered high risk.

X. ACTION ITEMS

A. Vote to Approve 2022-23 School Calendar. A motion was made by Mr. Booth, seconded by Ms. Marano, to approve the 2022-23 School Calendar. The motion was approved by roll call: Anderson, aye (for both); Booth, aye (for both); Marano, aye (for both); Mostoufi, aye; Rainey, aye (for both); Rankin, aye (for both); Wilson, aye.

B. Vote to Rescind Face Mask Policy. A motion was made by Mr. Booth, seconded by Ms. Anderson, to rescind Policy EBCFA – Face Coverings effective March 7, 2022 and to authorize the Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Hunter, to implement the recommendations she presented tonight. Ms. Marano stated that the SC should keep the discussion going about the preschool students. The motion was approved by roll call: Anderson, aye (for both); Booth, aye (for both); Marano, aye (for both); Mostoufi, aye; Rainey, aye (for both); Rankin, aye (for both); Wilson, aye. Ms. McGean thanked the school staff, noting the great collaborative effort.

XI. CCSC ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn the CCSC meeting was made by Mr. Booth, seconded by Ms. Anderson. The motion was approved by roll call: Anderson, aye; Booth, aye; Marano, aye; Mostoufi, aye; Rainey, aye; Rankin, aye; Wilson, aye, and the CCSC meeting adjourned at 8:32 PM.

XIII. DISCUSSION

A. FY23 Budget. Dr. Hunter stated that there is a \$350,000 difference between the guideline and the recommended budget, noting that the largest risks in the budget were assuming attrition in personnel through retirements and resignations, unknowns of the kindergarten enrolment, unknowns of additional special education tuitions and reduction of supply and material lines. She stated that they have identified one reduction of \$37,846 given a recent resignation, reducing the delta to \$312,577. Dr. Hunter noted that the recent reduction of the CCRSD budget resulted in a reduction of the assessment to Concord of \$174,173, noting that she hopes the Finance Committee can apply this to the CPS budget.

B. Concord Middle School Building Project. Dr. Hunter stated that the CMSBC has a meeting on Thursday morning, and is expecting the design and OPM teams to bring a schedule, noting that they are excited to get to the Design Development stage. She noted the excitement to move forward to the next stage of the project.

XIV. 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 8:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Erin E. Higgins

Approved: 3.22.22

Abbreviations:

ARPA	American Rescue Plan Act of 2021
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
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
DPH	Department of Public Health
ELL	English Language Learner
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
FINCOM	Finance Committee
LLI	Leveled Literacy Intervention
OPEB	Other Post-Employment Benefits
PD	Professional Development
RTI	Response to Intervention
SC	School Committee
SEPAC	Special Education Parent Advisory Council