

JOINT SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Concord-Carlisle School Committee
Concord School Committee
CCHS Auditorium
Concord, MA 01742
February 14, 2012

Present: Peter Fischelis, Chair, CCSC, CSC
Pamela Gannon, Chair, CSC; CCSC
Fabian Fondriest, Vice Chair, CCSC, CSC
Maureen Spada, Vice Chair, CSC, CCSC
Jerry Wedge, CSC, CCSC
Chad Koski, CCSC
Louis Salemy, 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 Ms. Gannon for CSC and Mr. Fischelis for CCSC at 6:32 PM. Ms. Gannon stated that recording devices are being used to record the meeting.

II. READING OF THE MINUTES

A. Open Session - Joint Meeting 1/24/12

Mr. Wedge seconded by Ms. Spada for the January 24, 2012 CCSC Meeting. Mr. Wedge seconded by Ms. Spada for CSC. Both motions were unanimously approved.

III. CHAIRS REPORT

Ms. Gannon stated that a vote will need to be taken in March for EDCO reorganization.

IV. CORRESPONDENCE

A. Letter from MA Dept. of Elementary and Secondary Education. The Special Education Department of the MSBA has supported and vetted the new high school project for special education students.

B. Letter from MSBA – A signed fully-executed Project Funding Agreement (PFA) for the Concord-Carlisle High School project with MSBA and Concord-Carlisle Regional School District was received.

V. RECOGNITIONS

None

VI. REPORTS & ISSUES FOR DISCUSSION

A. Transportation for FY13.

Mr. Fischelis gave an overview of the school budget and transportation issues and explained the format for the school committee discussion and citizens' comments. He urged citizens to be respectful and civil.

Ms. Rigby described the context and history of how the transportation issue relates to the high school building project and school budgets. She emphasized that student transportation must be in place for September 2012. Mr. Flaherty presented a written analysis of transportation services. The document compared three options and the estimated costs associated with those options. The school committee reviewed the information and discussed the matters at length.

The discussion addressed many issues at length, including:

- Specific questions about the transportation analysis and recommendations
- Details about the bid specifications in the November 2011 Invitation to Bid
- Decision by the administration to rescind the November 2011 Invitation to Bid
- Information learned from the November 2011 Invitation to Bid
- Possibility to lease a maintenance facility for 2012-13 school year or long-term
- Possibility to relocate the maintenance facility on school land or to use Town facilities
- Possibility to use private transportation services for 2012-13 school year
- The high school building project process and MSBA reimbursement
- Development of accurate numbers for any future Invitations to Bid for transportation services
- Oversight of any future Invitations to Bid for transportation services
- FY13 school budget pressures (2012-13 school year)
- Review of FY13 guidelines from the Concord Finance Committee
- Concern about the school budgets passing at Concord Town Meeting
- Carlisle perspective on private transportation services and school budgets
- Concern about additional costs for transportation services and the FY13 budgets
- Long-term school budget considerations
- Evaluation of student safety, including evaluation of the in-house transportation department
- Evaluation of accurate cost comparisons
- Level and quality of transportation services
- Bus fees

For a full video recording of the meeting, please see Concord Carlisle TV at www.concordtv.org.

B. Citizens' Comments

These comments are summarized by the recording secretary:

Lisa Bergen, 325 College Road, Concord. Ms. Bergen presented a petition signed by 430 citizens. The petition asks the School Committees to vote no on the transportation outsourcing recommendation. Ms. Bergen suggested that the School Committee speak again with the Finance Committee.

Connie Gailus, 62 Prescott Rd, Concord. Ms. Gailus stated that she had not been aware of the impact of the high school building project on the transportation facility. She expressed concerns about the impacts of pollution and traffic on local neighborhoods if a transportation facility is built at another site in town. She supports keeping transportation services in-house. She also expressed concern about the possibility of music programs being cut.

Jennifer Longmire, 35 Drum Hill Road, Concord. Ms. Longmire stated that she believes the bus drivers are ambassadors for the schools. She appreciates her bus driver and suggested that safety should be the main concern. She expressed concerns about the level of service with outsourcing.

Frank Curran, 97 Elsinore Road Concord. Mr. Curran supports delaying the process for a year for further evaluation. Mr. Curran expressed concerns about bid procedures being done correctly and suggested details for future Invitations to Bid. He also has concerns about METCO transportation and state funding for METCO.

Susan Kalled, 100 Elsinore Street, Concord. Ms. Kalled stated that people move to Concord for the quality education. She stated that a group of parents would like to work with the school committee to create a solution for the transportation issue. Ms. Kalled is concerned about safety issues with potential out-sourcing.

Mark Gailus, 62 Prescott Road, Concord. Mr. Gailus stated appreciation for the open discussion. He stated that safety is extremely important and he expressed support of an in-house solution. Mr. Gailus suggested that a facility be located on commercially-zoned property.

Nancy Burnham, 84 Bristers Hill Road, Concord. Ms. Burnham thanked the school committee for their hard work. She stated that the budget gap should not be the driving factor for the transportation decision. Ms. Burnham is concerned about impacts of changes in school transportation on the Town budget. She believes that safety is incredibly important.

