

JOINT SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Concord – Carlisle School Committee
Concord School Committee
Ripley Building
July 26, 2016

Present: Wallace Johnston, Chair, CSC; CCSC
Heather Bout, Vice Chair, CSC; CCSC
William Fink, Chair, CCSC
Dan Conti, Vice Chair, CSC; CCSC
Mary Storrs, CCSC
Bob Grom, CSC; CCSC

Absent: Johanna Boynton, CCSC; CSC

Present from Administration: Diana Rigby, Superintendent of Schools, CPS & CCRSD
John Flaherty, Deputy Superintendent of Finance & Operations, CPS & CCRSD

I. CALL TO ORDER

The session was called to order by Mr. Fink, for CCSC, and Mr. Johnston, for CSC, at 6:30PM.

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS

1. Janet Miller, 1647 Main St., Concord, MA. Ms. Miller thanked the School Committee for their consideration of the possibility of something other than passive recreation for the landfill remediation site, noting the memo from Nitsch Engineering. She suggested that a public forum be held to discuss this. Mr. Fink informed her that they would be speaking about this further later in the meeting.

III. READING OF THE MINUTES

A. Open Session

Joint Meeting – 6/28/16. A motion was made by Ms. Bout, seconded by Mr. Johnston, to approve the meeting minutes from the 6/28/16 Joint Meeting. Ms. Storrs abstained from the vote. The motion was unanimously approved by the other committee members.

CPS Meeting – 6/14/16. A motion was made by Ms. Bout, seconded by Mr. Conti, to approve the minutes from the 6/14/16 CPS Meeting. The motion was unanimously approved.

IV. CHAIRS REPORT

Mr. Fink stated that he, Ms. Rigby, Mr. Flaherty and Mr. Grom met with Mike Lawson and Nathan Brown (Chairs of Board of Selectman in Concord and Carlisle) regarding the landfill remediation project. He also stated that they received 2 emails regarding the landfill remediation.

V. CORRESPONDENCE

A. Letter from MTRS (MA Teachers' Retirement System). Mr. Fink stated that they received a letter from MTRS stating that CCRSD would be audited.

VI. RECOGNITIONS

A. 2016 Summer School Staff: Kristen Herbert, Court Booth, 26 teachers, tutors, 16 high school volunteer students and Alcott Staff. Ms. Rigby stated that they had a very successful summer school and that it runs for 4 weeks, helping students who need extra assistance in reading, writing and math. She noted that CCRSD teachers teach the classes. She recognized Kristen Herbert, Court Booth, 26 teachers, tutors, 16 high school volunteer students and the Alcott Staff. She noted how proud she is of the program and thanked the Alcott staff for the use of their classrooms over the summer. She stated that they have partnered with Concord Recreation so students can attend summer camp after summer school, which allows students to be engaged for a full day. Ms. Bout stated that she has had experience with the summer school as well as the Adult and Community Ed piece and felt that it was very well run and a very

positive experience. Ms. Rigby noted that it is offered at no charge to families and she is thankful for the SC and community's support.

A motion was made by Mr. Grom, seconded by Ms. Bout, to move the Superintendent Search item from "Old Business" to "Reports & Issues for Discussion". He stated that since this topic was something that was currently being discussed versus something that has been completed, that it should be moved. The motion was unanimously approved.

VII. REPORTS & ISSUES FOR DISCUSSION

A. Landfill Remediation. Mr. Fink stated that he, Ms. Rigby, Mr. Flaherty and Mr. Grom had met with the chairs of the Select Boards of Concord and Carlisle and they discussed next steps for addressing the landfill remediation issue and determined that community input was important. He stated that Mr. Flaherty suggested that the district get a proposal to determine what the costs would be to get some of the questions answered. He stated that the proposal letter is worded in a way to give Mr. Flaherty ballpark information to allow the SC to authorize Mr. Flaherty to go out for bid for a proposal for something similar to what's stated in the letter. He stated that the intent is that by next town meeting, they are prepared to ask the town for a remediation project, which may be the same as what was proposed last year, a variation of it or something totally different. Mr. Fink noted that the intent of the letter was to answer some questions in a "what if" scenario to share with the community to help decide which remediation design should be proposed next spring. He noted that none of the ideas have been specifically decided, but they need to decide the best way to remediate so options might be kept open for the future other than passive recreation, if this makes sense. He noted that they need to find out the throw away costs or cap design changes that would occur.

