

JOINT SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Concord-Carlisle School Committee
Concord School Committee
Zoom Meeting
May 15, 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
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

The CSC meeting was called to order by Ms. Bout at 1:04 PM, noting that it was being recorded and broadcast live via zoom, and the CCSC meeting was then called to order by Mr. Johnston. *Ms. Mostoufi was not present at the meeting at this time.*

II. READING OF THE MINUTES

A. Open Session Jt. Meeting – 4/16/20, 4/28/20. A motion was made by Mr. Booth, for both CSC and CCSC, seconded by Ms. Rainey, for both CSC and CCSC, to accept the joint meeting meetings from 4/16/20 and 4/28/20. The motion was approved by roll call: Booth, aye (for both); Bout, aye (for both); Rainey, aye (for both); Model, aye; Johnston, aye (for both).

B. Executive Session – 2/25/20, 3/10/20, 4/16/20, 4/28/20, 5/8/20. A motion was made by Ms. Rainey, for both CSC and CCSC, seconded by Mr. Booth, for both CSC and CCSC, to approve the Executive Session meeting minutes from 2/25, 3/10, 4/16, 4/28 and 5/8/20. The motion passed by roll call: Booth, aye (for both); Rainey, aye (for both); Bout, aye (for both); Model, aye; Johnston, aye (for both).

III. CORRESPONDENCE

Mr. Johnston stated that he received more emails in favor of paying spring coaches.

IV. CHAIRS & LIASIONS REPORT

Ms. Bout stated that the Middle School Building Committee recommended taking a temporary pause to the Select Board and the Select Board voted to suspend CMSBC activity as recommended. Ms. Bout stated that the CMSBC is at a point where a lot of public engagement and input is needed, which isn't possible under the current situation. She also stated that the current uncertain financial situation does not feel like the right time to be asking for significant funding on a building. Ms. Bout stated that the CMSBC leadership will be meeting monthly to reevaluate. Mr. Booth stated that there should be a preliminary feasibility report in about 2 weeks, noting that this would be the formal pause point.

Ms. Rainey stated that the Concord Finance Committee met and discussed the Town's outlook and the state economy. She stated that the Pioneer Institute released unemployment numbers by town, noting that Concord is at 21% and Carlisle is around 20%.

Mr. Johnston noted that the Concord Town Moderator is looking to move the Town Meeting out until July, but most likely sometime in the fall, after September 1st.

V. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Hunter stated that the District is working on a number of ways to recognize the Class of 2020, noting that the high school administrators would be dropping off individual lawn signs to all of the seniors on Saturday, May 16th. She stated that the seniors will also be receiving swag bags, filled with their cap and gowns, as well as other items. Dr. Hunter stated that awards night would be held virtually and that there is a plan to hold a student parade on the day graduation would have been held, at which staff will be socially distanced along the CCHS driveway and kids and families would drive through. She noted that Concord Police have recommended this option for a parade. Dr. Hunter stated that Mr. Mastrullo is working with staff and parents on graduation, noting that the survey results showed the preference is for an in-person graduation with students only, broadcast over MMN.

Dr. Hunter stated that handbooks are normally brought before the SC in the spring, but that the handbooks will not be updated this spring, noting that they can be amended at any point. She stated that, regarding School Improvement Plans, principals would be completing written reports for status updates, noting that the principals will be looking at priorities in the fall and adjusting accordingly.

Mr. Booth stated that the recognitions for students and their volunteer work will still be happening, noting that there is a sound plan to recognize the contributions the students have made around town.

VI. REPORTS FOR DISCUSSION

A. Update on Phase 3 Remote Learning. Dr. Hunter noted the accountability change for Phase 3 as well as the structured Zoom sessions. Ms. Herbert stated that the live synchronous learning provides connections between teachers and students and structured learning environments. She stated that the District has provided a lot of professional development around helping teachers with classroom management, noting the limited time teachers have to participate. Ms. Herbert stated that attendance at the Zoom sessions as well as completing assignments is mandatory at the middle and high schools, noting that teachers are following up with students as needed. Ms. Herbert noted the prerequisite standards in content that the MA Dept of Elementary and Secondary Education came out with in writing, social studies and science. She stated that kids would need to learn these before moving to the next grade level, noting that the District is 80% of the way there. She stated that all of the online learning programs will be available to families over the summer. Dr. Hunter stated that the schools will be sending home the list of prerequisite content standards to families over the weekend. *Ms. Mostoufi arrived at the meeting.*

Ms. Grube stated that the Special Education staff was very excited to expand their time with students, noting the consistency in the transitioning and schedules. She stated that the middle and high school staff are resources for the general educators and that the elementary staffs are working collaboratively for the benefit of the kids.

Ms. Herbert noted that the District is trying to transfer milestone events into the new virtual environment, noting the blanding's turtle release into the wild for the 4th graders.

B. Plans for Summer 2020. Dr. Hunter stated that the District has always offered a K-5 summer program for identified regular ed, special ed and ELL students. She stated that the District plans to move this forward, expanding the level of parameter for who is identified. She stated that the directive from the state around special education, is to plan for in person and remote learning, and wait for the governor's decision-making process over the next 4-6 weeks. Regarding regular education, she stated that there is a lot more local control, noting that the District is leaning towards a virtual option instead of planning for several different scenarios. Dr. Hunter stated that middle and high school students will maintain their laptops instead of turning them in at the end of the year, and that the District is also looking into incentives for kids to participate over the summer. Dr. Hunter noted that the District is also in the process of securing staff for the summer.

Ms. Herbert stated that, in the past, the general education program is for students at the elementary level who have not met benchmark for reading, noting that there are about 200 kids who qualify through assessments. Ms. Herbert stated that the District would also like to invite all English Language Learner students as well. She stated that the District normally holds 3 weeks of summer school beginning July 6th, Monday - Friday, 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM. She stated that the District hopes of offer a virtual environment for regular education and English Language learner students, reviewing what that could possibly look like.

Ms. Grube stated that there is no guidance yet on ESY from DESE, noting that the District has been told to plan for both virtual and in person. She stated that the hope for the summer in Special Education is to make up some of the lost time and ensure students receive what is on their IEPs.

The SC agreed that virtual summer school was in the best interest of the students, families and staff. Dr. Hunter stated that she feels the special education program should be virtual as well, but that the District needs to follow the guidance from DESE.

C. Approach to Phase 4 Fall 2020. Dr. Hunter stated that the approach to Phase 4 and the list of things to talk on was not widely discrepant, based on the various resources. She noted many variables, including: learning, transportation, food services and logistically managing a school. She stated that 3 different possibilities: full re-entry in the fall, partial re-entry with some operating remotely and still working remotely. She shared many of the topics to be discussed, including: curriculum and blended learning, milestones and special events, calendar, schedules, swapping days, social distancing, safety practices, facilities and cleaning of the buildings, food service, transportation, health services, community partnerships, and communication. Dr. Hunter stated that she would like to see an Advisory Committee form that could sit as the umbrella to all of these working groups underneath it. She reviewed possible makeup of the Advisory Committee, including: School Committee, parents, Superintendent, Directors of Teaching and Learning, Student Services, METCO, Finance and Operations, principals, food service, facilities and transportation managers, school nurse leaders, CTA and CCTA reps, students, Board of Health and local professional Infectious Disease expert.

Ms. Bout and Ms. Mostoufi agreed that an Advisory Committee should be created and Ms. Mostoufi recommended that a civil engineer be included as a member as well. Ms. Rainey also recommended a SEPAC representative be included and Dr. Hunter noted that the list was not a complete list. Ms. Rainey questioned what peer districts are doing and Dr. Hunter stated that many of them are forming advisory groups like this, expecting that it needs to be driven by state level guidance, and hoping for some shared thinking and district commonality.

D. FY21 One-Twelfth Budget. Mr. Stanton stated that, for CPS, the District is a department of the Town, therefore, the Town does the submittals to the state, noting that he expects a 1/12th budget based on FY20's amount. He stated that the District should not have any issues paying all of its expenses. Mr. Booth questioned if the Town is looking into the budgets for the shared accounts with the schools and Mr. Stanton stated that this was correct. Regarding the region, Mr. Stanton stated that the District needs to apply for the 1/12th budget and submit all documents to DESE by June 1st, noting that DESE will use the most recent state aid numbers. Mr. Stanton stated, that for CPS, he expects to get about \$2.9 million/month based on the 1/12th budget, noting that he expects to have a budget by December 1st. Ms. Rainey questioned that the District doesn't have to spend all of the 1/12th budget that is allocated and Mr. Stanton confirmed that this is correct.

VII. ACTION ITEMS

A. Vote to Withdraw from EDCO Collaborative. A motion was made by Mr. Johnston, seconded by Ms. Rainey, that the Concord Public Schools withdraw from EDCO Collaborative as of July 1, 2020, and to grant the authority of the Superintendent and legal counsel to negotiate a withdrawal from the EDCO Collaborative. A motion was made by Ms. Bout, seconded by Ms. Rainey, that the Concord-Carlisle Regional School District withdraw from EDCO Collaborative as of July 1, 2020, and to grant the authority of the Superintendent and legal counsel to negotiate a withdrawal from the EDCO Collaborative. Mr. Booth noted that the Districts would remain members through 2021. Dr. Hunter noted how closely the districts have been connected to EDCO, noting that she can't in good faith recommend anything other than withdrawal, noting also that if termination comes to the table, she would have to vote that way too. The motions were approved by roll call: CSC – Johnston, aye; Booth, aye; Rainey, aye; Bout, aye; CCSC – Model, aye; Mostoufi, aye; Booth, aye; Rainey, aye; Bout, aye; Johnston, aye.

VIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Moved to Tuesday, May 19, 2020

IX. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Ms. Rainey, for both CSC and CCSC, seconded by Booth, for both CSC and CCSC, to adjourn the meeting. The motion was unanimously approved by roll call: Model, aye; Mostoufi, aye; Rainey, aye (for both); Booth, aye (for both), Bout, aye (for both); Johnston, aye (for both) and the CCSC meeting adjourned at 2:52 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Erin E. Higgins

Approved: 5.19.20

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
CPS	Concord Public Schools
CSC	Concord School Committee
ESY	Extended School Year
MIAA	Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association
OPM	Owners Project Manager
SC	School Committee