

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 – CSC

Mr. Booth called the CSC meeting to order at 4:32 PM, noting that it was being recorded. Roll call attendance was taken: Anderson, aye; Booth, aye; Bout, aye; Mezdad, aye; Rainey, aye.

II. REPORTS FOR DISCUSSION

A. Concord Middle School Building Project Update. Mr. Booth stated that there was some confusion at the April 15th CMS Building Committee meeting as to whether the new budget number of \$108 million was due to escalation from the passage of time or escalation due to community requests of a larger gym and auditorium. He stated that the \$90 million plus manifested in a vote that the not to exceed a budget would be \$108 million, noting that the Finance Committee has requested the CMSBC reconsider the vote. Ms. Bout stated that she didn't feel the escalation was an either/ or discussion, noting that looking at numbers at Town Meeting with escalation, the Town Manager suggested moving the cap to those numbers and to also look at the gym and auditorium to be sure they don't go over this amount. Pat Nelson, Co-Chair of the CMSBC, stated that the CMSBC needed to find a place to set a cap on the budget, noting that the committee took into consideration numbers discussed for the feasibility study back in 2019, community input, and Finance Committee feedback. She noted that they are looking at what makes the most sense for the middle school, what is most reasonable and most consistent with the education plan and community needs. She noted that they would be looking at some new information regarding escalation from Finance Committee member, Dean Banfield, as well.

Ms. Guarriello, Co-Chair of the CMSBC, stated that the only thing voted at Town Meeting was the \$1.5 million to study the project. She stated that escalation is a crystal ball and that the idea of the possible number of \$90 million was just a possibility without studying the project. She stated that they could right size the building at \$100 million, but had received feedback from the community that they wanted a larger gym and auditorium. She stated that the not to exceed budget of \$108 million allows the committee to study it. Mr. Booth noted that the Design Subcommittee did not wait for the space summary to be approved to listen to all of the different interests in the town, noting that they have been sensitive to all constituencies throughout the design process.

Ms. Rainey stated that the discussions on project scope and escalation at the Select Board meeting were very confusing, requesting that the CMSBC have a Finance Subcommittee meeting to straighten this out. Regarding CM at Risk, Ms. Rainey asked if anyone has reached out to other towns, such as Acton Boxborough, to see what their experience was.

Ms. Anderson stated that she has not personally experienced confusion on the escalation discussions, but could see why some confusion may have occurred. She noted that she was in favor of a budget not to exceed \$108 million. She noted the history of new buildings being conservative in the past, noting that she feels it worthwhile to reflect on these past mistakes and have a building that can deliver a holistic education.

Ms. Mezdad stated she feels \$100 million is very generous to the students and the tax burden is very hard to sustain for many families. She stated that she feels they should be listening to the Finance Committee rather than the architects

because their purposes are different. She stated that her other concern in asking community members if they are able to pay more taxes, noting that not all of the community has responded and many do not have children in the schools. Ms. Mezdad stated that they are building a middle school, not a community center. Regarding the Design Bid Build/CMAR comment, Ms. Guarriello stated that the Finance Committee did not weigh in on this and only spoke about the budget. She also noted that the architects are professionals and were hired to work in the town's best interest.

Ms. Rainey stated that she feels the parking issue is being pushed aside, noting her concern for a lack of a parking study at the site. She also stated that she has not heard any plans for outdoor spaces and has been requesting them for some time. Ms. Guarriello noted that there will more much more discussion on this come schematic design phase.

III. CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL - CCSC

Ms. Wilson called the CCSC meeting to order at 5:16 PM. Roll call attendance was taken: Anderson, aye; Booth, aye; Bout, aye; Mezdad, aye; Mostoufi, aye; Rainey, aye; Wilson, aye.

IV. STUDENT UPDATE

Ms. Wilson stated that the student update would be given at the next meeting.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

V. RECOGNITIONS

A. CCHS Green Team. Priscilla Guiney, staff advisor to the CCHS Green Team, and students from the CCHS Green Team presented on the native pollinator garden project. The students stated that the project will use native plants to attract endangered pollinator species, with the goal of educating the community and helping the environment. The students stated that they have met with town experts, chosen an ideal location, received approval from Facilities Manager, Russ Hughes, and planned for installation of the garden. They stated that the project would cost \$800-\$1,000, which they are hoping to raise through fundraisers, and Ms. Guiney noted the strong curriculum thread and connections with UMASS Dartmouth's program. Ms. Guiney thanked Dr. Hunter for sharing the many resources for the team to reach out to, noting the great networking opportunities for the students. The SC thanked the Green Team for all of its efforts and gave their support for the project.

VI. CHAIRS & LIASIONS REPORT

Ms. Anderson stated that SEPAC would be holding its appreciation awards on May 6th. Mr. Booth suggested discussing the scheduling of SC coffees at an upcoming meeting. Ms. Rainey stated that the Finance Committee sent a letter to the CMSBC.

VII. READING OF THE MINUTES

A. Open Session 3/9/21, 3/16/21; Executive Session 3/2/21, 3/9/21. A motion was made by Ms. Bout, for CSC and CCSC, seconded by Mr. Booth, for CSC and CCSC, to accept the open session minutes from 3/9/21 and 3/16/21 and the executive session minutes from 3/2/21 and 3/9/21. 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. CORRESPONDENCE

Ms. Wilson stated that she did not receive any correspondence to the CCSC. Mr. Booth stated that CSC was copied on 14 pieces of correspondence to the CMSBC and received one email advocating more mask wearing off school grounds to and from school.

