

JOINT SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Concord-Carlisle School Committee
Concord School Committee
Zoom Meeting
May 25, 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 5:02 PM and Mr. Booth then called the CSC meeting to order. Roll call attendance was taken: Anderson, aye; Booth, aye; Bout, aye; Mostoufi, aye; Wilson, aye; Rainey, aye.

A. Executive Session. A motion was made by Ms. Bout, for CSC and CCSC, seconded by Mr. Booth, 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, and Ms. Wilson noted that the meeting was being recorded.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT

1. Karlen Reed, 83 Whits End Road, Concord, MA. Ms. Reed stated that she was Chair of the PEG Access Advisory Committee and asked if the district has discussed opening up the studio at CCHS with the town.

III. READING OF THE MINUTES

A. Open Session 4/13/21 and Executive Session 3/16/21, 3/30/21, 4/3/21, 4/13/21, 4/27/21. A motion was made by Mr. Booth, seconded by Ms. Bout, to accept the minutes from Open Session 4/13/21 and Executive Session 3/16/21, 3/30/21, 4/3/21, 4/13/21, and 4/27/21. 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.

IV. CHAIRS & LIAISONS REPORT

None.

V. CORRESPONDENCE

Ms. Wilson stated that CCSC received 1 piece of correspondence on cultural competency/curriculum. Mr. Booth stated that CSC received 2 pieces of correspondence regarding the early literacy programs and special education identification.

VI. REPORTS FOR DISCUSSION

A. CEF Grants 2021. Leah Butler, Denise Jantzen, Sean Miller and Bill Stone were present from the Concord Education Fund. Mr. Miller stated that CEF is a group of parents that formed a board in 1996 that raises money through events, noting that money is raised for teachers to run creative, innovative projects that may not be funded by the district.

He stated that there were 14 grant submissions this year and CEF was able to fund 9 of these, totaling \$57,820.59. Mr. Miller reviewed some of the grants that were funded. Mr. Booth noted how these grants inspire teachers and students, thanking CEF. Ms. Jantzen noted how happy they were to be at the meeting, noting the CEF's great collaboration with Dr. Hunter and administration. Ms. Bout noted how amazing it was that CEF was able to raise this much over the current year, given the pandemic. Dr. Hunter noted the support for bike racks across the district and CEF's help with the Challenge Success survey. Ms. Mezdad thanked CEF for investing in Challenge Success.

B. Summer School 2021. Dr. Hunter stated that there are 4 populations included in summer school: extended school year for education, elementary-aged students who fall at or below benchmark in reading, K-12 English Language Learners and incoming METCO kindergarteners. She stated that summer school would be held at Willard this year because Alcott is offline due to the ERU replacements, noting that it will begin on July 5th. Dr. Hunter noted that the district is getting a better response offering 3 weeks versus 5 weeks.

C. CCHS FY21 Budget Surplus. Mr. Stanton stated that, as of May 21st, there was just over \$7 million in encumbrances and \$1,573,000 unencumbered. He noted that the MacBooks for freshmen are included in the encumbrances. He stated that the unencumbered balance might go down about \$200,000-\$300,000 for unknown expenses. He stated that there may be \$1.3 million in surplus, but noted that included in the \$1.3 million is funding of the E&D for the FY22 budget and revenue for FY21 that comes in under the budgeted amount, noting that he expects this to be \$80,000-\$100,000 due to the interest budgeted for, but not received. Mr. Stanton stated that there are many revolving accounts, noting that three that intertwine the most with the general fund are food services, athletics and special education circuit breaker, reviewing the status of these funds. He stated that he is expecting a surplus of \$1,668,502 after covering the E&D, recommending estimated special education tuitions prepayment, MacBooks, an electric bus, and design costs for an amenities building. He stated that if these recommendations are allowed, he still projects a surplus of \$425,000, noting \$225,000 could lower the assessments for both towns for FY22 and \$200,000 could be used to build the stabilization account for future capital projects.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

A. First Reading School Committee Policies: File: JJ – Co-Curricular and Extra-Curricular Activities, File: JJ-E – Co-Curricular and Extra-Curricular Activities (to be removed), File: JJA – Student Organizations, File: JJE – Student Fundraising Activities, File: JGG – Contests for Students, File: JJIB – Interscholastic Athletics. Ms. Mezdad stated that the Policy Subcommittee met on April 28th, noting that there are no large changes they were recommending to the policies. She stated that that the Subcommittee is recommending the removal of JJ-E from the policy manual since it is just a duplication of JJ. Ms. Mezdad reviewed changes to File: JJE, including specifying building principal, adding a cross reference and reference to MGL, and updating the first sentence to indicate that the items/activities are not funded within the budget. Ms. Mezdad reviewed two different language options for updating File: JJIB that the Subcommittee was considering, asking for the SC's input. Ms. Anderson noted that MASC representative Dorothy Presser voiced her preference for option 1. After discussion, the SC agreed that they liked the wording in option 1 best.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

A. Filtering Software. Peter Kelly, Director of Information Technology, stated that the district currently has mobile device management software in place to control application use/access. He stated that web filtering at home is a bigger discussion and would require third party software, noting that the average surveyed cost is about \$4.00-\$5.00 per device. Ms. Rainey suggested doing a pilot with one of the middle school grades and Ms. Mezdad stated that she would like it to start for all grades as soon as possible. After further discussion, the SC and administration agreed to discuss further at the next meeting, get feedback from building administrators and possibly use the time over the summer to strategize.

B. CCHS Capital. Mr. Stanton stated that he revised the previous CCHS Capital memo to add the turf, noting that the cost they are looking at is around \$400,000.

IX. ACTION ITEMS

A. Vote to Approve CCHS Bond. Mr. Stanton stated that the district is refinancing the remaining portion of the CCHS debt and expects to have a savings of about \$3.1 million. A motion was made by Ms. Bout, seconded by Mr. Booth, to accept the bond reoffering votes as presented: Voted: That in order to reduce interest costs, the Treasurer is authorized to issue refunding bonds, at one time or from time to time, pursuant to Chapter 44, Section 21A of the General

Laws, or pursuant to any other enabling authority, to refund all or a portion of the District's \$32,500,000 General Obligation School Bonds dated June 1, 2013 maturing on June 15 in the years 2022 through 2038 (inclusive) (the "Refunded Bonds") and that the proceeds of any refunding bonds issued pursuant to this vote shall be used to pay the principal, redemption premium and interest on the Refunded Bonds and costs of issuance of the refunding bonds. Further Voted: that the sale of the \$19,165,000 General Obligation School Refunding Bonds of the District dated June 1, 2021 (the "Bonds"), to Fidelity Capital Markets, a Division of National Financial Services LLC at the price of \$21,581,275.76 and accrued interest, if any, is hereby approved and confirmed. The Bonds shall be payable on June 15 of the years and in the principal amounts and bear interest at the respective rates, as follows: rates according to Mr. Stanton's memo dated May 25, 2021; Further Voted: that in connection with the marketing and sale of the Bonds, the preparation and distribution of a Notice of Sale and Preliminary Official Statement dated May 12, 2021, and a final Official Statement dated May 19, 2021 (the "Official Statement"), each in such form as may be approved by the District Treasurer, be and hereby are ratified, confirmed, approved and adopted. Further Voted: that the Bonds shall be subject to redemption, at the option of the District, upon such terms and conditions as are set forth in the Official Statement. Further Voted: that the District Treasurer and the members of the Committee be, and hereby are, authorized to execute and deliver a continuing disclosure undertaking in compliance with SEC Rule 15c2-12 in such form as may be approved by bond counsel to the District, which undertaking shall be incorporated by reference in the Bonds for the benefit of the holders of the Bonds from time to time. Further Voted: that we authorize and direct the District Treasurer to establish post issuance federal tax compliance procedures and continuing disclosure procedures in such forms as the District Treasurer and bond counsel deem sufficient, or if such procedures are currently in place, to review and update said procedures, in order to monitor and maintain the tax-exempt status of the Bonds and to comply with relevant securities laws. Further Voted: that any certificates or documents relating to the Bonds (collectively, the "Documents"), may be executed in several counterparts, each of which shall be regarded as an original and all of which shall constitute one and the same document; delivery of an executed counterpart of a signature page to a Document by electronic mail in a ".pdf" file or by other electronic transmission shall be as effective as delivery of a manually executed counterpart signature page to such Document; and electronic signatures on any of the Documents shall be deemed original signatures for the purposes of the Documents and all matters relating thereto, having the same legal effect as original signatures. Further Voted: that each member of the Committee, the District Secretary and the District Treasurer be and hereby are, authorized to take any and all such actions, and execute and deliver such certificates, receipts or other documents as may be determined by them, or any of them, to be necessary or convenient to carry into effect the provisions of the foregoing votes. The motion passed by roll call: Anderson, aye; Booth, aye; Bout, aye; Mezdad, aye; Mostoufi, aye; Rainey, aye; Wilson, aye.

