

JOINT SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Concord-Carlisle School Committee
Concord School Committee
Zoom Meeting
September 15, 2020

Present: Sara Wilson, Chair, CCSC
Heather Bout, Vice Chair, CCSC; CSC
Courtland Booth, Chair, CSC; CCSC
Cynthia Rainey, Vice Chair, CSC; CCSC
Eva Mostoufi, CCSC
Alexa Anderson, CSC; CCSC
Fatima Mezdad, 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 by Ms. Bout at 5:03 PM, noting that it was being recorded. The CCSC meeting was then called to order by Ms. Wilson. Roll call attendance was taken: Booth, aye; Rainey, aye; Mezdad, aye; Anderson, aye; Wilson, aye; Bout, aye.

A. ORGANIZATION OF CONCORD SCHOOL COMMITTEE

1. Seating of the Concord School Committee Members. A motion was made by Ms. Bout, seconded by Mr. Booth, to seat Court Booth, Cynthia Rainey, Alexa Anderson, Fatima Mezdad and Heather Bout on the Concord School Committee. The motion passed by roll call: Booth, aye; Rainey, aye; Anderson, aye; Mezdad, aye; Bout, aye.

2. Election of Chair and Vice Chair for the Concord School Committee. Ms. Rainey nominated Court Booth as Chair of the CSC and Ms. Bout seconded. Vote was taken by roll call: Rainey, aye; Mezdad, aye; Anderson, aye; Booth, aye; Bout, aye. Mr. Booth was named Chair of the Concord School Committee. Ms. Bout nominated Cynthia Rainey as Vice Chair of the CSC and Ms. Mezdad seconded. Vote was taken by roll call: Mezdad, aye; Rainey, aye; Anderson, aye; Bout, aye; Booth, aye. Ms. Rainey was named Vice Chair of the Concord School Committee.

3. Appointment of Concord School Committee Recording Secretary. Ms. Bout nominated Erin Higgins as the CSC Recording Secretary and Ms. Rainey seconded. Vote was taken by roll call: Mezdad, aye; Rainey, aye; Anderson, aye; Bout, aye; Booth, aye. Ms. Higgins was named CSC Recording Secretary.

B. ORGANIZATION OF CONCORD-CARLISLE SCHOOL COMMITTEE

1. Seating of Concord-Carlisle School Committee Members. A motion was made by Ms. Bout, seconded by Ms. Rainey, to seat Sara Wilson, Eva Mostoufi, Fatima Mezdad, Alexa Anderson, Cynthia Rainey, Court Booth and Heather Bout on the Concord-Carlisle School Committee. The motion passed by roll call: Anderson, aye; Booth, aye; Bout, aye; Mezdad, aye; Rainey, aye; Wilson, aye.

2. Election of Chair and Vice Chair for the Concord-Carlisle School Committee. Ms. Bout nominated Sara Wilson as Chair of the CCSC and Mr. Booth seconded. Vote was taken by roll call: Anderson, aye; Booth, aye; Bout, aye; Mezdad, aye; Rainey, aye; Wilson, aye. Ms. Wilson was named Chair of the Concord-Carlisle School Committee. Mr. Booth nominated Heather Bout as Vice Chair of the CCSC and Ms. Rainey seconded. Vote was taken by roll call: Anderson, aye; Booth, aye; Bout, aye; Mezdad, aye; Rainey, aye; Wilson, aye. Ms. Bout was named Vice Chair of the Concord-Carlisle School Committee.

3. Appointment of Concord-Carlisle School Committee Recording Secretary. Ms. Bout nominated Erin Higgins as the CCSC Recording Secretary and Ms. Rainey seconded. Vote was taken by roll call: Anderson, aye; Booth, aye; Bout, aye; Mezdad, aye; Rainey, aye; Wilson, aye. Ms. Higgins was named CCSC Recording Secretary.

