

JOINT SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Concord-Carlisle School Committee  
Concord School Committee  
Zoom Meeting  
May 18, 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

Absent: 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. Bout called the CCSC meeting to order at 5:02 PM, noting that it was being recorded, and Mr. Booth then called the CSC meeting to order. Roll call attendance was taken: Anderson, aye; Booth, aye; Bout, aye; Mostoufi, aye; Rainey, aye; Wilson, aye.

A. Executive Session. A motion was made by Ms. Bout, 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, or litigation, regarding termination of the EDCO Collaborative and the case of L.Y. v. Kester Kreuger, CCTV, Inc., Town of Concord, and Concord-Carlisle Regional School District, 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); 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 Ms. Bout, for CSC and CCSC, seconded by Mr. Booth, for CSC and CCSC, to add a Recognition item to the beginning of the agenda. The motion passed by roll call: Anderson, aye (for both); Booth, aye (for both); Bout, aye (for both); Mostoufi, aye; Rainey, aye (for both); Wilson, aye.

**II. RECOGNITIONS**

A. CCHS Student Reps. Ms. Wilson thanked CCHS student reps, Linda Xu and Amy Tedeschi, for all of their efforts during the year and Mr. Booth echoed Ms. Wilson's sentiments, noting that the students have been fearless in bringing their thoughts and truths to the SC. Ms. Bout stated that the students have redefined the role of SC liaisons, noting that the students are leaving a legacy. Mr. Booth stated that the students modeled teamwork. Ms. Xu thanked the SC for their kind words and being open to what she and Ms. Tedeschi brought to the SC. Dr. Hunter stated that they created a role of advocacy and student voice, noting that they have set the stage for this role to be influential for a long time to come.

A motion was made by Mr. Booth, seconded by Ms. Bout, to move up item IV. A. Superintendent Evaluation Update to this point in the meeting. The motion passed by roll call: Anderson, aye (for both); Booth, aye (for both); Bout, aye (for both); Mostoufi, aye; Rainey, aye (for both); Wilson, aye.

**III. OLD BUSINESS**

A. Superintendent Evaluation Update. Ms. Bout thanked MASC representative, Dorothy Presser, for attending the meeting. Ms. Anderson stated that she shared a memo on the rating process with other SC members as well as Ms. Presser, asking if anyone had additional questions and reviewing the memo. She noted that the only standard that would

trigger the intervention of a directed growth plan due to a needs improvement rating is the instructional leadership standard. Ms. Presser stated that the goals evolve from year to year based on the district plan, noting that the standards are the skills, competency and proficiency of the work that a Superintendent is doing.

### **III. DISCUSSION**

A. Calendar Update. Ms. Wilson stated that the Town of Concord made an Indigenous People's Day proclamation, stating that it is celebrated with Columbus Day on the second Monday of October. Dr. Hunter noted that the district would need guidance from the SC on how they would like this date recorded on the calendar. The SC stated that they need more clarity on whether or not Indigenous People's Day would be listed in addition to Columbus Day or would be replacing it.

A motion was made by Ms. Bout, seconded by Ms. Rainey, to move the Concord Capital Task Force Update to the CSC portion of the meeting. The motion passed by roll call: Anderson, aye (for both); Booth, aye (for both); Bout, aye (for both); Rainey, aye (for both); Wilson, aye: Mostoufi, aye.

### **IV. NEW BUSINESS**

A. CCHS Variance Report. Mr. Stanton shared the CCHS Variance Report, stating that there is currently a \$1.7 million unencumbered balance, noting that the budget needs to end in a surplus to cover the interest and E&D reserved to reduce for the following year. He noted that there are many offsets and grants to determine and that the \$1.7 is higher than it normally would be, noting that he expects to end in a surplus. He stated that he would be bringing a number to prepay on special education tuitions, as well as other items in the stabilization account.

