

CONCORD SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Concord-Carlisle School Committee
Concord School Committee
Ripley Building
May 9, 2017

Present:

Heather Bout, Chair, CSC: CCSC
Johanna Boynton, Vice Chair, CSC: CCSC
Dan Conti, Vice Chair, CSC; CCSC
Wallace Johnston, CSC; CCSC
Robert 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

Ms. Bout called the meeting to order at 6:31 PM. She noted that the meeting was being recorded.

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS

1. Kevin Williams, 394 Pope Road, Concord, MA. Mr. Williams questioned the SC policy on student publications. He stated that it wasn't clear how prior review is viewed. He asked if the Superintendent and/or Principal are required to review and asked what the legal justification was.

Ms. Bout stated that the Principal and Superintendent have the right to review because the school, acting as the publisher, would have to have a say in what gets published. He questioned if the rules apply in the case of a student having their own independent newspaper and Ms. Bout stated that the Policy Subcommittee would be better to deal with his concerns. He stated that he would like the policy reviewed, specifically to understand how the Superintendent and/or Principal have the legal justification for prior review and whether the committee distinguishes between school sponsored and non-school sponsored publications. Ms. Bout stated that the next Policy Subcommittee is May 18th and that they would add it to the agenda.

III. READING OF THE MINUTES

None.

IV. CHAIRS REPORT

Ms. Bout noted that she was voted in as Chair and that she appreciates the trust placed in her and she considers it both a privilege and an important responsibility to be in the role as Chair.

She acknowledged that some members of the community are disappointed that CPS and CCHS have different calendars. She noted that they understand that this is not ideal and they are looking at next steps at the next joint meeting.

Ms. Bout noted Teacher Appreciation week and that they have the deepest gratitude and appreciation for all of the teachers in District. She also noted that May 10th is School Nurse day and thanked all of the nurses for all of their hard work.

V. CORRESPONDENCE

None.

VI. RECOGNITIONS

A. Teacher Appreciation Week – May 8 – May 12. Ms. Rigby stated that she echoed Ms. Bout's appreciation of the teachers and that they are full of gratitude for the teachers who work hard everyday with care and compassion. She also acknowledged all of the school nurses who ensure everyone is healthy everyday.

B. CMS: CMS Advisory Committee. Mr. Drew Rosenshine recognized the CMS Advisory Committee for all of their hard work on creating Advisory to be implemented in the next school year. He stated that students would be doing activities that encompass CMS Stands Together and community building activities.

C. Willard: Genoveva Matheus, Julee Vitello, Susan Chafe. Ms. Pat Fernandes recognized Genoveva Matheus for her work with the Earth Care Club as well as her role as Technology Specialist for being instrumental in MCAS and making sure it went smoothly. She also recognized Julee Vitello for her work on the Food Drive and Susan Chafe for her assistance with MCAS and all of her work with Kindergarten registration.

D. Thoreau: Karen Hoyt, Karen Pettyjohn. Angel Charles recognized Karen Hoyt for her STEAM project and Karen Pettyjohn for her efforts to raise money through the Save the Children's Fund Helping Hands handprint initiative. She noted that the Thoreau students have raised \$10,098.50 as of May 5th for the children in Nicaragua and Indonesia.

E. Alcott: Faculty and Staff. Ms. Rigby, on behalf of Sharon Young, recognized the entire Alcott faculty and staff for doing a great job managing and supporting the students and taking care of each other during her absence. Ms. Rigby noted that Ms. Young is back in good health and the community is thrilled.

VII. REPORTS & ISSUES FOR DISCUSSION

A. Thoreau & Willard Green Teams – Sustainability: Angel Charles, Pat Fernandes & students. The Willard Green Team presented their exhibit at the Concord Cooler Fair, which focused on energy conservation. They described their project, which involved insulating cardboard houses. They also shared their ideas around paper consumption and how they have helped Willard to reduce paper use.

The Thoreau Green Team presented their plastic exhibit from the Cooler Concord Fair. They shared their research on plastic and its effects on the Earth. Ms. Hoyt shared a sleeping mat that the team had made out of approximately 1,000 plastic bags.

B. CMS Girls Who Code – Lynne Beattie & students. Lynne Beattie and the CMS Girls Who Code presented on their after school coding club. The students reviewed the development process for the games that they coded, "Save the Water" and "Environment Run". They also reviewed the various programming languages that they used for the games. The students shared the games they coded and the design ideas behind the games. The students stated that coding would be a great elective for the middle school. Ms. Beattie thanked several high school students who helped the students with the club. The high school students noted: how much the girls in this club have learned, the positive approach the girls had and the bravery of the girls to take on coding. Ms. Beattie also thanked several teachers who helped with the club as well.

Ms. Rigby noted that they would have coding courses as electives at CMS in the future.

C. K5 Handbook First Draft – Kristen Herbert. Ms. Rigby, on behalf of Ms. Herbert, stated that there were 12 changes to the handbook and that they were mostly updates. She stated that they added the Acceptable Computer Use Policy, noting that all students would be signing it, not just 5th grade students.

D. CMS Handbook First Draft – Drew Rosenshine. Mr. Rosenshine reviewed the changes to the CMS Handbook, noting that most were just updates. Mr. Johnston noted how impressed he was with all of the work Mr. Rosenshine did on the handbook. Ms. Rigby stated that the SC would be voting on the handbook at the June 13th SC meeting. Ms. Bout suggested adding something about Advisory to the Handbook. The SC thanked Mr. Rosenshine for all of his hard work on the handbook. Mr. Johnston thanked Mr. Rosenshine for his professionalism during the Principal search process in the spring.

