

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

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. Snook at 6:32 PM. Ms. Snook noted that the meeting is being recorded.

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

III. READING OF THE MINUTES

None.

IV. CHAIRS REPORT

A. Ms. Snook stated that there is an EDCO Round Table meeting on February 11, 2015. She reported that there was a School Committee Community Coffee the previous week and there were 6 attendees. Topics discussed included budget, public comments and information sharing, and CC at Play. Ms. Snook stated that the Youth Risk Behavior Survey public forum was snowed out, but rescheduled for March 2, 2015 at 7 PM at the CCHS Learning Commons. Ms. Snook noted that the March 28, 2015 SC Community Coffee will need to be rescheduled due to a conflict at CCHS.

D. Ms. Munn stated the new building received the Certificate of Occupancy on February 10, 2015. Ms. Munn thanked Mr. Fleming, Ms. Rigby and Mr. Flaherty for all of the work they had done to ensure the project was on time. Ms. Munn stated that future joint SC meetings would be held at Ripley due to the move at the high school.

V. CORRESPONDENCE

A. Emails. Ms. Snook received several emails: 7 emails about the Thoreau principal search and the process involved, 1 email inviting the SC members to the Thoreau PTG meeting (Ms. Snook noted that Mr. Johnston and she attended) and 2 emails regarding school closings.

B. Your Voice Matters. Ms. Rigby received several Your Voice Matters: 2 with regards to the calendar, 1 regarding vaccinations, 1 regarding the Day at Thoreau for the prospective candidate for principal and 1 regarding personnel issues. Ms. Snook stated that several topics would be addressed during the meeting.

VI. RECOGNITIONS

A. Ms. Rigby recognized the snow removal team, including Brian Schlegel, Brian Ouellette, Rocky Griffin, Keith Nelms and Bob Sicard who have been working non-stop to ensure the schools were cleared and safe for students and staff with the recent snow storms.

B. Ms. Rigby recognized Wayne Busa, John Arena, and April Healey from transportation for all of the work they have done with safely navigating the buses with all of the recent snow. Ms. Rigby also thanked bus mechanics Kevin Meagher and Joe Signor for all of their hard work as well.

C. Willard: Pat Fernandez recognized Genoveva Matheus, Susan Chafe and Laurie Penney for all of their hard work preparing for PARCC. She noted their work in the areas of communicating to parents about what to anticipate, training teachers and Ms. Matheus' technical expertise with the transition.

D. Thoreau: Chris Mahoney recognized Laurie Link for spearheading the PARCC assessment; Sue Howard for her work on PARCC as well as the math piloting; Jacqui McKenna for all of her work in coaching; Beth Kalikstein for her tireless work ensuring her students perform at their highest level.

E. Alcott: Sharon Young recognized John Peachey for all of his behind the scenes work preparing for PARCC.

VII. REPORTS & ISSUES FOR DISCUSSION

A. Mid Year Reports on School Improvement Plans: The elementary teachers spoke regarding summaries and highlights on their School Improvement Plans.

Alcott: Ms. Young stated that they are making great progress. She noted they are continuing to work and expand the development of the Common Core curriculum. Ms. Young stated that they had a wonderful 1-day workshop with Nancy Boyles with teachers of grades 3-5 and that Ms. Boyles will also be returning at the end of April to work with grades 1 and 2 teachers. Ms. Young stated that they are continuing to meet as a school every 6 weeks to review student progress. Meetings involve discussing and revising services/interventions to help students in concern. Teachers, support staff and special education staff are also involved. Ms. Rigby noted that this is a great example of professional collaboration and embedded professional development. Ms. Young stated that one area that they are continuing to work on is closing the gap with the students in the high needs area. She noted that they have given out 169 awards recognizing students for their caring, cooperative and respectful behavior. Ms. Young also stated they are revamping their poster design for the caring, cooperative and respectful campaign.

Thoreau: Mr. Mahoney stated that the current processes and systems, including weekly grade level meetings, have been going well. He stated that getting ready for PARCC, as well as their commitment to social/emotional learning have been a big part of what Thoreau is about. He noted the "3 Bs: Be safe, Be respectful, Be responsible" are working very well. Mr. Mahoney stated that there is a very effective, highly engaged team at the school, including Technology Director Sue Howard with her work on PARCC assessments, training and technology needs. He noted the great success of the meetings every 6 weeks. He mentioned many of the children on RTI support have been able to rotate off. Mr. Mahoney noted Ms. Pettyjohn, librarian, who works with each grade level and integrates her resources within the regular academic program. Mr. Mahoney also commented on Bob Fardy who has done a great job working with different grade levels and looking at different ways of reaching students using a variety of learning strategies. Mr. Mahoney noted the great number of professional development available to staff.

Willard: Ms. Fernandes stated that she is very pleased with the progress the students are making. She noted how proud she was of the teachers with their work on RTI and the progress meetings every 6 weeks. Ms. Fernandes noted what a great collaboration the meetings were and she noted the amount of job embedded professional development. Ms. Fernandes stated that the math embedded job professional development is key as they have made the transition to the common core and more implementation of math practice standards. She noted all the work Laurie Penney has done to help the students and teachers. Ms. Fernandes stated that Technology Specialist, Genoveva Matheus, has done a great job sharing her knowledge throughout the building. Ms. Fernandes noted that Open Circle is still going strong and helps children to understand their responsibilities as good school citizens. She noted the mindfulness training that is happening at the school. Ms. Fernandes stated that collaboration is a big part of the school environment.

