

JOINT SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Concord – Carlisle School Committee  
Concord School Committee  
Ripley Building  
March 22, 2016

Present: Johanna Boynton, Chair, CCSC; CSC  
William Fink, Vice Chair, CCSC  
Wallace Johnston, Chair, CSC; CCSC  
Heather Bout, Vice Chair; CSC; CCSC  
Mary Storrs, CCSC  
Kathleen Snook, CSC; CCSC  
Dan Conti, 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. Boynton, for CCSC, and Mr. Johnston, for CSC, at 6:34PM. Mr. Johnston noted that the meeting is being recorded.

A. PUBLIC HEARING ON SCHOOL CHOICE: Ms. Rigby proposed that Concord and Concord-Carlisle SC's vote on the participation / no participation of School Choice for the 2016-2017 school year. She recommended that both Districts not participate in the School Choice provisions for these reasons: The CPS and CCHS enrollment will be increasing for the next 5 years according to NESDEC projections and there is not an equitable or adequate transportation system in place to allow all students to be able to attend a school in another district.

Public Comments: Phil Benincasa stated that he appreciated the wording but hoped that the SC would address this issue as being unfair to a huge number of students around the area who's situation doesn't allow them to arrange for transportation. He noted that it was an issue of ethics that the State has failed on.

A motion was made by Ms. Snook, seconded by Ms. Bout, that Concord and Concord-Carlisle SC's not participate in School Choice for school year 2016-2017. The motion was unanimously approved.

The public hearing portion of the meeting ended at 6:39PM.

**II. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

1. Emerson Lin, 92 Powers Road, Concord, MA. Emerson, student at Alcott School, stated that she really likes the play that she is doing and loves feeding the turtles. She stated that they sometimes have 2 math classes a day and recommended using materials for math to help understand the problems more and visualize the problems. She noted how choppy the schedule is and recommended combining science and social studies. She invited the SC to visit her class to see what happens in a day.

2. Janet Miller, 1647 Main Street, Concord, MA. Ms. Miller asked the SC to support Article 47 and stated although the SC supported the insulation of crumb rubber at the HS, that a lot has changed since then.

3. Buzz Congram, 64 Francis Street, Concord, MA. Mr. Congram stated that he would like the SC to support Article 47 and noted that he has been aware of the dangers of crumb rubber over the last few years. He stated that the EPA and the Consumer Product Safety organization couldn't say at this point that crumb rubber is safe. He said that he is concerned with all of the red flags being raised and recommended airing on the side of caution.

4. Lois Whitney, 170 Heath's Bridge Road, Concord, MA. Ms. Whitney passed around a statement from the Mt. Sinai Children's Environmental Health Center. She stated that many government agencies have recently modified their

stances on the safety of crumb rubber. She stated that the EPA feels existing studies do not comprehensively evaluate the concerns of health risks of exposure to tire crumb. She stated that Mt. Sinai's position, based on the recent developments, is that they recommend a moratorium pending results of the studies. She asked the SC to support a 3-year moratorium to have more time to explore the ongoing issues with crumb rubber.

5. Paul Horowitz, 173 Hayward Mill Road, Concord, MA. Mr. Horowitz stated that he reviewed the slides for the STEM/STEAM presentations and was struck that the word technology didn't come up. He stated that he has spent an enormous amount of time studying the question of how science and technology in education are related. He noted that he works at a non-profit and they have a website full of activities that are aligned to the next generation science standards that can be used at all levels. He noted the website: Concord.org/ngss. He also stated that he felt that people should be able to make comments at the time of what they are commenting on is being discussed so they are more relevant.

6. Anne Hayden, 342 Sudbury Road, Concord, MA. Ms. Hayden had many questions on the CC at Play project, including what happened to the plans for the maintenance shed and also the question on the number of bathrooms; portable toilets and permitting; artificial turf in band wall area; cross country course and overlook; Phase 3 budget.

7. Dean Banfield, 73 Walden Terrace, Concord, MA. Mr. Banfield spoke regarding a previous request to reevaluate the possibility of citing the bus fleet at the CCHS campus. He encouraged the SC to reevaluate the hazardous remediation plans for that area. He noted that parking on the campus has always been tight and new areas are necessary to accommodate regular use. He stated that adding more parking is not optional and that Town Meeting is likely to strain the new reduced capacity. He stated that he's arrived at a modified position regarding the repositioning of the bus yard - the buses should be parked at the Grace land and he supports bonding for Articles 14 & 15. He noted however, that passing the articles should provide the SC more flexibility than they have explored. He noted that there is a 5-year timetable to cap the area and there's time to take another look and retain the parking already in place.