### **V. ADJOURNMENT - CCSC**

A motion was made by Ms. Bout, seconded by Ms. Anderson, to adjourn the CCSC meeting. The motion passed by roll call: Anderson, aye; Booth, aye; Bout, aye; Mostoufi, aye; Rainey, aye; Wilson, aye, and the CCSC meeting adjourned at 6:38 PM.

A motion was made by Mr. Booth, seconded by Ms. Anderson, to move ahead with the MSBA Statement of Interest Discussion, followed by the CPS Variance Report and then the Concord Capital Task Force Update. The motion passed by roll call: Anderson, aye; Booth, aye; Bout, aye; Rainey, aye.

### **VI. DISCUSSION**

A. MSBA Statement of Interest. Dr. Hunter stated that the district submitted a statement of interest on the middle school project in 2017, 2018, 2019 and 2020, noting that they have been declined every time. She stated that the work being done right now will not be honored under MSBA and the district would have to go through the OPM and architect process again, using the work from SMMA and Hill as reference. She stated that typically the 60-80 submissions are analyzed by needs to fill the 12-15 spots, depending on the scope of the projects. She noted that she does not see the district being invited in, recommending that they do not resubmit. Ms. Rainey asked if the Select Board has been consulted and Dr. Hunter stated that the Select Board is having a similar conversation after the SC discusses first, noting that it will take a vote from both the SC and Select Board. Ms. Rainey stated that she would like to submit, noting that they cannot assume a positive town vote. The SC discussed many aspects to take into account in deciding whether to submit, noting the complexity. Mr. Stanton stated that he does not feel the district would be invited in, but noted that he does not want to assume a yes vote either.

### **VII. NEW BUSINESS**

A. CPS Variance Report. Mr. Stanton shared the CPS Variance Report, stating that CPS is in good shape, noting that CPS has payroll expenses that have not been encumbered since the students returned in person. He stated that the budget is in balance and that the district could prepay special education tuitions, noting that CPS will not have a surplus. He stated that there are many grants and moving pieces within the CPS budget, noting that it is a year like no other. Ms. Bout noted how impressive the budgets have been handled during this challenging year. Mr. Booth asked if there were COVID related expenses moving to FY22 and Dr. Hunter noted the unknowns of how PPEs with work, a possible mandate for a remote learning option at the elementary level, and the unknown level of supervision needed at the middle and high school levels. Mr. Stanton agreed with Dr. Hunter, noting the handle the district had on PPE from the beginning, crediting Facilities Manager, Russ Hughes and the nurses for all of their work.

B. Concord Capital Task Force Update. Ms. Rainey thanked Elise Woodward for creating the slides she was using to present to the SC. Ms. Rainey shared the background of the Task Force and its charge by the Select Board of developing a process for town-wide capital planning and a 10-year time horizon updated annually. She shared draft recommendations, including: a long term capital planning process for very large projects be adopted by the Select Board and School Committee, a “very large project” be defined as any project exceeding a cost of \$5 million or any project that has two or more phases totaling \$5 million or more, codification of these long-term capital planning recommendations to be formally integrated into current town and school policies and practices for capital planning, and develop a debt template to summarize and present future Tier III “very large projects” to analyze impact on taxpayers, make available to Public annually integrated Town and School Tier III project list, also sharing a timeline. Ms. Anderson noted her concern for a single opportunity for feedback on town projects and Ms. Rainey stated that this process would be a pilot.

**VIII. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

1. Terry Ackerman. Regarding Ms. Anderson’s comment on feedback during the Task Force Update, Ms. Ackerman stated that there would be two opportunities for public forums and a 45-day comment period, noting that the slide in the presentation needed to be updated.

**IX. ADJOURNMENT - CSC**

A motion to adjourn was made by Ms. Bout, seconded by Ms. Rainey. The motion was approved by roll call: Anderson, aye; Booth, aye; Bout, aye; Rainey, aye; and the meeting adjourned at 7:46 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Erin E. Higgins

Approved: 7.28.21

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
E&D	Excess and Deficiency
OPEB	Other Post Employment Benefits
PD	Professional Development
SC	School Committee
SOI	Statement of Interest