Mr. Grom stated that one of the options could be part of the remediation plan. Mr. Fink noted that a possible field plan would need a design plan and that is not what Mr. Flaherty is requesting. Mr. Fink stated that they are trying to find ideas around the remediation effort to enable a future project. He noted that field designs would be very expensive projects and noted that this is not what Mr. Flaherty is asking for. Mr. Johnston stated that he felt these two things should be separated. He noted that given the timeframe, that it would be valuable to do the remediation and decide if it would make sense to spend more now to save down the road and to make sure the remediation that is done doesn't preclude them from doing something different.

Mr. Fink stated noted that they aren't proposing or encouraging a track. Ms. Storrs stated that she felt that the letter made is sound like the track was being decided upon. Mr. Flaherty noted that the letter is not a proposal and that the purpose was to establish a range of what a feasibility study would cost. He stated that knowing if the site could accommodate a track would yield some important information. He noted that the footprint of a track would spill out onto the lower cost, non-contaminated area that was discussed for potential parking. He stated that they don't know if that parking is viable or not. He stated that the next steps would be to develop an RFP, gather all of the questions that they have to date and read the proposals. He noted that we will not get a design plan for \$21,500 and that additional monies should be added for flexibility. Ms. Storrs stated that she felt that this was going to get away from them. Mr. Fink noted that the proposal last year was for passive recreation and the feedback was that other options be available. He stated that there is nothing that the design precludes them from doing in the future, but there may be some throwaway costs.

Mr. Flaherty noted that they would need to rebid the baseline remediation so the SC has a valid reference point. He stated that the DEP expects the work to be completed by February 6, 2018. Ms. Bout asked if they could ask for more flexible feedback with different options included. Mr. Johnston stated that he feels they need to simplify this and they don't really need to know all of the options at this juncture. Mr. Conti asked why not do the remediation and the next step at the same time. Mr. Fink stated that it's due to time, money and public buy-in. Mr. Fink asked for the timeframe needed for the proposal and Mr. Flaherty stated 6-10 weeks to advertise and have the testing done. He noted that this would give answers regarding feasibility and not actual costs. Mr. Fink noted that the idea is to get answers to questions that the community is going to ask. Ms. Bout suggested having public input sessions now, prior to getting the info. Mr. Johnston stated that there is a fairly limited amount of things to do on the site and they just need to make sure they are not doing anything in the capping to preclude them from doing things in the future. Mr. Johnston recommended having a campus advisory committee down the road to look at all of the ideas after the remediation is completed.

Mr. Fink stated that the end result is to go to both town meetings with an option for a remediation plan next spring. Mr. Flaherty asked the SC to send him comments on the letter. Ms. Rigby questioned the goal at TM. Mr. Fink stated that the goal is remediation and the SC would make the decision as to which plan it is. Ms. Storrs questioned what would happen if it gets turned down in one of the town meetings.

Anne Hayden asked to clarify her understanding, stating that the SC was going to get info, then get community input at public forums, then the SC would decide what warrant article would go to the towns and then the towns would ultimately pass or don't pass. The SC stated that this was the correct understanding.

Mike Lawson stated that he greatly appreciates the time and attention the SC is devoting to this topic so that at town meeting, the citizens can be engaged in a more productive way.

Julianne Cancio stated that she is a direct abutter to the land and her biggest concern is stopping the ground water contamination. She noted that she is concerned there will be a delay with all of the options being discussed. Mr. Fink stated that he recognized her concern.

