

JOINT SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Concord-Carlisle School Committee
Concord School Committee
CCHS Library
November 26, 2013

Present:

Louis Salemy, Chair, CCSC
Pamela Gannon, Chair, CSC; CCSC
Jennifer Munn, Vice Chair, CCSC, CSC
Kathleen Snook, Vice Chair, CSC; CCSC
Phil Benincasa, CSC, CCSC
Johanna Boynton, CSC, CCSC

Present From Administration:

Diana Rigby, Superintendent of Schools, CPS & CCRSD
John Flaherty, Deputy Superintendent of Finance & Operations, CPS & CCRSD

Absent:

Melissa McMorrow, CCSC

I. CALL TO ORDER

The session was called to order by Mr. Salemy for CCSC and Ms. Gannon for CSC at 6:00 PM.

A motion was made by Ms. Snook and seconded by Ms. Munn for CSC and CCSC to enter into Executive Session under Purpose 6 of the Open Meeting Law: to consider the purchase, exchange, lease or value of real property and the discussion in open session may be detrimental to the negotiating position, and Purpose 3: to discuss strategies with respect to collective bargaining and litigation and the open meeting might have a detrimental effect on the bargaining and litigation positions.

The motions were approved by roll call: Salemy, Aye, Munn Aye, Snook Aye, Gannon, Aye, Boynton, Aye.

The Concord School Committee and the Concord-Carlisle School Committee adjourned at 6:05 PM into Executive Session to return to Open Session at approximately 6:30 PM.

The Concord School Committee and the Concord-Carlisle School Committee returned to Open Session and was called to order by Mr. Salemy for CCSC and Ms. Gannon for CSC at 6:30 PM. Mr. Salemy and Ms. Gannon noted that the meeting is being recorded by CCTV and a citizen.

II. READING OF THE MINUTES

A motion was made by Mr. Benincasa seconded by Ms. Munn for CCSC to approve the minutes for the October 22, 2013 Joint School Committee Meeting, the November 4, 2013 Joint School Committee Meeting and November 12, 2013 Joint School Committee Meeting. The motions were unanimously approved.

Welcome To Student Representatives: Vineet Chandra, Jacob Meyerson. Vineet state that the Student Senate Executive Committee discussed the proposed budget cuts, and students are concerned about how the cuts would affect curriculum and existing classes (English particularly). Jacob stated that events coming up in this week's Spirit Week are the Powder Puff Football Game, Red Cross Blood Drive, and the Thanksgiving Day Football Game. The Student Senate is planning a coordination meeting with Town Youth Services.

III. CHAIRS REPORT

A. Ms. Gannon stated that there will be an additional Joint School Committee Meeting on December 2, 2013 for the Concord Carlisle At Play presentation at 6:30 at Ripley.

B. The next School Committee Community Coffee will be December 3, 2013 @ Peabody Forum, 7:00-8:30 PM. School Committee present will be prepared to discuss transportation and the Special Town Meeting article on the acquisition of Knox Trail as well as other topics of interest to attendees.

C. Ms. Gannon stated that the Concord Finance Committee met and voted on their final guidelines. The Finance Committee guidelines have been set and the increase to the CPS FY15 budget is 4.17% (the School Committee had requested 4.5%) and the increase to the CCRSD FY15 budget is 3.01% (the School Committee

had requested 3.25%). The School Committees will vote on the budgets at the December 10, 2013 School Committee Meeting.

IV. CORRESPONDENCE

A. Email from the Acton Water District to Town Manager Chris Whelan regarding discussions for the Knox Trail parcel.

B. Mr. Salemy stated that at the request of the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA), he and Stan Durlacher, Chair of the Concord-Carlisle Building Committee, were asked to prepare a detailed response to statements that were made in a letter from Bill Plummer. Mr. Plummer's August 19, 2013 letter of complaint to the MSBA was regarding the CCHS design-related increases in project costs. After a September 2013 meeting with the MSBA, Mr. Salemy and Mr. Durlacher provided their response to the MSBA in October 2013. The MSBA asked that the response be forwarded to Mr. Plummer. Mr. Salemy did this via email on November 22, 2013.

V. RECOGNITIONS

A. CCHS:

- Isaac Xia, Semifinalist/Siemens Foundation
- Robin Cicchetti, Library Media Specialist, for being chosen to serve as the Metrowest Area Co-Director on the 2013-14 Executive Board of the Massachusetts School Library Association
- David Nurenberg – appointed the delegate from the US to the Global Conference on Education, Sports & Tourism held in Turkmenistan. Two exchange students from Turkmenistan are currently studying at CCHS.

VI. REPORTS & ISSUES FOR DISCUSSION

A. School Bus Consultants (SBC) Transportation Consulting Services Report. Mr. Phil McConnell and Mr. Tim Ammon gave a presentation. The main points were: 1) The overall viability of outsourced services, 2) The advantages (if any) of various alternative outsourcing scenarios, 3) The potential for the collaborative use of municipal fleet maintenance facilities, 4) The value of the fleet, 5) The procurement process and the impact on the results of previous proposals. If the District outsources, Mr. McConnell and Mr. Tim recommended maintaining the same bell schedule for CCRSD and CPS, as well as selling (vs. maintaining ownership) of the bus fleet.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS ON SCHOOL BUS CONSULTANT'S REPORT

1. Susan Kalled, 100 Elsinore St., Concord. Ms. Kalled stated that she believes to keep busing in house is less expensive. She expressed concern about maintenance of other school-owned vehicles, after school activities, and family fees.
*Mr. Salemy responded that the analysis was done with no plan to charge families a fee for bus service.