4. Appointment of Treasurer for Concord-Carlisle School Committee. A motion was made by Mr. Booth, seconded by Ms. Rainey, to appoint Allison Brake as treasurer for the CCSC. The motion passed by roll call: Anderson, aye; Booth, aye; Bout, aye; Mezdad, aye; Rainey, aye; Wilson, aye. Ms. Brake was named treasurer for CCSC.

A motion was made by Ms. Rainey, seconded by Ms. Bout, to move Public Comment before the liaison discussion. The motion passed by roll call: Anderson, aye; Booth, aye; Bout, aye; Mezdad, aye; Rainey, aye; Wilson, aye.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

C. REVIEW OF THE LIAISON ROLES – CSC/CCSC. Mr. Booth reviewed the liaison roles and the SC members expressed which roles they were interested in:

1. Adult & Community Education Liaison
2. EDCO Advisory Board
3. Concord Finance Committee Observer
4. PEG Advisory Board
5. Policy Subcommittee
6. Concord Select Board Observer
7. Financial Audit Advisory Committee
8. LWV Education Committee
9. SEPAC (Special Education Parent Advisory Council)
10. Carlisle BOS/Finance Observer
11. CMS Building Committee
12. Concord Capital Planning
13. Concord Climate Action Advisory Board
14. Calendar Committee
15. Transportation Committee

Ms. Mezdad asked if a SC member could be part of the cultural competency/anti-racism goal. Dr. Hunter stated that a staff-based group has been created, noting that the group is geared toward educator practice. Dr. Hunter noted her concern with the timing of creating another committee at this time, but noted the value of continuing the discussion. Dr. Hunter noted that she would continue bringing Ms. Herbert and Mr. Nyamekye to future school committee meetings to update members on work being done. Mr. Booth suggested that since many members have expressed interest in this effort, the full SC have an exchange and discussion with Ms. Herbert and Mr. Nyamekye when they attend a meeting to help build the goals for the year.

Ms. Bout suggested that members keep in mind that there will be many contracts to negotiate this year as well. The SC agreed to vote on assignments at the next meeting.

III. READING OF THE MINUTES

A. Open Session – Joint Meeting 7/30/20. A motion was made by Ms. Rainey, for CSC and CCSC, seconded by Ms. Bout, for CSC and CCSC, to approve the joint meeting minutes from 7/30/20. The motion was approved by roll call: Anderson, aye (for both); Booth, aye (for both); Bout, aye (for both); Mezdad, aye (for both); Mostoufi, aye; Rainey, aye (for both); Wilson, aye.

B. Executive Session – 5/26/20, 6/2/20, 6/9/20, 6/16/20, 6/30/20, 7/13/20. A motion was made by Mr. Booth, for CSC and CCSC, seconded by Ms. Rainey, for CSC and CCSC, to approve the Executive Session minutes from 5/26/20, 6/2/20, 6/9/20, 6/16/20, 6/30/20, 7/13/20. The motion passed by roll call: Anderson, aye (for both); Booth, aye (for both); Bout, aye (for both); Mezdad, aye (for both); Mostoufi, aye; Rainey, aye (for both); Wilson, aye.

IV. CHAIRS & LIAISONS REPORT

Mr. Booth stated that the CCHS Kicks for Cancer effort is underway, noting that it would virtual this year. Ms. Bout noted that the Mighty Moose is also virtually underway.

Ms. Rainey stated that Concord completed Town Meeting, noting that the school related warrant articles passed. Dr. Hunter noted the enormous amount of work that went into Town Meeting, giving kudos to the Town.

Mr. Booth noted that the CMS Building Committee would like to reconvene at the end of October/early November. Ms. Bout thanked the Town for supporting the stabilization fund for the middle school at Town Meeting. Mr. Booth noted the electric school bus article that passed, noting the extraordinary work of Brian Foulds.