During the reports, the Committee applauded the work being done at each of the schools and discussed time provided for teacher collaboration and grade level meetings, professional development, use of RTI (Response to Intervention), the new educator evaluation system, and the PARCC. The Committee also discussed the current anxiety levels of children in the lower grades and the amount of time that children are allowed to play at the kindergarten level. The principals all agreed that they feel the kindergarten children are allowed adequate time to play and develop social skills. Mr. Mahoney noted the high level of anxiety he's observed in the children.

VIII. ACTION ITEMS

A. Vote to approve removing Good Friday as a holiday on the current CPS calendar. After a discussion about the school calendar and current end of school dates as a result of six snow days due to the recent snowstorms, a motion was made by Mr. Benincasa, seconded by Mr. Johnston, to amend the current CPS calendar and remove Good Friday as a holiday. The motion was unanimously approved.

IX. OLD BUSINESS

A. Transportation. Ms. Boynton stated that she had spoken with the Town Manager and the Board of Selectman and they were continuing negotiations with WR Grace and they feel confident they will have clarity this month. Mr. Benincasa questioned how to move forward in creating a group to look into future transportation possibilities. The SC discussed different aspects of creating an advisory group to look at alternative fuel buses. Ms. Boynton will provide ideas about the charge and composition of a possible alternative fuel bus advisory group at the next joint meeting.

X. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

A. Thoreau Principal Search. Ms. Rigby noted that the Thoreau Principal position was posted in November and a survey of staff and community took place with regards to what attributes and skills they were looking for in a new principal. She noted that the District received over 50 applications, which were reviewed to see which applicants met the criteria. A committee, composed of Administrators, teachers, staff and a parent, then interviewed 6 candidates and recommended 2 finalists to move forward. References were then checked, during which 1 finalist dropped out due to personal reasons. Ms. Rigby stated that the finalist remaining is Ms. Angel Charles, who is currently the principal of the Haley School in Roslindale. Ms. Rigby noted that she and a team visited the Haley School on February 6, 2015, where they met with parents and faculty. Ms. Rigby stated that Ms. Charles' visit to Thoreau has been rescheduled from February 10th to February 11th due to snow. At the end of the afternoon visit, Ms. Charles will meet with parents and the School Committee from 5:00-6:00 PM in the Thoreau cafeteria.

B. PARCC Presentation. Ms. Rigby acknowledged Kristen Herbert for doing a great presentation last week for families in K-8 at Sanborn and she also thanked Mr. Johnston, Joyce Carter (Language Arts Specialist at Thoreau), Sue Howard and Sharon Young for joining them. Ms. Rigby noted that the parents had great questions.

C. Calendar. Ms. Rigby stated that they have had 6 snow days so far and have planned for 5. She stated the final day for CPS is June 26, 2015 and the final day for CCHS is June 29, 2015. She asked the SC to consider Good Friday being taken off the calendar as a holiday. Ms. Rigby noted that the school year has to be completed by June 30th. Additionally, she noted that the state requires 180 days of attendance and 900 hours of instructional time. She also suggested pursuing a waiver of the 180-day requirement, given that the high school is moving in April. The Committee discussed the religious holidays as well as scheduled holidays as a bigger issue with the calendar. The Committee agreed that further work should be done in creating future calendars, including re-assessing vacations as well as collecting data and input from the community. The Committee agreed that safety is paramount and fully supports cancellation of school when the conditions are not safe for student travel to school, school bus operations and school site/facilities operation.

D. Immunizations. Ms. Rigby spoke regarding the recent measles outbreak in California. She stated that the current Policy at CPS (JLCB) does not admit any kindergarten student without required immunizations, unless the parents have an exemption based on their religious beliefs or an exemption from their health care provider that the immunization endangers the health of a child. She noted that CPS has a high immunization rate. She noted that the state's data show variable rates between Alcott, Thoreau and Willard due to the fact that Thoreau has more exemptions, as well as the timing of the shots in the series at the time the survey was taken. She also stated that if there were an outbreak of a communicable disease, the students who were not immunized would not be allowed to go to school.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Mr. Benincasa, seconded by Ms. Boynton, to adjourn the meeting. The motion was unanimously approved and the meeting adjourned at 8:27 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Erin E. Higgins

Approved: 2/24/15

Abbreviations:

CASE	Cooperative Association for Special Education
CSC	Concord School Committee
CCSC	Concord-Carlisle Regional District School Committee
CPS	Concord Public Schools
CCRSD	Concord-Carlisle Regional School District
CCHS	Concord-Carlisle High School
CHPS	The Collaborative for High Performance Schools
CTA	Concord Teachers Association
FINCOM	Finance Committee
OPEB	Other Post-Employment Benefits
RTI	Response to Intervention
SEPAC	Special Education Advisory Committee