

Present: Wallace Johnston, Chair, CSC; CCSC
Heather Bout, Vice Chair; CSC; CCSC
Dan Conti, Vice Chair, CSC; CCSC
Johanna Boynton, CSC; CCSC
Bob Grom, CSC; 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. Johnston at 6:30 PM. He noted that the meeting is being recorded.

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS

1. Roseanne Swain, 114 Pine Hill Lane, Concord, MA. Ms. Swain stated that she was a Concord resident, as well as the Music teacher at Thoreau. She stated that although she feels the foreign language program is a good idea, that she didn't realized how far advanced it was at being implemented. She noted the email she received in November regarding trying to add foreign language into elementary schedule, which included 4 options of implementation, one including having 4th and 5th grade students choose between band, orchestra or general music or band, orchestra or library. She stated that she does not feel that it's acceptable to make a 9 year old choose between a general music class, band or orchestra in 4th or 5th grade. Ms. Swain stated that she creates the specialist schedule at Thoreau and that there is not much wiggle room in the schedule, but she stated that it could work by looking at how the minutes are scheduled. She noted that the teachers currently teach in block schedules and that looking at the minutes weekly and not daily, there would be more flexibility. She also noted that there are 4 specialists, and that another possibility would be scheduling Spanish on the 5th day. She also noted that they could look into a more interdisciplinary way of teaching to fulfill the 900 hours but include more flexibility. Ms. Swain stated that many students don't excel at academic skills but find a niche in the Music program, noting that music helps to build their self-esteem and self-confidence. She noted the ripple effect within the District's music program if students are made to choose between music options. Ms. Swain offered to be part of a group that works on the schedule for implementing Spanish.

2. Ruthy Bennett, 114 Deer Grass Lane, Concord, MA. Ms. Bennett thanked the SC for signing onto the December 12th letter to the Editor of the Journal reaffirming the community's commitment to diversity, inclusion and tolerance. She noted the number of racist graffiti drawings at the MS over the last several months, and also noted that it feels as if her family was targeted in these crimes. She stated that she was heartened by the conversations she has had with the District's Administration, including Ms. Rigby. She stated that they discussed options that the school can take in the near term. Ms. Bennett stated that she hopes the SC and Administration will work with all the policy, curriculum and staff training to create an environment in which all Concord families and students feel seen, heard and respected. She stated that each person in Concord should act as if their own families were targeted and each should take on the responsibility of creating an environment where multicultural histories and traditions are celebrated, not erased or shunned. She stated that she feels that African American families are probably also frightened due to the other graffiti that was found in the schools. She urged the SC and Administration to work hard to maintain a culture of respect for diversity and a culture of inclusion, not marginalization. She noted that she would like to work with them as soon as possible.

3. Yuval Erlich, 4 South Meadow Road, Concord, MA. Mr. Erlich seconded Ms. Bennett's comments. Mr. Erlich stated that he reviewed all of the policy manuals of all of the MA Association of School Committees. He stated that not all made the changes, but many did. He stated that they include specific articles and chapters on hate crimes and civil rights. He stated that the Policy Subcommittee needs to make the District's policy very clear and should be included in the foundation of the District. He noted that the policy needs to be completed in a timely fashion. He stated that there

should be a clear, point-by-point protocol to follow, which includes the police department. Mr. Erlich also stated, regarding the Spanish program, that if you learn French, you can speak with other people who speak French, but when you learn music, you can speak to everyone, everywhere.

III. READING OF THE MINUTES

A. Open Session

CPS Meeting – 12/20/16. A motion was made by Ms. Boynton, seconded by Ms. Bout, to approve the CPS Meeting minutes of 12/20/16. Ms. Bout noted an edit regarding a public comment. The motion was unanimously approved, as amended.

IV. CHAIRS REPORT

Mr. Johnston stated that they were coming into a busy period of time and he noted that he was heartened by all of the people in attendance at the meeting. He stated that the 1st set of candidates for Superintendent would be presented to the Screening Committee the next week. He noted that the SC's primary focus would be the Superintendent Search in the upcoming weeks. He noted that he received 5 emails regarding the calendar.

