

Present: Wallace Johnston, Chair, CCSC; CSC
David Model, Vice Chair, CCSC
Heather Bout, Chair, CSC; CCSC
Courtland Booth, Vice Chair, CSC; CCSC
Cynthia Rainey, CSC, CCSC
Yuval Erlich, CSC, CCSC

Absent: Eva Mostoufi, CCSC

Present from Administration: Dr. Laurie Hunter, Superintendent of Schools, CPS & CCRSD

Absent from Administration: Jared Stanton, Director of Finance & Operations, CPS & CCRSD

I. CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Bout called the CSC to order at 6:36 PM and Mr. Johnston then called the CCSC to order. A motion was made by Mr. Booth, for both CSC and CCSC, seconded by Mr. Erlich, for both CSC and CCSC, that the Concord School Committee and Concord-Carlisle Regional School Committee 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 7:00 PM. The motion passed by roll call: Rainey, aye (both); Erlich, aye (both); Booth, aye (both); Bout, aye (both); Johnston, aye (both); Model, aye (CCSC).

Ms. Bout called the CSC meeting back to order at 7:06 PM and Mr. Johnston then called the CCSC meeting back to order, noting that it was being recorded.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT

1. Carolyn Wilkins, 51 Hillside Ave, Concord, MA. Ms. Wilkins thanked the SC for its service. Regarding the SC Policy review on Student Rights and Responsibilities, Ms. Wilkins stated that there was recently white nationalist content floated in Concord. She noted that the book she was currently reading, *Call to Forgive*, was incredibly powerful and the community needs to be reminded that it's their responsibility to make sure content like this is not entering the schools and to remind everyone that there is no tolerance for racial hatred. Dr. Hunter noted that she will be writing a cultural competency newsletter before the end of the week to share what the District is working on. Mr. Erlich invited Ms. Wilkins to the Policy Subcommittee meeting on December 19th to discuss the Civil Rights/Hate Crime policy.

III. RECOGNITIONS

A. LAUNCH Program. *The LAUNCH Program could not attend rescheduled meeting, they will come to a future meeting.*

IV. READING OF THE MINUTES

A. Open Session - Jt. Meeting – 11/19/19. A motion was made by Ms. Rainey, seconded by Mr. Erlich, to approve the joint minutes from the 11/19/19 meeting. The motion was unanimously approved.

V. CHAIRS & LIAISONS REPORT

Mr. Johnston stated that he attended the Chairs Breakfast, noting: the discussion around Affordable Housing initiatives, the Climate Action Advisory Board currently active; the Board of Health update on vaping and tobacco use; the Zoning Bylaws update.

Ms. Bout stated that she attended the Coffee and Conversation about the middle school, hosted by the League of Women Voters. She noted that there were great conversations, thanking Dr. Hunter, Tim Hult and Pat Nelson, from the CMSBC, who also attended.

Mr. Erlich stated that he attended the Board of Health public meeting, at which the SC presented its signed Vaping Resolution.

VI. CORRESPONDENCE

Mr. Johnston stated that the SC received an invitation from Concord Safe Technology for a public forum on wireless technology on January 12th from 2:00-5:00PM at Willard Elementary School. He stated that the SC received 32 emails encouraging the District to move to electric buses, noting that the group “Mothers Out Front” has a national campaign toward this effort. He noted that most of the emails received were letters from Mothers Out Front. Mr. Johnston stated that he reached out to different groups/people to discuss how to approach this topic, including: Mothers Out Front, Brian Foulds, who is proposing a warrant article proposing transition to electric buses, and Alice Kaufman, former Concord Select Board member.

VII. SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

Regarding Student Wellness, Dr. Hunter stated that consultant Rachel Poliner has been working closely with the Leadership Team, the Social Emotional Learning Committee and leaders of the CCHS Advisory Program. She stated that the work centers around ensuring kids are valued and feel part of the community. Dr. Hunter stated that she and Ms. Herbert have been meeting with all administrators who evaluate educators and synching up consistent processes and approaches. She stated that the CCTA Evaluation Committee is continuing to review contractual language and timelines. Dr. Hunter stated that the Innovative Learning Committee is working to prioritize its work, noting that Rivers and Revolutions has concluded its work in half of the fifth-grade classrooms. She noted that there is discussion around what a Rivers and Revolutions-like program could look like at CMS, noting that CEF is interested in helping as a potential funding source.

Dr. Hunter stated that the first PreK-12 professional development day was lost due to weather. She stated that CMS is expanding its Playbook Initiative to enable more children to participate. She stated that CCHS is looking to join CMS in participating in the Tenacity Challenge, an academic competition for Latino and African-American students. Dr. Hunter stated that CCHS received a METCO grant to host a performance of a theater production of “Mr. Joy”, a play about racial divides. Dr. Hunter stated that Special Olympics Unified Track will begin in the spring and a Best Buddies group at CCHS is actively being created.

