

JOINT SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Concord – Carlisle School Committee
Concord School Committee
Ripley Building
October 18, 2016

Present: Wallace Johnston, Chair, CSC; CCSC
Heather Bout, Vice Chair, CSC; CCSC
William Fink, Chair, CCSC
Dan Conti, Vice Chair, CSC; CCSC
Johanna Boynton, CCSC: CSC
Mary Storrs, CCSC
Bob Grom, 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 Mr. Fink for CCSC at 6:33PM and noted that the meeting is being recorded. Mr. Johnston called the CSC to order.

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

III. READING OF THE MINUTES

A. Open Session
Joint Meeting – 9/27/16. A motion was made by Ms. Boynton, seconded by Mr. Johnston, to approve the Joint Meeting minutes from the 9/27/16 joint meeting. The motion was unanimously approved.

IV. CHAIRS REPORT

Mr. Johnston stated that the Energy Futures Task Force is holding a public forum on Thursday, October 20th, at the Harvey Wheeler building at 7:00PM. Mr. Fink stated that the Sleep Panel would be Wednesday, October 19th, at CCHS at 7:00PM. Mr. Johnston stated that “IF ONLY”, the opioid film screening and panel discussion would be on November 1st at 7:00PM at CCHS.

A. Community Coffee Dates. Ms. Bout reviewed an updated copy of the Community Coffee Dates and stated that the copy provided with the meeting handouts were not the most up to date. She noted several changes to the dates, including: the November meeting changing from the 7th to the 17th from 7:00-8:30PM at the Thoreau School cafeteria; the December meeting would be December 7th from 9:30-11:00AM at Ripley; the March meeting would be on the 22nd from 7:00-8:30PM at the CCHS Learning Commons; the May meeting would be May 11th from 9:30-11:00AM at Ripley. Ms. Bout stated that she needs volunteers and coverage for each meeting and the SC discussed which meetings that they were each able to attend. Mr. Johnston stated that they might want to add a morning coffee when it gets closer to Town Meeting.

V. CORRESPONDENCE

Mr. Fink stated that he did not receive any emails. Mr. Johnston stated that he received several emails for CPS in support of world language.

VI. RECOGNITIONS

A. CCHS: Coach Tom Dalicandro and CCHS Varsity Boys' & Girls' Lacrosse Teams for organizing the lacrosse weekend with Harlem Lacrosse and Leadership. Ms. Rigby, on behalf of CCHS, recognized Coach Tom Dalicandro and CCHS Varsity Boys' & Girls' Lacrosse teams for organizing the lacrosse weekend with Harlem Lacrosse and Leadership,

where they provided mentoring, support and coaching to middle school students from Harlem. Ms. Rigby noted how proud they were of the student athletes.

VII. REPORTS & ISSUES FOR DISCUSSION

A. CCHS Challenge Success Program – Mike Mastrullo. Mike Mastrullo, CCHS Principal, and Colleen Meaney, CCHS Vice Principal, presented on reducing stress for students through the Challenge Success Program. Mr. Mastrullo stated that the Challenge Success Program is from Stanford and thanked the Parents Association for funding the project. Mr. Mastrullo stated that it's important that the students are happy being in school, the importance of working hard, demonstrating grit, having a growth mindset and finding balance. Mr. Mastrullo noted that they want the students to strive for high-level academic and personal achievement as well as have a passion for learning. Ms. Meaney stated that they have partnered with Challenge Success through a recommendation from: last year's homework committee, the positive response to the speaker last year, Julie Lythcott-Hains, and the parent feedback survey.

Ms. Meaney stated that Challenge Success is an organization at Stanford that provides schools and families information and strategies on how to create a more balanced and academically fulfilling life for students. She shared some of the survey data on stress and its origination, noting different areas, including time spent on school sports, community service and school clubs. She stated that the data showed 46% of students do not feel deeply engaged in what they're doing in school. She stated that 73% of the students reported being often or always stressed by schoolwork and that 60% reported that schoolwork keeps them from spending time with family or friends. She stated that 67% of the students reported that they don't feel they are getting enough sleep as a result of schoolwork and 48% have dropped an activity because of the stress. She noted that the students also reported on how much sleep they are getting and that it is way below the recommended amount. She noted that 48% of students reported a stress related health or emotional problem caused them to miss a day of school in the last month of the survey.

Ms. Meaney stated that they looked at all of the survey data and determined 3 priority areas: Extra Curricular-Activities, Homework and Student Engagement. Mr. Mastrullo noted that it's important to look at the whole picture. Ms. Meaney noted that Challenge Success works with many schools and has many strategies for each of these priority areas. She stated that over time, they could re-evaluate to see how they are progressing.