A motion was made by Ms. Bout, seconded by Mr. Conti, to authorize Mr. Flaherty to construct and issue an RFP for the purpose of identifying information regarding the landfill, not to exceed \$35,000. The motion was unanimously approved.

Mr. Flaherty requested that the SC send their feedback to him within 10 calendar days.

B. Superintendent Search – CPS/CCRSD. Mr. Conti stated that he had questioned the process for the selection of the At Large Community member to the Screening Committee and that his question landed him with someone in the Attorney General's office, who stated that it needs to happen in an open meeting. Mr. Johnston stated that he also spoke with someone there and was told that they could go into Executive Session to narrow down the choices of Screening Committee members and then have the SC make the choice between the selected individuals. Ms. Rigby recommended asking the Town Moderator to select the member at large. She noted that it would keep it consistent with the other groups. Mr. Grom recommended that the SC think about the League of Women Voters due to their work in education. Mr. Johnston stated that he would reach out to the League and Ms. Storrs suggested giving them the schedule as well. Mr. Conti shared his draft of parameters for the PTG's to use to select the parent members. The SC agreed that this would be useful to send to all groups to help choosing representatives. Mr. Johnston asked that the SC send him any additional focus groups that they feel should be included, and they could possibly combine groups. Ms. Storrs noted that the more they silo the groups, the more likely they are to exclude people.

VIII. ACTION ITEMS

A. Vote acceptance of Cyrus Stow Bequest. A motion was made by Ms. Storrs, seconded by Mr. Johnston, that the CSC accept the donation and publicly thank the Chair, Trustees of Town Donations. The motion was unanimously approved.

B. Vote to surplus books at Alcott Library – CPS. A motion was made by Ms. Bout, seconded by Mr. Conti, to approve the removal of materials identified in the letter from Emily Sypole regarding Alcott School Materials at the Alcott School. The motion was unanimously approved.

C. Vote to approve recommended price increases for school lunches 2016-17 – CPS/CCRSD. A motion was made by Ms. Storrs for CCSC, seconded by Mr. Johnston, to approve the increase in student lunch price to \$3.85 and to increase the adult lunch price to \$5.00 for the 2016-17 school year. A motion was made by Mr. Conti for CSC, seconded by Ms. Bout, to increase the student lunch price to \$3.85 and to increase the adult lunch price to \$5.00 for the 2016-17 school year. The motions were unanimously approved.

D. Vote to change the August 23 School Committee Mtg. to Sept. 1. A motion was made by Ms. Storrs for CCSC, seconded by Ms. Bout, to change the August 23rd School Committee Meeting to September 1st, 2016. A motion was made by Ms. Bout for CSC, seconded by Mr. Grom, to change the August 23rd School Committee Meeting to September 1st, 2016. The motions were unanimously approved.

IX. OLD BUSINESS

A. CCHS Building Project. Mr. Flaherty stated that they are continuing to assist KBA with the audit and they are wrapping up some landscaping projects. He noted that they are roughly \$400,000 under budget.

B. CMS Facilities Planning Committee – CPS. Mr. Flaherty stated that they are working on the RFP.

C. CC at Play. Mr. Fink stated that there are no summer board meetings. He noted that he drove by the fields and there is a lot of great progress being made. Mr. Flaherty noted that they are contacting contractors for quotes for the cross-country track.

D. Later Start Time Committee. Mr. Fink stated that the last meeting was held in June and they all agreed that later start time would be better for students. He stated that bussing appeared to be the biggest challenge and that more busses and bus drivers would be needed to execute a change. He stated that Ms. Boynton would present next steps in the process at the next SC meeting in September. Ms. Rigby noted that it is complicated due to the 3-tiered system. Ms. Bout noted that they felt it was a good thing to do, but in order to make it happen, there is a long road ahead, noting that it is not “a done deal”. Mr. Conti noted that they need to be careful in not taking on too much in the next 10 months, and that the Superintendent Search, budget and landfill project would be in the forefront. He stated that he didn’t want to take on too much and shortchange any of the projects. The other members agreed.

