

JOINT SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Concord-Carlisle School Committee
Concord School Committee
Ripley Building
January 7, 2020

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
Eva Mostoufi, CCSC

Present from Administration:

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

I. CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Bout called the CSC meeting to order at 5:47 PM, noting that it was being recorded, and Mr. Johnston then called the CSC meeting to order.

A. Executive Session: A motion was made by Ms. Rainey, for both CSC and CCSC, seconded by Mr. Erlich, for both CSC and CCSC, for The Concord School Committee and Concord-Carlisle Regional School Committee to enter into Executive Session under Purpose 2 of the Open Meeting Law: To conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with nonunion personnel or to conduct collective bargaining sessions or contract negotiations with nonunion personnel and 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: Rainey, aye (for both); Erlich, aye (for both); Booth, aye (for both); Bout, aye (for both); Johnston, aye (for both); Model, aye. Ms. Bout noted that Ms. Mostoufi would be joining the meeting during Executive Session.

At 6:39 PM, Mr. Johnston called the CCSC meeting back to order and Ms. Bout then called the CSC meeting back to order, noting that it was being recorded.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

CCHS Student Reps, Linda Xu and Amy Tedeschi, reported that midterms are starting the following week, causing student stress. They noted that adding plants and flowers around school has been known to lower student stress. Ms. Bout noted that Pets and People would be visiting CCHS on Monday. The reps stated that the reading day scheduled in between exams has been very helpful.

III. READING OF THE MINUTES

A. Open Session - Jt. Meeting – 12/10/19. A motion was made by Ms. Rainey, seconded by Mr. Booth, to approve the Joint Meeting Minutes from 12/10/19. The motion was unanimously approved.

IV. CHAIRS & LIAISONS REPORT

Ms. Rainey stated that the Capital Planning Task Force met, noting that it has a fairly aggressive schedule. She stated that the Task Force is hoping to hold an open public hearing with proposal options, noting that she would have a more substantial update at the next meeting.

V. CORRESPONDENCE

Dr. Hunter stated that she sent the Cultural Competency letter out that she had referenced, noting that the webpage is being reworked to be more theme oriented, including the theme of environmental sustainability. She stated that CC at Play and Youth Baseball/Softball would like to do some updates to the CCHS fields, noting that Ms. Rainey will be part of the discussion.

Mr. Johnston stated that he received emails in support of changing the bus fleet over to non-carbon.

VI. ONGOING BUSINESS

A motion was made by Ms. Bout, seconded by Ms. Rainey, to amend the agenda to take up the Draft Calendar before the CCRSD Capital Article. The motion was unanimously approved.

A. Draft 2020-2021 Calendar. Dr. Hunter stated that Labor Day doesn't occur until September 7th, so there was a lot of discussion with the Calendar Committee around start date. She stated that both teacher contracts have an earliest start date of August 27th. Dr. Hunter stated, after a lot of discussion, the Committee is proposing a calendar that has the staff beginning on August 27th, with 2 professional days that Thursday and Friday; and students returning Monday, August 31st. She stated that contracts also include the Friday before Labor Day as a day off, which would create a four day weekend. She also stated that the Committee is still deliberating the CCHS and CMS Conference dates, noting that she would be bringing back the recommendations to the meeting on January 21st. She noted that the Committee also discussed the time around Christmas, and agreed upon a ½ day on December 23rd. She stated that the Committee is recommending moving the Professional Day for grades 6-12 due to the break in semesters. Dr. Hunter noted that the school year will end a little later in June. She stated that the Committee made recommendations based on several surveys that were conducted across the District, noting that the feedback showed mixed opinions among the teachers.

B. CCRSD Capital Article. Dr. Hunter stated that the cost of the CCRSD Capital Article for design and construction of a parking lot at CCHS, totals \$848,410. She shared a general timeline, based on approval at the April 27th and 29th Town Meetings, including: 2-3 months for design (July 2020) and permitting (Fall 2020); 1 month bid process (Fall 2020); and 2-3 month construction (Spring 2021). Dr. Hunter noted that discussion topics around the article include: sustainability, traffic, Town Meeting process and the proposal and construction process. She stated that, no matter the vote taken, she recommends a subcommittee be formed to provide structure to the process. Dr. Hunter stated that if the SC votes to approve the article, that it's a placeholder in the Concord Warrant Article, not a given that the SC would move it come Town Meeting. She recommended not abandoning the subject if the SC votes against it. She stated that the parking is an issue, but the timing needs to be determined by the SC, noting that Administration has been ready to move the parking warrant article for the past two years.

Dr. Hunter stated that she invited John Perry, Chief Civil Engineer from Gale Associates, at the request of the SC in order to ask questions of Gale. Mr. Perry stated that Gale had previously completed a feasibility study of the CCHS campus that looked at everything on campus, including: entrance roadway, need for parking, locations for possible parking lot, and track creation, noting that the feasibility study included initial cost estimates and conceptual plans. He stated that Gale recently updated the cost estimate, noting that Gale's knowledge of the site helped to inform the updated cost estimate. He stated that the high school site is very challenging, due to the water protection, wetlands, impervious areas, and hazardous materials. He noted that Gale's estimates were slightly higher than normal due to these challenging issues.

Mr. Model stated that \$8,000 per space is a lot of money, questioning what a reasonable number for per parking space basis for a municipal parking lot and Mr. Perry stated that there were several extra costs included in the \$8,000, such as curbing, lighting fixtures, electrical car charging stations, and power back to the school. Mr. Model questioned what the multiplier for a municipal project compared with a privately funded one would be and Mr. Perry stated that, due to prevailing wages regulations governing publicly funded projects, the typical number is 30%. Ms. Bout asked, in terms of putting off the parking for another year, what Mr. Perry's estimate of general year over year cost escalation would be. Mr. Perry stated that around 5% year over year is typical when talking with contractors regarding site work. Mr. Erlich noted that crude oil prices are very unpredictable. Mr. Booth questioned what constitutes best

practice efforts around efficiencies before adding additional parking as a solution. Mr. Perry stated that if the spaces are continually full day after day, that the typical solution would be additional parking. Mr. Johnston asked if Mr. Perry had come across schemes that other schools have used to mitigate the number of cars coming to campus and Mr. Perry stated that every school has different parking privileges in place.

Mr. Erlich stated that he felt a warrant article for \$850,000 may push the bids up and asked about the \$40,000 for the granite curb included in the proposal. Mr. Perry stated that other options are available in curbing, noting that there are items in the proposal that could be reduced or removed, such as the tinder guardrail and drainage. Mr. Erlich questioned if there was a chance that any of the items listed on page 8 of Gale's proposal would be needed, and Mr. Perry stated that if Gale thought those items would be necessary, they would have included them in the cost estimate. He noted that many of those items are boilerplate. Mr. Model stated that although small in probability, these items are big in cost, questioning if any of the items rise above meaningful percentage of probability, given Gale's knowledge of the site. Mr. Perry stated that Gale included anything they thought would arise in the cost estimate. Mr. Johnston noted that Gale's proposal is not under consideration, because the SC voted not to do this ahead of time. Ms. Mostoufi asked, after the design process, would there be a clear understanding of any pitfalls that come up working with the Town of Concord. Mr. Perry stated that they would go through the permitting process and then start construction. Mr. Stanton clarified that the District does not need to bid out the design. Mr. Johnston thanked Mr. Perry for attending the meeting, noting what a great partner Gale has been.

Dr. Hunter stated that the next discussion should be sustainability, asking if the SC is at a planning stage, - or an execution stage, noting that timing is a concern. Mr. Johnston stated that he liked the idea of a subcommittee that would discuss parking and sustainability, of which the public would be welcomed to give ideas and feedback. Ms. Mostoufi stated that the high school students should be included in the sustainability discussion, suggesting the article move forward because the parking need has been there and will continue to come up. She noted that the buses do not allow students to take very large bags onto the bus, which requires parents and/or students to drive. She also noted how hard it is to find parking when visiting the high school. Ms. Rainey stated that many community members have ideas around sustainability, stating that she would not be in favor of moving the article. Mr. Erlich stated that the only way he feels comfortable moving the article is if the SC comes to the table with more than the previous year. He noted his concern with burying the discussion in subcommittees, stating that the SC needs to leave with a clear meeting date set to discuss sustainability. Mr. Booth stated that he is not ready to support the article, but is still listening, noting that the SC should be weighing all types of solutions. Ms. Bout stated that she feels the SC should put parking on the warrant article as a place holder to have discussion to completely make a decision. Mr. Model agreed to create a sustainability focus, engage the students, look for best practice, noting that adding more parking should not be the first step the SC takes. Mr. Johnston stated that the SC and Administration has been dealing with the parking issue for years, noting that he feels the District needs to get the kids who are parking off campus, on campus. He stated that the SC last year moved the article, but due to the late timing of when the school articles appeared during Town Meeting, the article didn't pass. He stated that the SC should agree to a subcommittee to get input in sustainability and traffic at the high school, noting that adding parking completes the construction project at the high school. Mr. Johnston stated that the community is more comfortable with a conservative estimate and contingency, knowing that the SC would do everything to get the best bid. Ms. Mostoufi stated that the parking issue is not going away.