Dr. Hunter stated that there was a forum at CMS on special education, noting that the LAUNCH kids would be coming to an upcoming meeting. She stated that badges are being updated for staff, who will all be wearing them in January. She stated that considerable time is being spent in building a walkie-talkie communication system to be used between schools, police, and fire departments. She stated that the leadership team is discussing consistent implementation of Incident Management Teams. She stated that the new security cameras in the K-8 buildings are active and operational.

Dr. Hunter stated that composting began at CCHS on Monday, December 16th, noting that it was led by a group of 50 CCHS students. She stated that the District surveyed senior students on their daily mode of transportation and reasons behind that choice, noting that juniors will also be surveyed. Dr. Hunter stated that the District is collaborating with ConcordCAN to bring in the founder of The Sunshine Movement, Varshini Prakash, noting that she met with the local CCHS chapter of The Sunshine Movement to hear its vision.

Dr. Hunter stated that she attended Willard’s International Fair and the CCHS lunch for senior citizens of Concord and Carlisle. She stated that Partners in Rhyme, a collaboration between CCHS freshman and senior citizens, would be coming in February to present to the SC. Mr. Erlich stated that he attended the PRISM concert, noting that it was outstanding, and Dr. Hunter agreed.

Mr. Erlich asked Dr. Hunter if she had heard back from Challenge Success and Dr. Hunter stated that she spoke with the organization and will be summarizing to bring back to the SC.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

A. CCRSD FY21 Budget. Mr. Johnston stated that the SC has had many conversations regarding the budget, noting that the SC would be voting on this later in the meeting. Regarding town meetings, Mr. Booth noted that the Carlisle consideration precedes the Concord consideration.

B. CCRSD Capital Article. Dr. Hunter stated that Gale Associates understands that the goal is to provide a number that is conservative enough to bring in bids under, but not too large to be untenable, noting that Gale feels strongly that they've done that vetting. She stated that the goal is to fund the design, which will better inform the bid. She stated that the typical cost per parking space is \$2,500-3,000, noting that Gale's estimate is in line with these costs. She noted that the SC also wanted to include lighting of the parking lot as well as charging stations, for \$100,000 of the total cost. Dr. Hunter stated that looping back to Gale has increased the District's confidence in Gale's proposal for an estimate. She stated that the number would be reduced by the amount of the design, which she is recommending come out of the operating budget. Dr. Hunter stated that she could have Gale Associates attend a SC meeting in January.

Mr. Erlich questioned the range of the 21 points that are not included in Gale's proposal and Dr. Hunter stated that she did question Gale, who said that they use a very standard set of language, noting that it was very similar to the language used in the feasibility study, which was highly vetted. Dr. Hunter stated that she is very comfortable with the language, based on the relationship with Gale, as well as the advice from legal counsel. Mr. Erlich stated that the SC needs to understand the financial implications of the 21 points that aren't included. Ms. Bout stated that her understanding was that Gale included what they thought was necessary to give a realistic estimate of overall pricing, and the items not included are not likely to be necessary. Dr. Hunter stated the expectation is for Gale to have enough information to create a design.

Mr. Johnston stated that the SC has been discussing the parking lot for five years, noting that Gale knows the site very well and the SC needs to rely on vendors who've done a very good job over the years. He stated that it's not the SC's job to write and approve contracts.

IX. ACTION ITEMS

A motion was made by Mr. Booth, seconded by Ms. Rainey, to take up the expenditure for the new Gale study for the CCHS parking lot out of current operating budget, prior to consideration of the capital article for the same project. The motion was unanimously approved.

A. Vote to Authorize General Fund Expenditure. A motion was made by Ms. Bout, seconded by Mr. Booth, to authorize the Director of Operations to fund design work for a new CCHS parking lot within the FY20 operating budget in the amount of \$78,190. Mr. Booth stated that the SC shouldn't assume the haste for which the towns want the District to move on the parking lot. Ms. Rainey thanked Administration for all of its time on the parking, but stated that the parking should wait a year, while the District tries other strategies to alleviate the parking issue. Mr. Erlich stated that he is not comfortable with advancing the \$78,000 before the vote from town meeting. Ms. Bout stated that the parking was very close to getting passed last year, noting that she feels that bringing forward solid numbers is the responsible way to go into town meeting. Mr. Model stated that he supports going in with all of the facts, but noted that he feels they shouldn't move the parking lot due to the green initiative and cost. Mr. Johnston stated that he supports using funds from the general fund and is perplexed at how they've arrived at this point. Mr. Erlich stated that the SC should get a popular vote of yes before moving forward and spending money. Ms. Bout and Mr. Johnston were in favor of the motion. Mr. Model, Mr. Booth, Ms. Rainey and Mr. Erlich were not in favor. The motion did not carry.