Anne Hayden recommended involving the new high school principal in these discussions.

X. SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

Mr. Flaherty spoke regarding the Knox Trail Project. He stated that the work is progressing on Knox Trail and the renovation of the administration building is underway. He noted that because the town is planning on putting some departments on the 2nd floor, they need room on the 1st floor to accommodate that. He also noted that they haven’t received a lot in the way of RFP responses and that Brian Schlegel would work as the general contractor.

Ms. Rigby stated that teacher curriculum committees have designed 32 curriculum projects in math and science and that close to 150 CPS teachers are working on the projects. She stated that there are 24 curriculum projects at the high school and 85 teachers working on them during the summer. Ms. Rigby stated that they have 32 professional development courses provided by Concord Teaching Fellows with over 300 teachers participating. She stated that IT has increased bandwidth and also has a stronger firewall. She also noted that they have moved towards Active Directory logins to manage access. Ms. Rigby stated that the IT department is also imaging all of the computers for 1:1. She stated that they are moving from paper registration forms and health forms to be fully interactive online.

Ms. Rigby stated that there are several building items that need to be monitored over the year and that Brian Schlegel is working on them. She noted that at Sanborn, they are preparing for the double wide modular classroom to be delivered; at Peabody, the gym ceiling is being replaced with new acoustical tiles; and at Ripley, they are renovating office space for an integrated preschool classroom as well as preparing for an innovation lab. She stated that all of the schools undergo a deep clean to prepare for the opening of school.

Ms. Rigby stated that the summer is very busy with hiring and she is very excited about the new group of teachers. She stated that 10 new teachers were hired at CCHS, noting that there were several maternity and medical leaves. She stated that Drew Rosenshine has started at CMS and David Lawrence would be the new Assistant Principal. She stated that they have hired 3 new teachers at CMS, 2 new teachers at Alcott, 2 new teachers at Willard and 1 new preschool teacher at the integrated preschool. She noted that they have also hired a new manager for the Digital Recording Studio at CCHS, an IT Tech at CCHS and an IT data manager. Ms. Rigby stated that Ms. Beattie was welcomed to Ripley as the new Digital Literacy Administrator and also that they hired a new behavior specialist in Special Education for CPS.

Ms. Rigby stated that CPS has 8 more students than last year and that CCHS has 8 less students compared to last year, for a total CPS/CCRS D enrollment of 3360 students. She stated that school will open for teachers and staff on Monday, August 29th and Tuesday, August 30th for professional development, CCHS ninth grade orientation is on Tuesday, August 30th and the 1st day for all students is Wednesday, August 31st.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Ms. Storrs for CCSC, seconded by Ms. Bout, to adjourn the meeting. A motion was made by Ms. Bout for CSC, seconded by Mr. Conti, to adjourn the meeting. The motions were unanimously approved and the meeting adjourned at 8:51PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Erin E. Higgins

Approved: 9/27/16

Abbreviations:

CASE	Cooperative Association for Special Education
CSC	Concord School Committee
CCSC	Concord-Carlisle Regional District School Committee
CPA	Community Preservation Act
CPC	Community Preservation Committee
CPS	Concord Public Schools
CCRS	Concord-Carlisle Regional School District
CCHS	Concord-Carlisle High School
CHPS	The Collaborative for High Performance Schools
CSEC	Comprehensive Sustainable Energy Committee
CPW	Concord Public Works
CTA	Concord Teachers Association
DESE	Department of Elementary & Secondary Education
FAAC	Financial Audit Advisory Committee
FINCOM	Finance Committee
MASC	Massachusetts Association of School Committees
MIAA	Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association
NEASC	New England Association of Schools and Colleges
OPEB	Other Post-Employment Benefits
RTI	Response to Intervention
SEPAC	Special Education Advisory Council
YRBS	Youth Risk Behavior Survey