2. Wendy Rovelli (Finance Committee) 42 Bow St., Concord. Ms. Rovelli asked about the consultants' experience on contract renewal. The speculation is that someone might under bid the first time around, but the second time around the contract price might go up substantially. *SBC responded that there is no evidence that companies do this because districts can either renew or rebid, and companies need to remain competitive.

3. Tanya Gailus, 62 Prescott Rd., Concord. Ms. Gailus stated that she saw buses at the high school at the end of day with few students on them. She wondered if it is possible to have only the necessary fleet to accommodate everyone who is actually riding the bus. She expressed concern about safety considerations and safety records for bus companies. *SBC responded that different ridership is common and some districts aggregate kids from different schools (as Concord does with Sanborn and Peabody) to be efficient. With regard to safety, when designing bid and assessing responses, they require companies to submit safety records and then compare performance. *Mr. Salemy indicated that in Carlisle, where busing is outsourced, 7th and 8th grade riders are charged a fee and that controls the number of buses and improves efficiency. *Ms. Snook noted that by Massachusetts Law, all regional

school districts (such as CCHS) must provide busing (free of charge) and allocate a seat for every student who lives more than 1.5 miles from the school.

B. NESDEC Projections. Ms. Rigby stated that we received our enrollment projections. The Enrollment Study Group is meeting next week to review these projections as well as to discuss the latest information we have from the Planning Department. Mr. Flaherty reviewed the historical enrollment and projections. NESDEC uses a cohort survival method that incorporates birth rate, previous 5-yr enrollment, building permits and housing starts. For Concord Public Schools during the period from 2003 to 2013, the low was 1809 in 2007 and the high was 2152 in 2013. The NESDEC projection for CPS is 2436 in 2018. For Concord-Carlisle Regional High School during the period 2003 to 2013, the low was 1204 in 2003 and the high was 1268 in 2008. The NESDEC projection for CCHS in 2018 is 1378.

VII. ACTION ITEMS

A. Vote to approve Trip To England April 2015. A motion was made by Ms. Munn, seconded by Mr. Benincasa, that the CCSC approve the trip to England in April 2015. Ms. Dana Graham, CCHS English teacher, proposed coordinating a trip that will aim for participating students to understand the history and culture of England with a focus on theater and Shakespeare. The motion was unanimously approved.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

A. CCHS Building Project. Mr. Salemy stated that the MSBA Topping Off Ceremony will be December 9, 2013 at 11:00 AM at the new high school site. Concrete has been poured on the floor and sheetrock has been put up and heat will be blown in for the ceremony.

B. Transportation – December 4, 2013 Town Meeting Article #1. Ms. Boynton stated that the situation has gotten complicated. The Concord Town Manager has identified three significant issues: 1) The seller has informed the Town Manager that his partner has declared bankruptcy and his ownership interest is tied up by his bank. The purchase and sale agreement that we expected to execute weeks ago has remained unsigned. 2) The Town's attorney discovered that the parcel is part of a commercial condominium that prohibits the operation of a maintenance facility on the premises and 3) The Acton Water District has come forward with concerns regarding the proximity of this site to the Assabet well fields. Ms. Boynton is working with the Town Manager and Board of Selectmen in addressing these issues.

IX. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

A. 2013-2014 Superintendent's Goals. Ms. Rigby stated that every year she prepares a Superintendent's Plan; the District Goals have already been approved. The next step is to provide a Professional Practice Goal and a Student Learning Goal. The Professional Practice Goal was developed directly from the Superintendent rubrics in the area of improvement around building communication strategies, to resolve conflict and build consensus through the school community, and sustaining a culture of reflective practice and continuous learning for staff.

- a. Professional Practice Goal: By June 2014, communication strategies will be increased and varied for responding to disagreement and dissent, constructively resolving conflict, building consensus throughout the school community, and sustaining a culture of reflective practice and continuous learning for staff.
- b. Student Learning Goal: By June 2014, students in grades K-12 will master critical end of year grade level standards and the achievement gaps for identified student groups will be reduced.

A motion was made by Mr. Benincasa seconded by Ms. Boynton that the CSC and the CCSC approve the 2013-2014 Superintendent's Goals as stated with changes. The motions were unanimously approved.

X. CITIZENS' COMMENTS

1. Nancy Szczesniak and Josh Szczesniak, 124 Aberdeen Dr., Carlisle. Ms. Szczesniak stated that the computer programming classes at the high school are below par; they do not adequately prepare students interested in engineering and technology for their futures. Josh Szczesniak, CCHS student, stated that there are only two programming courses offered per year which means that only 40 students get to take these courses. They distributed a handout with a comparison to other districts.

2. Cynthia Rainey, 80 Hunters Ridge, Concord. Ms. Rainey stated that she wanted to echo the sentiment about the computer classes. They are not just for students who are interested in entering the computer field, but

for all students. Ms. Rainey stated that she appreciates all the work everyone is doing on transportation; she feels that there should be a Memorandum of Understanding between the School Committees and the Concord Board of Selectmen regarding the Knox Trail land.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Mr. Benincasa, seconded by Ms. Snook, for CSC and a motion was made by Mr. Benincasa, seconded by Ms. Snook for CCSC to adjourn the meeting. The motions were unanimously approved and the meeting adjourned at 9:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Sally W. Ferguson
Approved: 01/28/14

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
MSBA	Massachusetts School Building Authority
NESDEC	New England School Development Council