

JOINT SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Concord – Carlisle School Committee  
Concord School Committee  
Ripley Building  
December 13, 2016

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

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 6:31PM. Mr. Johnston noted that the meeting is being recorded.

Mr. Fink reviewed how the public comments portion of the meeting works.

**II. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

1. Alden Harring, 322 West St, Carlisle, MA. Ms. Harring stated that she is a student at CCHS. She stated that the proposed new schedule at the HS does more harm than good. She stated that under the new schedule, she would no longer be able to continue with the electives she currently takes and has been dedicating years to. She noted that this new schedule would affect the Performing Arts program. She also noted that it hurts the general student population and targets the hardest working students who are taking on full course loads. She also stated that the shortened lunch block also brings on several issues, including less time to meet with teachers and makeup tests.

2. Ruthy Bennett, 114 Deer Grass Lane, Concord, MA. Ms. Bennett stated that she was in favor of re-instating Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur and Good Friday back into the school calendar to incorporate respect for all religions and for the Concord-Carlisle community. She stated that she understands that having days off for holidays from 2 religions does not show respect for other religions. Ms. Bennett noted that there are other ways to show respect and noted how Arlington lists all federal and religious holidays. She stated that she looked into each holiday and what the requirements were from each religion for its observance. She noted that only Judaism requires observers to not attend school or work on their holy days. She gave other examples of giving respect for other religions, including stating them over morning announcements.

3. Janet Rothrock, 618 Annursnac Hill Road, Concord, MA. Ms. Rothrock read a statement on the Landfill Remediation, written by Arissa Brown, which cited a flawed analysis of cost by CDW. The statement also read that there was no need to build an impermeable cap to prevent further ground water contamination. The statement recommended that a 3<sup>rd</sup> party review be conducted to ensure that the remediation being recommended is necessary and prudent.

4. Jennifer Gladstone, 1005 Curve Street, Carlisle, MA. Ms. Gladstone stated that she agreed with Ms. Harring's comments. She noted that lunch is a very important block in which she is able to de-stress.

5. Representatives from Class Government. The students stated that they were against the proposed schedule change. They stated that the student government sent out a survey regarding the proposed schedule at the HS and 81% of students surveyed were opposed to the new schedule. They noted that areas of concern included: reduced

time to meet with teachers, reduced time for eating, reduced time to finish and/or make up tests, future of the electives at the high school, especially performing arts and the ability to access AP classes.

6. Richard Pasley, 12 Hemlock Street, Concord, MA. Mr. Pasley stated that he is the parent of a CCHS student as well as a member of CCPops. He voiced his concern with the proposed schedule and its implications on the Performing Arts at the HS. He stated that it would obliterate the Performing Arts program at the HS for those currently at the HS and for those currently in MS and even elementary school. He stated that he is an advocate for additional collaboration time for teachers, but noted that there must be another way to accomplish this.

7. Rebecca Pasley, 12 Hemlock Street, Concord, MA. Ms. Pasley stated that she is a sophomore at CCHS. She stated that she has received over 230 signatures from CCHS students and alumni, which oppose the new schedule. She stated that she was representing Performing Arts and Visual Arts and read a statement on their behalf, which voiced their objections to the new bell schedule at CCHS.

8. Rosa Hallowell, 19 Sudbury Road, Concord, MA. Ms. Hallowell stated that there were many issues regarding the major religious holidays and the calendar. She noted the 1<sup>st</sup> Amendment issues with changing the calendar. She encouraged the SC to look into the ADL (Anti-Defamation League) and the Department of Education's publications on policies regarding religious holidays.

9. Sara Wiener, 20 Bow Street, Concord, MA. Ms. Wiener stated that she agreed with the comments stated regarding the school calendar.