V. CORRESPONDENCE

A. Updated Public Records Law. Ms. Rigby stated that as of January, the Public Records Law has been updated and they have identified Matt Wells as the Records Access Officer. She stated that one of the provisions is to provide records at no cost, noting that they have already been following that.

B. League of Women Voters. Ms. Rigby stated that she received some suggestions from the League of Women Voters regarding the budget book and stated that they are in the process of developing the budget books, which should be ready by the end of January.

C. 2016 Commendation School Event Invitation. Ms. Rigby stated that Alcott has been invited to the 2016 Massachusetts Commendation of Schools celebration on February 1st. She congratulated Alcott families, students and staff.

VI. RECOGNITIONS

A. Willard: Genoveva Matheus. Ms. Rigby, on behalf of Pat Fernandes, recognized Genoveva Matheus for her leadership on the Hour of Code initiative at Willard as well as all of the classroom teachers for implementing the Hour of Code.

B. CMS: Jenn Frizzell, Reiko Funaki, Tara Fernandez-Davila, Kim Cyr, and Ron Noel. Ms. Rigby, on behalf of Drew Rosenshine, recognized Jenn Frizzell, Reiko Funaki, Tara Fernandez-Davila, Kim Cyr and Ron Noel for exploring the possibility of instituting an advisory program at CMS. She noted that they have already made an initial presentation to the entire CMS faculty and are collecting feedback and suggestions.

C. Thoreau: Thananyi Henry, Nancy Dillon, Rachel Levesque, Beth Murphy, Laurie Link, Joyce Carter, Tara Venuti, Sue Howard and Amelia Burns. Ms. Rigby, on behalf of Angel Charles, recognized the teacher leaders of Thoreau's Building Based Leadership teams for their facilitation of content focus groups, including: History & Social Studies - Thananyi Henry and Nancy Dillon; Health & Wellness - Rachel Levesque and Beth Murphy; Math - Laurie Link; Literacy - Joyce Carter and Tara Venuti; STEAM – Sue Howard and Amelia Burns.

VII. REPORTS & ISSUES FOR DISCUSSION

A. Everyday Math 4 – Math Specialists. Math Specialists Dr. Laurie Link and Judy Olson presented on the Everyday Math Program. Ms. Link stated that all of the materials for Everyday Math were distributed to the teachers before the end of the last school year. Ms. Olson stated that teachers prepared materials and looked into the curriculum more deeply over the summer. She also stated that teachers and tutors participated in workshops presented by the Everyday Math publishing company. Ms. Link stated that they would continue meeting with teachers on Tuesdays at the District Wide grade level meetings to give teachers the support the need for a successful implementation. She also noted that teachers are able to work with Tech Specialists on Tech Tuesdays to learn more about the technology of the program. She stated that parents attended open houses on the new curriculum and that they hoped to continue providing other opportunities for parents throughout the year. Ms. Olson stated that they have

received positive feedback, noting that the teachers really like the spiral aspect and the fact that special education students are using the same materials. Ms. Link stated that they hope to elicit feedback from teachers at the end of the year on the program and that the teachers are looking forward to summer work on Everyday Math. She thanked the SC for their support for the program.

B. CMS Facilities – MSBA Statement of Interest. Mr. Flaherty stated that the MSBA announced that they would be accepting Statements of Interest starting in January. He stated that the timeframe of the Statement of Interest aligns well with the Facilities Study at the MS. He stated that the Town and District have to agree on what building is top priority. Mr. Flaherty stated that the District’s need would be measured relative to other Districts across the state.

Ms. Bout stated that the next meeting of the Facilities Study Committee would have been the following week, but they are moving it out to the 1st week of February. She stated that the architect would be presenting the Existing Conditions Report and that the Committee would begin looking at priority assessment.