IX. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Hunter stated that the Leadership Team is working on protocols to capture the positives from the COVID experience to replicate. She stated that the district would be administering Challenge Success surveys that will capture info across wellness and academic perspectives, noting that the surveys are similar to the Youth Risk Behavior surveys. Dr. Hunter stated that DESE had no findings on special education and civil rights in the district after completing its Tiered Focus Monitoring process, and found one minor finding with ELL. She stated that there are two remaining professional days in the month of May. She stated that the return to in-person has been a huge success, noting all of the collaboration. Dr. Hunter noted that the Education Commissioner is mandating a full return of high schools by May 17th, noting that she is

recommending not easing some outdoor restrictions as the governor recently instructed. She stated that DESE has been looking at minimizing distancing from 6 feet to 3 feet, noting that the district will not be following this at this time. Mr. Booth and Ms. Bout supported Dr. Hunter's conservative approach to this, noting the recent uptick in numbers. Dr. Hunter stated that it was great to see the staff return. She stated that there were some increase in numbers of testing, noting that it will be mandated for the athletes in the middle and high schools. She stated that she and Mr. Stanton would be at the public hearing of the Concord Finance Committee the following week on May 6th. Mr. Stanton noted that the district is still awaiting final numbers from the last stimulus package. Dr. Hunter stated that the CMS project design team would be meeting with CMS staff to gain feedback prior to schematic design.

X. REPORTS FOR DISCUSSION

A. CCHS Spring Sports Update. Aaron Joncas, CCHS Athletic Director, provided an update on spring sports at CCHS. He stated that spring sports offerings included: baseball, boys and girls lacrosse, softball, boys and girls tennis, outdoor track and field and unified track and field, noting that about 435 students will be participating. He stated that the majority of spring sports are low to moderate risk as designated by the EEA, noting that pool testing will be starting on May 3rd and that the locker rooms will remain closed. He stated that the teams would continue to pod play within the Dual County League with a few exceptions, including MIAA state tournaments.

XI. OLD BUSINESS

A. DEI (Director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion). Dr. Hunter stated that Andrew Nyamekye has been appointed as Director of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, noting his master's degree in cultural work and higher-level vision of inclusion for all. She noted that Mr. Nyamekye would be attending an upcoming meeting to present to the SC and dialogue with everyone. She stated that the district has posted for a METCO Director and has utilized connections with national registrants for candidates of color, noting that there will be supports at each school for this position. SC members voiced their support for Mr. Nyamekye. Ms. Mezdad noted that she felt a nationwide search should have been conducted for the DEI position and questioned what supports Mr. Nyamekye will need in the position. Dr. Hunter stated that Mr. Nyamekye has an entry plan as DEI Director, noting that the survey work and forums will inform if supports are needed.

XII. NEW BUSINESS

A. CCHS Capital Projects. A motion was made by Mr. Booth, seconded by Ms. Bout, to postpone Item XII. A. CCHS Capital Projects to the May 11th meeting. The motion was approved by roll call: Anderson, aye; Booth, aye Bout, aye; Mezdad, aye; Mostoufi, aye; Rainey, aye; Wilson, aye.

B. Superintendent Evaluation. Ms. Bout reviewed the Superintendent Evaluation process document that the SC had discussed previously in the fall. She reviewed the timeline, with the final summative evaluation being presented at the June 15th SC meeting. Ms. Bout noted that if there were any concerns, they should be brought up at the individual meetings taking place with Dr. Hunter from May 17th – June 1st. Dr. Hunter urged the SC not to hesitate to ask her for anything they were hoping or expecting to see that was not included in the materials she gave them. Ms. Bout reviewed the DESE evaluation form in detail and the definitions of the different performance ratings to ensure all SC members had the same understanding of the ratings and standards. The SC discussed the ratings and standards and Ms. Anderson stated that she would reach out to the MASC representative for clarity on the ratings.

Ms. Mezdad left the meeting at 7:31 PM.

XIII. ACTION ITEMS

A. EDCO FY21 Assessment Proposal. A motion was made by Mr. Booth, seconded by Ms. Rainey, to approve the amendment to the EDCO FY2021 budget and thereby increase assessments as outlined in Mr. Richard's April 15, 2021 Budget Update and to include restoration of Seefurth Funds used for operational costs in FY21 as determined by the executive director. The motion was approved by roll call: Anderson, aye (for both); Booth, aye (for both); Bout, aye; Mostoufi, aye; Rainey, aye; Wilson, aye.

XIV. EXECUTIVE SESSION

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 2 of the Open Meeting Law: To conduct strategy sessions with all non-union personnel and

Purpose 3 of the Open Meeting Law: To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining with collective bargaining units: Concord Teachers' Association, Concord-Carlisle Teachers' Association, Local 1703, State Council 93, AFL-CIO CPS Building Service Workers, CCHS Building Service Workers, Maintenance, and not return to Open Session. The motion was approved by roll call: Anderson, aye (for both); Booth, aye (for both); Bout, aye; Mostoufi, aye; Rainey, aye; Wilson, aye.

XV. ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn Executive Session was made by Ms. Rainey, seconded by Ms. Bout. The motion was approved by roll call: Anderson, aye (for both); Booth, aye (for both); Bout, aye; Mostoufi, aye; Rainey, aye; Wilson, aye, and Executive Session adjourned at 9:09 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Erin E. Higgins

Approved: 6.8.21

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
E&D	Excess and Deficiency
EEA	Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs
MASS	Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents
MIAA	Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association
OPEB	Other Post Employment Benefits
PD	Professional Development
SC	School Committee