Mr. Erlich stated that he disagrees with waiting, noting that the Superintendent and Administration have said that parking is an issue of student safety and well-being. He stated that the School Committee invested hundreds of thousands of dollars to change the high school start time $\frac{1}{2}$ hour later, and that the kids are getting up even earlier to find parking. He recommended creating a subcommittee to enable the SC to bring more information to Town Meeting. Ms. Rainey stated that she felt it was not appropriate to discuss the creation of a subcommittee because it wasn't listed on the agenda. Dr. Hunter stated that the SC could add this to the agenda for the additional meeting the upcoming week. Mr. Booth recommended including other groups to generate ideas, such as the students and those involved in the parking at the high school. Ms. Rainey stated that it requires a lot of planning to institute changes for the fall. Mr. Erlich stated that the SC could come to Town Meeting with a clear plan. Mr. Johnston stated that a subcommittee could get to a level of detail that the main committee wouldn't have time to engage in. He stated that the past 3 school committees that he has been on have been dealing with this issue and have been unsuccessful. Mr. Johnston stated that he has abandoned his own personal beliefs to do what he believes is right for the schools, noting

that the issue needs to be dealt with so the SC can move forward. He noted the great progress that has been made since Mr. Stanton and Dr. Hunter joined the District, stating that the SC needs to stop coming back to these issues over and over again. Dr. Hunter stated that she doesn't want to be in the parking conversation unless the SC is entirely in it. She noted that's it's a bit misrepresentative to say that Administration has done nothing around parking, noting all of the work that the Administration has already tried, including: numbering spots, lining the Beede road, encouraging bus transportation, adding transportation in sports, and engaging in carpooling discussions. She stated that sustainability should not be priority above the well-being of the students, asking the SC to keep parking alive as a placeholder to continue to the discussions.

Mr. Johnston suggested giving commitment to discuss the creation of a subcommittee with the vote. Mr. Erlich stated that the SC needs to bring a clear direction on moving forward to Town Meeting, and if it is unable to do so, he will vote against moving it forward.

VII. ACTION ITEMS

A. Vote to Approve CCRSD Capital Article. A motion was made by Mr. Erlich, seconded by Ms. Bout, to approve the CCRSD Capital Warrant Article, in the amount of \$848,410, for purposes of the design and construction of the parking lot at CCHS. Mr. Erlich suggested reducing the contingency and other luxury items and reduce the article amount by \$100,000. A motion was made by Mr. Erlich, seconded by Mr. Booth, to amend the capital article to \$748,410. Dr. Hunter noted that the number moved forward has to be the maximum and can be lowered going forward. Mr. Model supported the idea of lowering the article. Ms. Bout stated that she was uncomfortable voting to reduce tonight because it would become the max, noting that the bids tend to come in under the cap. Ms. Rainey suggested waiting because the SC cannot value engineer without a design. Ms. Mostoufi noted that Gale has already built in a cushion and the SC would be only shaving off some of it. Mr. Johnston stated that the SC would have the opportunity to value engineer after today, noting that it's easier to not use all of the money than it is to get more. Mr. Erlich withdrew his motion. Mr. Booth asked if the high school leadership has the bandwidth to test out creative solutions and Dr. Hunter stated that leadership is ready to try solutions, but would need support. Mr. Erlich, Mr. Johnston, Ms. Bout and Ms. Mostoufi were in favor of the motion and Ms. Rainey, Mr. Booth and Mr. Model were opposed. The motion carried.

