

JOINT SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Concord-Carlisle School Committee  
Concord School Committee  
Zoom Meeting  
June 9, 2020

Present: Wallace Johnston, Chair, CCSC; CSC  
Heather Bout, Chair, CSC; CCSC  
Courtland Booth, Vice Chair, CSC; CCSC  
Cynthia Rainey, CSC, CCSC  
Eva Mostoufi, CCSC

Absent: David Model, Vice Chair, 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 CCSC meeting was called to order by Mr. Johnston at 5:01 PM, noting that it was being recorded on Zoom and the CSC meeting was then called to order by Ms. Bout, also noting that it was being recorded. Ms. Bout noted that the Ninth Grade Academy update would be postponed to the next meeting.

**II. PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

**III. CORRESPONDENCE**

Ms. Bout stated that she received an email regarding marketing and one regarding equity.

**IV. CHAIRS & LIAISONS REPORT**

Ms. Bout stated that the SC received an email from MASC asking the SC to sign onto a resolution that would ask the state to fund any COVID 19 mandates. Mr. Johnston noted that if anyone was interested in seeing the resolution, they could email the SC.

Mr. Booth stated that he attended the session on race and racial injustice hosted by Dr. Hunter, Ms. Herbert and Mr. Nyamekye, noting that it was exceptional. He noted his concern for the absence of a formal statement, reading a statement to the community that he created based on input from SC members:

*The killing of George Perry Floyd Jr. is the most recent in a long line of crimes and injustices that are made possible by persistent bias and discrimination that is embedded in American culture. Mr. Floyd's death has elicited a widespread call to action to put new energy and commitment toward achieving our goal of racial equality and an end to hate.*

*Systemic racism and institutionalized prejudice have taken root in our culture, and our schools, over the past four hundred years. "Enough is enough" is the appeal that these School Committees and school leaders hear as a new call to action. It is our call to action.*

*Does hope for a better future die today at the knee of systemic racism? We reject that.*

*Does love for others die as we witness, in horror, eight minutes of cruelty? We reject that.*

*Does our personal dignity die when we discover that our hands casually remain in our pockets while we witness injustice? We reject that. Furthermore, we promise that you will not find our hands in our pockets. We have work to do in the Concord and Concord-Carlisle Schools and we are committed to that work.*

*Cultural awareness is one part — we need to provide our children with positive growth opportunities and first-hand experiences that teach responsibility for the safety and dignity of others. We expect the schools to develop more cross-community programs that leverage Concord and Carlisle's privileged position and benefit communities beyond our own. Toward this end we ask the support of the entire community. We commit to listening and learning and acting for change, so that the children and families we support are empowered to love, learn, and transform American society and realize our dream of equality for all.*

*We understand that the killings of George Floyd and countless other men, women and children of color over the course of our nation's history is made possible because people have accepted it. White people have learned this acceptance. Implicit bias is real and powerful and among us. We have learned that it is easier to "go along to get along." But we've been grievously wrong all along. The truth is that it's time to change. We will do the necessary work of listening and learning and acting for change, so that the children and families of Concord, Carlisle and Boston that we support are empowered to love, learn, and transform American society and realize the dream of equality for all. Racism has no place here.*

*We rededicate ourselves to the cause of racial justice and respect for all human beings.*

Ms. Bout thanked Mr. Booth for aggregating the thoughts of the SC, noting what a powerful statement it is.

A motion was made by Ms. Rainey, for both CSC and CCSC, seconded by Mr. Johnston for CSC and Ms. Mostoufi for CCSC, to accept the statement that Mr. Booth read as a statement from the CSC and CCSC. Mr. Booth noted that Mr. Model expressed his support and stated that actions really matter. The motion passed by roll call: Rainey, aye (for both); Booth, aye (for both); Bout, aye (for both); Mostoufi, aye; Johnston, aye (for both).

Ms. Rainey noted that Concord FINCOM met the previous week and discussed capital articles and the middle school project.

Mr. Booth stated that the Policy Subcommittee met prior to COVID-19, spending time on the Civil Rights/Hate Speech and Gender Identity policies. He suggested that the Policy Subcommittee reconvene prior to the start of school, noting that there are 2 members, he and Mr. Model.

## **V. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Dr. Hunter stated that her time has been focused on planning for the racial injustice sessions that Mr. Booth had noted, noting that there is a 2<sup>nd</sup> session for secondary parents the following night. Dr. Hunter stated that the sessions are recorded and will be posted. Dr. Hunter stated that she and Mr. Nyamekye met with the CCHS METCO students and parents, opening up a frank and open dialogue with them, noting that the families gave many suggestions. Dr. Hunter noted the committed energy for change, noting that the District is further emphasizing racism and anti-racism with its cultural competency work.

Dr. Hunter stated that she and Mr. Stanton are engaging with community groups on field usage, noting that the District will start making access available once information is sorted through. Dr. Hunter noted all of the great end-of-year events occurring during this time. Ms. Bout noted Dr. Hunter's leadership through this time, thanking her for her willingness to make change.

## **VI. REPORTS FOR DISCUSSION**

A. Ninth Grade Academy. *Moved to a future meeting.*

B. COVID 19 Task Force Updates. Dr. Hunter stated that the working groups and building based groups met last Wednesday, noting her excitement of the energy and depth of expertise in the community and willingness to

volunteer their expertise. She stated that the working groups will be sharing out to the larger Task Force group tomorrow, noting that the meeting was open to everyone. She stated that Task Force will be working on a vision compiled from input from all of the working groups. She stated that the Task Force will break out into working groups to review guidance from DESE on many different areas, including group size considerations when schools reconvene. Dr. Hunter noted that DESE is expected to give directive guidance next week for the committees to review and strategize implementation. She stated that the Task Force is hoping to have a plan in place by the end of July. Mr. Booth questioned if looking at the school calendar was a possibility and Dr. Hunter stated that the District may need to go back to review early release dates and conference dates to make sure it's the soundest plan.

C. FY21 Budget Update. Dr. Hunter stated that the Concord Select Board has asked the District to review its warrant articles and consider only essential items. She stated that the parking article is not being moved and that the budget articles are essential, leaving the capital article up for discussion. Mr. Stanton stated that that the ERU's at the Alcott and Thoreau were the biggest costs, noting that this could be done sometime next spring. Ms. Bout questioned if more money needs to be put aside for potential middle school costs and Dr. Hunter noted that there is always risk, but that she feels \$100,000 is still adequate for needs at CMS and Mr. Stanton agreed, noting that it was reactionary (as needed) money. Mr. Stanton noted that the daily building checks have been very helpful. Mr. Booth questioned the urgency of the ERU replacements and Mr. Stanton stated that putting them off for 1 year would be ok, but not for longer than that. Mr. Stanton noted that the ERU replacement at Alcott is more of an urgency than Thoreau. Dr. Hunter recommended not deciding until better understanding of the meaning of essential from the Select Board.

Regarding the FY20 budget, Mr. Stanton stated that the number is fluid, but is holding for the most part. He stated that he'd like to prepay some items, such as tuitions and laptop replacement, noting that the District normally prepays tuitions. He stated that the laptop replacement cycle is currently 4 years and this prepayment would be FY21's payment made in FY20, allowing the FY21 budget to be reduced. Ms. Rainey suggested deferring the payment for a year based on the current situation if the Districts are able to get more time out of the devices. Dr. Hunter stated that she would provide an update on the inventory, noting that it's important during this time to keep the devices reliable.

Mr. Booth asked if Mr. Stanton was intending to transfer money to bring E&D to 5% and Mr. Stanton stated that the revenue that he is projecting above what was budgeted for FY20 will get the District very close to 5%.

Mr. Johnston noted that the Mosquito requested if it could publish Mr. Booth's letter and Dr. Hunter noted that she would send it out to the community as well. Ms. Bout noted that it should also be sent to the Journal.

## **VII. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

A. A motion was made by Mr. Booth, for CCSC and CSC, seconded by Ms. Rainey, for CCSC and CSC, that the Concord School Committee and Concord-Carlisle Regional School Committee will 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 not return to Open Session. The motion passed by roll call: Rainey, aye (for both); Booth, aye (for both); Bout, aye (for both); Mostoufi, aye; Johnston, aye (for both) and Open Session ended at 6:08 PM.

## **VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Booth, seconded by Ms. Rainey. The motion was unanimously approved by roll call and the meeting adjourned at approximately 7:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Erin E. Higgins

Approved: 7.27.20

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