B. Superintendent Search. Ms. Boynton stated that they have scheduled 21 individual interview slots and noted that the SC should be part of hosting the interviews. She also provided a sample invitation to the groups to be interviewed and stated that they will post a feedback survey on November 7th. Ms. Boynton stated that she had reviewed the schedule with HYA and that they already received 34 applications. She stated that they are trying to reach out to as many people as possible to ensure the highest participation. Mr. Johnston asked if they are doing anything special to inform the METCO parents. Ms. Boynton noted that she is working with Aaron Joncas on logistics with the METCO parents and on the possibility of having dinner provided, offering transportation as well as the ability to call in. Mr. Johnston noted that offering childcare might also be an option. The SC discussed the possibility of videoing the forums and Ms. Boynton said she would ask HYA their thoughts. The SC also discussed advertising and making sure the community was aware of the upcoming focus groups, forums and the survey. (Ms. Storrs arrived midway through this discussion.)

C. FY18 CCRSD Budget Development. Mr. Flaherty presented on the FY18 CCRSD Budget Development process. He stated that the process begins with the Step calculation, noting that the FY18 step cost growth is \$176,003, or a 1.54% increase above last year's budget. He noted that they do not know what the pay scale is yet for next year for the CCTA, but a 1% example is used in the budget process. He stated that the operating budget is roughly 2/3 salary and 1/3 non-salary and that of that 2/3, teachers represent about 1/2. He also noted that they need to plan for collective bargaining impacts in 3 groups: teachers, secretaries and bus drivers units. He stated that they are providing for an increase in OPEB insurance, medical insurance and retirement assessments and contingency accounts. Mr. Flaherty stated, that using the 1% example increase, the total teacher baseline cost growth is 1.3% or a \$353,122 increase. He stated that using a 3% COLA for the non-teacher groups would add .7% - .9%. He stated that salary growth alone requires a 2-2.5% increase in the operating budget, noting that this estimate includes a 1% example for the teacher scale change.

Mr. Flaherty reviewed expansions in different program areas, including: interdepartmental instruction contracted services, coding FTE and global literacy. He also noted that they are adding 1 incremental bus increase. He reviewed

other areas of increase, including building maintenance and stated that all of the areas add up to \$1,731,983 or 6.5%. Mr. Flaherty reviewed the offsetting decreases, including: transportation, utilities and state assessments, for a total of -1.1% or \$293,166 in reductions. He stated that this would net out to be a 5.41% or \$1,438,817 increase in the operating budget. He stated that they have asked the Finance Committee to look at OPEB in a different way for the FY19 budget by determining what they want to put into OPEB and then creating the guideline assessments. Mr. Flaherty reviewed how OPEB has displaced the monies that typically go into the operating budget. He noted that since 2008, the regional budget, with OPEB included, has been escalating at a 3.75% increase. Mr. Flaherty reviewed the increasing impact that OPEB has had on the budgets over the years. He also reviewed the effective operating budget growth as well as the Concord and Carlisle Assessments. The SC thanked Mr. Flaherty for all of his work on the budget.

D. Later Start Time Committee. Ms. Boynton stated that the High School Start Time Advisory Committee met and she provided a summary of what the Committee worked towards. She stated that the Committee came up with 3 recommendations that they would like the Transportation Department and Administration to drill down on in terms of cost and hurdles. She reviewed the recommendations, which included: several options that included the current fleet of buses, buying/leasing 5 buses and hiring 5 drivers and hiring a private contractor for CCHS home/school routes only. There were 3 different scenarios within using the current fleet of buses. The SC discussed the different recommendations and scenarios and potential benefits and shortcomings with each. Ms. Storrs recommended getting transportation costs first in order to narrow down the options. Ms. Boynton stated that they were hoping to get the cost for each scenario and then weigh the pros, cons and value of each scenario. Mr. Grom recommended having a rough timeline and noted that they should also do surveys. Ms. Rigby noted that there are ways that they can provide more data that will be very informative with specific scenarios and challenges. Mr. Conti stated that he's worried that they are rushing the process. Ms. Boynton stated that they could continue the work and get more data so that they are not locked in but have continued conversation. Ms. Boynton recommended authorizing Mr. Flaherty to request bids in order to provide additional cost information and also discuss at the next joint meeting ways in which they can broaden the conversation.

A motion was made by Ms. Bout, seconded by Ms. Boynton, to authorize the District to request a bid for the private contracting of the home/school routes of the high school in order to gather information on the 3 potential ways that they would like to look into potentially changing the high school start time. The motion was unanimously approved. Mr. Flaherty noted that none of the potential costs are reflected in either the CPS or CCRSD current operating budgets.