David Karr, 82 Lawsbrook Rd. Mr. Karr thanked the school committee for their work on the school budgets. He expressed concern about the budget impacts on the band teacher and art teacher. Mr. Karr would like accurate assessments of the level of savings from out-sourcing, especially related to personnel expenses.

Abe Fisher, 400 Hayward Mill Road, Concord. Mr. Fisher recommended that the school committee bring the higher school budget level to Town Meeting. Mr. Fisher stated that the schools should not outsource transportation just because other districts outsource these services. Mr. Fisher expressed concerns about long-term savings versus short-term savings and recommended that these issues be considered in any decisions.

Fred Martin, 1595 Main Street, Concord. Mr. Martin expressed appreciation for the school committee discussion. He stated that he believes the transportation analysis does not contain complete bus maintenance information.

Phil Benincasa, 108 Commerford Road, Concord. Mr. Benincasa suggested that the school committee consider putting the cost for leasing a maintenance facility on a warrant for a Special Town Meeting. He stated that he believes that there are many parcels available in town and suggested that should be explored with the Town Manager. Mr. Benincasa suggested that the committee obtain estimates for moving the transportation facility to the current student parking lot next to Bristers Hill Rd.

Sue Felshin, 19 Sunnyside Lane, Concord. Ms. Felshin thanked the school committee for their thoughtful discussion and appreciated that the committee discussed the impact of changes in transportation services to Town programs such as Concord Recreation. She suggested that the school committee seek funding for an in-house transportation facility at a Special Town Meeting. She believes the school committee and administration should be more creative about finding solutions on the high school campus, especially using the current student parking lot. She suggested asking parents to donate money for bus user fees.

Ray Hanselman, 132 Deacon Haynes Road, Concord. Mr. Hanselman stated that he believes there has been a loss of confidence in the school committee. Mr. Hanselman stated that there are still a lot of questions in the community.

David Allen, 316 Heaths Bridge Road, Concord. Mr. Allen stated that at the Concord finance committee meeting on February 9, 2012, the finance committee stated that they were not going to be responsible for outsourcing of transportation services. Mr. Allan stated that he believes there would be support for a debt exclusion vote for a new transportation facility at a Special Town Meeting. Mr. Allen stated that getting children safely to school is as important as having good teachers, and safety should be a primary consideration.

Kate Damon, 12 Harrington Ave., Concord. Ms. Damon stated that she values retaining in-house busing service and she is concerned about the bus drivers losing their jobs. She stated that she believes that people will be willing to pay in order to not out-source services. Ms. Damon expressed concern about getting accurate numbers for costs and savings.

Joe Vlacovsky, 44 Damon Street, Concord. Mr. Vlacovsky thanked the school committee for their time and effort. Mr. Vlacovsky suggested that communication with the citizens could be better. He stated that he considers transportation to be a core service. He expressed concern about conflict of interest in retaining consultant services.

Sharon Trainor, 305 Rutland Street, Carlisle. Ms. Trainor is an employee of Concord Carlisle Regional School District. Ms. Trainer expressed support for the bus drivers and expressed concern about other school employees' positions being out-sourced.

VII. ACTION ITEMS

A. Vote to reappoint Stan Durlacher to the CCHS Building Committee. A motion was made by Mr. Wedge seconded by Ms. Spada that the CCSC vote to reappoint Stan Durlacher to the CCHS Building Committee. The motion was unanimously approved.

B. Vote to authorize a Fiscal Year 2012 Request for Proposal for a facility suitable for repair of school vehicles (CCSC). A motion was made by Mr. Fondriest seconded by Ms. Spada that the CCSC vote to authorize a Fiscal Year 2012 Request for Proposal for a facility suitable for repair of school vehicles. The motion was unanimously approved.

C. Vote to authorize a Fiscal Year 2012 request for proposal for a facility suitable for repair of school vehicles (CSC). A motion was made by Mr. Fondriest seconded by Ms. Spada that the CSC vote to authorize a Fiscal Year 2012 Request for Proposal for a facility suitable for repair of school vehicles. The motion was unanimously approved.

D. A motion was made by Mr. Wedge seconded by Ms. Spada that the CCSC request that the administration begin to prepare a bid package for outsourcing transportation including the sale of the bus fleet for school year 2012-2013. A motion was made by Mr. Wedge seconded by Ms. Spada that the CSC request that the administration begin to prepare a bid package for outsourcing transportation including the sale of the bus fleet for school year 2012-2013. The motions were unanimously approved.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

A. CCHS Building Project. Mr. Wedge reported that the Building Committee will hear the final recommendation for the position of Construction Manager on February 15, 2012. The regional school committee will need to vote on whether to approve the recommendation.

IX. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

A. Jt. School Committee and Building Committee Meeting on February 15, 2012, CCHS Library @ 6:00 PM.

B. Mass Tell Survey (Teaching, Empowering, Leading and Learning in Massachusetts). The survey will be made available to educators from March 12, 2012 through April 6, 2012. Results will be available in May.

C. February 29, 2012 is the public hearing for the school budgets for FY13 and the presentation will be ready for the school committee on February 28, 2012.

X. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Mr. Wedge seconded by Ms. Spada for CSC to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Wedge seconded by Ms. Spada for CCSC to adjourn the meeting. The motions were unanimously approved and the meeting adjourned at 10:33 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Sally W. Ferguson

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
MSBA	Massachusetts School Building Authority