

JOINT SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Concord – Carlisle School Committee
Concord School Committee
Ripley Building
February 14, 2017

Present: Wallace Johnston, Chair, CSC; CCSC
Heather Bout, Vice Chair; CSC; CCSC
William Fink, Chair, CCSC
Dan Conti, Vice Chair, CSC; CCSC
Johanna Boynton, CSC; CCSC
Robert 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. Johnston, for CSC at 5:40 PM. He noted that the meeting is being recorded. Mr. Fink called the CCSC session to order. A motion was made by Ms. Bout, for both CSC and CCSC, seconded by Ms. Boynton, that the CSC and CCSC enter into Executive Session under Purpose 2 of the Open Meeting Law: To discuss strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with nonunion personnel and return to Open Session at approximately 6:30 PM. The motion passed by roll call for CCSC: Grom, aye; Boynton, aye; Storrs, aye; Conti, aye; Fink, aye; Johnston, aye; Bout, aye and for CSC: Bout, aye; Johnston, aye; Conti, aye; Boynton, aye; Grom, aye.

At approximately 6:30PM, Mr. Johnston called the CSC into order and noted that the meeting is being recorded. Mr. Fink called the CCSC meeting into order.

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

III. READING OF THE MINUTES

A. Open Session

Jt. Meeting – 1/24/17, 1/25/17, 1/27/17. A motion was made by Ms. Boynton, seconded by Mr. Johnston, to approve the Joint Meeting minutes from 1/24/17, 1/25/17 and 1/27/17. The motion was unanimously approved.

CPS Meeting – 1/10/17. A motion was made by Ms. Boynton, seconded by Ms. Bout, to approve the CPS meeting minutes from 1/10/17. The motion was unanimously approved.

IV. CHAIRS REPORT

Mr. Fink stated that he received 4 emails regarding the Superintendent Search. Ms. Boynton shared a schedule including dates that the SC would be meeting with various groups as well as information to include on slides regarding upcoming budget topics. Ms. Rigby reminded everyone that the next SC meeting would be on Monday, February 27th.

A motion was made by Ms. Bout, for both CSC and CCSC, seconded by Ms. Boynton, to move the CMS Facilities Subcommittee from the “Old Business” portion of the meeting to after the “Superintendents Report”. The motion was unanimously approved.

V. CORRESPONDENCE

A. Adult & Community Education February 2017 Director’s Report. Ms. Rigby stated that they received the Adult & Community Education report and that they are \$90,000 in the black and that the current recurring fund balance is \$192,000.

VI. RECOGNITIONS

A. CCHS: Madeline Vergura (soccer), Katherine Bishop and Ian Smith (luge). Ms. Rigby recognized Madeline Vergura for her participation in an international tournament for the US Soccer Federation in Birmingham, England over the February break. Ms. Rigby noted that Madeline is a highly touted prospect with the potential for playing on the Women's National Team. Ms. Rigby also congratulated Katherine Bishop and Ian Smith for earning medals in the Junior Nationals Luge Competition at Whistler, British Columbia.

VII. REPORTS & ISSUES FOR DISCUSSION

A. CMS – Sudan Project. Drew Rosenshine, Linda Penniston and Laura Regis presented on the CMS – Sudan Project. Ms. Rosenshine stated that Linda Penniston and Laura Regis led the Sudan Project and that they began teaching A Long Walk To Water, the story that recounts Salva Dut's leading 1,500 orphans to safety during the 2nd Sudanese war. He stated that Salva Dut began a program to bring clean water to villages in South Sudan and that through the teaching of this book, the students have supported his charity and goal of building wells.

Ms. Regis provided a handout that included different ways of approaching the creation of an integrated literacy unit with fiction and non-fiction, multimedia and writing. She stated that they are teaching students to analyze work by making claims and then noting the evidence in their writing pieces. Ms. Penniston stated that they also bring in many national articles and videos to help the children in their writing. She stated that the students have learned so much in problem solving from trying to raise money for Salva Dut's charity. Ms. Regis stated that Salva Dut visited the middle schools in November and that the students were thrilled to have him there. Ms. Penniston and Ms. Regis shared a persuasive video created by a student explaining the water problems in South Sudan and Salva Dut's story.

