

JOINT SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Concord-Carlisle School Committee
Concord School Committee
Hybrid Meeting (Zoom & Ripley Conf. Rm. 4)
August 31, 2021

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
Fatima Mezdad, CSC; CCSC (via Zoom)
Eva Mostoufi, CCSC

Present from Administration: Dr. Laurie Hunter, Superintendent of Schools, CPS & CCRSD
Jared Stanton, Asst. Supt. of Finance & Operations, CPS & CCRSD

I. CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL

Ms. Wilson called the CCSC meeting to order at 6:32 PM and Ms. Rainey then called the CSC meeting to order. Roll call attendance was taken: Anderson, aye; Booth, aye; Marano, aye; Mostoufi, aye; Mezdad, aye; Rainey, aye; Wilson, aye.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT

1. Monica Granfield, 110 Carlisle Pines Drive, Carlisle, MA. Ms. Granfield referenced the American Rescue Plan Act, which provides money to school districts to assist and recover from COVID-19. She asked what roles the incentives played in influencing the decision making of the District and asked how the funds were going to be allocated.

2. Bob Lonadier, 72 Finigan Way, Concord, MA. Mr. Lonadier stated that it was still hard to hear the meeting room over Zoom. He stated that many good points were made at the August 24th meeting and thanked the SC for its efforts. He asked for clarity on the criteria for lifting the mask mandate and stated that he would have liked the teachers to be vaccinated from day 1. Mr. Booth asked Mr. Lonadier to send additional questions he may have to the SC. Mr. Lonadier urged the SC to come up with creative solutions to quarantining.

3. Terri Ackerman, 89 Heaths Bridge Road, Concord MA. Ms. Ackerman stated that she is a member of the Concord Select Board and is the liaison to the SC. She invited the SC to attend the Select Board meeting on September 20th to brainstorm alternative revenues to offset the cost of the MS. She also invited the SC to the meeting on September 27th regarding the capital plan. Ms. Ackerman stated that the Select Board could call a special Town Meeting when the SC and CMSBC is ready.

Ms. Wilson thanked everyone in the school community for a smooth back to school and noted the guest speaker, Grace Lin, from the faculty and staff opening day session, noting how insightful the session was. Mr. Booth then thanked the citizens who have joined the SC meeting.

III. CHAIRS & LIAISONS REPORT

Mr. Booth stated that there is a CMSBC meeting on Thursday, September 2nd at 7:30 AM. He stated that the CMSBC Design Subcommittee met earlier in the day, sharing some of the design elements discussed. Due to the high level of activity of the CMSBC, Ms. Rainey suggested having a discussion about it at the September 14th meeting.

Regarding the Concord-Carlisle Adult & Community Education, Ms. Mostoufi stated that they would continue meeting on Zoom, noting that the next meeting is September 17th. She noted many exciting programs and events they have coming out in the fall. Ms. Mostoufi noted that Drivers Education is in full swing.

IV. READING OF THE MINUTES

A. Joint Meeting 7/7/21, 7/12/21, 7/15/21 (CSC) and Executive Session 7/7/21, 7/12/21 and 7/15/21 (CSC). A motion was made by Mr. Booth, seconded by Ms. Marano, to accept the open session joint minutes from 7/7/21, 7/12/21, and 7/15/21. The motion was approved by roll call: Anderson, aye; Booth, aye; Marano, aye; Mezdad, aye; Rainey, aye. A motion was made by Mr. Booth, seconded by Ms. Anderson, to approve the executive session minutes from 7/7/21, 7/12/21 and 7/15/21. The motion passed by roll call: Anderson, aye; Booth, aye; Marano, aye; Mezdad, aye; Rainey, aye.

V. CORRESPONDENCE

Ms. Wilson stated that CCSC received seven emails regarding the opening of school.

VI. DISCUSSION

A. Back to School Update. Dr. Hunter stated that teachers returned last Thursday and the virtual back to school was held, thanking author Grace Lin for sharing her story of self-identity and race. She stated that the teachers all provided positive feedback. Dr. Hunter stated that, overall, back to school is going very well at each of the schools, noting the great conversations she's had with teachers and students and the community building that's taking place.

