

JOINT SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Concord – Carlisle School Committee
Concord School Committee
Ripley Building
August 29, 2017

Present: Heather Bout, Chair, CSC; CCSC
Johanna Boynton, Vice Chair, CSC; CCSC
Dan Conti, Chair, CCSC; CSC
Robert Grom, Vice Chair, CCSC; CSC
Mary Storrs, CCSC

Absent: Wallace Johnston, CSC; CCSC
Melissa McMorrow, CCSC

Present from Administration: Dr. Laurie Hunter, Superintendent of Schools, CPS & CCRSD
John Flaherty, Deputy Superintendent of Finance & Operations, CPS & CCRSD

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Heather Bout, for CSC, and Dan Conti, for CCSC, at 6:34 PM. Both noted that the meeting was being recorded. Ms. Bout welcomed Dr. Hunter to her first official SC meeting and welcomed the public in attendance. Ms. Bout acknowledged the passing of Aidan Sierra and Dylan Smyth over the summer and held a moment of silence.

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

III. READING OF THE MINUTES

A. Open Session – Joint Meeting – 6/27/17. A motion was made by Ms. Boynton, seconded by Ms. Bout, to approve the joint meeting minutes from 6/27/17. The motion was unanimously approved.

CPS Meeting – 6/13/17. A motion was made by Ms. Boynton, seconded by Mr. Conti, to approve the CPS meeting minutes from 6/13/17. Ms. Boynton noted an edit to be made. The motion was unanimously approved, as amended.

IV. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT & ENTRY PLAN

Dr. Hunter thanked everyone for his or her time over the summer helping her to get acclimated and noted the energy that the staff has come back to school with. She noted the outpouring of support in response to the deaths of students Aidan Sierra and Dylan Smyth, in addition to the support from Riverside Trauma Center. She stated that there is a grief and loss discussion scheduled for 8/31 at 7:00pm at the CCHS. She noted that the health and wellness of the students remains the priority.

Dr. Hunter stated that CCHS was scheduled to open at 8:00am on August 30th. She stated that the elementary Spanish program was in place and that they were planning on an October 2nd startup. She also stated that the middle school Latin program was ready to start with very solid enrollment numbers, noting there may possibly be a waiting list. She stated that the STEAM lab cost estimates came back considerably higher than anticipated, so they were going to slow down the project to ensure they are most cost effective moving forward. She stated that students would be coming to Ripley in a pseudo lab environment to get the experience started while they work out the logistical pieces and the long-term plan.

Dr. Hunter stated that they have purchased “Class of 2030” t-shirts for all Kindergarten students in the Concord and Carlisle elementary schools, with the plan that students' pictures would be taken annually until graduation wearing the t-shirts. Dr. Hunter noted that about 20 new staff have been added, including Justin Cameron as principal of CMS and Matt Lucey as principal of Willard.

Dr. Hunter shared her Entry Plan, providing a roadmap of the 1st 6 months of her superintendence.

V. CHAIRS & LIASONS REPORT

Ms. Bout stated how wonderful it's been working with Dr. Hunter, noting that she has received very positive feedback. Ms. Bout stated that she attended the welcome back for teachers at CCHS, noting the amount of energy and excitement in the teachers and in their response to Dr. Hunter's remarks. Mr. Conti echoed Ms. Bout's feedback and thoughts.

Mr. Conti noted that he and Ms. Bout met with Karle Packard, Chair of Concord Finance Committee and Kerry Lafleur, Town Finance Director, regarding working closely and collaborating with the town to build a budget.

Mr. Grom stated that on August 10th, the Budget Subcommittee met with 4 members of FINCOM, noting that it was a very productive meeting. He also noted that they decided to have the whole group work on benchmarking of the schools' budgets against similar districts.

Ms. Bout stated that CCTV is having talks regarding structure, noting that nothing will be changing with the school's relationship with them.

VI. CORRESPONDENCE

Mr. Conti stated that he received document requests regarding the signage at the high school.