B. Vote to Approve Revised 2021-2022 Calendar. Dr. Hunter stated that the district is determining how to present the Indigenous Peoples Day/Columbus Day on written calendars and Mr. Booth stated that the district could move independently of the town on how to present it in written form. A motion was made by Mr. Booth, seconded by Ms. Anderson, to approve the revised 2021-2022 calendar for both districts co-naming the 2nd Monday in October as Columbus Day and Indigenous Peoples' Day. 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.

C. Vote to Approve CCHS Exchange Student. Ms. Wilson noted that since she served as a letter of reference for the exchange students host family, she would be recusing herself from the vote. A motion was made by Ms. Rainey, seconded by Ms. Anderson, to approve one Greenheart Exchange student from Spain, for the upcoming school year 2021-2022. The motion passed by roll call: Anderson, aye; Booth, aye; Bout, aye; Mezdad, aye; Mostoufi, aye; Rainey, aye.

X. ADJOURNMENT - CCSC

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

XI. OLD BUSINESS

A. Concord Middle School MSBA Statement of Interest. Dr. Hunter stated that the district needs guidance from the SC on whether or not to submit a Statement of Interest to the MSBA for a new middle school. Mr. Booth stated that it would be due diligence and responsible to submit, noting that it would provide options without any obligations and Ms. Mezdad stated that the district owes it to the taxpayers to reapply. Ms. Anderson asked if resubmitting would hinder

the CMSBA timeline and Dr. Hunter stated that, if accepted, it would impact the timeline set by the CMSBA. Dr. Hunter noted that the Concord Select Board also needs to vote to approve before the submission.

B. CMS Project Update. Mr. Booth stated that the CMSBC is moving into schematic design over the summer, noting that the CMSBC authorized SMMA to bring forward focus groups that would be a mechanism to receive input from subspecialties required for schematic design. Mr. Booth reviewed possible timelines of the project and Ms. Bout noted that the difference in timelines was the timing of a special town election. Mr. Booth stated that the next CMSBC meeting would be held June 3rd and a public forum would be held June 7th. Ms. Rainey stated that the public needs to understand how the subcommittees and the focus groups will be operating over the next several months. Mr. Booth noted his concern that the CMSBC has been relegated to a lesser role in favor of focus groups.

XII. ACTION ITEMS

A. Vote to Accept Book Donations to Willard Library. A motion was made by Ms. Bout, seconded by Ms. Anderson, to accept book donations to the Willard library through the Willard book fair. Ms. Mezdad asked if the books were vetted and Dr. Hunter stated that the librarians own the process for selecting and vetting books. The motion passed by roll call: Anderson, aye; Booth, aye; Bout, aye; Mezdad, aye; Rainey, aye.

B. Vote on CMS MSBA Statement of Interest. A motion was made by Ms. Anderson, seconded by Ms. Rainey, to direct the Administration to submit a Statement of Interest to the MSBA and inform the Select Board of the action. Ms. Bout noted that, if accepted, there would need to be a hard look at whether or not it was worth it to move forward. The motion passed by roll call: Anderson, aye; Booth, aye; Bout, aye; Mezdad, aye; Rainey, aye.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn was made by Ms. Bout, seconded by Ms. Rainey. The motion passed by roll call: Anderson, aye; Booth, aye; Bout, aye; Mezdad, aye; Rainey, aye, and the meeting adjourned at 8:19 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
CEF	Concord Education Fund
CMS	Concord Middle School
CMSBC	Concord Middle School Building Committee
CPS	Concord Public Schools
CSC	Concord School Committee
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