B. FY18 CCRSD Budget Revision.

Public Comment: Janet Rothrock, Concord, MA. Ms. Rothrock asked the SC to look at the issue of discussing and adopting a policy to prevent inappropriately packing the Town Meeting hall with proponents for a particular position. She stated that the schools and Finance Committee have an 8-month process for finding a budget number for the current fiscal year that they agree on. She noted that in 2015, prior to Town Meeting, the schools issued a number of messages urging the parents of students to come to Town Meeting to vote in support of CC at Play funding and the higher budget number being requested. Ms. Rothrock stated that these messages were problematic for 3 reasons: messages were not sent to all Concord voters, messages urged voters to vote a particular way and the messages were sent to parents via the school's emergency notification system. She noted that there was widespread outrage among citizens and many citizens filed complaints with the state's Ethics Committee. She asked the SC to establish a policy to prevent the use of, taxpayers' resources to urge voters to adopt a particular position and prevent misuse of the Emergency notification system.

Mr. Flaherty noted that they had a gap in the HS budget created by the Late Start Time initiative that added \$350,000 to the budget. He stated that they were awaiting the OPEB actuarial report and now that they have established an irrevocable trust fund, it allows the actuaries to look at the numbers in a different fashion. He stated that, as a result of that, they now have an opportunity to reduce from the \$850,000 planned contribution, to \$735,499. He stated that the FY17 budget included \$100,000 for the replacement of a bus and that the FY18 also included this and added an additional \$100,000 for an additional bus replacement. He noted that they planned on doing a lease/purchase with the buses for Late Start time initiative and decided to build in the outright purchase for the 5 buses into the lease acquisition, it would reduce the amount of money required in the FY18 budget. He noted that instead of needing \$200,000 for the outright purchase, they would only need \$20,000 per bus for the next 5 years, allowing them to reduce the operating budget request by \$160,000. He stated that this reduction, coupled with the OPEB reduction, brings them close to \$75,500 shy of closing the gap. He stated that it becomes feasible to discuss with the SC increasing the in district contribution.

Mr. Flaherty stated that the ARC (Annual Required Contribution) is \$850,000 and the actuarially determined amount is \$735,499, for a proposed OPEB reduction of \$114,501. He stated that the proposed bus purchase financing reduction would reduce the budget by \$160,000. He noted that these 2 changes bring the budget in at \$75,499 shy of the \$350,000 gap. He stated that putting in another \$75,499 from Excess & Deficiency and Miscellaneous Revenues in the Indistrict Contributions, would allow the SC to create a dollar to dollar match to the Concord FINCOM's \$17,935,005. Mr. Flaherty noted that he is trying to balance between what is in OPEB and what is in the E&D balance, both of which factor in the AAA Bond Rating.

Ms. Bout and Ms. Boynton thanked Mr. Flaherty for all of his work on the budget.

A motion was made by Ms. Boynton, seconded by Ms. Bout, to approve the FY18 CCRSD Budget Revisions and adopt a FY18 Operating Budget of \$28,042,499 and Debt Service of \$4,984,609 for a total budget of \$33,027,108. The motion was unanimously approved. Ms. Rigby noted that the budget book is not accurate and that the new information should be added. Mr. Flaherty noted that the Warrant Articles that were printed show a higher assessment.

C. First Reading – School Committee Policies

- File EEAE – School Bus Safety Program
- File EEAEA – Bus Driver Examination and Training
- File EEAEA -1 – Drug & Alcohol Testing for School Bus & Commercial Vehicle Drivers
- File EEAEC – Student Conduct on School Buses
- File EEAEC – R – Student Conduct on School Buses
- File EEAG – Student Transportation in Private Vehicles
- File EEAJ – Motor Vehicle Idling on School Grounds
- File EFC – Free and Reduced Price Food Services
- File EFI – Operation of Food Services
- File EFI-R- Food Services Responsibilities
- File EK- Inventories
- File FA – Facilities Development Goals
- File FCB – Retirement of Facilities
- File FFA – Memorials
- File GBEC – Drug-Free Workplace Policy
- File IHAMB – Teaching about Alcohol, Tobacco & Drugs
- File JICH – Alcohol, Tobacco and Drug Use by Students Prohibited
- File JJF – Student Activity Accounts

Ms. Rigby noted that if anyone had questions on these policies, that there was a Policy Subcommittee meeting on Thursday morning.

D. Charge to Policy Subcommittee regarding Hate Speech. Mr. Johnston stated that they have a request to the Policy Subcommittee to consider some additional language to the policy to address hate speech specifically. Ms. Storrs noted that the agenda for the Policy Subcommittee meeting includes several sample hate speech related policies and about 15 other policies. She questioned what they should focus on. Mr. Johnston stated that they should plan to get through the existing policies that were planned and then focus on how to proceed on the hate speech policy.

E. School Committee Communications. Ms. Bout shared a draft of ideas for discussion regarding the topic of SC Communications, noting that they could discuss at a future SC meeting. She highlighted points from the draft, including: short term goals – adding liaisons reports and distribution list for announcements; midterm goals – overall community communication strategies, increasing communication channels between SC and individual schools, having a SC topic expert on specific topics and continuing to improve the SC webpage; long term goals – creating a communications advisory committee, conducting some meetings in Boston, social meetings and having a planning workshop at the end of the summer. Ms. Bout noted that the SC members could review these ideas and then put together an implementation plan going forward.

VIII. ACTION ITEMS

A. Vote to accept Concord Ed Fund grant on health & fitness. A motion was made by Ms. Boynton, seconded by Ms. Storrs, to accept the Concord Education Fund health and fitness grant called SHAPE in the amount of \$3,000 to Nancy Slocum at CCHS. The motion was unanimously approved.

B. Vote to surplus the old art kiln at the high school. A motion was made by Ms. Boynton, seconded by Ms. Storrs, to surplus the old art kiln that is no longer used at the high school and declare it as a scrap. The motion was unanimously approved.

C. Vote to approve CCHS Varsity Softball Team trip to Providence, RI. A motion was made by Ms. Boynton, seconded by Ms. Storrs, to approve the CCHS Varsity Softball Mystery Team trip to Providence, RI. The motion was unanimously approved.

D. Vote to accept donations to CCHS totaling \$1,500. A motion was made by Ms. Storrs, seconded by Mr. Johnston, to accept donations to CCHS totaling \$1,500 from Exxon Mobil Educational Alliance Program (\$1,000) and the Wilson Family Charitable Fund (\$500). The motion was unanimously approved.

E. Vote to approve contract and salary for new Superintendent Dr. Laurie Hunter. A motion was made by Ms. Boynton, for both CSC and CCSC, seconded by Ms. Bout, to approve the contract and salary for new Superintendent Dr. Laurie Hunter dated 2/14/17 with file name superintendentofschoolscontractdlauriehunter2.14.17. The document would be sent to Dr. Hunter for her signature. Ms. Storrs abstained from the vote. The motion was approved by the other SC members.

F. Vote to approve Carlisle staff request for Student to enroll. A motion was made by Ms. Boynton, seconded by Ms. Storrs, to approve Ms. Pixley's request for her son to enroll in the Concord-Carlisle High School and that tuition be waived. The motion was unanimously approved.

IX. OLD BUSINESS

A. Transportation. Mr. Flaherty stated that the electric bus is fully engaged and is transporting students from both Districts. He stated that the Transportation Depot is coming along nicely and the renovations at Knox Trail are getting underway. He noted that they are being very conscious of exceeding the trigger points for ADA compliance in the building and noted that the completion date is targeted for June 2017.

B. School Calendar. Ms. Boynton stated that she was surprised and disappointed that nothing was listed under "Old Business" regarding the calendar and the question regarding inclusion of certain religious holidays. She questioned why this wasn't on the agenda and noted that at the last meeting, they agreed to reactivate the calendar advisory committee to reexamine the calendar with regard to religious holidays and report back to the SC by May. She noted that there were many unresolved issues, including: 1) some (including herself) not getting a copy of the letter received from the CTA before the meeting stating their preference for leaving the religious holidays out of the calendar 2) knowing how the CTA feels about the religious holidays in or out of the calendar 3) the legality of the vote taken. She stated that there is a great deal of work to do and that she feels that this is long from resolved. Mr. Fink stated that he didn't think the vote included reinstating the committee. Ms. Boynton stated that it wasn't included in the vote, but was discussed and agreed upon. Ms. Bout stated that she thought they were going to reconvene a group and that Ms. Boynton and Mr. Johnston were going to work on a charge. Mr. Conti and Ms. Bout agreed that it needs to be discussed and looked into. Mr. Johnston stated that the calendar is part of a bigger issue and that they can convene the calendar committee again or proceed to move forward with a process around the overall aspect of ensuring inclusivity. Ms. Boynton noted that they candidly dismissed the work of the Advisory Committee, which may make them not want to do anymore work on the calendar. Mr. Grom stated that they need to look at it as a whole community and it should involve everyone in the community to come up with an overriding understanding. Ms. Boynton stated that it's about what they are teaching the kids and the messages that they are sending. Mr. Johnston stated that it should be looked at as an overall diversity issue and not as just a calendar issue. Ms. Storrs noted that the last vote was an attempt to be inclusive, but ended up excluding a lot of people who many never show up at a SC meeting to voice their concerns about religious holidays. The SC agreed to add "Diversity Associated with the School Calendar" to the Discussions portion of the next meeting's agenda.