10. Rachael Morris, 599 Bedford Street, Concord, MA. Ms. Morris stated that she is a resident and teacher in Concord and that it is very exciting that elementary students will have the possibility of learning Spanish next year. She stated that there is a major kink in the implementation, which was time and she also noted the current time demands of the teachers. She stated that a few ideas proposed on how Spanish could be implemented included some major changes to the current music and library programming in 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grades. She stated that teachers have been asked to turn in additional ideas by January, noting that teachers have not been given adequate time to work together to collaborate on ideas. She also stated that the teachers were asked to submit a new schedule to reflect a new combined snack/lunch/recess time of 60 minutes total by December break. Ms. Morris stated that she finds it disheartening that she is being encouraged to teach and incorporate mindfulness in the classroom, but that she is being told to cut down on the things that help the kids be in the moment. She noted that snack, recess and lunch are the only unstructured time in the kids day. She stated that she is in support of the Spanish program, but not at the expense of the students' well being.

11. John Boynton, 72 Chestnut Street, Concord, MA. Mr. Boynton stated that he was present as a member of the CC at Play Board and that he wanted to address the issue of landfill remediation. He stated that they felt that the SC might be putting the cart before the horse. He noted that before they developed a reliable estimate of the cost of the CC at Play project, they went through a design process that included a prioritization of needs. He stated that they followed a rigorous, proven process to analyze needs, set priorities and guide design. He stated that CC at Play suggests that the SC undertake a broad based, professional process to analyze needs and set priorities before they decide on anything beyond a basic capping.

12. Liz Merrill, Willard School. Ms. Merrill stated that she was a 1<sup>st</sup> grade teacher at Willard. She noted that she echoed Ms. Morris's statements. She stated that she was very excited about having Spanish in the elementary grades and noted how tricky the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5 grade schedules are and that it would be helpful to spend more time figuring it out. She stated that if done too quickly, the impact of Spanish on the schedules could have a poor effect on the curriculum, in particular music and library in the upper grades. She stated that it should be given more time and should be done really well.

13. Susan Deysher, 1861 Main Street, Concord, MA. Ms. Deysher stated that she feels that the religious holidays should be reinstated in the Concord Schools calendar for the 2017-18 school year and beyond. She stated that having the schools open on these holidays greatly affects students and their families. She stated that students and families are being forced to choose between significant religious holidays or missing out on those important spiritual and family times because kids are reluctant to miss school. She noted that this is especially true once students reach middle

school and high school, where there is greater pressure to perform and stay on top of things. She also noted that despite the fact that the District has policies regarding not assigning homework and tests around these days, she has heard many anecdotes from parents stating that these policies are not always observed by teachers or enforced by administrators. She stated that there is a general lack of knowledge around these holidays and has also heard of field trips and sports events happening on these days as well. Ms. Deysher distributed a list of religious holidays to the SC.

14. Michael Concannon, 50 Quail Run Drive, Concord, MA. Mr. Concannon stated that he is hearing pressure from the school to fit into a square hole with a round peg regarding the possible schedule. He stated that he has two daughters who were planning on taking multiple AP courses next year, but will not be able to with the proposed schedule change. He noted that the email he received stating that their schedules would not be impacted was clearly false. He noted that he took band and AP classes in high school as well as having a lunch. He questioned the systemic cause of this schedule change. He noted that he is looking at his experience in high school in Florida eclipsing his daughters experience in Concord and that this is not what he would expect from the claims of the quality of education in Concord.

15. Amy Coloian, 61 Hartwell Road, Carlisle, MA. Ms. Coloian stated that after sitting in on the presentation from the Vice Principals the previous week, she felt that there were a couple of things missed. She stated that they focused on the fact that only 7 students would be affected by the change in the Fine Arts Program. She noted that there are more than 7 students affected and that they include IEP students and those interested in pursuing rigorous courses. She noted that her son is now able to take an elective his senior year. She stated that the collaboration is a good thing. She stated that there are not a lot of electives offered and IEP students are not able to take electives until senior year and those students taking rigorous courses are not always looking at electives. She noted that these 2 groups of students might have been overlooked in this process. She did note that she didn't hear any other positive reinforcement besides collaboration in the proposed schedule change.