Mr. Grom noted that they were hoping to get the names in by September 19th for the Campus Advisory Committee. Ms. Storrs recommended putting it in the newspaper to ensure the entire community is solicited. Mr. Grom stated that they would be in contact with the Journal and Mosquito. The SC agreed to discuss the process more in depth at the workshop the following week.

VII. RECOGNITIONS

Dr. Hunter stated that they are working to bring students and programming in the future for the September SC meetings.

Mr. Flaherty recognized: the Operations Team, the Facilities and Building Service workers, the HR team, the Business Office Staff, everyone at the Central Office and everyone at the schools for getting the campuses and schools looking great. Ms. Storrs echoed Mr. Flaherty and noted that the buildings were very busy over the summer.

VIII. REPORTS & ISSUES FOR DISCUSSION

A. First Reading – School Committee Policies

- File GCIA – Philosophy of Staff Development
- File GCJ – Professional Teacher Status
- File GCO – Evaluation of Professional Teaching Staff
- File GDO – Evaluation of Support Staff
- File GDQC – Retirement of Support Staff Members
- File GDQD – Suspension and Dismissal of Support Staff Members

Ms. Storrs recommended that the above SC policies (as well as those going forward) be brought to the Policy Subcommittee for edits, then return to the SC for the 1st reading and then back to the subcommittee for any edits. She will schedule a follow-up meeting with Dr. Hunter to discuss improvements on this process going forward.

B. School Committee Workshop September 5, 2017. The SC discussed beginning the workshop at 5:30PM and having a target time of 3 hours.

C. Solar Initiative. Mr. Flaherty stated that the Town is working on increasing the solar capacity and that they have approached the schools to see if they would like to participate. Mr. Flaherty noted that some of the school sites would make sense and that some are more complicated. He stated that the high school roof was prepared for solar during its design. He stated that a solar canopy in the parking lot is not as straight forward and that the Beede Center is leased land. He stated that Sanborn and Peabody would not be good candidates; Willard was designed for solar;

Thoreau's roof is almost 10 years old; Alcott's roof is 14/15 years old; Ripley's roof was done in 2004. Mr. Flaherty stated that Ripley is probably the oldest of the CPS buildings and that he didn't want to see the cost of roof replacement increased due to cost of taking down the solar array and placing it back on the roof. Dr. Hunter noted that the Town would be bringing in a Sustainable Energy Director later in the fall.

D. FY18 Status. Mr. Flaherty stated that they've had high cost move-ins occur over the summer in Special Education, noting that the expected costs could be an additional \$600,000-800,000. He noted that a goal in FY17 was to retain enough circuit breaker carryover to fund the midyear step associated with the CTA contract for 2018. He stated that they were able to fund the midyear step, but that they don't have any capacity to address the \$600,000-\$800,000. He stated that it's going to be challenging and that they may even have additional students adding to the cost. He stated that typical SPED enrollment statewide is 17% and that Concord and Concord-Carlisle is 20%. He noted that the reimbursement for the \$600,000 to \$800,000 wouldn't be realized until FY19. Dr. Hunter noted that there are extraordinary relief programs that require meeting certain levels.

E. Cultural Proficiency Initiative. Mr. Conti stated that this initiative has come out of awareness of cultural heritages around town. Dr. Hunter noted that a pattern has emerged with some members not feeling as connected and that it needs to be discussed. She noted that Dylan Smyth is a role model and that he embraced everyone with differences. Ms. Bout stated that she's heard of pockets of efforts to address cultural proficiency. Mr. Conti noted that they should look into the pockets of success seen throughout the district and look into a more comprehensive approach through curriculum and staff and faculty initiatives. Dr. Hunter stated that they should first look into what is already in place for structures and also have adults be part of the dialogue. Ms. Storrs shared Carlisle's strategy on anti-bullying of having all of the staff, students, parents, etc. involved in making the initiative part of the culture and community. Mr. Conti stated that he would follow up with EDCO.

F. Middle School Building Update. Dr. Hunter stated that she spoke with the Executive Director of the MSBA and that they came and toured the schools 2 weeks ago. She stated that they are in a pool of 83 Statement of Interests submissions for 2017. She stated that MSBA vets them through a priority pool and then conducts site visits. She noted that they then create priority needs rubrics, with safety being the top need, over-enrollment and capacity issues the next priority and then infrastructure work being the next tier. She noted that they did not receive direct feedback when they came for the site visit and that they will know by November or December if they are invited into the program. She stated that you are allowed to keep submitting each year if you are not invited. Mr. Flaherty noted that they have been living with the overflow building for almost 50 years. Dr. Hunter noted that the MSBA would fund 18-20 statements of interest out of the 83 submitted.

G. Minuteman Nashoba Health Group. Mr. Flaherty stated that Tony Logalbo, former Town Treasure and Finance Director of Concord, was retiring from his role at the Nashoba Health Group Collaborative. Mr. Flaherty stated that he recommends Ian Rhames, District Accountant, to assume Mr. Logalbo's role as treasurer for the Nashoba Health Group Collaborative. Mr. Logalbo shared the concept and background of the Nashoba Health Group as well as his role as treasurer. He stated that he was concerned with leaving the group and noted his elation with Mr. Rhames' interest in the role.

IX. ACTION ITEMS

A. Vote to accept donation from the Ruetters Family Charitable Foundation. A motion was made by Ms. Boynton, seconded by Ms. Bout, to accept a gift in the amount of \$20,000 to Concord-Carlisle High School Ruetters Enrichment Series Fund. The motion was unanimously approved, with thanks.

B. Vote to accept donation from Virtual High School, Inc. A motion was made by Ms. Boynton, seconded by Ms. Bout, to accept the \$30,000 donation on behalf of Virtual High School, Inc. to use at the discretion of the high school principal. The motion was unanimously approved.

C. Vote to accept donation from CCHS Parent Teacher Association. A motion was made by Ms. Boynton, seconded by Ms. Bout, to accept the \$50,000 donation from the CCHS Parent Teacher Association to be used for Q5. The motion was unanimously approved, with thanks.

D. Vote acceptance of Cyrus Stow Bequest. A motion was made by Ms. Boynton, seconded by Ms. Bout, to accept the donation of \$1,000 to benefit the high school in accordance with the 1878 bequest of Cyrus Stow and publicly thank the Chair, Trustees of Town Donations. The motion was unanimously approved.

E. Vote to declare the temporary fencing of Landfill Site as surplus supplies. Mr. Flaherty stated that the landfill general contractor would require a change order costing \$5k to \$6k to remove the temporary fence that was put in place to keep people away from the area of the landfill. He stated that the fence could be removed by the company that sold them the fence for free. He noted that they would like to keep the project going. A motion was made by Ms. Boynton, seconded by Ms. Bout, to suspend the usual practice of discussing an item at one meeting and voting on it at the next, due to the urgency of the need. The motion was unanimously approved. A motion was made by Ms. Boynton, seconded by Ms. Bout, to declare the temporary fencing at the high school as surplus supplies. The motion was unanimously approved.

X. OLD BUSINESS

A. Transportation and Facilities Update. Mr. Flaherty stated that the buses are being parked at the new bus depot and that they are working with the town of Acton to get the occupancy permit for 37 Knox Trail. He thanked Bob Sicard for all of his work to make the conditions ready for the temporary occupancy permit.

Mr. Flaherty stated that they would be seeing how the late start time works out and noted that they are having some logistical issues with the MS tier. He stated that the non-disruptive solution would have required 10 buses and that they are working with 5 buses that were approved. He noted that Powder Mill Road was just reopened after the construction.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Ms. Boynton, for both CSC and CCSC, seconded by Mr. Conti, to adjourn the meeting. The motion was unanimously approved and the meeting adjourned at 8:22 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Erin E. Higgins

Approved: 9/26/17

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 |
| CPA | Community Preservation Act |
| CPC | Community Preservation Committee |
| CPS | Concord Public Schools |
| CCRSD | 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 |

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| 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 |
| SPED | Special Education |
| YRBS | Youth Risk Behavior Survey |