E. Landfill Remediation. Mr. Flaherty stated that the study is underway and they hope to have the information back prior to November 21st. Mr. Fink noted that there would be a community forum on the landfill remediation on November 29th at 7:00PM at CCHS.

F. SC Goals, Protocols and Practices. Mr. Johnston noted that the public comments need to be adjusted in the Practices. Ms. Bout suggested holding meetings in places that may invite others, like Boston and Carlisle to make the SC more accessible to other audiences. Ms. Storrs stated that the camera allows for others to view the meeting and noted that Carlisle is not too far away. Mr. Conti asked if there was any outreach to METCO parents to invite participation. Ms. Rigby stated that the PTG's and principals go into Boston every January and recommended that the SC could also go. Mr. Fink recommended having meetings with the Carlisle SC. Ms. Bout recommended having a social meeting to get to know each other and also recommended having a list of groups that information is sent to. The SC reviewed the Goals and areas that needed to be updated, including the budget, so the information reflects the current year. The SC agreed to vote on the Goals, Protocols and Practices at the next joint meeting.

G. Massachusetts Authorization of Additional Charter Schools and Charter School Expansion, Question #2. Mr. Fink stated that the SC was asked by the teachers union to weigh in on the topic of Charter Schools and State Ballot Question #2.

Public Comment: Caitlin Smith, 73 Dickson Ave, Arlington, MA. Ms. Smith stated that she is a French Teacher at CCHS and a resident of Arlington. She urged the SC to vote no on Question #2 in November and explained that the current ballot initiative proposes to lift the current cap of 120 charter schools in MA. She stated that if this ballot is question passed, it would allow for 12 new charter schools to be open every year. She noted that there are currently 78 charter schools in MA which already siphon off more than \$400 million annually from the public school budgets. Ms. Smith also noted how Mayor Marty Walsh, who is a proponent of charter schools, is opposed to Question #2. She also stated

that 150 school communities across the state had taken a position against the ballot question. She stated that the “No on Question 2” movement seeks to protect the public school students’ rights. Ms. Smith provided the SC with a copy of her remarks, including the specific articles documenting her remarks. Ms. Smith noted that once public school funds enter charter school systems, there is little to no transparency about how they are used.

Mr. Fink stated that the Teachers Union requested that the SC to discuss this topic and noted that he feels this is a topic which does not affect the CCRSD. Ms. Storrs asked if this topic had been discussed at the previous Joint meeting, where she was not in attendance. Mr. Johnston stated that it was discussed at a CPS meeting and that they voted 4 to 0 to be in support of the resolution to vote no on Question #2. Ms. Storrs stated that although she feels like it’s an important issue, she feels that they need to have a chance to discuss it as a committee before taking a stance as a committee. Mr. Fink stated that they were asked to waive the practice of discussing at one meeting and voting at the next.

A motion was made by Mr. Johnston, seconded by Mr. Grom, to suspend the rules and allow a vote on Question #2. Ms. Boynton stated that she was very uncomfortable with the conversation and noted that this was a huge question and that she does not feel comfortable taking a position on it individually or as a body. She noted that the SC has never been asked to vote on a ballot question for the State. Ms. Storrs stated that she also questioned the Committee’s role in this. Mr. Conti stated that he felt comfortable taking a position on the topic since it could end up down the road on their doorstep. Ms. Bout stated that she does feel that it’s relevant but that if committee members felt unprepared, then it’s not appropriate to take a vote. Mr. Grom stated that he feels it’s relevant and that they should take a stance on it and noted that it’s an item on the agenda. Mr. Conti noted that the next regional meeting is after Election Day and recommended adding a meeting to take a vote, in order to discuss the issue at the current meeting and vote on it at a subsequent meeting. Mr. Grom, Mr. Conti and Mr. Johnston were in favor of the motion and Ms. Bout, Ms. Boynton, Mr. Fink and Ms. Storrs were not in favor of the motion.

A motion was made by Ms. Bout, seconded by Mr. Johnston, to reschedule the calendar vote later on the agenda to this point in the meeting. The motion was unanimously approved.

A motion was made by Ms. Bout for both CSC and CCSC, seconded by Mr. Conti for CSC and Mr. Grom for CCSC, to modify the SC calendar dates to add 1 meeting before November 8th, with exact date to be determined and also approve the rest of the dates on the calendar. Ms. Boynton noted that she was not in favor of what they were doing. A motion was made by Ms. Bout, seconded by Mr. Grom, to amend the motion and change the time of the CPS meeting on November 8th to 5:00PM. Ms. Storrs noted that there were conflicts with the March 28th and May 23rd meetings due to band/chorus concerts. The motion was approved by Ms. Bout, Mr. Johnston and Mr. Fink. Ms. Boynton was not in favor of the motion for CCSC and Ms. Storrs abstained.

