

JOINT SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Concord – Carlisle School Committee
Concord School Committee
Ripley Building
April 28, 2015

Present: Johanna Boynton, Chair Pro tem, CCSC; CSC
Wallace Johnston, Chair, CSC; CCSC
Heather Bout, Vice Chair, CSC; CCSC
Kathleen Snook, CSC; CCSC
Dan Conti, CSC; CCSC
Mary Storrs, CCSC
William Fink, 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. Boynton for CCSC and Ms. Snook for CSC at 6:33 PM. Ms. Snook noted that the meeting is being recorded. Ms. Rigby stated that annually, at the first School Committee Meeting following the conclusion of the Concord Town Meeting, the first order of business is to seat the new Concord School Committee to elect its officers and make other appointments.

ORGANIZATION OF COMMITTEE

A. Seating of the Concord School Committee (CSC) Members: A motion was made by Ms. Snook, seconded by Ms. Boynton, to recognize Kathleen Snook, Johanna Boynton, Wallace Johnston, Heather Bout and Daniel Conti as members of the CSC. The motion was unanimously approved.

B. Election of Officers of the Concord School Committee: Ms. Snook opened the floor for nominations for Chair. Ms. Boynton nominated Ms. Snook and Ms. Bout nominated Mr. Johnston. Ms. Bout noted that it is good to have change on the board and to spread the chair role to multiple members. Ms. Boynton noted that Ms. Snook has been dedicated and hardworking and is quite knowledgeable moving forward in her third year. Ms. Boynton noted several of Ms. Snook's accomplishments and stated that Ms. Snook is best qualified to be the Chair, noting that she is the epitome of dedication and service and has devoted countless hours to this role. She stated that Ms. Snook is thorough, inclusive, and careful and embodies the highest level of integrity. Mr. Conti stated that although he wants to honor Ms. Snook, he feels it is important to rotate the Chair and the Committee will continue to draw on Ms. Snook's knowledge in the years to come. Ms. Snook then asked the members to participate in a roll call vote: Ms. Bout for Mr. Johnston; Mr. Conti for Mr. Johnston; Ms. Boynton for Ms. Snook; Ms. Snook for Ms. Snook; Mr. Johnston for Mr. Johnston. Ms. Snook stated that the roll call was 3 votes for Mr. Johnston and 2 votes for Ms. Snook, so the members have elected Mr. Johnston as the next Chair.

As the newly elected Chair, Mr. Johnston requested nominations for Vice Chair of the Concord School Committee. Mr. Conti nominated Ms. Bout. Ms. Bout stated that she agreed with everything that Ms. Boynton stated about Ms. Snook and she nominated Ms. Snook as Vice Chair. Ms. Snook declined the nomination. Mr. Johnston requested a roll call vote: Ms. Snook for Ms. Bout; Mr. Johnston for Ms. Bout; Ms. Boynton for Ms. Bout; Mr. Conti for Ms. Bout; Ms. Bout for Ms. Bout. Mr. Johnston congratulated Ms. Bout.

C. Appointment of School Committee Recording Secretary – CSC: A motion was made by Ms. Snook, seconded by Ms. Bout, to appoint Ms. Erin Higgins as the School Committee Recording Secretary. The motion was unanimously approved.

II. RECOGNITIONS

A. Appreciation – School Committee Members: Jennifer Munn – 2012-2015 & Phil Benincasa – 2012-2015

Ms. Rigby presented Ms. Munn and Mr. Benincasa with flowers, varsity jackets and a School Committee Chair in recognition of their dedication and hard work on the school committee.

Ms. Rigby, Ms. Snook, Ms. Boynton, Mr. Fink, Ms. Storrs and Mr. Johnston spoke regarding their appreciation of all that Ms. Munn and Mr. Benincasa have done during their terms as School Committee members. 2 members of the public also commented on Mr. Benincasa's and Ms. Munn's terms on the Committee (noted below under public comments).

Mr. Benincasa and Ms. Munn presented the Committee with an impulse clock that was original to the High School when located at the Emerson building. The clock read "Concord High School Emerson Building 1929, In Honor of School Committee Members Past, Present and Future". Mr. Benincasa stated that he hopes the clock can be placed on the wall in view of the SC members. Mr. Benincasa noted how emotional the experience of saying goodbye to public service was in the very same place where he began his service 43 years ago. He then presented the clock to the Chair, Mr. Johnston.

Student Rep, Samantha Shea, spoke regarding the first day at the new high school. She stated that although it was hectic, it was also amazing. On behalf of the students, she thanked the School Committee and Administration and indicated how grateful the students are to have such a phenomenal learning environment, noting that the school facility finally fits the learning environment. She noted the great light in the building.

Student Rep, Rahul Chopra, spoke regarding the new high school and stated that there were only a few concerns with students, including (jokingly) how much walking they were doing and the increase in stair use. He stated that overall they are very happy and it was a great day.

III. PUBLIC COMMENTS

1. Pamela Gannon, 66 Monument Street, Concord, MA. Ms. Gannon stated that she had the privilege of serving with Ms. Munn and Mr. Benincasa, noting Ms. Munn's thoughtfulness and empathy and how she would look at the human side of each situation. She stated that Mr. Benincasa brought a unique perspective to the Committee and was always an advocate for the schools as well as the students. She thanked both for their service.

2. Sue Richardson, 260 Elsinore Street, Concord, MA. Ms. Richardson thanked Ms. Munn and Mr. Benincasa for their service to Concord over the past few years. She noted that she interviewed other people and they all enthusiastically provided input to honoring Ms. Munn and Mr. Benincasa. Ms. Richardson thanked them both for stepping up and dedicating their unique gifts and ensuring the best possible education for this community. She also noted that their service was during a very contentious time in Concord, which couldn't have been easy. She commented on their fortitude in the face of that. Ms. Richardson also thanked them, as well as the other members of the Committee, for their hard work on the new high school building.

3. Stan Durlacher, Concord Street, Carlisle, MA. Mr. Durlacher, Building Committee Chair, stated that this was the 9th school building opening that he has been involved with and that he has worked with 11 superintendents overall. He stated that Ms. Rigby comes out on the top of the list for her dedication to putting the kids first. He recognized Ms. Rigby and thanked her. He stated that it's been a privilege and an honor and that her leadership and effectiveness made today a great day. Mr. Salemy from the Building Committee presented Ms. Rigby with flowers.

4. Louis Salemy, 68 Great Meadows Road, Concord, MA. Mr. Salemy congratulated the School Committee and the School Administration on a successful Town Meeting, noting that the presentations were clear and concise and contained the necessary information for attendees to make an informed decision. He noted that the overwhelming support at Town Meeting recognized the districts strong financial management and planning. He also stated his support of the CC at Play project and urged other Towns considering a public-private partnership to use the CC at Play as a model.

5. Robert Grom, Mildred Circle, Concord, MA. Mr. Grom welcomed the new members, Ms. Bout and Mr. Conti, and also thanked Mr. Benincasa and Ms. Munn. He felt there have been cases of bad judgment on the part of the School Administration and Superintendent over the past years. He feels the use proprietary school email lists to influence Town Meeting Articles was wrong and a case of bad judgment. Mr. Grom stated he is against crumb rubber and questioned that given the vote of 60/40 in favor of the turf at Town Meeting, whether or not the schools and CC at Play

will move forward with the crumb rubber fields. He noted that there are alternatives and that it was not too late to look into them.

4. Valerie Tratnyek, 43 Hill Street, Concord, MA. Ms. Tratnyek stated that she was there to encourage the new school committee members, as well as caution them. She stated that they are very important and that their decisions have consequences. She encouraged them to deliberate to make better decisions. Ms. Tratnyek addressed the CC at Play article at Town Meeting. She stated it was important to note the vote was not overwhelming and there are still many citizen concerns. She expressed concern over this public-private partnership. Ms. Tratnyek stated that the SC should create an official budget review process. She noted some other towns have a budget review process and gave examples.

5. Judy Zaunbrecher, 402 Border Road, Concord, MA. Ms. Zaunbrecher commented on the School Committee Policy BEDH-E – Guidelines for Public Comment. She stated that the policy is redundant with the policy that covers the School Committee and Public Participation (BEDH – Public Participation at Committee Meetings). She also stated that it appears to be in conflict with other policies in terms of how the agenda is set and the SC and Superintendent Relationship. She recommended that the policy be sent back to the sub committee to ensure that it was consistent with other policies or discontinued. She also stated that other school districts do not have similar policies for public comment and so perhaps it's not needed. Additionally, Ms. Zaunbrecher thought the setting of the agenda and format policy and the School Committee/Superintendent Relationship Policy conflict in roles.

6. Anne Hayden, 342 Sudbury Road, Concord, MA. Ms. Hayden presented the SC members with a statement regarding the resolution of the issue of what school employees can and cannot do to influence votes at Town Meeting. She indicated there were conflicting messages between Mr. Benincasa's remarks at Town Meeting and Mr. Johnston's statement in a Concord Journal that the School Committees would not solicit support at Town Meeting again, and Ms. Snook's response to an email indicating no such decision was reached by the School Committee with regard to future actions of the schools with regard to Town Meeting support. She asked the SC to put the issue of guidelines for employee conduct as an agenda item so they and the community can discuss how to move forward and resolve the issue.

7. Bridget Neale Paris, 241 Prairie Street, Concord, MA. Ms. Neale Paris expressed her appreciation to the SC for their time and effort. She stated her concern for the crumb rubber fill and the toxins contained in it. She stated that the best approach would be for the two sides to compromise, citing that the 60/40 vote supporting the turf at Town Meeting indicates a substantial minority and so winner should not take all. She presented the Committee with a petition for Non-Toxic Fill Only in Concord Turf Fields, noting that they have 166 signatures and growing. She noted that although there are no long-term studies with crumb rubber, but there are known carcinogens in the crumb rubber.

8. Dean Banfield, 73 Walden Terrace, Concord, MA. Mr. Banfield welcomed the new members and spoke regarding the design of the fields including the ½ mile-walking loop, which passes near the jurisdictional areas that are controlled by the Wetlands Protection Act of Massachusetts. He noted that due to the Concord Bi-law that controls areas close to wetland borders, the path needs to be 50 feet away from the wetlands border, which he claimed compromises the athletic utility of the complex, impacts the safety of the facility, reduces the maintainability of the fields and does not add any additional access or emergency/maintenance utility.. He recommended removing the walking loop from the plans and using an existing walking loop near the Alcott School that would not cost any money to the schools. He asked the Committee to review the design.

IV. READING OF THE MINUTES

A. Open Session

Joint Meeting – 4/7/15 and 4/13-15/15 – A motion was made by Ms. Snook, for CSC and CCSC, seconded by Mr. Fink for CCSC and Mr. Johnston for CSC, to approve the minutes for the April 7, 2015 Joint School Committee Meeting and the 4/13-15/15 Joint School Committee Meeting.

Mr. Johnston suggested the edit to the 4/13-15/15 minutes to change the sentence in the 2nd paragraph of Reports & Issues for Discussion, Section B to replace "Some members felt that the District and School Committee activities were justified and conducted in accordance with the Advisory, while others were *uncertain of the Advisory guidelines* and felt the District and School Committee should not engage in these activities even if they are allowed." to

“Some members felt that the District and School Committee activities were justified and conducted in accordance with the Advisory, while others were *concerned about the contradictory nature of various portions of the Advisory guidelines* and felt the District and School Committee should not engage in these activities even if they are allowed.”

Ms. Snook indicated that this edit is also related to the concern raised by a citizen during public comments. She clarified that there was not agreement among the Committee to never again engage in the activities under question by the citizen. We agreed to look at Town Meeting related activities in the future. She stated there was not Committee agreement and there was no vote taken. She indicated the statement she read at Town Meeting stated that the Committee never intended to violate any regulations.

The motion was unanimously approved, with the edit noted, with Mr. Fink abstaining from the 4/7/15 vote and Ms. Storrs abstaining from the 4/13-15/15 vote.

V. CHAIRS REPORT

A. Ms. Boynton thanked everyone for their support at Town Meeting with the budget and transportation issues. She also noted that the next EDCO round table is May 6, 2015 from 9:30-11:00 AM. She stated that the next School Committee Community Coffee is May 19, 2015 at 7:00 PM at Alcott. She stated that the next Policy Subcommittee Meeting is May 7, 2015 at 9:00 AM. Ms. Storrs noted that she could not make the May 7th meeting, so they agreed to reschedule.

VI. CORRESPONDENCE

A. Letters: Ms. Rigby stated that they received a Thank you letter from Mr. Christopher Popov who lives on Pleasant Street in Concord. She also received a letter from the Concord-Carlisle Human Rights Council inviting everyone to the Holocaust Remembrance Commemoration on April 26, 2015 at 7:00 PM at the Concord Town House. She also stated that the Office of Civil Rights has notified them that we are going to be investigated regarding a complaint that was filed against the CPS from a Boston parent alleging discrimination on the basis of a disability. The complaint alleged that her son was refused entrance in the MEDCO program based on a disability. Ms. Rigby noted that the Special Education Attorney would be responding to the complaint. She noted that this was an original complaint with the program quality assurance and they found no violation, so she has been assured that there will probably be no violations.

VII. REPORTS & ISSUES FOR DISCUSSION

A. SEPAC – Becky Robichaud and Mary Tambour. Becky Robichaud, Mary Tambour and members of the SEPAC presented their 2014-2015 End of Year Report. The report included new leadership, accomplishments and future goals of the group. The School Committee commented on how much the group has done in such short period of time and thanked them for all of the work they have done, noting how great the resources they are offering are.

B. First Reading – School Committee Policies
File: BEDF – Voting Method
File: BEDG – Minutes
File: BEDH – Public Participation at Committee Meetings
File: BEDH-E – Guidelines for Public Comment
File: BEE – Special Procedures for Conducting Hearings
File: BG – School Committee Policy Development
File: BGB – Policy Adoption
File: BGC – Policy Revision and Review
File: BGD – School Committee Review of Regulations
File: BGE – Policy Dissemination
File: BGF – Suspension of Policies

Ms. Boynton and Ms. Snook stated that this is a first reading for these policies and members should review and note any comments/changes.

VIII. ACTION ITEMS

A. Vote to approve CCHS Football Clinic to South Berwick, ME. Head football coach at CCHS, Mike Robichaud, spoke regarding the 2-day football clinic in South Berwick Maine from July 31 – August 1, 2015. He noted that this is

not a required clinic and is optional for the players. A motion was made by Ms. Snook, seconded by Ms. Bout, to approve the CCHS Football Clinic to South Berwick, ME. The motion was unanimously approved.

B. Vote to appoint SC member on Town Audit Committee. A motion was made by Ms. Snook, seconded by Ms. Bout, to appoint Mr. Johnston to the Town Audit Committee. The motion was unanimously approved.

C. Vote to approve two AFS Foreign Exchange Students @ CCHS. Ms. Rigby noted that the exchange students have not been identified yet because they are looking for host families. A motion was made by Mr. Fink, seconded by Mr. Johnston, to approve two AFS Foreign Exchange Students @ CCHS. The motion was unanimously approved.

D. Vote to approve CCHS Building Project Change Order #12. A motion was made by Ms. Snook, seconded by Mr. Fink, to approve an increase of \$51,526 to the Turner Construction contract, for a contract value of \$77,991,865. The motion was unanimously approved.

IX. OLD BUSINESS

A. Transportation. Ms. Boynton stated that WR Grace needs to complete a survey so they can get approvals. She noted that we have the funds for the new building when we get access to the land. She stated that at the special Town Meeting, the vote to take WR Grace by Eminent Domain was approved as well as the funding and the bus purchases. Mr. Flaherty asked if the Committee would like him to move forward with invitation for bids for the buses. The Committee agreed to move forward. Ms. Boynton noted that there were a few citizens interested in the Advisory Committee on Alternative Fuel Buses and she was going to speak with them regarding scope and timing. Mr. Flaherty noted that he would be looking at State House bonds for the financing of the regional piece.

B. CCHS Building Project. Ms. Rigby stated that it was a wonderful day and they greeted all of the students as they entered the building through the North and South entrances. Ms. Rigby thanked Stan Durlacher, Louis Salemy, The Building Committee, the School Committees, Turner Construction, OMR Architects, KBA, CCHS Administration, Faculty, Staff, Students and District Administration for contributing to the fabulous day of opening the state of the art facility. She noted that over 3,000 crates were moved over 3-4 days. Ms. Rigby provided pictures of the day. Mr. Fink noted that Ms. Rigby left herself out of the list of people who should be thanked and noted that if it was her leadership that made it so successful. Ms. Snook noted that Ms. Rigby was involved with every aspect of the move and worked tirelessly over vacation. Ms. Rigby noted that there will be a community open house at the High School on Saturday, May 2, 2015 from 9:00-2:00 PM.

Ms. Rigby acknowledged the CCHS Admin team including Mr. Badalament, Ms. Meaney and Mr. Miller for all of their hard work preparing the logistics for the move. She also thanked the faculty and staff for packing over 3,000 crates. She stated that the movers, A and A Consultants, had a team of 18 workers and packed up the trucks and specialized equipment. Ms. Rigby also thanked Mr. Schlegel and Mr. Ouellette for being there every day and doing such a great job. She noted all of the work the building service workers performed and what a fabulous job they did. Ms. Rigby also thanked the IT staff who ensured the building was totally connected, noting the 24 flat screen monitors, the media wall, and dashboard and security system. She also thanked the kitchen staff for their work all week in providing breakfasts and lunches. She also thanked Turner Construction and the moving team.

Ms. Rigby stated there was an online system for recommendations/situations if anything that isn't working correctly in the new building. She said the architects would then come back and meet with each department to go over the recommendations and fix anything that needs to be fixed. She noted that it is an ongoing process.

C. CC at Play. Mr. Johnston stated that he would provide an update on CC at Play at the next regional meeting.

X. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

A. CCHS Move. Discussed above under Old Business.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Mr. Fink, seconded by Ms. Storrs for CCRSD, to adjourn the meeting. A motion was made by Ms. Bout, seconded by Mr. Conti for CSC, to adjourn the meeting. The motions were unanimously approved and the meeting adjourned at 8:58 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Erin E. Higgins

Approved: 5/26/15

Abbreviations:

CASE	Cooperative Association for Special Education
CSC	Concord School Committee
CCSC	Concord-Carlisle Regional District School Committee
CPA	Community Preservation Act
CPC	Community Preservation 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 Council