

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

Ms. Bout called the CSC meeting to order at 6:33 PM, noting that it was being recorded and broadcast.

Ms. Bout acknowledged that the community experienced a tragedy with the loss of Chase Bjork, asking for a moment of silence. After a moment of silence, Ms. Bout stated that this tragedy has been difficult for everyone in the community, noting that their thoughts were with Chase’s family as well as the community. Ms. Bout thanked Administration for the incredible support they have been providing to students, families and the community. Dr. Hunter noted that there is ongoing support from Riverside Trauma Center, noting that Riverside has been onsite since Friday. She stated that Riverside also continues to be an ongoing contact, either in person or by phone, for as long as they are needed. Dr. Hunter stated that the District’s own counseling staff has risen extraordinarily to the occasion, including K-8 staff, also noting support from other districts. She stated that they will be hosting an open panel discussion on Monday night, February 10th, at the CCHS Learning Commons for families and parents to help them support their children. Dr. Hunter noted that the hope is to have a discussion on keeping everyone well in the immediate, and then have discussions on long term pieces going forward. Dr. Hunter noted the communities’ outreach and true love that have been extended, noting her sincere thanks.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

III. RECOGNITIONS

A. Cast of CMS Musical. Dr. Hunter noted the incredible talent of the cast of *Mary Poppins*. Several of the 8th grade cast members from *Mary Poppins* sang a song from the musical. The students introduced themselves and shared the roles they played. Ms. Bout thanked the students for coming, and noted their incredible talent.

Mr. Cameron thanked parent Tracey Marano and Director Jen Jarvis for their support of the arts and all of their help with the musical. Mr. Booth asked Mr. Cameron to extend the SC’s thanks to them as well.

IV. REPORTS FOR DISCUSSION

A. CMS Reconfiguration. Mr. Cameron stated that the reconfiguration consisted of taking 2 – 6th, 7th and 8th grade buildings and turning them into 1 – 6th grade building (Peabody) and 1 – 7th and 8th grade building (Sanborn). He noted how much the Reconfiguration Committee learned by the many site visits that took place, and how the reconfiguration has allowed them to relook at teaching and learning at CMS. He stated that they were able to make a new master schedule for both buildings, noting that CMS is now able to offer an intervention and enrichment block for all 6th grade students in their entry into middle school. He stated that all 6th grade students start off in a course titled “Fundamentals”, noting that the curriculum aligns itself to the whole child and is an introduction to middle school. Mr. Cameron stated that core teachers are able to deliver this curriculum out to 6th graders. He stated that the 6th grade students begin with the Fundamentals course in the fall, which allows the staff to assess the students through several screeners, then allowing them to place the students in intervention and enrichment classes for the 2nd trimester. He stated that the students are being progress-monitored to measure their growth and place them in 3rd

trimester classes. Mr. Cameron stated that they now have guidance counselors leading classes for the 1st time. He noted that they are looking to bring the 6th grade model up to the 7th and 8th grades as well.

Mr. Cameron invited the School Committee members for a tour of Sanborn. He noted that CMS is holding coffees to share the 6th grade experience and the transition to middle school. He stated that the need for a new facility is very pronounced; noting that space at the Sanborn building is very tight and noting that they really need more space in order for the intervention and enrichment program to thrive. He noted the tremendous amount of space sharing that is occurring at Sanborn and stated the ever growing need for a new facility.

Mr. Booth acknowledged the work done over last summer to accommodate the reconfiguration. Mr. Cameron thanked Dr. Hunter, Ms. Herbert and the School Committee for offering a master schedule to allow for time and capacity to focus on the kids. Mr. Booth asked about the screeners and Mr. Cameron explained more in depth how the screeners and identified tiered intervention works. Mr. Cameron stated that the intervention blocks allow the staff to identify the strengths of the students, enabling them to thrive. Mr. Cameron shared different elements of the Fundamentals course, noting the course allows 5th grade students to transition once in middle school, instead of taking time out of their 5th grade experience. He noted that they are re-establishing the Reconfiguration Committee to focus on the transition from 6th-7th grade. Mr. Johnston commended the District for all the efforts in helping to ease transitions. Mr. Cameron stated that he wants to honor the fact that some students have a hard time transitioning to middle school, noting that they haven't solved all of the problems. He also stated that he wants to honor all of the special education work occurring. Ms. Bout thanked Mr. Cameron for all of his work.

