

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

The CSC meeting was called to order at 5:03 PM by Ms. Bout, noting that it was being recorded via Zoom, and that MMN was also broadcasting the meeting on the Educational Network. The CCSC meeting was then called to order by Mr. Johnston. Roll call attendance was taken: Bout, aye; Rainey, aye; Booth, aye; Mostoufi, aye; Wilson, aye; Johnston, aye. Mr. Johnston noted that Alexa Anderson and Fatima Mezdad were also in attendance.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

III. CORRESPONDENCE

Ms. Bout stated that she received 2 emails for CPS regarding antiracism, 1 regarding the calendar, 12 regarding a personnel issue, and 1 on back to school. For CCRSD, Mr. Johnston stated that he received 105 emails, noting that they were mostly from students opposing the current plan of returning to school alphabetically.

IV. CHAIRS & LIASIONS REPORT

Mr. Booth stated that the Policy Subcommittee will be meeting on Thursday, August 6th, at 4:00 PM. He stated that MASC is suggesting COVID related changes to certain policies, which the Subcommittee will be reviewing at the meeting.

V. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Hunter stated that the District continues to work on the plans and safety procedures, noting that she will review this more in the reopening updates.

VI. REPORTS FOR DISCUSSION

A. Fall 2020 Reopening/Task Force Updates. Dr. Hunter stated that there is an HVAC consultant in the buildings today. She stated that she met with the Commissioner and continues to hear updates, noting that there are discussions at the state level at setting thresholds of data for when schools would not open. She stated that she met with staff members at CCHS and had a very productive conversation, noting that the elementary and middle school meetings would also be happening this week. Dr. Hunter stated that the MOA discussions are continuing as well. She stated that she will be working with administrators on putting a structure around remote learning and will be sending out a survey around bus transportation so they can identify those students who will be riding the bus.

Mr. Booth stated that the SC is listening to parents, students and teachers, noting that the SC is trying to strive for balance. He then read a statement he had written on the importance of the safety of teachers and staff upon the reopening of schools. The SC members thanked Mr. Booth for his words, agreeing with his sentiment. Mr. Booth and Ms. Rainey commented on/clarified several points on the "Roadmap to Reopening". Ms. Rainey stated that it needs to

be made clear that students will not have opportunities to socialize as they did in the past. Ms. Mostoufi asked about special education students and equity and Dr. Hunter stated that the State guidelines suggest having some high needs students receive all in person instruction, based on their level of need. Dr. Hunter stated that this would be discussed in the upcoming week. Ms. Rainey asked about after school for K-5 and Dr. Hunter stated that Concord Recreation is actively building an after school program at every elementary school from 12:30-3:30 PM, with an extended day option until 6:00 PM.

Dr. Hunter stated that the safety of everyone is a priority, noting the intent of being conservative.

B. FY21 Budget Update. CCHS Budget - Mr. Stanton stated that, regarding CCHS, Chapter 70 would be level funded, increasing the new budget number by \$247,000. He stated that numbers have not been released for transportation yet. Dr. Hunter stated that a draft would be shared with the Town's Finance Committee, noting that the SC wouldn't be voting on the budget until after the Budget Workshop and the Budget Hearing. Mr. Stanton noted the COVID related items in the budget: staff, PPE related items, and software; also noting offsets of supplies/materials, contract services, equipment, field trips, professional development, special education tuitions and substitutes.

CPS Budget – Dr. Hunter stated that she and Mr. Kelly followed up on options to achieve 1:1 at K-5. She stated that Chromebooks are proving not to be the best option and feel that Apple laptop products provide the best efficiency. She stated that the replacement cycle at K-5 is the only one that is not up to date. Mr. Kelly noted that K-5 will not be a 1:1 environment after the pandemic, noting that the 4 year lease would provide a chance to play catch up with devices. Ms. Rainey noted her concern for the high price. Dr. Hunter noted that the technology specialists at the elementary schools feel that laptops would be best for the technological needs. Ms. Rainey suggested surveying K-5 families to determine who needs a device. Mr. Johnston noted the short time frame available to make sure students have devices they can access computer based learning.

C. Proposed Calendar Changes. Dr. Hunter reminded the SC of the Calendar Committee proposals: August 27th – Sept 3rd staff professional days; Sept. 8th virtual day for students; Sept 9th K-5 in-person w/ virtual 6-12; Sept 10th K-12 in person; Oct. 13th professional day; renaming of Columbus Day to Indigenous People's Day. Dr. Hunter noted that the early release half day would be similar to the day before Thanksgiving. Mr. Johnston noted that he received a passionate email about changing the name of Columbus Day and recommended that the Calendar Committee put this off to a future date where the community can come to provide it's thoughts at a meeting. Ms. Rainey stated that this is an issue for Select Board and Town consideration.

VII. ACTION ITEMS

A. Vote to Approve Reopening Plan. A motion was made by Mr. Booth, for CSC and CCSC, seconded by Ms. Rainey, for CSC and CCSC, to approve the Reopening Plan as amended by discussion in the August 3, 2020 meeting during Section VI. A for the 2020-2021 school year. After discussion, the School Committee opened the discussion to public comments.

1. Caitlin Smith, CCHS Teacher & World Language Department Chair. Ms. Smith voiced her concern about returning to school, noting that the remote option is the safest. She stated that school will not be normal and not the place that everyone knows and loves. She stated that she is not alone in feeling this way, noting how difficult this is, begging the SC to reconsider.

2. Kelli Kirshtein, CCHS School Adjustment Counselor. Ms. Kirshtein voiced her concern for returning in person, noting all of DESE's assumption about the safety of returning being false. She stated that the virus seems to be striking kids more so than before. She stated that kids aren't going to keep masks on the whole school day due to human nature. She stated that remote teaching can be done in a robust way, begging the SC to reconsider.

3. Tamara DiCesare, CCHS teacher and parent. Ms. DiCesare echoed Ms. Smith and Ms. Kirshtein's comments. She stated that she feels most of the energy is being put behind hybrid, but suggested considering fully remote, noting the large number of students that teachers will be exposed to during the course of a week. She noted that being physically in the buildings will not be the same it used to be.

4. Gail Hire, CPS parent. Ms. Hire asked if there was an option for teachers to work remotely for those who don't want to return to the school buildings. She noted her disappointment in giving up on in-person.
5. Leanne Lanieri, CPS parent. Ms. Lanieri noted how different school will be for the elementary kids, asking if this is worth the risk to send them in person. She noted all of the news stories about children returning to school and getting infected.
6. Alyssa Bigay, 93 Elmbrook Lane, Concord, MA, CPS Teacher. Ms. Bigay stated noted the emotional toll of the adults, as well as the stress and fear the kids will feel in person. She stated how difficult it will be for kids if something were to happen to a teacher or classmate. She recommended returning fully remotely to the best of everyone's abilities.

The motion passed by roll call: Rainey, aye (for both); Booth, aye (for both); Bout, aye (for both); Wilson, aye; Mostoufi, aye; Johnston, aye (for both).

B. Vote to Approve Revised 2020-2021 Calendar. A motion was made by Mr. Booth, for both CSC and CCSC, seconded by Ms. Rainey, for both CSC and CCSC, to approve the revised 2020-2021 calendar, with the exception of the renaming that was proposed in the document that was presented. The motion passed by roll call: Rainey, aye (for both); Booth, aye (for both); Bout, aye (for both); Wilson, aye; Mostoufi, aye; Johnston, aye (for both).

C. Vote to Approve Retirement Incentive. A motion was made by Mr. Booth, for both CSC and CCSC, seconded by Ms. Rainey, for both CSC and CCSC, to approve the Retirement Incentive Plan. The motion was approved by roll call: Rainey, aye (for both); Booth, aye (for both); Bout, aye (for both); Wilson, Mostoufi, Johnston, aye (for both).

D. Vote to Approve CPS Capital Plan. A motion was made by Mr. Johnston, seconded by Ms. Rainey, to approve the CPS capital plan to include the projects indicated on the document, totally \$830,000. Mr. Booth noted that the 2 items that were removed from the original project list were the Integrated playground at Thoreau (\$50,000) and the boiler exhaust (\$20,000). The motion passed by roll call: Johnston, aye; Rainey, aye; Booth, aye; Bout, aye.

VIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

A. Executive Session. A motion was made by Mr. Booth, for both CSC and CCSC, seconded by Mr. Johnston, for both CSC and CCSC, that the Concord School Committee and Concord-Carlisle Regional School Committee will 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 not return to Open Session. The motion passed by roll call: Rainey, aye (for both); Booth, aye (for both); Johnston, aye (for both); Wilson, aye; Mostoufi, aye: and the open session ended at 7:53 PM.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Johnston, seconded by Ms. Rainey. The motion was unanimously approved by roll call: Rainey, aye; Johnston, aye; Booth, aye; Bout, aye, and the meeting adjourned at 8:27 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Erin E. Higgins

Approved: 9.29.20

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

CPS	Concord Public Schools
CSC	Concord School Committee
METCO	Metropolitan Council for Educational Opportunity
MIAA	Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association
MMN	Minuteman Media Network
SC	School Committee