

Present: Johanna Boynton, Chair, CSC; CCSC  
Wallace Johnston, Vice Chair, CSC; CCSC  
Robert Grom, Chair, CCSC; CSC  
Heather Bout, CSC; CCSC

Absent: Courtland Booth, CSC; CCSC

Present from Administration: Dr. Laurie Hunter, Superintendent of Schools, CPS & CCRSD  
Jared Stanton, Director of Finance & Operations, CPS & CCRSD

### **I. CALL TO ORDER**

The CSC meeting was called to order at 6:05 PM by Ms. Boynton and she noted that the meeting was being recorded. A motion was made by Mr. Grom, seconded by Ms. Bout, for the CSC to enter into Executive Session under Purpose 3 of the Open Meeting Law: To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body and return to Open Session at approximately 6:30 PM. The motion passed by roll call: Johnston, aye; Boynton, aye; Grom, aye; Bout, aye.

At 6:38 PM, Ms. Boynton called the CSC meeting back into order, noting that they were being recorded live.

### **II. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None.

A motion was made by Ms. Bout, seconded by Mr. Johnston, to move the Donation of the Alcott Sign next in the agenda. The motion was unanimously approved.

### **III. NEW BUSINESS**

A. Donation of Alcott Sign. Cheri Driscoll, 37 Birch Drive, Concord, MA and Jane Baldini, 673 Bedford Street, Concord, MA stated that last year's 5<sup>th</sup> grade class, as well as this year's 5<sup>th</sup> grade class at Alcott, raised funds to gift an Alcott sign to the school. They provided samples of what the sign could look like, noting that if approved, they would like to have it installed by the end of the school year, also noting that the placement as well as the color of the sign was to be determined. The possibility of the students voting on the color of the sign was discussed. The SC noted their appreciation to Ms. Driscoll and Ms. Baldini.

**IV. RECOGNITIONS** – Integrated Preschool. Janet O'Shea, Early Childhood Coordinator, presented on the Integrated Preschool, as well as her colleagues: Jen DeFrancesco, Early Childhood teacher, Donna Balmuth, Occupational Therapist, Ann Bailey, Speech Therapist and Christine Brown, Preschool Teacher. Ms. O'Shea stated that the Integrated Preschool was located at the Ripley building. She stated that they are required to provide special education services as children turn 3 years of age, noting that they work closely with Early Intervention. She stated that, in addition to special education students, that they have community students at the preschool, noting that the community students do not have an identified special need and pay tuition to attend the preschool. Ms. O'Shea stated that they are trying to service all preschoolers, noting that they do not have a lot of preschoolers in out of district placements. She stated that they have a lot of kids with very significant needs, noting that many are: on the autistic spectrum, have significant medical needs, hearing/vision loss, behavioral issues, language delays and gross/fine motor delays. She stated that the needs have increased over the years and that they are seeing more English language learners in the preschool, noting that their language-based model of teaching works well for these children.

Ms. O'Shea stated that the preschool is very welcoming and positive, sharing the goals of the program: to provide highly specialized and intensive interventions for kids on IEPs and enable kids to access the whole preschool curriculum. She stated that they follow themed language-based curriculum as well as therapies. She stated that there

are 4 classroom teachers, 2 tutors, 1 on 1 assistants, 1.8 speech/language specialists, a full-time occupational therapist, a part time physical therapist, full time nurse, part time behavior specialist, noting also that she works part of her time as the school's psychologist and team chair for IEP meetings.

Ms. O'Shea stated that they get referrals from Early Intervention, parents, pediatricians, private preschools and sometimes community students are referred by the teaching staff. She stated that they service 3 and 4-year olds, noting that they do not service kids that are age appropriate for kindergarten. She stated that they have 2 full day programs, 2 morning ½ day programs and 2 ½ day afternoon programs. Ms. O'Shea stated that they've received a lot of positive feedback from the elementary schools that their preschoolers are very well prepared for kindergarten.

Dr. Hunter stated that the preschool has rolling admissions, noting how challenging this can be to ensure the students' needs will be met. Ms. O'Shea stated that families may move in and they need to provide support and staffing for that student. Ms. Boynton questioned the evaluation process and Ms. O'Shea stated that there is a team that evaluates students. Ms. Boynton also noted the research that says early intervention is the key to success and Ms. O'Shea gave examples of student growth and success in the program. Mr. Grom questionef what percentage of the program were special education students and what percentage were community students. Ms. O'Shea stated that they like to keep it 50/50, but noted the community hasn't been as receptive to the ½ day model.

The SC thanked the members of the Integrated Preschool for their presentation and all of their hard work.

**V. READING OF THE MINUTES** – Open Session CPS Meeting – 2/14/19. A motion was made by Ms. Bout, seconded by Mr. Johnston, to approve the Open Session minutes of 2/14/19. The motion was unanimously approved.

**VI. CHAIRS & LIAISONS REPORT**

Ms. Bout stated that her liaison work ties into the CMS discussion, so she would wait to report until the CMS discussion.

**VII. CORRESPONDENCE**

Ms. Boynton stated that she received one email.

**VIII. REPORTS FOR DISCUSSION**

A. CMS Reconfiguration. Justin Cameron, Principal of CMS, stated that he presented information regarding the CMS reconfiguration to all current Sanborn students, current 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> grade parents, Boston families, Alcott, Willard and Thoreau schools. He noted that they were very deliberate in inviting the 4<sup>th</sup> grade families as well to share out the information. He shared a video that was presented to the current set of families and at the elementary schools. He noted that the video captures what's been happening at CMS over the last year and a half, in involving students and staff in the reconfiguration process. He stated that the video also acknowledges how difficult the change can be, especially for current 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> graders. He stated that the video also caused some level of excitement for the changes. Mr. Cameron stated that they were trying to bring student voice into the presentations and captured what the last year and a half has been like for the students. He noted that they were also able to present to the 5<sup>th</sup> grade students at each elementary school as well.

Mr. Cameron stated that they also discussed the master schedule during the presentations, noting that the reconfiguration provided a great opportunity to look into the master schedule. He stated that the Sanborn master schedule for the next school year was almost complete and that they were 90% done with the master schedule for Peabody. He stated that they would be presenting the master schedule to the Master Schedule Committee and look for any feedback they provide. He noted that the new master schedules will provide more opportunity for RTI and a focus on enrichment. Mr. Cameron stated that they were also looking into the role of the case managers in special education and are trying to make teaching their focus by taking the scheduling work around IEPs and meetings off of their plates. He stated that they are also looking at learning centers and are following the high school's work around learning centers and special education classrooms. He stated that they have also done work with Challenge Success and integrating laptops more slowly with the 6<sup>th</sup> graders.

Dr. Hunter stated that the CMS teachers have been highly engaged and sit on multiple committees voluntarily on their own time. She noted her appreciation for their level of dedication and commitment. She also noted the additional

layer of work to be done around the reconfiguration – moving of teachers from one building to another and the painting/carpeting work to be completed.

Mr. Grom questioned if there would be time savings for some teachers from the reconfiguration. Mr. Cameron stated that the opportunity of enrichment through RTI will be more available. He noted that they were able to take the current 20 travelling teachers and reduce the number to under 10 through the reconfiguration.

Ms. Bout stated that she echoed Mr. Cameron's sentiments of excitement from the presentations. She noted the excitement of the students for the fact that they don't have to be split up and can remain with friends. Mr. Cameron stated that they were fortunate to learn from other schools that have already gone through the reconfiguration process. Ms. Boynton thanked Mr. Cameron for his leadership on the reconfiguration, noting the number of hurdles involved. Mr. Cameron stated how grateful he is for the staff and their dedication to focusing on what's best for kids. He also noted the support of Mr. Stanton and the building service workers and also thanked the SC for their commitment to the warrant article.

B. CMS Capital Warrant Article. Dr. Hunter shared a breakdown of the \$1.5 million Feasibility Study as well as the wording for the article. She noted the confusion around using the term "feasibility" study in the language, noting that the bond attorney has redrafted the article. She shared the breakdown of the \$1.5 million, including: \$500k for Schematic Design; \$400k for Feasibility Study; \$300k Owner's Project Manager; \$300k for Hazmat, Geo, other subs, and contingency. Dr. Hunter stated that the wording change was a Town Meeting change and that the SC can propose the amendment from the beginning of the discussion or propose after the presentation, but that she had to confirm with Carmin Reiss. Mr. Johnston stated he felt it would be better if they propose the change at the onset of the discussion prior to the presentation. Ms. Bout noted that they need to be clear that it's what their asking for and it's not just a change from feedback received. Ms. Boynton agreed that it would be better for people to understand at the onset what it is they are asking for. Dr. Hunter stated that they could vote it at the next meeting on the 26<sup>th</sup>.

Public Comment: Yuval Erlich, 4 South Meadow Ridge, Concord, MA. Mr. Erlich stated that it would be important to explain why the 4 items should go together.

Mr. Stanton stated that the numbers are approximate, noting that the schematic design and feasibility study numbers may fluctuate. He shared the breakdown of the \$1.5 million, including: \$500k for Schematic Design; \$400k for Feasibility Study; \$300k Owner's Project Manager; \$300k for Hazmat, Geo, other subs, and contingency. He stated that it's important to put out a bid package that can return a good cost estimate. He stated that going through MSBA, the costs may be higher on a feasibility study. He also noted that the MSBA feasibility studies on their website are their bid on price, but that there are also overrun costs. Dr. Hunter clarified that they are not doing a feasibility study to determine if they are doing a middle school. She stated that the feasibility study would be of the Sanborn land to determine what school would best fit to inform the schematic design. Mr. Grom questioned what Geo and other subs were and Mr. Stanton stated that it's making sure engineers are capable of identifying problems with the facilities that may affect the environment, such as water runoff. Mr. Grom asked what the function of the Owner's Project Manager was and Mr. Stanton stated that they run the project. Mr. Johnston noted that the OPM has a fiduciary responsibility to the Town and Ms. Boynton stated that the OPM are responsible for overseeing all sub-contractors on the school/town's behalf. Ms. Bout noted that Finegold Alexander can also bid as well. She also thanked the Board of Selectman for starting to discuss the creation of a building committee.

Public Comment: Tom McKean, Concord Select Board. Mr. McKean stated that he was speaking on behalf of himself. He stated that the cost breakdown was helpful and that it should be sent to the Finance Committee and Select Board because they would be discussing taking a position. He also suggested adding more detail about the 4 different cost aspects to clarify and educate, noting his appreciation for the explanation of costs.

Ms. Bout stated that they have been holding info sessions and tours, noting the effort of all members of the SC. She stated that the schedule is going well and that they've received great feedback. She stated that they attended the League of Women Voters First Friday event and were able to answer many questions. She stated that they've had good attendance at the tours and Ms. Boynton noted that it was helpful to review the tour notes to capture themes. The SC shared their progress with outreach to different stakeholder groups.

**IX. OLD BUSINESS**

A. Alcott Principal Search Update. Dr. Hunter stated that there are 2 strong finalists, Naomi Krakow and Julie Vincentsen. She stated that they're spending time with the leadership team and have been at Alcott to attend forums with parents and teachers. She noted that it's been a very successful search process.

B. CPS FY20 Budget. Dr. Hunter thanked the Finance Committee for revisiting their guidelines and noted her appreciation for their time and thoughtfulness in raising their guideline. She noted her appreciation for their work in validating their zero-based budgeting process.

*Dr. Hunter left the meeting to attend the Carlisle Board of Selectman meeting.*

Ms. Bout stated that the Finance Committee has not taken a position on the CMS warrant article and suggested sending an email to the Finance Committee that addresses the questions they've had on the article regarding clarifying: what's included, the overall debt service of Concord, cost of waiting and facts around why now. She also suggested sending a similar email to the Select Board as well.

C Concord School Committee Goals Update. Ms. Boynton reviewed the CSC Goals and discussed progress on the goals. She stated that they are making progress and are on target with the goals. She noted that they need to circle back to the cultural competency goal in June.

**X. ACTION ITEMS**

A. Vote to accept donation of Alcott sign. A motion was made by Ms. Bout, seconded by Mr. Grom, to accept the donation of the Alcott sign, with thanks. The motion was unanimously approved.

B. Vote to accept Boston Foundation grant check. A motion was made by Ms. Bout, seconded by Mr. Johnston, that the Concord School Committee votes to accept a grant from the Christopher and Debra Wysopal Charitable Trust, a Donor Advised Fund of the Boston Foundation, in the amount of \$1,000. The motion was unanimously approved, with thanks.

**XI. ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Mr. Johnston, seconded by Ms. Bout, adjourn the meeting. The motion was unanimously approved and the meeting adjourned at 8:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Erin E. Higgins

Abbreviations:

- ACLU American Civil Liberties Union
- CASE Cooperative Association for Special Education
- CEF Concord Education Fund
- CSC Concord School Committee
- CCSC Concord-Carlisle Regional District School Committee
- CMLP Concord Municipal Light Plant
- 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
EOYR	End of the Year
FAAC	Financial Audit Advisory Committee
FINCOM	Finance Committee
FCCPF	Friends of Concord Carlisle Playing Fields
GASB	Governmental Accounting Standards Firm
MAAB	Massachusetts Architectural Access Board
MASC	Massachusetts Association of School Committees
MIAA	Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association
NEASC	New England Association of Schools and Colleges
NESDEC	The New England School Development Council
NFPA	National Fire Protection Association
OPEB	Other Post-Employment Benefits
PEG	Public Education Government
RTI	Response to Intervention
SEPAC	Special Education Parent Advisory Council
SOI	Statement of Interest
SPED	Special Education
SWOT	Strengths, Weakness, Opportunities, Threats
YRBS	Youth Risk Behavior Survey