V. CORRESPONDENCE

Ms. Bout stated that, between the previous two meetings, the SC received 4 emails, 3 with concerns over COVID testing and 1 signed by 139 parents and community members in favor of testing. She stated that, this week, the SC received the following emails: 1 about reopening, 1 about supporting testing, 1 thanking the SC for approving fall sports for CCHS, and 1 about logistics and masks at CCHS.

VI. REPORTS FOR DISCUSSION

A. Reopening Updates. Dr. Hunter reviewed the reopening calendar and schedule of virtual and in-person days. She noted that the students are excited to return, the parents are very appreciative and the teachers are doing a great job with the new environment. Dr. Hunter shared enrollment numbers, including a breakout of students by hybrid, remote and full day, as well as a local dashboard of COVID cases, noting that the numbers have improved in both Concord and Carlisle. Dr. Hunter stated that she is very pleased with the symptom screener, noting that it has been very helpful at each school site. She reviewed COVID testing within the District, stating that there is an ongoing process of students and staff being tested, noting how supportive and cooperative families have been. Regarding transportation and traffic, Dr. Hunter stated that there are some tweaks needed on dismissals, noting the phenomenal support of the Concord Police. She stated that the hotspots are dismissals at Sanborn, Alcott and Thoreau.

Regarding HVAC, Dr. Hunter stated that the recommended work was completed in large part, noting that weekly CO2 readings are being taken at the middle school buildings and are well below the thresholds. Dr. Hunter recognized all of the community partnerships involved with reopening, including the Town of Concord departments, Town of Concord health officials, Concord private schools and Emerson Hospital. Mr. Booth echoed Dr. Hunter's thanks to the town departments, also acknowledging the team at Ripley. Ms. Rainey also acknowledged the front office staff at the schools. Ms. Anderson suggested that Dr. Hunter share the internal dashboard of COVID testing out to the community in her weekly emails. Ms. Bout noted the incredible energy coming out of the schools when she drops her children off, noting the value of having the kids attend in-person. Ms. Mostoufi noted her appreciation for all of the support and effort in keeping the students safe.

B. School Committee Meeting Schedule. After discussion, the SC agreed to hold a meeting on September 29th and the workshop with Dorothy Presser from MASC on October 13th and to discuss October meetings at the September 29th meeting.

C. New Member Information. Mr. Booth noted that the chairs of each committee attend the monthly PTG meetings. The SC discussed how to move forward with the practices and protocols, agreeing to review them and refine where needed and adopt. Ms. Bout recommended that the SC also review the Strategic Plan, noting that this is where the SC and Superintendent goals are derived from. Regarding the budget process, Dr. Hunter stated that she would like to meet with the new members to review the budget process.

VII. ACTION ITEMS

A. Vote to Approve Staff Child Enrollment 2020-2021. A motion was made by Ms. Bout, for CSC and CCSC, seconded by Ms. Rainey, for CSC and CCSC, to approve the staff request of Jessica Baker, teacher at Thoreau, to enroll her son in Kindergarten for 2020-2021 and that tuition be waived. The motion passed by roll call: Anderson, aye (for both); Booth, aye (for both); Bout, aye (for both); Mezdad, aye (for both); Mostoufi, aye; Rainey, aye (for both); Wilson, aye.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Mr. Bout, for CSC and CCSC, seconded by Ms. Rainey, for CSC and CCSC, to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed by roll call: Anderson, aye (for both); Booth, aye (for both); Bout, aye (for both); Mezdad, aye (for both); Mostoufi, aye; Rainey, aye (for both); Wilson, aye and the meeting adjourned at 7:58 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Erin E. Higgins

Approved: 10.6.20

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
CPS	Concord Public Schools
CSC	Concord School Committee
DESE	Department of Elementary & Secondary Education
DCL	Dual County League
FTE	Full Time Employee
MASC	Massachusetts Association of School Committees
METCO	Metropolitan Council for Educational Opportunity
MIAA	Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association
MMN	Minuteman Media Network
SC	School Committee
SEL	Social Emotional Learning
SEPAC	Special Education Parent Advisory Council