

JOINT SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Concord – Carlisle School Committee  
Concord School Committee  
Ripley Building  
March 24, 2015

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  
William Fink, CCSC  
Mary Storrs, 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. Munn for CCSC and Ms. Snook for CSC at 6:34 PM. Ms. Snook noted that the meeting is being recorded. Ms. Munn noted that they will be taking public comments at the beginning of the meeting and then after the CC at Play presentation, they will take questions regarding Phase II of the Field Renovations Project.

Student Senate representative Rahul Chopra stated that they are still working on the amendments that are planned for the constitution so they are compliant with the state law. He also stated that they are also working on making sure there is a greater representation of Student Senate across the school. He noted that they are working on having representatives attend different advisories to have students become more aware of the senate.

**II. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

1. Robert Grom, Mildred Circle, Concord, MA. Mr. Grom voiced his concern for CC at Play in terms of the health concerns of the crumb rubber. He noted that there is no conclusive evidence that it is safe or unsafe. He noted that lead thresholds have been recently lowered. He noted his concern for the contact the children will have with the crumb rubber material. He acknowledged the fact that CC at Play has been available at many forums. He stated that the SC should have conducted at least 1 or 2 of these as public hearings. He also noted that the Board of Health never addressed the issue. He also felt the analysis of field usage numbers by Gale Associates was inadequate. In addition, he felt that the neighborhood abutters concerns should be captured in an amendment to the user agreement. Mr. Grom said there was no effective cost comparison study over a 15-20 year period of maintenance and replacement costs and how they will impact the budget in the future. He stated that with all of the issues he's mentioned, that the school committee should delay the project for 1 year.

2. Dean Banfield, 73 Walden Terrace, Concord, MA. Mr. Banfield presented the Committee with a handout of the CC at Play project. Mr. Banfield thanked the Committee for holding the meeting and noted that he is going to focus his comments on the lower fields portion of the project. He noted his concerns with several aspects of the Gale Associate plans, including: the space between the field hockey and soccer fields, the size of the softball field, the close proximity of the asphalt to the field hockey field and the sidewalk's proximity to the fields.

3. Jeffrey Frasier, 58 Ridgewood Road, Concord, MA. Mr. Frasier stated that he has coached in town for over 12 years. He noted that based on the research that has been done in Europe, California and Connecticut, there are no medical or specific disease patterns that can be linked to artificial field use. He stated that weather is not an issue with artificial turf fields and there is no need for fertilizer. He stated that he hopes the School Committee supports CC at Play.

4. Peter Fishelis, 16 Maple Street, Concord, MA. Mr. Fishelis, Varsity Girls Soccer Coach, noted that he prefers to play on grass fields; however, he noted that that is not a reality due to the number of sports and athletes playing on the

fields. He stated that he has looked at research and there is nothing conclusive one way or another. He noted that the turf does not need to be fertilized or watered. He noted that if the turf fields get too hot, that they get the kids off the field and take breaks, noting that the kids are not even on the fields during the hottest parts of the year. Mr. Fishelis asked the School Committee to move forward with the project.

### **III. READING OF THE MINUTES**

A. There were no minutes to be read.

### **IV. CHAIRS REPORT**

A. Ms. Munn stated that she was at the CC at Play forum the previous night and that she and Ms. Snook will be attending the League of Women Voters the next morning. Ms. Snook noted that they have had several SC Community Coffees and a PTG forum and there appears to be a desire for more information. She stated that they are going to have 4 more Coffees: April 1, 2015 at Ripley from 11:30 AM – 1:00 PM; April 6, 2015 at the Peabody Forum from 7:00 – 8:30 PM; April 8, 2015 at the Willard School from 7:00 – 8:30 PM; April 10, 2015 at the Fowler Library from 1:00 – 2:30 PM. Ms. Snook encouraged the community to come and learn more about the budget as well as other town meeting articles and she noted that there would be 2 school committee members at each coffee. Ms. Munn noted that between these Coffees and the next SC meeting, that there will be several opportunities to ask questions about any of the articles related to the schools. Ms. Snook stated that there is an EDCO Round Table on March 25, 2015 and on March 30, 2015 at 7:00 PM at Ripley, there will be a joint meeting of the Board of Selectman, the Finance Committee and the School Committee. She noted the joint meeting would be about the Minuteman Vocational Technical High School.