E. CPS Financial Update – John Flaherty. Mr. Flaherty reviewed the FY17 YTD financial report. He stated that the YTD balances were: Regular Education \$876,907; Special Education (\$522,849); Operations (\$226,869); Administration (\$139,938) and Fixed Costs \$13,621. He stated that the grand total YTD was \$1,873. He noted that it was a challenging year. Ms. Bout thanked Mr. Flaherty for his work on the budget.

VIII. ACTION ITEMS

A. Vote to enroll one faculty child for enrollment at CPS. A motion was made by Ms. Boynton, seconded by Mr. Johnston, to approve Ms. Pimentel's request to enroll her daughter in the Concord Public Schools and that tuition be waived. The motion was unanimously approved.

B. Vote to enroll one faculty child for enrollment at CPS. A motion was made by Mr. Johnston, seconded by Ms. Boynton, to approve Ms. Cahill's request to enroll her son in the Concord Public Schools and that tuition be waived. The motion was unanimously approved.

C. Vote to approve exemption to Attendance Policy JC. Ms. Rigby noted that it was actually 2 policies, JC and JHD. Lisa Badgley, parent of a 7th grade student, was asking the SC to approve an exemption to the policies in order for her daughter to stay at CMS for 8th grade next year since she had been given notice that their rental house was being sold and then unsuccessfully trying to find suitable housing.

Lisa Badgley, 61 West Street, Concord, MA. Ms. Badgley stated that she was aware that it was a large request, but she would like to keep her daughter on track to CCHS. Ms. Boynton noted that this was on the agenda as a vote, but that they should be discussing it first. Ms. Bout noted that Ms. Rigby gets requests like this every year and that none of them have been granted. She noted that they need to look at setting a precedence. She also noted that they are looking at a lot of scrutiny on the budget next year. Ms. Rigby stated that the SC would be voting at the next regional SC meeting that they are not School Choice in CPS or CCRSD. She stated that they would have to exempt from this as well and that it would be questionable.

Ms. Rigby stated that she has always said no to requests like this, but noted that Ms. Badgley had a hardship case, so she told her that she could appeal to the SC. Ms. Badgley noted that she was a licensed addiction counselor and that maybe she could counsel part time. Ms. Rigby stated that although the offer was appreciated, it would have to be totally separate from this decision.

Mr. Conti questioned when they would vote on this and Ms. Rigby stated the next CPS meeting would be June 13th. He noted that he didn't want Ms. Badgley to have to wait a month for a decision, either way, just to be fair. The SC discussed taking the vote at the May 31st joint meeting. Mr. Grom asked if it was possible to approve this request without setting a precedence and Ms. Rigby stated that they would be challenged. Ms. Rigby stated that most of these requests are denied, noting that she receives at least 1 per year. She noted that each of the requests had a reasonable and similar hardship case. Ms. Boynton noted her concern with regards to School Choice as well as legal implications for future cases. Mr. Johnston suggested talking to legal counsel regarding this request.

A motion was made by Mr. Johnston, seconded by Mr. Conti, to table this vote until either May 31st or June 13th. The motion was unanimously approved.

IX. OLD BUSINESS

A. CMS Facilities Study. Ms. Bout stated that the study is going really well and the architects presented the 1st draft of their final report, which included cost estimates for renovation, renovation/additions and building new. She noted that the costs were not significantly different. She stated that they would be presenting to the SC on June 13th.

X. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Ms. Rigby stated that the CMS Boston students represented CMS at the 1st annual Tenacity Team Challenge held in Bedford, noting that they won 1st place for their leadership challenge project, which addressed discrimination at the middle school. She noted that they also tied for 2nd place in a Math quiz goal, coming in 1st place overall. Ms. Rigby stated that 10 students from the CMS Spider Team collaborated with MIT graduate students on an 8-month research project in the lab for Atomistic and Molecular Mechanics, part of the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering. She stated that they are investigating the mechanical properties of a spider web with CCHS teacher, Doug Shattuck. She noted that they work with MIT graduate students and have been invited to present a paper in the summer in the Midwest. Ms. Rigby thanked Mr. Shattuck for providing this opportunity for the students. She stated that the CMS Advisory program will replace homeroom, CMS Stands Together and House Huddles but will include the CMS Stands Together content activities. Ms. Rigby stated that the Grade 5 arts nights are fantastic and will highlight

Grade 5 art reflection projects and music performances. She stated that the Occupational Health and Safety conducted drinking water assessments in the CPS and CCRSD schools, and all schools were within the standards and guidelines for MS drinking water set by the EPA in their LEAD and Copper Rule.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Conti noted how pleased he was with how Town Meeting went and thanked Mr. Flaherty for all of his work.

Mr. Johnston noted that he received feedback from the survey on the use of the auditorium and gym, including that the gym was cold.

Ms. Bout noted her excitement of implementing the Spanish and Latin programs and Ms. Rigby stated that they are hiring very impressive teachers and that they are very excited to join CCRSD.

A motion was made by Ms. Boynton, seconded by Mr. Conti, to adjourn the meeting. The motion was unanimously approved and the meeting adjourned at 8:37 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Erin E. Higgins

Approved: 6/13/17

Abbreviations:

ACLU	American Civil Liberties Union
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
ELA	English Language Arts
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
SOI	Statement of Interest
YRBS	Youth Risk Behavior Survey