

JOINT SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Concord-Carlisle School Committee
Concord School Committee
Ripley Building
May 13, 2014

Present: Jennifer Munn, Chair, CCSC, CSC
Kathleen Snook, Chair, CSC; CCSC
Phil Benincasa, Vice Chair, CSC, CCSC
Johanna Boynton, Vice Chair, CCSC, CSC
Wallace Johnston, CSC, CCSC
Bill Fink, CCSC
Melissa McMorrow, CCSC

Present From Administration: Diana Rigby, Superintendent of Schools, CPS & CCRSD
John Flaherty, Deputy Superintendent of Finance & Operations, CPS & CCRSD
Kathy Codianne, Director Teaching and Learning, CPS & CCRSD

I. CALL TO ORDER

The session was called to order by Ms. Munn for CCSC and by Ms. Rigby for CSC at 6:00 pm. Ms. Munn noted that CCTV is recording the meeting. Ms. Rigby stated that annually at the first School Committee Meeting following the conclusion of Town Meeting, the first order of business is to seat the new School Committee, to elect its officers and make other necessary appointments. A motion was made by Ms. Boynton seconded by Ms. Snook to seat the Concord School Committee Members and recognize Kathleen Snook, Johanna Boynton, Phil Benincasa, Jennifer Munn and Wallace Johnston as members of the Concord School Committee. The motion was unanimously approved.

A. Election of Chair and Vice Chair for the Concord School Committee – CSC

A motion was made by Mr. Benincasa seconded by Ms. Boynton to elect Ms. Kathleen Snook Chair of the Concord School Committee. The motion was unanimously approved.

A motion was made by Ms. Boynton seconded by Ms. Munn to elect Mr. Phil Benincasa Vice Chair of the Concord School Committee. The motion was unanimously approved.

A motion was made by Mr. Benincasa and seconded by Mr. Johnston for CSC and CCSC to enter into Executive Session to discuss under Purpose 3 of the Open Meeting Law: To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the public body and return to Open Session at approximately 6:30 PM. The motions were approved by roll call for CCSC and CSC: Munn Aye, Snook Aye, Boynton, Aye, Benincasa, Aye, McMorrow, Aye, Fink, Aye, Johnston, Aye.

The Concord School Committee and the Concord-Carlisle School Committee returned to Open Session and were called to order by Ms. Munn for CCSC and Ms. Snook for CSC at 6:45 PM. Ms. Snook noted that the meeting is being recorded by CCTV.

II. READING OF THE MINUTES

A. Open Session
Joint Meeting – 4/8/2014. A motion was made by Ms. Boynton seconded by Mr. Benincasa for CSC and CCSC to approve the minutes for the April 8, 2014 Joint School Committee Meetings. The motion was unanimously approved.

III. CHAIRS REPORT

A. Town Meeting. Ms. Munn stated that she would like to thank the Finance Committee for their support of the articles and the back and forth of answering questions relating to the articles. Ms. Munn also stated that there was a PTG Meeting this week and Ms. Snook did a nice job explaining Article 10. Ms. Snook addressed Article 10. Ms. Boynton will be the school committee representative for the bus drivers' contract negotiations and Ms. Munn will be the school committee representative for the secretaries' contract negotiations. Ms. Snook stated that the School

Committee Community Coffee was held on April 30th at Ripley. Subjects discussed were Town Meeting Articles, TELL Mass Survey and the Alcott METCO Pilot Program.

IV. CORRESPONDENCE

A. Ms. Rigby stated that students from CCHS attended the American Meteorological Society's annual conference in Atlanta, GA and sent a letter of thanks for the District's support.

V. RECOGNITIONS

A. Teacher Appreciation Week – May 5-9. School Nurse Day May 7.

B. Kristen Herbert, new Director of Teaching and Learning. Ms. Rigby introduced Ms. Herbert. Ms. Herbert shared her background and educational beliefs with the School Committee.

VI. REPORTS & ISSUES FOR DISCUSSION

A. Managing your Digital Footprint – Robin Cicchetti gave a presentation on Managing your Digital Footprint. Information from the briefing is found on the CCHS and District web sites. Freshman addressed this during Health Week. Ethical use of media is woven into regular curriculum.

B. New Math SAT – Peter Atlas explained the philosophy behind the new SAT and described changes in types of questions for math portion of the test. The new test will be more of an assessment of students' schoolwork and skills.

C. Special Education Update - Jessica Murphy gave a presentation on the Special Education Update. Ms. Murphy presented information on the changes in the preschool program, trends in special education and building transition programs.

D. First Reading K-5 & CMS Handbooks. Ms. Codianne, Director of Teaching and Learning, went over the changes to the student handbook for Alcott, Willard and Thoreau. The major change was the bullying prevention and intervention language. Ms. Beattie, Principal, went over the changes for the CMS Handbook. Changes included updates for electronic devices, School Advisory Council, private school application and other administrative areas. The Committee will approve the handbooks at a future meeting.

E. FY14 Year to Date Financial Report for CPS. Mr. Flaherty stated that Article 10 FY2014 Supplemental Appropriation request at any level did not pass at Town Meeting. The Article 10 request was moved to provide a measure of security to the FY2014 fiscal closing process and to ensure a stable educational environment for the remainder of the fiscal year. Mr. Flaherty gave an update of the CPS budget and the cost savings measures agreed upon by the school sites to meet the budget.

F. Community Use Agreement Draft. Ms. Munn stated that this is an agreement between the Town of Concord and the Concord-Carlisle Regional School District about how the fields will be scheduled. In order for the fields renovation group to apply for CPA funding they had to facilitate the creation of a Facilities Use Agreement. The use agreement is a formalization of current practice.

VII. ACTION ITEMS

A. Vote to approve one faculty child for kindergarten enrollment in the 2014-2015 school year and two faculty children to enroll at CCHS for the 2014-2015 school year. A motion was made by Mr. Benincasa seconded by Ms. Boynton that the CSC vote to approve Ms. Sexauer's request to enroll her daughter in the Concord Public Schools and that tuition be waived. The motion was unanimously approved. A motion was made by Mr. Benincasa seconded by Ms. Boynton that the CCSC vote to approve Mr. Linder's request to enroll his son in the Concord-Carlisle High School and that tuition be waived. A motion was made by Mr. Benincasa seconded by Ms. Boynton that the CCSC vote to approve Ms. Ehrental's request to enroll her daughter in the Concord-Carlisle High School and that tuition be waived. The motions were unanimously approved.

B. Vote to accept donation from the Society of American Military Engineers of Boston Post to CMS. A motion was made by Ms. Boynton seconded by Mr. Johnston that the CSC votes to accept the donation of \$650 from the Society of American Military Engineers of Boston Post to CMS to support transportation costs for a public works field trip. The motion was unanimously approved.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

A. CCHS Building Project. Ms. Boynton stated that the building is on time, budget and schedule. The next thing that is going to happen is that the FF&E Subcommittee will begin their work. It will be divided into two groups one for technology and one for furnishings. There is a Joint School Committee – Building Committee meeting on May 21st at CCHS at 6pm to discuss funding for FF&E and for technology to address funding. It is expected the School Committee will provide some funding for FF&E that is not covered by the MSBA, as well as funding from the Technology Stabilization Fund to augment MSBA technology funds.

B. Transportation. Ms. Boynton stated that she is happy to see that there is a solution to keeping transportation in house and will be meeting with the bus drivers association. The only thing to work out right now is the transition period to getting the approvals and site work ready to go to build on the land.

C. CCHS Fields Renovation Project. Ms. Munn stated that she has been attending the meetings since December and the meeting this week was a pleasant upbeat meeting, people were thrilled that Article 36 passed at Town Meeting. The design team has been working on the public bidding process and Phase I is underway. Three bids were received and Matt Wells from the Business Office was on hand for the opening. The process is still on going. They are waiting for reference checks on the bidder. The plan is to break ground after graduation in June.

IX. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

A. 2014 TELL Mass Update. Ms. Rigby stated that the 2014 TELL Mass Survey is an online survey administered in all Mass school districts on a bi-annual basis. Its intent is to provide site educators and school districts with data that can be used to improve teaching and learning conditions, facilitate school improvement plans, and to ensure that educators have the support necessary for effective teaching. The Administration, with the support of the School Committees, continues to work to improve communication and support within the school communities moving forward. Improving school climate is a top priority and the results underscore the necessity for the teachers and their administrators at each school site to engage and spend time addressing their concerns. Ms. Rigby indicated in the last year, the Elementary and Middle school admin teams worked closely with school site staff and faculty to identify concerns and determine actions. The High School was focused on the tasks of NEASC for most of the year and only recently began addressing TELL Survey concerns. The CCTA Executive Board is now working with a MTA facilitator, Department Chairs and Administrators to address concerns. Principals will address the work done at their school sites in their School Improvement Plan presentations in June.

B. Dignity Committee. Ms. Rigby stated that the TELL Mass Committee was created as a joint committee of CTA members, Administrators and School Committee members, in response to the 2012 CPS TELL Mass Survey. This committee met eight times between November 2012 and May 2014 to address issues identified as priorities in the TELL Mass survey. During the 2013-2014 school year, this work included addressing the atmosphere of trust, mutual respect, comfort and support in the K-8 system through the work of Dr. Donna Hicks and her "Dignity Model." The TELL Mass Committee jointly developed a document describing their new Principled Partnership.

C. FY15 CPS Projected Enrollment. Ms. Rigby stated that the kindergarten enrollment is lower than we projected. Currently we have 246 5th graders that will matriculate and 182 kindergarten students entering. Middle School is relatively the same and there will be 20-25 more students at CCHS.

D. June 12, 2014 Rose Bush Ceremony for the 2014 Retirees, 4 PM Conference Room 4, Ripley.

Mr. Benincasa asked if Mr. Johnston could share with the committee what issues parents and community members shared with him during his campaign. Mr. Johnston stated that it's a pleasure to be here and thanked people who voted for him. Mr. Johnston indicated that citizens were interested in the budget, teacher morale issues, legal fees, community interaction, and communications.

X. CITIZENS' COMMENTS

1. Susan Kalled, 100 Elsinore St., Concord. Ms. Kalled stated that her questions are regarding the CPS Budget. One issue was the number of leaves that occurred this year, shouldn't that be covered under disabilities, so the district isn't paying twice, she wants clarity on that issue. For children of teachers who come to this district, is there a way the district can be reimbursed by the other school district. Ms. Kalled wanted the committee to consider using two sets of lawyers for varying issues. Ms. Kalled would also like the committee to reassess the use of the Blue Comment Forms.

2. Lisa McKinney, 293 Hayward Mill Rd., Concord. Ms. McKinney stated that she thinks the Dignity Model could be used by the committee as a core for a lot of policies and work that the committee does. The Dignity Model should be incorporated in the Community Use Policy. Relative to field trips, the most severe cuts are to the 5th and 8th grades. If the field trip is optional then she'll keep her daughter home if it's not optional the school should be paying. Ms. McKinney also stated that the committee should try to hear from citizens before a major vote is taken on something of broad community interest.

3. Paul Horwitz, 173 Hayward Mill Rd., Concord. Mr. Horwitz stated that he was shocked at the result of Article 10, not only the fact that it was a tie but the fact that you didn't win. The schools have had a tough time at town meeting in the past few years. Mr. Horowitz would also like to see more community presentations on educational topics and more time for community to have input for discussion at meetings.

4. Anne Hayden, 342 Sudbury Rd., Concord. Ms. Hayden stated that if the agenda is going to be changed let people know what has been done, as she didn't know who was elected chair and vice chair of the CPS. If items are discussed before the executive session, then people should be told.

Ms. Snook addressed Ms. Hayden's concern and indicated the Committee realized it could not enter into Executive Session prior to election of the Chair and Vice-Chair of CSC. Ms. Snook indicated that not announcing that when resuming the regular meeting was an oversight.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Mr. Benincasa, seconded by Ms. Boynton, for CSC and a motion was made by Ms. Boynton, seconded by Mr. Fink, for CCSC to adjourn the meeting. The motions were unanimously approved and the meeting adjourned at 9:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Sally W. Ferguson
Approved: 06/25/14

Abbreviations:

CSC	Concord School Committee
CCSC	Concord-Carlisle Regional District School Committee
CPS	Concord Public Schools
CCRS	Concord-Carlisle Regional School District
CCHS	Concord-Carlisle Regional High School
FF&E	Furniture, fixture and equipment
Mass TELL	Teaching, Empowering, Leading and Learning