B. Vote to Approve CCHS Capital. A motion was made by Ms. Bout, seconded by Mr. Erlich, to approve the CCHS Capital Article and Motion, as presented. That article reads "To determine whether the Town will vote to approve \$848,410 of debt authorized by the Concord-Carlisle Regional School Committee for the design and construction of the

parking lot; or to take any other action relative thereto.” Mr. Model stated that the SC should take a year and commit to a greener solution to the parking problem. Ms. Bout agreed that the SC should be thought leaders, but stated that Administration has tried to change behavior over the past 4 years, and it isn’t just a matter of changing the behavior of a few students, but the community as a whole. She stated that she believes strongly, that to address stress and the safety issue, the SC needs to address the parking issue. Mr. Erlich stated that the SC needs to address the stress and tension by alleviating the parking issue by bringing it to the community for a vote. Ms. Rainey stated that she fears going back with the same warrant is not the right thing to do, suggesting taking a year off to try all options. Mr. Erlich noted that it is not the same article since it is one clear item. Mr. Booth suggested giving it one more year to try and support creative problem solving around bus ridership and car usage. Mr. Erlich urged the SC to put the question to the community at Town Meeting and Mr. Johnston agreed, noting that there was an unusual situation the previous year at which the full community of stakeholders who attended Town Meeting did not get a chance to vote on the parking article. He stated that the District underbuilt the parking lot to begin with, and there is not adequate parking to support the school, noting that the SC doesn’t have the mechanism for changing adult behavior in the community. Mr. Johnston stated that it was time to bring this forward to give the full community of stakeholders the opportunity to vote.

Dr. Hunter stated that there are a lot of good reasons why students are driving to school, noting that the reasons will not be fixed with any options the District can come up with. She noted that she spoke to the leaders of The Sunshine Movement, who stated that they would like to speak at Town Meeting about why parking is needed. Dr. Hunter stated that the District has looked into carpooling, offering incentives, and bus transportation. She stated that she doesn’t feel that the sustainability part of parking isn’t a years’ worth of work, but ten years’ worth of work. She stated that there is a competitive piece of sustainability versus kids’ needs, noting that the kids need to be first. She stated that she believes in sustainability, but not at the cost of the kids, noting that she is struggling with where the SC is at.

Mr. Erlich stated that the SC could vote and voice opinions by voting no, if necessary. Mr. Model asked if there were any other school capital articles and Dr. Hunter stated that the CMS capital article would be included in a special town meeting. Mr. Johnston read a statement written by Ms. Mostoufi, because she was unable to attend the rescheduled meeting date. Her statement was in favor of supporting the parking article. After discussion, the SC agreed to change the January 7th CSC meeting to a CCRSD meeting, to vote on the capital article as a full committee. Ms. Bout withdrew her motion.

C. Vote to Approve CCRSD FY21 Budget. A motion was made by Ms. Bout, seconded by Mr. Model, to approve the CCRSD FY21 Budget Article and Motion, as presented. A motion was made by Mr. Booth, seconded by Ms. Rainey, to add an amendment to qualify the approval with the language of Fiscal 2021 bus leasing called for new transportation vehicle replacement budget item shall follow School Committee review of the current replacement plan and review of strategies through which vehicle replacements in the future may inform the Town of Concord greenhouse gas emission reduction goals as adopted by the 2017 Town Meeting. Ms. Bout questioned adding an amendment to a budget vote, noting that she’s never seen this done before. Dr. Hunter stated that the District is currently the leader in the state on electric bus usage, noting that Administration would be happy to share information on bus leasing and grant applications for electric buses. She voiced her concern with attaching a conditional piece to the budget, noting that the SC shouldn’t distract from the budget coming in under guideline. Mr. Booth withdrew his motion. After discussion, the SC agreed to have Mr. Stanton provide information on the current bus inventory and history of the buses, in order to inform discussion. Ms. Rainey recommended having the status of the bus fleet included yearly in the budget books. Ms. Bout noted the care and thought that went into the creation of the budget, also noting that it came in under guideline. The motion was unanimously approved.

D. Vote to Approve CASE Agreement. Dr. Hunter reviewed the updates to the CASE Agreement. A motion was made by Mr. Erlich, for both CSC and CCSC, seconded by Ms. Rainey, for both CSC and CCSC, to approve the CASE Agreement, as presented. The motion was unanimously approved.

E. Vote to Accept Donation from Lueders Environmental, Inc. A motion was made by Mr. Model, seconded by Ms. Rainey, to approve a \$150.00 donation from Leuders Environmental, Inc. to the Concord-Carlisle Regional School

District. Mr. Booth commended Leuders for their support, but noted that Leuders will receive no more or no less consideration than any other bidding agency. The motion was unanimously approved, with thanks.