8. Mike Lawson, 1695 Lowell Road, Concord, MA. Mr. Lawson stated he was there as a member of the Financial Audit Advisory Committee to look at audits of the town and the municipal light plant and report back to the Select Board. He stated that they proposed how their charge could be improved and the committee felt that the Regional School audit could be included in the process. He stated that they would come before the Regional School Committee before they accept the audit and provide a report similar to the one they provide to the Select Board. He thanked the SC for the opportunity and hoped they would agree to participate.

9. Betsy Bilodeau, 342 Sudbury Road, Concord, MA. Ms. Bilodeau stated that she was there to thank Ms. Snook for her incredible service to the Town for the last 3 years. She stated that Ms. Snook is prepared for every meeting and discussion and she came at a crucial time for the schools. She noted how many people in town have approached her about how much they are going to miss Ms. Snook.

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

#### **A. Open Session**

Joint Meeting 2/23/16 and Joint Meeting 3/8/16. A motion was made by Ms. Storrs, for CCSC, seconded by Mr. Fink, to approve the minutes for 2/23/16 and 3/8/16 with slight edits noted by Ms. Snook. The motion was unanimously approved. A motion was made by Ms. Snook for CSC, seconded by Ms. Boynton, to approve the minutes for 2/23/16 and 3/8/16 with slight edits noted by Ms. Snook. The motion was unanimously approved.

### **IV. CHAIRS REPORT**

Ms. Boynton stated that they signed the base contract with HYA for the Superintendent Search and they are working out logistics of the process. She stated that the High School Start Time Advisory Committee has created a draft charge that she and Mr. Conti had worked on and presented a copy to the SC. The SC agreed to appoint the Committee at the next meeting. Ms. Boynton stated that there would be an additional SC Coffee on 3/23 at 9:30AM at Ripley as well as the one previously scheduled at 7:00PM at CCHS.

### **V. CORRESPONDENCE**

A. Letter from KVA. Ms. Rigby stated that she received a letter from KVA, project managers for the building project, stating that they have a change in personnel but assured that they would finish the project.

B. Letter from MSBA. Ms. Rigby stated that the MSBA received the change orders and submitted a reimbursement.

C. Town of Concord – Town Meeting Coordination Meeting. Ms. Rigby stated they received a letter from the Town of Concord reminding everyone that the Town Meeting Coordination Meeting is Thursday at 3:30PM. She noted that they have negotiations so she hoped the Chairs could attend.

D. SEPAC. Mr. Johnston stated that they received a letter from SEPAC and that on April 8<sup>th</sup>; the SEPAC is having a presentation on the Concord Integrated Preschool by Special Ed Director, Jessica Murphy at Ripley conference Room 4. He noted that refreshments would be at 8:30 and the presentation would be from 9:00-10:00 and that questions should be sent in advance to the Concord SEPAC.

## **VI. RECOGNITIONS**

A. Kathi Snook - School Committee. Ms. Rigby recognized Ms. Snook on behalf of the 3300 students, faculty, staff, teachers and administration for working so hard on behalf of everyone in the community. Ms. Rigby presented Ms. Snook with flowers, a varsity jacket and a plaque that included a certificate of appreciation. The SC members shared their appreciation, respect and thanks to Ms. Snook for her hard work, strong work ethic, attention to detail, dedication and commitment to her work. Ms. Snook received a standing ovation from the SC members and all those present at the meeting and thanked everyone for their kind words.

B. Robin Cicchetti. Ms. Rigby recognized Robin Cicchetti, Librarian and Media Specialist at the High School, for being named the recipient of the MA School Library Association Service Award.

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

A. K12 Science Committee – Kristen Herbert. Ms. Herbert and the K12 Science Committee discussed the changes that have come from the National Committee of Next Generation Science Standards. She noted that the charge of the K12 Science Committee was to look at the content and make sure it was aligned with the Next Generation Science Standards. The Science Committee members presented on the 5-step curriculum review and adoption process, which includes: preliminary work, screening and planning, teacher input, content recommendation and an implementation plan. The Committee reviewed the different changes in content areas at all grade levels, noting that most of the change would be happening at the elementary level. They stated that they are in the process of implementing the plan and would have training taking place in the spring and professional development taking place over the summer. The Committee noted that one big change in the content would be that it is moving to a spiral model versus the current layer cake model.