16. Dave Baker, CC Youth Hockey. Mr. Baker stated that since 1972, CC Youth Hockey has offered a hockey program for kids in Concord, Carlisle and surrounding towns. He stated that the 2016-17 season has over 300 kids participating in over 15 teams, primarily from Concord and Carlisle. He stated that they have lost ice over the years at Valley Ice in Concord due to other programs increasing. He noted that they currently use Middlesex as a back up for ice, but they feel that an in town sheet of ice would benefit everyone in the town. He stated that Fenn School is also a tenant of Valley Sports and has also struggled to field teams due to the availability of ice time. He stated that, in order to keep the community based hockey club viable and support other hockey organizations, the CC Youth Hockey Board are eager to engage the School Department with the possibility of developing an ice rink at the landfill remediation site.

### **III. READING OF THE MINUTES**

A. Open Session – Jt. Meeting 12/1/16. A motion was made by Ms. Boynton, seconded by Mr. Johnston, to accept the minutes for the Joint Meeting of 12/1/16. Ms. Storrs recommended tabling the motion due to several issues with the minutes.

### **IV. CHAIRS REPORT**

Mr. Fink stated that he received several emails regarding the block schedule, the calendar and the landfill. Mr. Johnston stated the there were also emails regarding foreign language in the elementary school. Mr. Conti stated that CC at Play is moving along to conclude the project.

### **V. CORRESPONDENCE**

A. Adult & Community Education December 1, 2016 Director's Report. Ms. Rigby stated that she received the monthly report from Adult & Community Ed and noted that there is great participation as well as the Instrumental Music School and Driver's Ed.

B. Email from Chris Whalen. Ms. Rigby stated that she received an email from Chris Whalen regarding the signs at the high school. She stated that the email said that the Town Counsel reviewed the changes to the sign bylaw and determined that there were changes made to the definition of what constitutes a sign and what signs are exempt from the by law. It also stated the CCHS signs are exempt from the by law.

### **VI. RECOGNITIONS**

A. CCHS:

Student Weather Team, Theresa Ruggerio, Steve Lane. Ms. Rigby recognized the CC Weather Service Club and congratulated the faculty advisors, Theresa Ruggerio and Steve Lane, as well as all the student members of CCWS for successfully launching a weather balloon 92,000 feet into the air and back down. Ms. Rigby noted that she linked the video in her Superintendent's report. She stated that CCWS thanked Concord Ed for supporting the project.

CCHS student musicians. Ms. Rigby congratulated the student musicians, who were accepted in the MA Music Educators Eastern Senior District Band, Chorus and Orchestra. She stated that they would join other musicians and practice at Boston Latin High School, culminating in a performance on January 7<sup>th</sup>. She also noted that 15 scores were high enough to be eligible for an All State Music Ensemble Audition, which will take place in January. Ms. Rigby recognized Amy Tsu on the French horn, Matthew Li on the bassoon and Matthew Murphy on the trombone.

CCHS Book Pals. Ms. Rigby recognized the Book Pals, led by junior Michaela Smith and faculty member Jen Greeley, who led 36 CCHS students into Boston to volunteer at Everett Elementary School. She stated that they read and mentor students in grades 1-5 and that the CCHS students bring donated books to read and that the Boston students are able to take the books home.

Boston Herald & Boston Globe All-Scholastic Teams. Ms. Rigby recognized the following students for being honored as the Boston Herald All-Scholastic Team: Margot Ehrenthal for Track and Spencer Royal for Soccer. She also recognized Margot Ehrenthal for Track and Sam Randall for Football for the Boston Globe All-Scholastic Team.

## **VII. REPORTS & ISSUES FOR DISCUSSION**

A. CCHS Twice-Told Tales: An Interdisciplinary Humanities Course – Alex Spence, Eric Rivera. Ms. Rigby introduced CCHS English Department teacher Alex Spence and Social Studies Department teacher Eric Rivera. Mr. Rivera and Mr. Spence were accompanied by 3 students from their Interdisciplinary Humanities course. Mr. Spence spoke about how he and Mr. Rivera began discussing different aspects/ideas of their own courses, which led to the idea of a new interdisciplinary course combining psychology, history and literature. Mr. Rivera spoke about different pieces of literature that the students are reading and the many different aspects and analysis that occur within each piece. He noted the universal themes that tend to tie people together. The three students shared their experience with the class, stating that they really enjoy the class, that it's not like any other class, that there is always a conversation happening, that it is very enriching and the students really appreciate the unique opportunity this class has given them.

Grace Challenger, Student Senate Rep, stated that the School Senate and Student Government are working very hard to build school spirit. She stated that the school spirit assembly was very successful as well as the Powder Puff Football game. She also noted that the weather station has been on all of the TVs.

B. Superintendent Search – Leadership Development Profile – HYA. Randy Collins and Gary Burton from HYA Associates presented a report on the Leadership Profile, including 47 pages of comments from the online survey. Mr. Burton recommended to the SC that the entire report be made public. Mr. Burton also recommended reading the report in its entirety before zeroing in on any specific sentence or choice of words. He noted that they were warmly welcomed back in November. He stated that 817 people in the community responded to the survey, noting that of those 817, only 3 were students. He stated that the 47 pages of comments were unedited. Mr. Burton stated that they use the report as a recruiting document to inform current and future candidates and that it would be posted on the HYA website as early as the next day.

Mr. Burton stated that there was no interest expressed in changing the way the school district was governed. He noted many strengths were expressed, including: the reputation of the district, the communities quality of life, per pupil expenditure, financial support, % of families in town with children in school, staff dedication and professionalism, parent commitment and volunteerism, high standardized test scores and rankings, high student engagement, outstanding METCO program and special ed programs, strong school/home partnerships and 1<sup>st</sup> rate physical facilities. He reviewed the challenges expressed, including: dysfunctional relationship between the top of the school administration and the teachers union, a divide within the school committee, special education programs and cost dissatisfaction, the need for a gifted/talented program, changes to start time/schedule at the high school and unwelcomed state and federal mandates.

Mr. Burton stated that the desired characteristics expressed included: someone who is good at collaboration and someone who has business skills. He highlighted a paragraph in the report, noting that it was the formula for student success. He stated that the SC comments showed that the SC collectively is aware of what is going on in the District and they are well informed and in touch with the concerns of the community. Mr. Conti asked if there was anything surprising that caught HYA off guard and Mr. Burton stated that the relationship between Ms. Rigby and the unions caught him off guard. He stated that he doesn't feel as if it's an accurate reflection of his experience with Ms. Rigby, noting that he knows her and respects her greatly. Mr. Collins stated that he feels that issue is a matter of role clarification. Mr. Collins also stated that he was surprised on the comments regarding the gifted and talented program at the elementary school.

Mr. Burton reviewed the online survey results, noting that top 2 most important characteristics chosen were in communications and collaboration and the 3<sup>rd</sup> was community engagement. He noted that the last characteristic chosen out of the 25 was a data driven researched base person focused on standardized test scores and he stated that this confirms what was heard in all of the focus groups. Mr. Collins noted the great way the focus groups and forums were organized, thanking Ms. Rigby and Ms. Boynton.

Mr. Collins stated that they would present the names of 5 candidates to the Screening Committee on January 17<sup>th</sup> and then the Screening Committee would present their 3 finalists to the SC. Mr. Johnston questioned if the SC would be able to see the questions that the Screening Committee uses and Mr. Burton stated that yes, they would receive the questions. Mr. Burton suggested that the SC choose a candidate soon after meeting with the 3<sup>rd</sup> candidate. Mr. Burton stated that they would return to the SC on January 24<sup>th</sup>.

Public Comment: Ms. Rothrock questioned the weight given to the responses on the survey and felt there was undo weighting given to a few students. Mr. Collins explained how those responses are not unduly weighted.

C. FY17 CPS Financial Update. Mr. Flaherty presented the FY17 CPS Financial Update, stating that in Regular Education, the YTD balance (monies unencumbered) is \$1,193,659. He stated that as money becomes spent and payments are made to employees, encumbrances will go down and the YTD actual will increase. He noted that the money is encumbered immediately for those on a salary basis. He stated that there is a deficit of \$964,530 in Special Education, noting that they have circuit breaker receipts to work with that. He stated that his concern is in Operations where there is a YTD balance of \$484,287, and he noted that the snow removal costs are unknown. He stated that in Administration, the YTD balance is negative \$33,866, noting that there were higher legal costs in this area as well as sick leaves. He stated that the Fixed Cost balance is \$13,866. He compared where the budget is at this point compared to where it was last year at this time and stated that it is currently down roughly \$400,000 relative to last year. He stated that they would work towards closing the gap.

Mr. Flaherty noted three areas of concern, including: the unanticipated medical leaves (\$160,000), the immediate cleanup of trees from the tornado for safety reasons (\$50,000) and the Integrated Preschool growth with a projected overage amount of \$389,650. Mr. Flaherty recommended that the SC consider eliminating the previous reduction put in the budget to help bring it in at 3.22%. He also recommended that the SC submit a Supplemental Warrant Article in the amount of \$400,000, to address the overage in Special Education costs in the Integrated Preschool. He noted that he would work towards managing the remaining \$200,000 of overages within the existing budget limits.

D. FY17 CCRSD Financial Update. Mr. Flaherty stated that the YTD balance in Regular Education of \$623,926, noting that all annual salaries are encumbered already. He stated that there is a deficit of \$810,058, noting that this was prior to application of circuit breaker receipts. He stated that the YTD balance in Operations is \$668,537, noting that they do not know what winter holds. Mr. Flaherty stated that in Administration, there is a deficit of \$38,306 due to legal expenses regarding a teacher lawsuit. He stated that fixed costs less debt service is \$1,162,038. Mr. Flaherty stated that he doesn't predict a fabulous close, but that there will be a strong finish.

E. Proposed Warrant Articles CPS/CCRSD. Mr. Flaherty reviewed the 2017 Town Meeting Warrant Articles. He stated that the 1<sup>st</sup> Warrant for CPS is for \$36,810,111, noting that this amount is at the Concord Finance Committee Guideline and is at the CSC Adopted Budget level voted on December 20<sup>th</sup>, 2016. He stated that this assumes restoration of the \$240,000 Special Education reduction and the elimination of the Foreign Language initiative. Ms. Rigby noted that it would be for level services.

Mr. Flaherty reviewed the CPS Warrant Article that would include the Foreign Language Initiative, for a total of \$37,046,694. He stated that this provides additional funding of \$236,584, which would provide for foreign language at the K5 level and a Latin elective at CMS. Mr. Johnston questioned if the elementary schools could implement the foreign language next year. Ms. Rigby noted that the earlier comments regarding recess were due to the change to a 4-½ day school week. She stated that they began asking the Elementary Steering Committee in October for proposals in how to implement foreign language. Ms. Boynton noted the tradeoffs involved and stated that they should support the budget for it if they agree this is something that should be implemented. Ms. Rigby stated that the SC supported the World Language Committee's recommendation and that she was confident that a foreign language program could be implemented, but noted that it comes with challenges and tradeoffs. Ms. Bout noted that she was a huge proponent of the foreign language program, but stated that she was concerned with some of the comments about doing it slowly and mindfully and not having a lot of time for input. She questioned if a process could be completed that gives people enough time to feel more comfortable with it. Ms. Rigby stated that 6 months was workable and Mr. Johnston stated that someone needs to force the hand. Mr. Conti questioned if they were imposing curriculum. Mr. Johnston stated that it is valuable to the students and the question was about implementation. Ms. Bout asked if a liaison from the SC could participate in the process more to understand the challenges. Ms. Boynton stated that this conversation would not be happening if they did not have the budget issue come up. Ms. Rigby noted that there were many teachers on the Committee and noted that it is a dangerous precedent to go back and question after recommendations have been made. She noted that the SC agrees to add it in the budget and that it's up to the Administration to make it work.

Public Comment: Anne Hayden, 342 Sudbury Road, Concord, MA. Ms. Hayden stated that the SC is voting on whether to go with the Finance Committee Guideline or whether to go above it. She noted that if the Integrated Preschool situation did not happen, that the Foreign Language would be in the budget at the Guidelines level. She noted that the same thing is happening at CCHS with the Late Start. She encouraged the SC to look at the big picture that the schools are asking of Concord and Carlisle.

Mr. Flaherty stated that the 1<sup>st</sup> Warrant Article for CCRSD includes a budget assessment of \$21,599,072, including \$17,935,005 assessment for the operating budget and \$3,664,067 assessment for debt exclusion.

He stated that the Article that would accommodate a later high school start time (5 drivers, 5 buses), includes an increase of \$350,000 in the Operating Budget, split to \$257,285 for Concord and \$92,715 for Carlisle. The SC discussed proposing the budgets at Town Meeting. Ms. Bout stated that it's a lot to ask both budgets to go above guidelines. Mr. Flaherty stated that he would contact the town's Finance Director to find out what the cost impact for taxpayers would be. Ms. Bout noted her concern about looking as if the SC is committed to initiatives before seeking community input. Ms. Boynton stated that she has been working on a timeline and hopes to hold a public forum in February on Later Start Times. Mr. Lawson noted that the Warrant closes on January 3<sup>rd</sup>, noting that it would be a while before they go to Press.

G. Proposed Landfill Remediation Warrant. Mr. Flaherty reviewed the 3 possible Articles for the Landfill Remediation, including: 1) Baseline Remediation is at \$1,100,000 2) Flexible Cap remediation is \$1,200,000, including an 11.5% contingency on top of the Weston and Sampson number and 3) Flexible Cap remediation & Practice Field at \$1,350,000, including 14% retainage. Mr. Johnston stated that he thinks that after this is completed, it's important to create a campus committee to look at the options for the landfill area. He noted he would recommend Option 2. Ms. Bout agreed. Ms. Storrs voiced her concern over the Track team thinking that a track is going to be built. Mr. Conti stated that he and Mr. Fink explained that it's a 2-step process and the first step is just capping.

Public Comment: Julie-Ann Cancio. Ms. Cancio stated that the flexible cap is the best option and noted that it follows the grade that is already there. She stated that if you cap it and add grass, you could play on the field and draw lines, noting that nothing formal needs to be done at this time. She stated that the flexible cap would give them much more options.

Ms. Bout mentioned Ms. Rothrock's opinion of partial excavation and the last analysis being flawed. Mr. Fink stated that he felt it should be explored further and that he had met with Elissa Brown, regarding the possibility of identifying hot spots to excavate that would minimize/reduce the need for the cap. Mr. Johnston stated that he was really uncomfortable doing something that puts them at risk of needing a special Town Meeting. Ms. Boynton stated that

from a liability standpoint, they would be opening themselves up to risk and delay. Mr. Flaherty stated that the CDW report that included an assumption of 50% of the soil needing to be treated on site was estimated at \$7-8 million. He noted the deadline to have it done by as well as the fact that the warrant is closing. Ms. Storrs stated her concern for all of the budget requests. Ms. Boynton stated that they have done a lot of work to find the least risky and least cost approach and they have an obligation to get it capped. Ms. Storrs stated that she would recommend a formal peer review if they don't feel comfortable moving forward with any of the current options, as opposed to citizen feedback. Ms. Bout asked why the CDW report was considered flawed. Mr. Grom questioned what the risk was of having Ms. Brown speak for 10 minutes at the next meeting. Ms. Rigby recommended taking a vote at the next meeting and then moving forward from there.