C. Superintendent Search. Ms. Boynton presented the schedule for the Superintendent Search in January. She stated that HYA would be presenting the initial candidates to the Screening Committee on the 17th, noting that they have 7 candidates. She stated that the Screening Committee would be trained on how to interview the candidates on this day also. She stated that the Screening Committee would interview the 7 candidates on the 18th and 19th and choose the final 3 finalists to be presented to the SC on the 24th. Ms. Boynton stated that the 3 finalists would be scheduled for interviews on the 25th, 26th and 27th and they would choose the preferred candidate, contingent upon contract, at the SC meeting on the 31st. The SC discussed the capacity of the Ripley conference room and whether or not it provided adequate space for the public interviews, the possibility of conducting site visits at the candidates’ districts and the interview question process. Mr. Conti questioned the amount of content in the January 24th meeting, and Mr. Johnston stated that he would discuss it with Mr. Fink.

VIII. ACTION ITEMS

A. Vote to accept donation from Lueders Environmental, Inc. A motion was made by Ms. Boynton, seconded by Ms. Bout, to accept a donation in the amount of \$125 from Lueders Environmental, Inc. and publicly thank Mr. Michael Lueders.

IX. OLD BUSINESS

A. Transportation. Mr. Flaherty stated that the depot is progressing nicely and that the electric bus has passed inspection. He noted that they have some work to do with a small software issue on the electric bus and will then do a mock route that will mimic a current route to get a feel for the charging requirements.

B. CMS Facilities Study Committee. This topic was spoken about in Section B under Reports and Issues for Discussion.

X. SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

Ms. Rigby stated that the 2016 Annual Town Report is posted on the website and thanked Mr. Johnston for completing the SC report as well as the SC, faculty and staff for all of their accomplishments. Ms. Rigby stated that after 17 years, Pat Fernandes would be retiring as principal of Willard, and noted that she would be sorely missed. She stated that they would be following the same process in recruitment of a new principal as they had for Mr. Mastrullo and Ms. Charles. Ms. Rigby announced that they would also be starting the search for a new principal at the MS, also following the same process. She stated that January 20th is the 90th day of school and that Elementary Progress Reports for the first semester would be distributed to parents by the end of January. Ms. Rigby noted the strong communication between home and school. Ms. Rigby noted that they are opening the portal for 5th grade students to allow them to choose their MS courses online and hope to eventually have a portal for all parents to use online. Ms. Rigby stated that the Willard 5th grade Chorus, under direction of Music teacher, CharylN Bethell, would be performing at the MLK Celebration sponsored by the Concord-Carlisle Human Rights Council on January 11th at 7:00PM at the Fenn School. Ms. Rigby stated that Kristen Herbert is working with a variety of teacher groups to generate options of reorganizing schedules to include Spanish for the elementary grades. Ms. Rigby shared a timeline created by Ms. Herbert, which listed the steps that have been taken since 2014 to implement the Spanish program. Ms. Rigby noted that all of the brainstorming would be shared, noting that they have noticed certain patterns and trends. Ms. Rigby stated that the MS has participated in an interdisciplinary project between World Language and Applied Technology and have built

cities from the language they are studying, using computer aided design. She noted that they villages would be on display in the following weeks. Ms. Rigby reminded everyone that there would be a Cooler Concord Fair on February 4th at CCHS, sponsored by Concord's Sustainable Energy Committee in collaboration with the Town, CMLP, and the school district, where students would be presenting their ideas for reducing energy.

Ms. Boynton stated that she has been working on creating a list of all of the meetings they need to attend or run into one document, hoping they could all use it to sign up for specific meetings.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Ms. Boynton, seconded by Mr. Conti, to adjourn the meeting. The motion was unanimously approved and the meeting adjourned at 7:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Erin E. Higgins

Approved: 2/14/17

Abbreviations:

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| ACLU | American Civil Liberties Union |
| CASE | Cooperative Association for Special Education |
| CSC | Concord School Committee |
| CCSC | Concord-Carlisle Regional District School Committee |
| CMLP | Concord Municipal Light Plant |
| 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 |
| ELA | English Language Arts |
| 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 |