B. Vote to Approve CCHS Nordic Ski Team Trip. A motion was made by Ms. Bout, seconded by Mr. Booth, to give final approval for the CCHS Nordic Ski Team Trip to Jackson, NH from January 18, 2020-January 20, 2020, with the condition that a signed district liability insurance waiver is received from all participants. Mr. Erlich suggested asking Administration to bring a change to the policy - that sports related domestic trips will be approved by the Superintendent. The motion was unanimously approved.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT - CCRSD

A motion was made by Mr. Model, seconded by Ms. Rainey, to adjourn the CCRSD meeting. The motion was unanimously approved and the CCRSD meeting adjourned at 8:55 PM.

CONCORD SCHOOL COMMITTEE TO STAY IN SESSION

IX. New Business

A. Concord Association of Music Parents. Melissa Liazos and Elisabeth Winterkorn, from Concord Association of Music Parents, stated that they are a newly created non-profit group of parents who support the music performance programs in the elementary and middle schools. They shared the group's mission of: supporting the musical performance ensembles of the Concord Public Schools through: fundraising, advocacy for music education and community engagement; with the driving goal of ensuring access to music education and an enriching musical performance experience for all children. They shared the values of the group, as well as accomplishments since starting in August of 2019, including: organizing as a board, recruiting parent volunteers, launching their website, incorporating as a 501(c)(3), completing 2nd annual silent auction to support CMS ensembles traveling to Quebec City in May 2020 and launching online merchandise sales. They stated that they are hoping to spread the word out to the community. Mr. Erlich questioned why this group does not support the high school and they stated that there is already a group formed at the high school that supports those programs. Ms. Bout stated that groups like this make Concord such an amazing place to live and learn, thanking Ms. Liazos and Ms. Winterkorn.

X. Ongoing Business

A. CMS Building Committee Update. Mr. Booth stated that the CMSBC anticipates a Town Meeting very late summer of 2020 or early fall, noting that the hopes are to open a new school in fall 2023. He stated that SMMA has been brought on as designer for the project. Mr. Booth stated that on January 14th, there will be a community visioning session at Sanborn at 7:00 PM. He stated that the CMSBC will be looking to the SC in helping with outreach to the community to invite more people into the process. He stated that the next regular meeting of the Building Committee is Thursday, January 16th at 7:30 AM at Ripley, noting that these meetings are televised by MMN. Dr. Hunter stated that the Sustainability Subcommittee would be meeting January 8th at 1:30 PM at Ripley, noting that this would be the subcommittee's first formal discussion with SMMA.

Ms. Bout stated that the CMSBC has participated in several site visits, noting what an educational process it has been, providing insights and inspiration. She stated that there are various subcommittees that are currently active, including: Sustainability, Finance, and Education. Ms. Bout stated that the forum coming up will provide an opportunity to collect information and brainstorm ideas about the community's vision of a new middle school. She stated that there will be another public forum at the end of February where the CMSBC will share out and summarize all of the ideas. She stated that the Design Subcommittee is also a very active group in which all the other subcommittee discussions would feed into.

Dr. Hunter stated that there are 3 days scheduled over the next 2 weeks with the educators and Ewing Cole to discuss what the District wants teaching and learning to look like from a big picture level, noting that all staff will rotate through. She stated that all of this work will inform the design. Ms. Rainey questioned an end date for the feasibility study and Dr. Hunter noted that the timeline is all outlined in the documents. Ms. Rainey also questioned how many options will be brought forward and Mr. Booth stated that he understood that the work will yield between 3-6 different design options to narrow down. Ms. Rainey confirmed that the upcoming forum was not just about educational visioning, but about community visioning as well. Mr. Erlich asked if there was a way to mitigate priorities between education and sustainability and Mr. Booth stated that there will be conflicts and compromises, and they need to be able to have robust debate. Mr. Erlich stated that the SC needs to be a safeguard of what the school is being built for. Dr. Hunter stated that she has faith that the CMSBC will handle this in a thoughtful and respectful way.

Mr. Booth reported that the CMSBC draft charter is near completion, noting that it was a high level, bold declaration that the CMSBC can return to during the building process to help guide them. Ms. Bout stated that the CMSBC would appreciate the SC's help in communicating information about the forum out to the community.

XI. Adjournment

A motion was made by Ms. Rainey, seconded by Mr. Johnston, to adjourn the meeting. The motion was unanimously approved and the meeting adjourned at 9:41 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Erin E. Higgins

Approved: 2/25/20

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
MMN	Minuteman Media Network
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