H. Proposed 2017-18 CPS/CCHS Calendar. Ms. Rigby stated that the Calendar Committee has recommended a calendar for the SC to adopt, based on the SC Advisory Committee of 2014 that made the recommendations of only including the state and federal holidays per DESE. Mr. Johnston stated that he has been swayed by conversations that he has had and that he feels taking the Jewish holidays off of the calendar was, in hindsight, a mistake and that he is troubled by it. Ms. Bout stated that the comments and emails they have received made her question the decision, but that at the same time, feels it's more equitable if none of the days are included. She stated that she does see Mr. Johnston's point, but also sees the other side of the argument. Mr. Conti stated that unless they are willing to give all religions their holidays off, then they should not be giving any religious holidays. He also noted that there should be a policy of general acknowledgment of assessments the day of and day after the holidays, as well as homework. Ms. Storrs noted Ms. Snook's email, which stated that they should honor the work of the committee. Ms. Rigby stated that they do have procedures in place, but what she heard was that they need to monitor them more closely. Ms. Boynton suggested going through one year of this calendar to honor this process. Mr. Grom stated that he has thought a lot about this and has looked into towns around Concord that give the 3 religious holidays off that were taken off the calendar. He stated that he would agree with these surrounding towns. Ms. Boynton stated that she takes exception to choosing one holiday over another because some people are upset. Mr. Johnston stated that this has deeply affected the faith community in Concord, noting that it makes a difference that they used to have them and now are taking them away. Ms. Boynton stated that it is about process and Mr. Johnston stated that just because the Calendar Committee recommended this calendar doesn't mean they need to accept it. Mr. Fink stated that the SC should think about it and be prepared to vote at the following meeting.

## **VIII. ACTION ITEMS**

A. Vote to accept donation from Virtual High School Inc. A motion was made by Ms. Storrs, seconded by Ms. Boynton, to accept a \$5,000 donation from Virtual High School Inc. The motion was unanimously approved with many thanks.

B. Vote to approve CCHS Earth Science Trip to Iceland. A motion was made by Mr. Johnston, seconded by Ms. Boynton, to approve the CCHS Earth Science Trip to Iceland with the condition that a signed district liability waiver (MIIA) is received from all participants. The motion was unanimously approved.

C. Vote to revise SC meeting dates for December 20, February 27, March 21, and May 30. A motion was made by Ms. Storrs, seconded by Mr. Johnston, to revise the meeting dates for December 20<sup>th</sup>, February 27<sup>th</sup>, March 21<sup>st</sup> and May 30<sup>th</sup>. Due to several conflicts, the SC agreed to have a CPS meeting on December 20<sup>th</sup> at 5:00PM and CCRSD meeting on December 21<sup>st</sup> at 6:00PM. Ms. Bout noted that there was a CMS Facilities Study meeting on March 21<sup>st</sup>, so the SC decided to move the March 21<sup>st</sup> meeting to March 14<sup>th</sup>. A motion was made by Ms. Boynton, for CCSC, seconded by Mr. Grom to amend the calendar as noted. A motion was made by Ms. Boynton, for CPS, seconded by Ms. Bout, to amend the calendar as noted. The motions were unanimously approved.

D. Vote to approve 2016-17 SC Goals. A motion was made by Ms. Storrs, seconded by Ms. Boynton, to approve the 2016-17 School Committee Goals. The motion was unanimously approved. Ms. Storrs noted that a bullet point should be added under the goal under "F. Community Engagement and Communication". She also noted an edit under the Superintendent Goal regarding unanimous support.

## **IX. OLD BUSINESS**

A. Transportation. Mr. Flaherty stated that the transportation depot is expected to be online soon, noting that there were a few minor bugs to be worked out.

B. CC at Play. Mr. Fink stated that an update was given earlier in the meeting.

C. School Committee Communication. Ms. Bout stated that she and Mr. Grom would work on communication strategies, but that they could move the discussion to another day given the time of night.

**X. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Ms. Rigby stated that the SC could read her report at a later time due to the late time of night.

**XI. ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Ms. Bout for both CCSC and CSC, seconded by Mr. Fink for CCSC and Mr. Conti for CSC, to adjourn the meeting. The motion was unanimously approved and the meeting adjourned at 11:54 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Erin E. Higgins

Approved: 1/24/17

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
CCRSO	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
MSBA	Massachusetts School Building Authority
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