B. COVID Update. Dr. Hunter stated that there have been two adult cases of vaccinated people and three students who had not been to school yet. She shared staff voluntary vaccine survey data, noting that, of the 424 respondents, all but eight are vaccinated. Dr. Hunter stated that she and Mr. Stanton are still working with union leaders on collaborative agreements, noting that the District needs an umbrella for the non-union staff. Dr. Hunter then shared student vaccine data, noting that grades 9-12 were at 80% vaccination rate or better. Ms. Wilson noted many of the mitigation efforts in place and Ms. Anderson noted that she feels the District is trying to ensure that the policies create conditions to allow teachers to effectively teach the students. Ms. Rainey stated that it is the SC's role to create policies to keep the students and community safe. Ms. Mostoufi noted the importance of keeping masks on until there is a good understanding of how COVID is affecting the student population. Ms. Marano noted the importance of monitoring the data and transparency with parents.

C. Policy EBCFAA – Employee COVID-19 Vaccination Requirement. Dr. Hunter stated that this policy is locally developed from discussions with union leaderships, MTA documents, and District legal counsel. Dr. Hunter stated that the October 17th date was recommended to provide those who had not received a first dose to receive both doses, noting that the policy also provides for medical and religious exemptions. Ms. Mostoufi noted that the date may need to be modified based on when the SC approves the policy and Ms. Rainey stated that this date has been socialized, noting that she would like to hold to the date.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

A. DEI Subcommittee. Ms. Wilson stated that she and Ms. Marano were appointed as two of the members of the DEI Subcommittee. She stated that the Concord Select Board is recruiting members for its Commission on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. Ms. Wilson thanked Mr. Nyamekye for joining the meeting, offering the SC's support in helping to advance his goals. Mr. Nyamekye stated that the year is off to a great start and that he is beginning to have conversations with students and leaders, noting that he is receiving a lot of feedback on what work needs to be done. Ms. Wilson stated that the SC needs to determine the third subcommittee member now that the entire SC was present. Ms. Mezdad noted her interest in being on the DEI Subcommittee, noting the perspective she can bring to the Subcommittee.

B. FY21 End of Year Update. Mr. Stanton stated that the close out does not occur until the District is audited, which is scheduled for September, noting that the entire process may take until February. He stated that CCRSD is projecting 5% E&D, noting that he is not projecting any money left over in the General Fund. He stated that the District was able to prepay tuitions out of the General Fund and the District has put a bus bid together, noting that he expects them to come in at around \$350,000. He stated that nothing has changed in the revolving accounts, noting that he still anticipates having around the same beginning and ending balances in the Food Services and Athletic accounts. Mr. Stanton stated that the District would have the full circuit breaker amount for the high school, projected at \$872,560. Mr. Stanton shared the COVID/ESSER grant budget balances. Mr. Stanton stated that CPS is expected to end at zero, noting that there will be approximately a \$250,000 balance in Food Services that can move forward to next year. He stated that the District is projecting to carry over approximately \$650,000 in circuit breaker.

C. School Committee Goals 2021-22. Ms. Wilson shared the SC Goals update 21-22 document, noting that the SC workshop would be held on September 16th from 3:00-5:00 PM. The SC agreed to submit ideas/suggestions on the goals to Ms. Wilson.

VIII. ACTION ITEMS

A. Vote to Approve Staff Child Enrollments. A motion was made by Mr. Booth, for CSC and CCSC, seconded by Ms. Marano, for CSC and CCSC, to approve the staff requests of Radka Grein and Courtney Latta, to enroll their children in CPS/CCRSD for the upcoming school year, and that tuition be waived. The motion passed by roll call: Anderson, aye (for both); Booth, aye (for both); Marano, aye (for both); Mezdad, aye (for both); Mostoufi, aye; Rainey, aye (for both); Wilson, aye.

B. Vote to Appoint Third Member to DEI Subcommittee. A motion was made by Mr. Booth, seconded by Ms. Marano, to appoint Fatima Mezdad to serve on the DEI Subcommittee. The motion passed by roll call: Anderson, aye (for both); Booth, aye (for both); Marano, aye (for both); Mezdad, aye (for both); Mostoufi, aye; Rainey, aye (for both); Wilson, aye.

IX. ADDITIONAL PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

X. ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Booth, seconded by Ms. Marano. The motion was approved by roll call: Anderson, aye (for both); Booth, aye (for both); Marano, aye (for both); Mezdad, aye (for both); Mostoufi, aye; Rainey, aye (for both); Wilson, aye, and the meeting adjourned at 8:13 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Erin E. Higgins

Approved: 9.28.21

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 & Prevention
CEF	Concord Education Fund
CMLP	Concord Municipal Light Plant
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
FINCOM	Finance Committee
MDPH	Massachusetts Department of Public Health
OPEB	Other Post-Employment Benefits
PD	Professional Development
SC	School Committee