V. OLD BUSINESS

A. FY21 Budget. Ms. Bout stated that the SC has agreed to support the budget as is, noting that the CPS budget is \$100,000 off from Concord FINCOM's guideline. She asked Mr. Stanton and Dr. Hunter if anything has changed that would give any movement to get the budget closer to the guideline. Dr. Hunter stated that they built a tight budget, noting that special education is stabilizing. She stated that changing the budget number to meet the FINCOM guideline would have a programmatic impact. Mr. Booth asked about savings projections and Dr. Hunter stated that, due to the frontloading of the special education programs and staffing required from that, they could tap into circuit breaker and build programs that would then offset the need for those funds to go to out of district placements. She stated that this has enabled them to be further out in conservative spending than they would be normally. She noted that they are not in a place where they are able to show that there are savings to offer. Mr. Booth asked if there was any budgetary impact in the MEWS redistricting and Dr. Hunter stated that this was a very small impact. Dr. Hunter stated that, across the district, the team is living to the budgets they built, with high performing programs. Ms. Rainey asked if there was any activity at the State House that would impact FY21 and Mr. Stanton stated that, due to the new formula, CPS may get 25% of the transportation costs. Dr. Hunter stated that the revenue side of the Governor's budget is up, noting that it's a town benefit to Chapter 70 on the CPS side. The SC agreed to continue moving forward with the current budget recommendation.

B. CMS Building Update. Ms. Bout stated that the Sustainability Subcommittee met on January 30th, and reviewed different sustainability options and initiatives available. She stated that the Subcommittee would be giving a recommendation to the full CMSBC at its next meeting, on February 6th. Mr. Johnston questioned how the CMSBC was approaching cost savings over time relative to capital expense and the consideration of sustainability. Ms. Bout stated that the Committee is aware that this needs to be discussed and will be addressing it, noting the general tenor is to take this into account. Ms. Bout stated that there was also a meeting on January 30th with SEPAC members and the design team, SMMA, around special education needs and universal inclusion. She stated that the next CMSBC meeting would be Thursday, February 6th at 7:30 AM at Ripley, with a Sustainability Subcommittee meeting following. Ms. Bout stated that the CMSBC will be reviewing the schedule and milestones of the project and report on the themes from the 1st public forum. Ms. Bout stated that the League of Women Voters First Friday event focusing on the building project would be Friday, February 7th, at 9:15 AM at the West Concord Union Church, noting that: Dr. Hunter would be talking on educational vision, Mike Carroll, from Hill Associates, would be talking on the schedule, and Matt Root and Kate Hanley would be talking on sustainability initiatives. She stated that the CMSBC would reconvene on February 13th, looking at siting options of the Sanborn land. She stated that the next public forum is February 27th, at 7:00 PM, location TBD, at which they will be sharing out themes collected at the initial public forum and other discussions. Ms. Bout stated that the CMSBC is deeply committed to ensuring that this is the community's building,

noting that the community's input in this part of the process is critical, by either emailing the CMSBC at msbc@concordps.org or by attending a forum/meeting. Mr. Booth noted that there will be a Design Subcommittee meeting following the CMSBC meeting on February 13th.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. MSBA Statement of Interest 2020. Ms. Bout stated that the SC needs to decide whether or not they will submit an SOI, noting that she feels it is the SC's due diligence in submitting and would irresponsible not to. Mr. Booth stated that the SC has an equal commitment to ensure that the community has every option available. Dr. Hunter stated that the submission process is timely and the SOI must also go to the Select Board, noting that they should make sure CMS can be part of the discussion if it needs to be. Mr. Johnston stated that the SC needs to determine how this is presented at Town Meeting so that the history with MSBA is well known. Dr. Hunter noted that it would look presumptuous not submitting the SOI.

VII. ACTION ITEMS

A. Vote to Submit CMS Statement of Interest to MSBA 2020. A motion was made by Ms. Rainey, seconded by Mr. Johnston, to approve the CMS Statement of Interest 2020 as presented in the attachment. The motion was unanimously approved.

VIII. 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 7:47 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Erin E. Higgins

Approved: 2/25/20

Abbreviations:

CCHS	Concord-Carlisle High School
CCRS	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
MASC	Massachusetts Association of School Committees
MASS	Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents
MICCA	Massachusetts Instrumental & Choral Conductors Association
MMN	Minuteman Media Network
NEASC	New England Association of Schools and Colleges
NRC	Natural Resources Commission
OOD	Out of District
OPM	Owner's Project Manager
PTG	Parent Teacher Group
SC	School Committee
SEPAC	Special Education Parent Advisory Council

SWOT Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats