

JOINT SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Concord-Carlisle School Committee
Concord School Committee
Zoom Meeting
May 11, 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

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

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 return to Open Session at 6:00 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.

The CSC and CCSC returned from Executive Session at 6:00 PM. A motion was made by Mr. Booth, seconded by Ms. Bout, to adjust the agenda and move Item III - Public Comment to precede Item II - Student Update. 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.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT

1. Colleen Walston, Hawthorne Village, Concord, MA. Ms. Walston read a letter she prepared outlining her concerns, requesting the SC establish a committee of teachers, administrators, parents, students and community members to examine issues related to special education, dyslexia, professional development, and evidence based literacy practices in all tiers of instruction.

III. STUDENT UPDATE

CCHS Student Reps, Linda Xu and Amy Tedeschi, provided an update from CCHS. Ms. Xu stated that the return to in person learning has been smooth, but noted that contact-tracing is more widespread due to the decrease in distancing protocol. Ms. Tedeschi noted her recent experience with being in a contact-tracing group and the decrease in the number of students attending via zoom versus during hybrid.

IV. READING OF THE MINUTES – Open Session 3/30/21, 4/6/21. A motion was made by Mr. Booth, for CSC and CCSC, seconded by Ms. Bout, for CSC and CCSC, to approve the open session minutes from 3/30/21 and 4/6/21. 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.

V. CHAIRS & LIAISONS REPORT

Ms. Anderson stated that SEPAC held its awards in person at the CCHS amphitheater, noting how exceptional it was. She stated that she and Ms. Bout met with MASC rep, Dorothy Presser, to discuss the ratings for the superintendent evaluation, noting that Ms. Presser was able to provide nuances on the ratings. Ms. Anderson and Ms. Bout provided some of the information that they received from Ms. Presser. Ms. Mezdad noted that this topic was not on the agenda and recommended the SC stop discussing it.

Mr. Booth stated that he was able to visit Willard and meet with Principal Lucey, noting the vibrant teaching and learning that was occurring. Mr. Booth noted how impressed he was and how genuine the teaching and learning was.

Ms. Mezdad stated that the Policy Subcommittee met on April 28th.

Ms. Bout stated that CMSBC voted a revised space summary that includes a larger auditorium and gym and removal of the maker space and alternate gym. She stated that they would use the schematic design phase to work this functionality into the building. She noted that there is a newly launched website for the building project. Mr. Booth noted that the next meeting is May 20th.

VI. CORRESPONDENCE

Ms. Wilson stated that CCSC received correspondence from another SC regarding pooled testing, as well as correspondence on antiracism, quarantine times and praise for the Superintendent.

Mr. Booth stated that CSC also received copies of the communications to CCSC, as well as: one from the Climate Action Advisory Board regarding an upcoming Town Meeting warrant article, one about the middle school project, 2 phone calls about quarantine protocols, one email about equity efforts, one email around close contact protocols, and one email from a parent in regards to Dr. Hunter, with high praise for the role that she's playing in the school district.

VII. REPORTS FOR DISCUSSION

A. Director of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Andrew Nyamekye. Mr. Nyamekye introduced himself and reviewed the core responsibilities of the Director of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion role. He took a moment to reflect on the racial unrest and reckoning over civil rights and racism in the country. He stated that the month of May is Asian American and Pacific Islander month, noting the reality of ongoing racist rhetoric and hate crimes against these communities, noting that three CMS teachers have created a calendar with resources sharing Asian American Pacific Islander information. Mr. Nyamekye shared his educational background. He stated that the district would be hiring a new METCO director to replace him when he transitions to his new role on July 1st. He then thanked the SC and Dr. Hunter for all of their support for affirming the importance of the METCO Director role and stated that he is committed to ensuring that the METCO families and students feel part of the community and that their individual and collective voices are always included, heard, valued and appreciated. Mr. Nyamekye shared some of his childhood experiences with race and how these experiences helped to shape and influence his life. He also spoke about some of the people who helped inspire him throughout his life. Mr. Nyamekye stated that cultural competency, DE&I and anti-racism education are a priority in the district, sharing the five ongoing initiatives from the strategic plan. He reviewed his 3-phase entry plan, including: laying the groundwork, developing a strategic plan and instituting long-term commitments to action.

Mr. Booth noted the possibility of a town-wide DEI committee or subcommittee to the SC, as well as holding a community forum with Mr. Nyamekye. Mr. Booth also noted that the SC would like to meet with Mr. Nyamekye in small groups to further their understanding and dialogue with Mr. Nyamekye and Mr. Nyamekye stated that he welcomed these meetings. Ms. Mezdad noted that she would have liked the district to do a further search to fill the DEI position, but noted that she supports Mr. Nyamekye in the position. The SC asked Mr. Nyamekye additional questions and thanked him for his presentation. Ms. Wilson acknowledged Dr. Paula Martin and Dr. Martin stated that Mr. Nyamekye's presentation was the perfect umbrella to which all of the works sits.

B. Technology: Instruction, 5 Year Plan, Filtering Software. Ms. Mezdad noted that her major concern is how to keep distractions away from the students and that she is hoping for a solution that will protect the students. *Ms. Mezdad left the meeting.* Kristen Herbert, Director of Teaching and Learning, provided an overview of technology in instruction, noting that instruction is right on pace because of the adaptations made by the use of technology. She provided examples of technology in instruction and stated that software is also available to families over the summer. She stated that the district is in the process of deciding which innovations made over the course of COVID should be kept, and which are not

needed anymore, noting that these decisions are level specific. She stated that the district would be able to cut the software budget by the 10% amount requested by the SC. She noted that this has been an incredible period of innovation. SC members asked Ms. Herbert specific questions around the use of technology in instruction.

Peter Kelly, IT Director, shared an overview of the 5-year replacement cycle and risk management. He stated that the hardware budget line is now for laptops for students and staff only, noting that this is the biggest shift in the 5-year plan. He stated that the district would be weaning off the iMacs. Mr. Kelly stated that he would need the SC's guidance on filtering software, reviewing the current filtering software in place. He stated that the district will need a 3rd party piece of software with an average cost of \$4.00-\$5.00 per device for content filtering, asking the SC for feedback on this, noting that the messaging out to families will be the most important piece. Ms. Rainey noted the importance of filtering out applications that the students do not need for schoolwork, suggesting moving forward on the application blocking first. Ms. Wilson noted that Ms. Mezdad should be included in the discussion.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

A. CCHS Capital Plan. Mr. Stanton reviewed the CCHS Capital Plan, including the amenities building, paving and lighting for the access road, campus tractor, resurfacing of the tennis courts, and possible track. He stated that the district worked with Gale Associates on the softball drainage bid, noting that the drainage is a safety issue and needs to be addressed. Russ Hughes, Facilities Manager, shared some of the specific issues with the clay related to the drainage issue, noting that the field also needs to be re-graded. Ms. Rainey noted the turf field, suggesting that the district will need to rethink the current fee structure. She questioned if any work is anticipated inside of CCHS and Mr. Hughes stated that it might need flooring and painting at some point. Mr. Rhames, Assistant Business Manager, noted that the gym floor was damaged during the fire a few years back and would need to be replaced as well, but noted that money from the insurance settlement would cover the cost of replacement. Ms. Bout stated that the paving and lighting and the amenities building are long overdue. Regarding the tennis courts, Ms. Rainey encouraged booster groups to come to the SC and Administration before fundraising.

B. CCHS Trips 2021-2022. A motion was made by Ms. Bout, seconded by Mr. Booth, to defer the CCHS Trips 2021-22 discussion until sometime in the future. The motion was approved by roll call: Anderson, aye; Booth, aye; Bout, aye; Mostoufi, aye; Rainey, aye; Wilson, aye.

IX. ACTION ITEMS

A. Vote to Approve CCHS Softball Upgrades. A motion was made by Ms. Rainey, seconded by Ms. Bout, to award the contract for field renovations to the low bidder, North Tuft, Inc., for an amount not to exceed \$35,798. The motion was approved by roll call: Anderson, aye; Booth, aye; Bout, aye; Mostoufi, aye; Rainey, aye; Wilson, aye.

B. Vote to Approve CCHS Exchange Students. A motion was made by Ms. Bout, seconded by Ms. Rainey, to approve two AFS exchange students, one from Japan and one from Germany, at CCHS for the upcoming school year, 2021-22. The motion was approved by roll call: Anderson, aye; Booth, aye; Bout, aye; Mostoufi, aye; Rainey, aye; Wilson, aye.

X. ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn was made by Ms. Bout, for CSC and CCSC, seconded by Ms. Anderson, for CSC and CCSC. The motion was approved by roll call: Anderson, aye (for both); Booth, aye (for both); Bout, aye (for both); Mostoufi, aye; Rainey, aye (for both); Wilson, aye, and the meeting adjourned at 8:49 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Erin E. Higgins

Approved: 6.8.21

Abbreviations:

CCHS Concord-Carlisle High School
CCRSD Concord-Carlisle Regional School District

CCSC	Concord-Carlisle Regional District School Committee
CCTA	Concord-Carlisle Teachers' Association
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
DEI	Diversity, Equity and Inclusion
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