Mr. Fink stated that he had researched the charter schools topic and that charter schools are very beneficial for students in urban areas. He stated that he feels fortunate living in Concord and Carlisle and that every student should be able to excel and achieve their goals. He noted that MA has been a role model for charter schools across the country. Mr. Johnston stated that he is not a proponent in general of charter schools and noted that the Mayor of Boston is opposed to Question #2. Mr. Grom noted that the districts are losing a lot of money and voting yes would just increase this effect. He also noted the different types of charter schools and how the administrations are either non-profit or for-profit. He stated the fact that K-12 could be subject to a profit making administration was quite questionable and could turn out to be a big mistake. He also noted that the oversight for charter schools comes from state authorities. Mr. Conti stated that he feels that this is a wolf in sheep’s clothing.

VIII. ACTION ITEMS

A. Vote to surplus math books (CCHS). A motion was made by Mr. Johnston, seconded by Ms. Bout, to approve the removal of 22 math department textbook: McDougal Littell Algebra I Applications, Equations, Graphs by Larson, Boswell, Kanold, Stiff. The motion was unanimously approved.

C. Vote to approve 2016-17 Superintendent Plan and District Goals. A motion was made by Ms. Boynton, seconded by Ms. Storrs, to approve 2016-17 Superintendent Plan and District Goals. The motion was unanimously approved.

D. CPS – Vote to approve \$75,000 in FY18 Capital Plan for Preschool Playground. A motion was made by Ms. Bout, seconded by Ms. Boynton, to approve \$75,000 in FY18 Capital Plan for Preschool Playground. The motion was unanimously approved.

E. CMS Feasibility Committee. A motion was made by Mr. Conti, seconded by Mr. Grom, to appoint Ms. Bout Chair of the CMS Feasibility Committee. The motion was unanimously approved. Ms. Bout stated that they had a great response for volunteers and have a very well rounded committee and reviewed the list of members. A motion was made by Ms. Boynton, seconded by Ms. Bout, to accept the members of the CMS Feasibility Committee. The motion was unanimously approved.

F. Vote to approve School Committee Policies:

- File: EB – Safety Program
- File: EBAB – Pest Management Policy
- File: EBCD – Emergency Closings
- File: EBC – Emergency Plans
- File: EC – Buildings and Grounds Management
- File: ECA – Buildings and Grounds Security
- File: ECAC – Vandalism
- File: EDC – Authorized Use of School-Owned Materials
- File: EEA – Student Transportation Services
- File: EEAA – Walkers and Riders
- File: DKC – Expense Reimbursements
- File: DKB – Salary Deductions

A motion was made by Ms. Boynton, seconded by Ms. Storrs for CCSC and Ms. Bout for CSC, to approve the above SC Policies. The motion was unanimously approved.

IX. OLD BUSINESS

A. CCHS Building Project. Mr. Flaherty stated that the MSBA audit is continuing on and proceeding smoothly.

B. CC at Play. Mr. Fink stated that the grass is growing great and looking beautiful.

X. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Ms. Rigby stated that the Spring 2016 MCAS results have been released and the HS students continue to achieve at high levels: 98% were advanced/proficient in ELA; 94% advanced/proficient in Math; 97% advanced/proficient in Biology and Science/Technology/Engineering. She stated that the accountability data indicates that they have met the target for all student subgroups and that they will be Level 1 next year. She noted that the Senior Internship Program with Babson would be doubled this year and more than 50 seniors would be able to participate. Ms. Rigby stated that she is very proud that 8 HS students have completed their global literacy program and are eligible to attend the International Leadership Summit in Peru in March with the topic of Global Citizenship. She reminded the SC of the following presentations: tomorrow night, Dr. Judith Owens at the High School at 7:00PM presenting “High Schoolers and the Snooze Button”; October 24th, “Screenagers: Growing Up in the Digital Age”; November 1st “IF ONLY”.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Storrs stated that she was very concerned about the length of the meetings and also having Ms. Rigby give her reports so late at night. A motion was made by Ms. Boynton for both CCSC and CSC, seconded by Ms. Bout, to adjourn the meeting. The motion was unanimously approved and the meeting adjourned at 9:58 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Erin E. Higgins

Approved: 11/22/16

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
MSBA	Massachusetts School Building Authority
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