### **V. CORRESPONDENCE**

Town Coordination Meeting. Ms. Snook stated that they have received a letter from the town about the Town Coordination meeting stating that it will be held on April 1, 2015 at 3:30 PM, at which the various chairs from the committees will meet with the Town Moderator about what will happen at Town Meeting.

Emails. Ms. Munn stated that they have received a number of emails on the Fields Renovation Project and a couple of responses to the request for people to join the advisory committees. She noted she would have more information at the next meeting. Mr. Benincasa noted that maybe the principals at each school could help solicit members for the committees. Ms. Rigby stated that the Principals have notified the parents that these committees are being formed and they have shared the request if they are interested. The Committee discussed how they can solicit and recruit volunteers, including website sign-ups and sign-ups at various meetings.

DRAFT – Skills Training for Concord Committee & Board Volunteers. Ms. Rigby stated that she has received from the Town the Skills Training for Concord Committee & Board Volunteers. She stated that she has received 2 Your Voice Matters: one pertaining to the MCAS schedule at the High School and 1 pertaining to the High School calendar. She noted that all of the calendars are posted on the website.

### **VI. RECOGNITIONS**

A. Ms. Rigby recognized, on behalf of Mr. Badalament, CCHS Athletic Director Barry Haley, the coaches and students for a successful winter sports season.

B. Ms. Rigby recognized Coach Curt Colarullo and the boys hockey team for their Division 2 North Championship & State finals appearance.

### **VII. REPORTS & ISSUES FOR DISCUSSION**

A. CC at Play – Phase II. John Boynton and John Fisher presented an overview on CC at Play and addressed many of the issues that the public has raised regarding the project. Mr. Boynton stated that the project is going very well and they are in great shape for Phase II. He stated that 6 different contractors have submitted bids and the current low-bidder is RAD, which is the same company that did Phase I. He stated that Phase II would commence on June 8, 2015 and that the football field would be done prior to the first home game and the JV baseball and softball fields would be completed about a month or so after that. Mr. Boynton noted that fundraising continues to go well. He stated that as of the middle of this month, they have raised just over \$2,550,000 in private contributions. He stated that they have been successful in working with Carlisle to gain their support in raising CPA funds.

Mr. Boynton stated that Gale has just completed a comprehensive review of the plans from their original form to identify all of the changes made to the plans. He stated that they would be reviewing the differences the following week. He noted that there were only a few changes made to the overall schematic design. Mr. Fisher noted some of the small changes, including: a change to the location of the maintenance driveway; making any pavement within 100 feet of the wetlands porous pavement or "popcorn" pavement; removing fencing after construction and moving down the slope of the hill; renovating the existing shot-put area. Mr. Fisher also noted that they have been looking into the cross-country trail and they are trying to design a system that runs by the varsity baseball and softball fields in the woods and there is a possible route that runs along the sledding hill and the possibility of using the turf fields as the start and ending points. He noted that they are hoping to have the trail ready for the cross-country meets in the fall.

Mr. Fisher stated that Gale had designed a concession stand, but they chose to pursue a different option for the building. He noted that they wanted to concentrate on the fields first and then the construction of the concession building.

The Committee and Mr. Haley discussed the temporary fence and the fact that it can be removed to make the softball field regulation size.

Mr. Boynton stated that the fields are fully ADA accessible and they did not need to request any variances.

Mr. Fisher and Mr. Boynton presented the draft design for the proposed concession stand/amenities building, noting the sustainability. He noted that they wanted to have the concession portion, bathrooms, and storage space that was lost when the maintenance building was taken down, and also add a trainer room. He noted that solar panels are added in the design to help offset the power used in the field lighting. Mr. Boynton stated that Acorn Deck House Company in Acton, which is owned by a Concord family, has provided the design services at no cost. Mr. Fisher noted the covered porch that would provide a place of refuge in a rain event. Ms. Storrs inquired about security measures. Mr. Boynton noted that the concession stand would be closed unless a game is occurring. He stated the storage and trainer rooms would be locked unless in use. He noted that the bathrooms might be petitioned during practices so all of the stalls are not used. Mr. Boynton stated that this building would be 100% private purchase and donation. They can purchase the components and they will be assembled on site. He noted that they are still working through the details.

Mr. Boynton stated that there is a concern with some people regarding the health and safety of the synthetic fields. He noted that everyone would prefer natural grass, but unfortunately, the requirements of the facility mandate against that. He stated that they need more field space, but there is no more space available. With the synthetic field, he noted that one field can be used in greater capacity and is more sustainable. He stated that the synthetic turf requires no irrigation, no fertilizers and uses 40,000 recycled tires with the materials being fully recyclable at the end of life. He also stated that the turf fields would be cost neutral because it doesn't have to be cut, watered, fertilized or striped each week for games. Mr. Fink questioned the life expectancy of the fields. Mr. Boynton stated that the life expectancy is 12-15 years, with the manufacturer warranty of 8 years. Mr. Boynton stated that they have reviewed research and believe that scientific research shows no evidence that artificial turf causes health issues. Ms. Munn noted the reduction of concussions that have been found with turf field usage. Mr. Boynton noted that they are continuing to look at alternatives to crumb rubber. He also noted that the admissible lead levels in crumb rubber are actually lower than what is in children's toys. Ms. Snook noted that research she has seen shows no health risks of crumb rubber.

Ms. Munn stated that she believed the annual maintenance costs would be absorbed in the budget. Mr. Fisher spoke regarding the machine that is used to fluff the crumb rubber and makes the grass stand up. He noted that leaf blowers would need to be used in the fall. Mr. Fisher noted that if there are very hot days in the summer, the turf may need to be watered, but the fields will mainly be used in the spring and fall. Ms. Munn verified that the replacement cost would be \$450,000. Mr. Boynton noted that the prices are coming down and that \$450,000 is a good number to estimate. Ms. Munn stated they could prepare and plan for that in the budget.

Mr. Johnston stated that we should keep up to date on any research that comes up on crumb rubber and stated that this process is a balance. He noted that this field would serve a lot of people. Ms. Munn stated that the schedule in the Community Use Agreement clarifies that the fields will be closed at 9:30 PM, which was not specified previously. Mr. Fink noted that Carlisle needs a similar use agreement. Mr. Johnston noted the traffic concern with Thoreau Street and

stated that maybe there is a way to close that entrance off on the weekends and enter through Walden Street instead to help the traffic flow in the neighborhood. Ms. Snook agreed that the whole flow of the campus would need to be looked into once the new high school is in operation. Mr. Benincasa commented on how impressed he is with the amount of work that has gone into this. He also noted the amount of criticism/questions/aggravation between those working on the project and watching the project. He stated that he is not satisfied with the actions of the SC in terms of establishing the policies/procedures for such endeavors and should lay out clearly in the future the process that needs to be followed to reduce conflict. Ms. Snook stated that the School Committee consciously chose to enter into this type of public/private agreement and did follow policy. Ms. Munn stated that she felt there has been an abundance of information about the process. Mr. Johnston stated that the next time they have an opportunity like this, they would take what they learned during this process. He also noted that there are public comments and public meetings available.

#### Public questions:

1. Lori Gill-Pazaris, 1376 Old Marlboro Road, Concord, MA. Ms. Gill-Pazaris stated she is with ConcordCAN? and has concerns with the turf fields, noting that university and deep rooted grass fields can withstand less water and less mowing due to the type of grass used and organic fertilizer. She stated that she is a scientist and she has looked at literature, noting that the expert scientists who have reviewed the literature have stated that the studies are not robust enough to draw any public or environmental or health conclusions. She stated that there are over 60 substances in crumb rubber, many of which are toxins with known health impacts. She noted that the particles are quite small and can scatter all over the place.

2. Jean Goldsberry (Chairperson, Concord Committee on Disability & Executive Director Minuteman Arc), 39 Riverside Avenue, Concord, MA. Ms. Goldsberry stated that the Committee on Disability had an opportunity to review the design and wanted to address several issues: handicap parking spots need to be included along driveway opposite north entrance, signage should be included as where accessible routes are and sensory respite areas should be included between the fields for people with sensory issues. Mr. Boynton stated that they would create benches/areas that are off the beaten path for peace and quiet in Phase III.

3. Anne Hayden, 342 Sudbury Road, Concord, MA. Ms. Hayden spoke regarding the ADA issues and parking. She noted that in Phase I, there were plans to include a handicap parking/pull off area where people could be let off. She encouraged the committee to look in this to make it more accessible.

4. Robert Grom, Mildred Circle, Concord, MA. Mr. Grom had a correction to make from an earlier statement he made. He stated that the EPA's position is not that crumb rubber fields are safe. He said that they stated in 2013 that the study they did in 2009 was limited in scope and no conclusion should be drawn from it.

5. Dean Banfield, 73 Walden Terrace, Concord, MA. Mr. Banfield stated that although there is a motion to approve Phase II, he felt that Phase I was not complete yet, so no action should be taken yet. He noted the fact that there is a drainage problem that threatens his property, which has not been addressed yet. He also spoke regarding the operation of the state plumbing code stating that they should consult with the inspector. Mr. Banfield also questioned the announced amendment to the Community Use Agreement. Ms. Munn noted that there was a schedule attached and it was just a clarification, not an amendment, which changed the word "closed" to "9:30 PM" with Chris Whelan's approval.

CC at Play Letter. Ms. Munn spoke regarding the CC at Play Letter and the Buy Brick Program and donor recognition. Mr. Boynton noted that they were looking for support of the process, not actual approvals of specific recognitions. The Committee discussed naming and recognitions.

Ms. Snook thanked CC at Play and all of the people who commented and spoke regarding CC at Play.

B. Town Warrant Articles 22,23,24,25,26,27,36.

Article 22 – FY 2016 CPS Operating Budget Request: Ms. Snook and the Committee spoke regarding the warrant article and how it will be presented at Town Meeting. She noted that she would work with Mr. Flaherty on budget history.

Article 23 – CPS Renovations: Mr. Johnston and the Committee reviewed the warrant article and how he would present it at Town Meeting. Ms. Snook noted that all slides need to be done by the next meeting on April 7, 2015. Ms. Rigby noted that Mr. Flaherty will be involved with the HS move, so it would be helpful to have the slides completed by April 1, 2015.

Article 25 – CPS Bus Replacement: Mr. Boynton spoke regarding Article 25 and the fact that some backstory needs to be included in the slides. She also noted that she will also speak regarding the fact that they are creating an advisory committee to research alternatives.

Article 26 – CCHS Budget: Ms. Munn and the Committee spoke regarding concentrating on the qualitative advantages. She noted the idea of trying to recruit graduates to speak regarding their experiences.

Article 27 – CCRSD School Bus Replacement: Mr. Flaherty stated that Carlisle would be paying for their portion of the buses.

Article 36 – Solar Lease: Ms. Rigby noted that the schools would be added to the list of town buildings that will be included in the solar lease option.

The Committee agreed to read a statement on their position on the bus depot when the warrant articles are presented.

C. First Reading – School Committee Policies:

File: BDFA – School Councils

File: BDFA-E-1 – School Improvement Plan

File: BDFA-E-2 – Submission and Approval of School Improvement Plan

File: BDFA-E-3 – Conduct of School Council Business

File: BDFB-2 – Building Committee – Concord-Carlisle Regional District

File: BDG – School Attorney

File: BE – School Committee Meetings

File: BEC – Executive Sessions

File: BEDA – Notification of School Committee Meetings

File: BEDB – Agenda Format

File: BEDB-E – Agenda Format

File: BEDD – Rules of Order

## VIII. ACTION ITEMS

A. Vote to authorize CC at Play to begin the Buy a Brick Program. A motion was made by Mr. Fink, seconded by Mr. Johnston, to authorize CC at Play to begin the Buy a Brick Program to allow permanent recognition of the generous donors on campus and permanent recognition could take form of a plaque or a brick. The motion was unanimously approved.

B. Vote permission for CCHS geology field trip to Maine. A motion was made by Mr. Benincasa, seconded by Mr. Johnston, to approve the HS geology field trip to Maine. The motion was unanimously approved.

C. Vote to authorize intergovernmental Transfer of Surplus CCHS Modular Buildings. A motion was made by Ms. Boynton, seconded by Mr. Fink, to authorize the intergovernmental transfer of 2 surplus buildings to the CPS. The motion was unanimously approved.

D. Vote to authorize CCHS bus purchase debt authorization. A motion was made by Ms. Boynton, seconded by Mr. Johnston, to authorize \$400,000 of debt to be used for the purchase of replacement school buses and associated equipment. The motion was unanimously approved.

E. Vote to approve Phase II of the Fields Renovation Plan. A motion was made by Ms. Storrs, seconded by Mr. Benincasa, to approve the Phase II Fields Renovation Plan according the current specifications. The motion was unanimously approved.

F. Vote to approve Joint Calendar Advisory Committee. A motion was made for both CSC and CCSC by Mr. Benincasa, seconded by Ms. Boynton, to approve the creation of a Joint Calendar Advisory Committee. The motions were unanimously approved. Ms. Snook thanked Ms. McCausland for her help in creating the committee. Mr. Fink noted that an offer to participate should also be extended to the Carlisle schools.

A motion was made by Mr. Benincasa for CSC and CCSC, seconded by Ms. Boynton, to appoint Ellen Whitney to the 2015 Facilities Naming Advisory Committee.

**IX. OLD BUSINESS**

A. Transportation. Ms. Boynton stated that there is nothing new.

B. CCHS Building Project. Ms. Munn noted that crates arrive next week.

**X. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

A. Performance Report – Spring 2015. Ms. Rigby stated that she is very proud of the Performance Report, which will be published this week, and they will be arriving in everyone's mailboxes before Town Meeting. She encouraged everyone to read it.

B. CCHS Surplus Days & April Move. Ms. Rigby noted that the HS students have additional spring break days in which the move will take place. She stated that April 24, 2015 will be a recycle day for non-profits and April 25, 2015 will be open to the public. Ms. Rigby noted that Pasi Sahlberg, a visiting professor at Harvard who has done research on Finish Education, would be at HS on March 25, 2015.

**XII. ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Ms. Boynton, seconded by Ms. Storrs for CCSC, to adjourn the meeting. A motion was made by Ms. Benincasa, seconded by Mr. Johnston for CSC, to adjourn the meeting. The motions were unanimously approved and the meeting adjourned at 10:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Erin E. Higgins

Approved: 4/7/15

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
CSEC	Comprehensive Sustainable Energy Committee
CTA	Concord Teachers Association
DESE	Department of Elementary & Secondary Education
FINCOM	Finance Committee

MASC	Massachusetts Association of School Committees
MIAA	Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association
NEASC	New England Association of Schools and Colleges
OPEB	Other Post-Employment Benefits
RTI	Response to Intervention
SEPAC	Special Education Advisory Committee