B. K12 STEAM Committee – Kristen Herbert. Ms. Herbert and the K12 STEAM Committee presented the work of the K12 STEAM Committee and their collaboration efforts with WPI. The Committee reviewed the current curricular, extra curricular and co-curricular STEAM opportunities in the District as well as their vision statement. They described what went into the decision to move the title from STEM to STEAM, with the addition of Art activities due to their partnership with the other areas of sciences, technology, engineering and mathematics. The engineering design process was described in graphs for grades 6-8 as well as grades 9-12. The Committee stated that the STEM Education Center at WPI contacted them to collaborate over the course of a year in: program assessment, goal setting, short and long-range planning and performance evaluation. The Committee reviewed the three Golden Goals of the program as well as action steps in place to move forward with thinking, proficiency and teacher support. The Committee noted that Dr. Arthur Eisenkraft would be the opening day speaker for the faculty.

C. K12 Special Education – Jessica Murphy. Ms. Murphy presented an update on Special Education. She stated that growth in special education continues for children ages 3-5; data teams and leadership teams K-5 are examining the achievement gap between high needs students and grade level peers and digital tools are increasing the access for students with learning needs. She noted that this was the first year with a full-time transition specialist at the high school. She reviewed the statistics showing nationwide increases in the number of students on IEP's and noted that it is due to greater diagnostics ability as well as the increase in medical interventions. Ms. Murphy stated that the Integrated Preschool was at full capacity as of 2/1/16 and she noted that doesn't normally happen until June. She stated that they received 17 new referrals as of 1/24/16 that they were not aware of in September. She stated that

they have evaluated (to date) 46 children ages 3-5, noting that this number has almost doubled since last year. She stated that based on special education needs, a new preschool classroom at Ripley will be opening September 2016. She noted that staffing would be increasing based on the student needs. Ms. Murphy stated that a new transition specialist, Heather Mahoney M. Ed, is working with students at the high school and is doing a fantastic job. She reviewed the many transition services that are provided to the students and noted that there are currently 274 students in this age group in and out of district.

D. CC at Play – John Boynton. Mr. Boynton provided an update on CC at Play. He stated that Phase II is complete and that the project came in on time and close to budget, for a total cost of \$1,917,711. He stated that the concessions building is being delayed due to the plumbing code issue with the toilets and that they are looking for a more reasonable solution than providing the 23 which is being required by code. He stated that the maintenance building specs would be decided on once the concessions building design was complete and that construction would most likely take place summer of 2017. He stated that the planning of Phase III is proceeding as scheduled, with construction beginning around June 20<sup>th</sup> of the: rectangular grass field, lacrosse/soccer practice wall and associated irrigation, drainage, fencing, pathways, etc. He noted that they would also like to create a dedicated area for javelin/discus and shot areas as well as a cross-country course. He also stated that they would like to create an overlook area above the tennis courts. He noted that they were able to open 4 bids the day of the SC meeting, March 22<sup>nd</sup>, but that they came in substantially higher than was estimated. Mr. Boynton stated that they are going to do some real prioritization, noting that the grass field, rebound wall and area for throwing events would be priorities. He stated that the overlook area could be value engineered out and that the cross-country course would probably be high priority also, but that they need to figure out how much it will cost. Mr. Boynton stated that Phase IV would include the concession stand and maintenance building.

A motion was made by Mr. Fink, seconded by Ms. Bout, to approve the removal of the amenities building from Phase II. The motion was unanimously approved.

A motion was made by Mr. Johnston, seconded by Ms. Bout, to declare Phase II complete. The motion was unanimously approved.

A motion was made by Ms. Snook, seconded by Ms. Bout, to approve that CC at Play include the throwing events, cross country course and the viewing stand in activities of Phase III planning for consideration at the next meeting. The motion was unanimously approved.

E. First Reading – School Committee Policies

File: DA – Fiscal Management Goals

File: DB – Annual Budget

File: DB-R – Budget-Appportionment of Expenses

File: DBC – Budget Deadlines and Schedules

File: DBD – Budget Planning

File: DBG – Budget Adoption Procedures – Concord and Concord-Carlisle Regional School District

File: DBJ – Budget Transfer Authority – Concord Public Schools and Regional School District

File: DD – Funding Proposals and Applications

File: DGA – Authorized Signatures – Concord Public Schools and Regional School District

File: DH – Bonded Employees and Officers – Concord Public Schools and Regional School District

File: DI - Fiscal Accounting and Reporting

File: DICA – Financial Reports to the School Committee

File: DIE – Audits – Concord Public Schools and Regional School District

File: DJ – Procurement and Purchase

File: DJA – Purchasing Authority

File: DJB – Leasing and Renting

File: DJC – Environmental Purchasing Policy

File: DJE – Bidding Requirements

File: DJG – Vendor Relations

File: DK – Payment Procedures – Concord Public Schools and Regional School District

Ms. Snook asked the SC members to read through the policies and note any edits/changes that they may have and bring any changes to the next meeting.

#### **VIII. ACTION ITEMS**

A motion was made by Ms. Boynton, seconded by Mr. Johnston, to add items B,C,D,G and H to a consent vote. The motion was unanimously approved.

A motion was made by Ms. Snook, seconded by Mr. Johnston, to approve the consent calendar of items B,C,D,G and H. The motion was unanimously approved.

B. Vote to approve CCHS Biostatistics Biodiversity Field Trip to Mexico.

C. Vote to approve CCHS Outdoor Track and Field trip to Philadelphia.

D. Vote to accept 2016 Take Charge of Education check.

G. Vote to approve ACE Advisory Committee Members.

H. Vote to approve the allowance for Concord's Financial Audit Advisory Committee.

E. Vote to obtain approval for the placement of temporary sponsorship banners at the CC varsity baseball field. Ms. Bout questioned the banners and the SC discussed that they were only temporary. They agreed that the word temporary should read seasonal and also that these temporary banners were allowed as an exception based on the policy. A motion was made by Ms. Snook, seconded by Mr. Fink, to grant an exception per policy KHB to allow the friends of Concord Carlisle baseball to put up advertising banners on the field for the 2016 season. The motion was unanimously approved.

F. Vote actions on Town Meeting Articles. Mr. Flaherty stated that in order to ensure that each Town has an opportunity to exercise its 60-day window to approve or disapprove the RSC debt authorization vote and to ensure that bond counsel needs are met; he is recommending that a re-vote take place at this SC meeting before Concord's Town Meeting. A motion was made by Mr. Johnston, seconded by Ms. Snook, that \$1,100,000 be appropriated for the purchase of the landfill remediation at 500 Walden St.; that to meet this appropriation, the District Treasurer with the approval of the Chairman of the School Committee is authorized to borrow \$1,100,000 under G.L. c.71, §16(d) or any other enabling authority, and take any other action necessary to carry out this purpose. The motion was unanimously approved. A motion was made by Ms. Snook, seconded by Ms. Bout, to officially approve Article 14 for landfill remediation as written in the warrant. The motion was unanimously approved.

Article 15. A motion was made by Ms. Snook for both CCSC and CSC, seconded by Mr. Johnston for CCSC and Ms. Boynton for CSC, to recommended affirmative action on Article 15 as presented in the Warrant. The motion was unanimously approved.

Article 16. A motion was made by Ms. Snook for CCSC, seconded by Mr. Johnston, to take no action on Article 16 as presented in the warrant. A motion was made by Ms. Boynton for CSC, seconded by Ms. Snook, to take no action on Article 16 as presented in the warrant. The motions were unanimously approved.

Article 20. A motion was made by Ms. Bout, seconded by Mr. Fink, to take affirmative action on Article 20 as presented in the warrant. The motion was unanimously approved.

Article 47. There was no position taken on Article 47.

#### **IX. OLD BUSINESS**

A. Transportation. Mr. Flaherty noted that there have been a few issues with the new buses. He stated that they are awaiting notice of an award from the state and can then move forward with an RFP.

#### **X. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Ms. Rigby stated that last week, Kelly McCausland led the interview process for the CCHS principal search. She stated that 29 applications were received, 8 candidates were interviewed and 3 were selected for the 2<sup>nd</sup> interview. Ms. Rigby noted that she has chosen 2 finalists and is conducting the reference checks and school visits next week. Ms. Rigby stated that March 29<sup>th</sup>, at 6:00 PM, there would be a public forum at the high school for the community to attend and meet the candidates. Ms. Rigby requested feedback from the SC. Ms. Rigby commended the Parent Association at CCHS for sponsoring Julie Lythcott Haims' presentations about over parenting to student, staff, faculty and parents. Ms. Rigby stated that on March 30<sup>th</sup>, there is a great opportunity at the Maynard High School auditorium- Fernando Reimers, professor at Harvard and author of a book about preparing students for the 21<sup>st</sup> century, would be presenting.

Mr. Conti noted that there was a wonderful article in the Globe regarding student fans and their terrific sportsmanship.

## **XI. ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Ms. Boynton for CCSC, seconded by Ms. Storrs, to adjourn the meeting. A motion was made by Mr. Johnston for CSC, seconded by Ms. Snook, to adjourn the meeting. The motions were unanimously approved and the meeting adjourned at 10:59 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Erin E. Higgins

Approved: 4/26/16

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
CPW	Concord Public Works
CTA	Concord Teachers Association
DESE	Department of Elementary & Secondary Education
FAAC	Financial Audit Advisory Committee
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
YRBS	Youth Risk Behavior Survey