F. **Vote to Approve School Committee Policies**

- File: ADC – Tobacco Use on School Premises Prohibited
- File: BDFA – School Councils
- File: GBED – Tobacco Use on School Property by Staff Members Prohibited
- File: JF – School Admissions
- File: JHD – Exclusions & Exemptions from School Attendance
- File: JI – Student Rights & Responsibilities
- File: JICG – Tobacco Use by Students (to be removed)
- File: JICH – Alcohol, Tobacco & Drug Use by Students

A motion was made by Mr. Erlich, for both CSC and CCSC, seconded by Ms. Rainey, for both CSC and CCSC, to approve the policies, as presented. The motion was unanimously approved.

X. ADJOURNMENT – CCRSD

A motion was made by Mr. Model, seconded by Ms. Rainey, to adjourn the CCSC meeting. The motion was unanimously approved, and the CCSC meeting adjourned at 9:17 PM.

CONCORD SCHOOL COMMITTEE TO STAY IN SESSION

XI. Old Business

A. CPS FY21 Budget. Ms. Bout stated that, after the Town of Concord adjusted its guideline, the CPS FY21 Budget is currently \$100,000 over the Town of Concord’s Finance Committee guideline.

XII. New Business

A. Elementary School Enrollments. Dr. Hunter shared enrollment numbers at the elementary schools, stating that all of the Mews apartment and METCO children are currently attending Alcott, noting that the enrollment numbers are not balanced. She stated that it seems prudent to start looking at the decisions made and determine if they need to be revised. She stated that the Boston piece is of bigger proportion, and is included in the later portion of the 5 year Strategic Plan. She proposed from September of 2020 and beyond, that the District would begin to enroll families at Willard who live in the Mews apartment complex, unless they have siblings at Alcott. The SC discussed and agreed this proposal made sense.

XIII. Action Items

A. **Vote to Approve CPS FY21 Budget.** A motion was made by Mr. Erlich, seconded by Mr. Johnston, to approve the CPS FY21 Budget Motion and Article, as presented, in the amount of \$40,782,874. The motion was unanimously approved. Mr. Johnston stated that this budget was not in line with the Finance Committee’s guideline, noting that he is in favor of the budget the SC is bringing forward. He also noted that it was a level service budget. Ms. Bout noted what a collaborative effort the budget process was with Concord FINCOM, also noting that the clarity was much appreciated. Mr. Johnston also thanked Carlisle’s FINCOM for their work on the CCRSD side. The motion was unanimously approved.

B. **Vote to Approve CPS FY21 Capital.** A motion was made by Mr. Johnston, seconded by Mr. Booth, to approve the CPS FY21 Capital Article and Motion, as presented for \$900,000. The motion was unanimously approved.

C. **Vote to Accept Donation from Exxon Mobil.** Dr. Hunter stated that this donation was given from the Exxon Mobil station near Willard, noting that this is an annual submission. A motion was made by Mr. Booth, seconded by Mr. Erlich, to accept a gift check in the amount of \$500.00 from Exxon Mobil Corporation to Willard School. Mr. Booth noted that the money was to be used in Math and or Science instruction. Mr. Johnston stated that, given Article 51 and the fact that the state is in litigation with Exxon Mobil, he couldn’t vote to accept the donation. Ms. Rainey noted

that this was a member of the community who got the donation from a corporate entity. After discussion, the SC voted on the motion. Mr. Johnston was not in favor of the motion and the other SC members approved the motion.

XIV. Adjournment

A motion was made by Mr. Erlich, seconded by Ms. Rainey, to adjourn the meeting. The motion was unanimously approved and the CSC meeting adjourned at 9:47 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Erin E. Higgins

Approved: 1.21.20

Abbreviations:

CCHS	Concord-Carlisle High School
CCRSD	Concord-Carlisle Regional School District
CCSC	Concord-Carlisle Regional District School Committee
CCTA	Concord-Carlisle Teachers' Association
CMS	Concord Middle School
CMSBC	Concord Middle School Building Committee
COLA	Cost-of-Living Increase
CPS	Concord Public Schools
CSC	Concord School Committee
DESE	Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education
E&D	Excess and Deficiency
ERU	Energy Recovery Unit
FINCOM	Finance Committee
FTEs	Full Time Employees
MASC	Massachusetts Association of School Committees
MICCA	Massachusetts Instrumental & Choral Conductors Association
NEASC	New England Association of Schools and Colleges
NRC	Natural Resources Commission
OPM	Owner's Project Manager
PTG	Parent Teacher Group
SC	School Committee
SEPAC	Special Education Parent Advisory Council
SWOT	Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats