

CONCORD SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Concord School Committee
Willard Auditorium
May 14, 2013

Present: Pamela Gannon, Chair, CSC
Kathleen Snook, Vice Chair, CSC
Phil Benincasa, CSC
Johanna Boynton, CSC
Jennifer Munn, CSC

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

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Ms. Gannon for CSC at 6:30 PM and noted that the meeting is being recorded by CCTV and a citizen.

A. ORGANIZATION OF COMMITTEE

1. Seating of the Concord School Committee Members. A motion was made by Ms. Munn seconded by Mr. Benincasa to seat and recognize Pamela Gannon, Kathleen Snook, Johanna Boynton, Phil Benincasa and Jennifer Munn as members of the Concord School Committee. The motion was unanimously approved.
2. Election of Officers for the Concord School Committee. A motion was made by Ms. Munn and seconded by Ms. Snook to elect Ms. Gannon as Chair of the Concord School Committee. A motion was made by Ms. Munn and seconded by Mr. Benincasa to elect Ms. Snook as Vice Chair of the Concord School Committee. Both motions were unanimously approved.

B. The Concord School Committee adjourned to Executive Session and returned to Open Session.

The Concord School Committee adjourned at 6:32 PM into Executive Session by roll call for the purposes of discussing strategy with respect to collective bargaining. Gannon Aye, Munn Aye, Snook Aye, Benincasa Aye, Boynton Aye.

The Concord School Committee reconvened at 6:55 PM.

A motion was made by Mr. Benincasa seconded by Ms. Munn to change the agenda to take Citizens' Comments at the beginning of the meeting for 15 minutes, 3 minutes each, to accommodate five people. The motion carried, 4 in favor, 1 opposed.

Ms. Gannon introduced the new Comment Form that needs to be filled out by citizens who wish to make comments during the meeting. Citizens should note their name, address, and whether a comment is directed at an agenda item or is a general comment. This procedure is being implemented for proper record keeping and to maintain order.

II. READING OF THE MINUTES

A motion was made by Mr. Benincasa seconded by Ms. Snook to approve the minutes for the April 22, 2013 CSC meeting. The motion was unanimously approved.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS

1. Paul Horwitz, 173 Hayward Mill Rd., Concord. Mr. Horwitz stated that there is something wrong with the process and school committee members need to think seriously about this. This is not the Concord way.
2. Carrie Levin, 33 Summit St., Concord. Ms. Levin stated that things at Thoreau are escalating. One of our most beloved teachers resigned today and this is a huge problem.

3. Cheryl Kirkpatrick, 94 Sorrel Rd., Concord. Ms. Kirkpatrick thanked the school committee, the administration, teachers and parents for attending the meeting. School leadership is incredibly important and Concord has a real school climate problem and it's not just at Thoreau.
4. Kathryn Oh, 1731 Lowell Rd., Concord. Ms. Oh stated that a good veteran teacher is not being rehired and she stated that her daughter had her for a teacher and she is a very good teacher.
5. Lissa McKinney, 293 Hayward Mill Rd., Concord. Ms. McKinney stated that she wanted to make an observation about Thoreau. Consider the source of the recommendations for the information being presented to the school committee.

III. CHAIRS REPORT

Ms. Gannon welcomed the new school committee members, Johanna Boynton and Kathi Snook. Ms. Gannon also thanked Willard for accommodating the change in meeting venue and thanked Gene Warfel and Genoveva Matheus for the IT set up.

Ms. Gannon stated that she and other school committee members went to an EDCO presentation on the new superintendent evaluation process. She outlined the timeline for the process, which will be coming up in June. Ms. Gannon gave an overview of the roles and responsibilities of the school committee; the duties and responsibilities of the school committees are determined by State laws and regulations.

Ms. Gannon emphasized that citizens who wish to contact the school committee via email should click through the link on the school committee web page on the district web site. This is the only way to guarantee that email will reach school committee members. Ms. Gannon again reviewed the new comment procedure.

End of year events that are coming up are Class Act Awards, CCTA Dinner, Flag Day Event, CC At Play site walk.

IV. CORRESPONDENCE

- A. Bus depot location. Ms. Rigby stated that a letter was received from Penny Staples, 2 Ridgeway Rd., regarding a suggestion for a bus depot location.
- B. Concord Lions Club. Ms. Rigby stated that Mr. Flaherty received a letter from the Concord Lions Club thanking him for his assistance in helping them to obtain access to the Lions Club Den at the CCHS football field.
- C. Parent Letters. Ms. Rigby stated she received numerous parent letters regarding Thoreau staff.
- D. Department of Public Health. Ms. Rigby stated that a letter was received from The Department of Public Health regarding delaying implementation of requirements which would require schools only to provide flavored milk or milk substitute that contain the same amount or less sugar than plain fat-free or low-fat milk.
- E. 2013 Annual Town Meeting Summary

V. RECOGNITIONS

- A. Alcott: Ms. Rigby on behalf of Ms. Young, Principal, recognized third grade teachers, Jane Albert, Brenna Quinn, Kate Sexauer, Martha Regan, Laura Knowles & students for the Wax Museum.
- B. Willard: Ms. Rigby on behalf of Ms. Fernandes, Principal, recognized fifth grade teacher, Katie Lyons & students for organizing Boston Spirit Day; they collected \$630 for the One Fund Boston.
- C. Thoreau: Ms. Rigby on behalf of Ms. Clough, Principal, recognized Special Education tutor Margaret Marchetti who is retiring at the end of the school year.
- D. CPS: Ms. Codianne recognized Anna Anderson, Orchestra teacher, who brought students to MICCA and the students won silver and gold medals.
- E. CMS: Ms. Rigby on behalf of Ms. Beattie, Principal, recognized administrative assistants, Cindy Larsen, Debra Bordonaro, Mary Jo Scheid, Kerri Martinec, and Vanessa Moran.

VI. REPORTS & ISSUES FOR DISCUSSION

A. Demonstration of VGo Robot. Gene Warfel, Director of Information Technology gave a demonstration of the VGo Robot. The robot will be used by students who are unable to come to school for significant periods of time. The homebound student "attends" school via the robot that is located at the student's school site.

B. K-5 & CMS Handbooks - First Reading. Ms. Codianne presented updates to the Parent and Student Elementary Handbooks. Changes were minor and included updates to school hours, lunch payment process, and the district mission and core values. Ms. Beattie presented updates to the Concord Middle School Handbook. Changes were minor and included updates to student absence contact and extended illness procedure, and the addition of a statement on voluntary absences and laptops/computer use.

C. CPS Enrollment. Ms. Gannon presented the Enrollment Working Group Update. The presentation focused on K-8 enrollment, and reviewed historical enrollment, projected enrollment, information from the Concord planning department, and real estate sales. Enrollment is projected to increase, particularly at CMS. The administration monitors enrollment monthly and enrollment projections are adjusted annually. The recommendation is that the Enrollment Working Group continues its work next year. Ms. Rigby presented the fall enrollment projections and noted that the goal of the district is to maintain an average class size/faculty:student ratio of 19-20 students:teacher. She noted that FTEs have been added to accommodate the increased enrollment at CMS and Alcott and support is provided for classrooms that have a greater number of students. The middle school is reviewing their schedule in order to manage increased enrollment.

VII. ACTION ITEMS

A. Vote to approve eight faculty children for kindergarten enrollment for the 2013-14 school year.

A motion was made by Ms. Munn seconded by Mr. Benincasa that the CSC vote to approve Mr. Bodendrader's request to enroll his children in the Concord Public Schools and that tuition be waived. The motion was unanimously approved.

A motion was made by Ms. Snook seconded by Mr. Benincasa that the CSC vote to approve Ms. Brown's request to enroll her son in the Concord Public Schools and that tuition be waived. The motion was unanimously approved.

A motion was made by Ms. Snook seconded by Mr. Benincasa that the CSC vote to approve Ms. Graham'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 Ms. Snook seconded by Mr. Benincasa that the CSC vote to approve Ms. Hiltz's request to enroll her son in the Concord Public Schools and that tuition be waived. The motion was unanimously approved.

A motion was made by Ms. Snook seconded by Mr. Benincasa that the CSC vote to approve Mr. Rivera's request to enroll his daughter in the Concord Public Schools and that tuition be waived. The motion was unanimously approved.

A motion was made by Ms. Snook seconded by Mr. Benincasa that the CSC vote to approve Ms. Sechman's request to enroll her son in the Concord Public Schools and that tuition be waived. The motion was unanimously approved.

A motion was made by Ms. Snook seconded by Mr. Benincasa that the CSC vote to approve Ms. Walsh's request to enroll her son in the Concord Public Schools and that tuition be waived. The motion was unanimously approved.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

A. Transportation Update. Mr. Flaherty stated that the districts are continuing to operate from the Acton parking facility and perform repairs at the leased Billerica facility. The districts are planning to operate in this manner for the 2013-2014 school year. Mr. Benincasa stated that he is investigating a few options for potentially housing all or some portion of the transportation operation in town.

B. School Security Update. Mr. Flaherty stated that the system installation is nearing completion and the staff badging and operations will be done before the upcoming school year.

IX. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

A. There is an open reception at the Concord Museum for the Rivers and Revolutions Program Wednesday, May, 15, from 6-8 PM.

B. May 29, 2013. Retirement Ceremony. Ms. Rigby stated that the Retirement Rosebush Ceremony will be held at Alcott on May 29, 2013.

C. Baseline Edge. Ms. Rigby stated that we have purchased Baseline Edge for student assessment data. Ms. Snook asked about feedback from other school districts about ease of data entry and the impact of adding a new tool for teachers. Ms. Rigby indicated that feedback after implementation would be provided to the school committee.

D. RETELL (Rethinking Equity and Teaching for English Language Learners). Ms. Rigby stated that the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) has established the SEI (Sheltered English Immersion) Teacher Endorsement. Teachers responsible for the education of ELL students must earn an SEI Endorsement no later than July 1, 2016.

E. Summer School Committee Meetings @ Ripley:

There will be a Regional School Committee Meeting on June 4, 2013

The June 25, 2013 Regional School Committee Meeting has been rescheduled to June 27, 2013

July 23, 2013 – Joint Meeting 6:30 – 8:00 PM

August 20, 2013 – School Committee Workshop & Joint Meeting 4:00 – 8:00 PM

X. CITIZENS' COMMENTS

1. David Curren, 281 Elsinore St., Concord. Mr. Curren stated that he believes he has a solution that will solve the transportation problem.

2. John Hutchings, 84 Sudbury Rd., Concord. Mr. Hutchins stated that a year ago he raised the issue about faculty children being admitted to Concord Public Schools. It is a significant commitment and from the enrollment numbers it looks like we are at capacity.

3. Charles Blair, 26 Florio Dr., Concord. Mr. Blair stated that he would like to thank the school committee for doing the enrollment study. Mr. Blair said some of the new developments that were shown during the enrollment presentation are close to being finished.

4. Cynthia Rainey, 80 Hunters Ridge Rd., Concord. Ms. Rainey stated that she has a question about enrollment. Can the enrollment committee give absolute capacity levels at the facilities, without adding a modular?

5. Kristen Dixon Keilty, 50 Central St., Concord. Ms. Keilty stated that she would like to thank the school committee for their flexibility. She feels that the community has lost trust in the ability of the school committee to appropriately check the power of the superintendent on issues regarding teacher evaluation.

6. Jennifer Montbach, 45 Pine St., Concord. Ms. Montbach thanked the school committee for taking earlier comments. Ms. Montbach stated they moved to Concord for the schools. Teachers love and nurture their kids and their kids are flourishing. The TELL Mass results show that the teachers are unhappy.

7. Carla Macy, 225 Prairie St., Concord. Ms. Macy stated that letters were published on the Internet that exposed comments about parents and minor children. How do you filter appropriate or inappropriate language?

8. Gerta van Hekesen, 328 Border Rd., Concord. Ms. Hekesen stated that she moved to Concord 1.5 years ago and one of her children was in the class where the teacher was let go. She appreciated the way this teacher made her child feel part of the group.

9. Scott Bates, 52 Indian Spring Rd., Concord. Mr. Bates stated that he was disappointed by the tone of the meeting. His children had a wonderful experience with the third grade teacher who resigned and the teacher who is not being asked back. Something is broken and needs to be fixed.

10. Carolyn Wilkins, 51 Hillside Ave., Concord. Ms. Wilkins stated that she has been alarmed lately about the Thoreau issue. Ms. Wilkins thinks what is going on at Thoreau is horrendous and the town is better than that. Teachers have their resumes out.

11. Hilary Boynton, 1415 Main St., Concord. Ms. Boynton stated that she is invested in the schools and has 4 children in the system. One of her children has the teacher who is not being asked to return and her son has excelled on every level in her classroom. Ms. Boynton's fear is that we are losing veteran teachers.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Mr. Benincasa seconded by Ms. Snook to adjourn the CSC. The motion was unanimously approved and the CSC meeting adjourned at 9:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Sally W. Ferguson
Approved: 06/11/13

Abbreviations:

CSC	Concord School Committee
CCSC	Concord-Carlisle Regional District School Committee
CPS	Concord Public Schools
CCRSD	Concord-Carlisle Regional School District
CCHS	Concord-Carlisle Regional High School
CMS	Concord Middle School
DESE	Department of Early and Secondary Education
MICCA	Massachusetts Instrumental & Choral Conductors Association
TELL	Teaching, Empowering, Learning and Leading