C. Superintendent's Report. Ms. Rigby acknowledged Mr. Flaherty and Mr. Well's fabulous work on the budget books. She stated that they are engaged in 2 principals searches: 1 at CPS and 1 at CMS. She stated that they have received more than 60 applications for the elementary position and more than 50 for the middle school position. She thanked Ms. Boynton and Mr. Conti for their assistance with the search, noting that they should be able to announce the new principals in March. Ms. Rigby stated that she attended the MA Commendation Schools Ceremony at the State House and Sharon Young was able to attend with Ms. Olsen and Ms. Thuma. She noted that 50 schools were recognized for high student achievement and progress on state testing. Mr. Johnston thanked Ms. Young for all of her help with the Superintendent Search. Ms. Rigby stated that they had a very successful Cooler Concord Fair in which over 1,000 community members attended. She noted the incredible presentations done by the students. Ms. Rigby stated that the

CCHS meteorological students presented their weather balloon project at the American Meteorological Society in Seattle. She stated that the Advanced 2D art students are honoring the history of black musicians with life-sized silhouettes of black musicians around the walls of CCHS. She stated that 34 art students received recognition by the Scholastic Art & Writing Awards for their outstanding effort and achievement in visual art. Ms. Rigby stated that CCHS student artists in Two-Dimension Art, Ceramics, Digital Photography and Photography displayed their art work at the 21st Annual Regional High School Artist Show in Lexington Gallery. Ms. Rigby stated that 10 CMS student musicians were accepted for the Festival at Lincoln-Sudbury on March 4th. She stated that 7 CCHS student musicians have been chosen for the MMEA All-State Concert Band and Orchestra and will be participating in rehearsals at the Sheraton Boston Hotel in March, with a performance at Boston's Symphony Hall on March 11th. Ms. Rigby noted that the PRISM concert on Saturday night was fabulous. She stated that there was a team of colleagues who attended the LearnLaunch Across Boundaries Conference sponsored by MIT to discuss digital technologies.

A motion was made by Ms. Boynton, seconded by Mr. Johnston, to adjourn the CCSC portion of the meeting. The motion was unanimously approved and the CCSC portion adjourned at 8:18 PM. Mr. Fink and Ms. Storrs departed.

D. CMS Facilities Subcommittee. Ms. Bout stated that Finegold and Alexander presented the Existing Conditions Report to the CMS Facilities Subcommittee and that there are a lot of items that need to be addressed in both middle school buildings. She stated that they detailed what would need to be done to maintain the buildings, in terms of: required, recommended and optional. Ms. Bout noted that the numbers given were to maintain the buildings, noting that these would not make them 50-year buildings. She stated that there were 3 other options to look at, including: 1) a renovation that would get them to a 50 year building 2) a rebuild that would get to a 50-year building or 3) a 10 year solution. Ms. Bout stated that it would be about \$30 million to maintain the schools for the next 10 years and possibly add a new gym and new auditorium, noting that new roofs are not included.

Ms. Bout stated that the next steps are to look at rebuilding or renovating and conducting focus groups for input. Ms. Bout noted that the middle schools are already on the MSBA radar since they were built in the 1960s/1970s. Ms. Bout stated that if they make too many upgrades in any 3-year period, it kicks them into requirements to make significantly more upgrades. Mr. Flaherty stated that they would work on getting an SOI into the MSBA by April. Ms. Bout noted that the inspector felt that the buildings were well maintained, but that they were very old. She stated that the next steps would be getting input from MS faculty, staff and parents and then working with Finegold and Alexander to come up with sketches of what a rebuild and renovation would look like. Mr. Johnston noted that he wants to make sure that the SC is involved with this process and Ms. Bout recommended that the SC attend the upcoming focus groups.

Mr. Conti confirmed that the next SC meeting would be Monday, February 27th at Ripley because Tuesday is the Public Hearing regarding the budget.

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 8:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Erin E. Higgins

Approved: 3/27/17

Abbreviations:

ACLU	American Civil Liberties Union
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
ELA	English Language Arts
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
SOI	Statement of Interest
YRBS	Youth Risk Behavior Survey