

JOINT SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Concord-Carlisle School Committee
Concord School Committee
Zoom Meeting
September 29, 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
Fatima Mezdad, CSC; CCSC

Absent: 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 CCSC and CSC meeting was called to order by Ms. Wilson at 5:01 PM, noting that it was being recorded. Roll call attendance was taken: Booth, aye; Bout, aye; Mezdad, aye; Mostoufi, aye; Rainey, aye; Wilson, aye.

A. Executive Session. A motion was made by Ms. Bout, for both CSC and CCSC, seconded by Mr. Booth, 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 return to Open Session. The motion passed by roll call: Booth aye (for both); Bout, aye (for both); Mostoufi, aye; Rainey, aye (for both); Wilson, aye, and Open Session ended at 5:05 PM.

Ms. Wilson called the CCSC meeting back into order at 5:33 PM and Mr. Booth then called the CSC meeting back into order.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

III. READING OF THE MINUTES

A. Open Session – Joint Meeting - 8/3/20, 8/11/20, 8/18/20, 8/21/20, 8/25/20. A motion was made by Ms. Bout, for CSC and CCSC, seconded by Mr. Booth, for CSC and CCSC, to approve the joint meeting minutes of 8/3/20, 8/11/20, 8/18/20, 8/21/20, and 8/25/20. Ms. Rainey noted an edit to the 8/11/20 minutes. The motion was approved by roll call: Booth, aye (for both); Bout, aye (for both); Mezdad, aye (for both); Mostoufi, aye; Rainey, aye (for both); Wilson, aye.

B. Executive Session – 8/3/20, 8/11/20, 8/18/20, 8/21/20, 8/25/20. A motion was made by Ms. Bout, for CSC and CCSC, seconded by Ms. Rainey, for CSC and CCSC, to approve the Executive Session minutes from 8/3/20, 8/11/20, 8/18/20, 8/21/20, 8/25/20. The motion passed by roll call: 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 he and Ms. Wilson attended the Concord Chairs Breakfast, noting that the Concord Town Moderator discussed next year's Town Meeting.

Ms. Bout stated that the League of Women Voters has invited Dr. Hunter to their First Friday event on Friday at 9:30 AM, noting that the event will be on school reopening. Ms. Bout noted that registration for the Zoom event is done through the League of Women Voters website, lwwcc.org.

Ms. Bout stated that the Mighty Moose 5K is currently underway, noting that it will be a 2 week virtual event. She stated that goal of raising \$200,000 has already been surpassed, currently at \$210,000. She stated that the website is mightymoose5k.org. Ms. Bout noted that Kicks for Cancer is also underway virtually, noting that all of the fundraising money will be going to the same ovarian cancer research team as the Mighty Moose.

Mr. Booth stated that the Transportation Committee will be served by John Arena. He stated that FINCOM is aware that the SC Budget Subcommittee will not be convening because the SC has mechanisms in place to participate in the budget development process.

Ms. Mostoufi stated that the SEPAC held its board meeting, at which new members were voted in. She stated that Carol Yelle stepped down from her long term role as President. She noted that SEPAC is a very engaged group and is looking to expand its base, noting that SEPAC members gave her and Ms. Anderson input regarding things that they would like to see the School Committee pay attention to this year. Mr. Booth also recognized Carol Yelle for her role on the SEPAC.

Ms. Rainey stated that the Concord Capital Planning Task Force is preparing for public hearings regarding capital planning in Concord. She noted that the Finance Committee met last week, asking Dr. Hunter to share any information regarding the meeting in her report later in the meeting. Ms. Rainey stated that the Finance Committee is interested in holding a budgeting workshop with the SC.

V. CORRESPONDENCE

Mr. Booth stated that the CSC received a citizen request to keep the COVID dashboard as visible as it has been and an email regarding how holidays and professional days impact cohort days.

VI. REPORTS FOR DISCUSSION

A. Reopening Updates. Dr. Hunter stated that all of the close contacts to the positive COVID case at CMS tested negative and are currently all out of quarantine. She stated that there are staff flu clinics set up at the schools, noting that flu shots are state mandated for students by Jan. 1, 2021. Regarding COVID testing, Dr. Hunter stated that one of the vendors is working on a 6 person saliva pool test with a cost of \$10 per test, noting that this could be a discussion point when available. She stated that Concord Education Fund Board held its first meeting, noting that it has new membership. Dr. Hunter stated that she's met with the leadership of both teachers unions over the last week, sharing the feedback of how well the reopening is going and how hard the teachers are working, with great successes early on. Dr. Hunter stated that she is hoping to conduct a survey to get more formal feedback.

Regarding cultural competency and anti-racism, Dr. Hunter stated that many efforts are underway, led by both staff and students, noting that the District Cultural Competency Committee meets on September 30th. She stated that she would be looking at November to bring Kristen Herbert and Andrew Nyamekye back to a SC meeting. Dr. Hunter stated that Ms. Herbert and her team have created a list of extensive professional development options, noting many of the opportunities available. Ms. Rainey noted her concern for the pace of the teachers over the last month.

Dr. Hunter stated that she was invited to speak at the League of Women Voters First Friday event on the reopening of schools. She stated that CMS was selected to participate in the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) tests, noting that the results are used at an aggregate level to compare states, also noting her concern for this type of testing under the current environment. She stated that she, along with other superintendents, is advocating with legislatures, noting that this is a federal piece and is connected with MCAS. She noted her concern for standardized testing in an environment where there are no norms. Ms. Rainey stated that MASC has a draft resolution against this, noting that each school committee may have the opportunity to adopt a resolution. Mr. Booth asked the other members about their comfort level with the chairs representing the SC in an advocacy roll around testing mandates and members were in favor.

A motion was made by Mr. Booth, for CSC and CCSC, seconded by Ms. Bout, for CSC and CCSC, to change the order of Item VII to – A. Practices and Protocols, B. Strategic Plan, C. School Committee Goals and D. School Committee Manual. The motion passed by roll call: Booth, aye (for both); Bout, aye (for both); Mezdad, aye (for both); Mostoufi, aye; Rainey, aye (for both); Wilson, aye.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

A. Practices and Protocols. The SC reviewed the Practices and Protocols documents for CSC and CCSC, agreeing upon edits/additions. Mr. Booth noted that the documents could be revisited at any time.

B. Strategic Plan. Dr. Hunter stated that the Strategic Plan is a 5 year plan, noting that COVID is now a lens. She stated that the core objectives of the plan have held as priorities during COVID. Dr. Hunter noted that the plan is a living document, highlighting the 4 core objectives of: Multiple Paths to Success, Well Being, Inclusive Culture and Innovative Environment. Ms. Bout noted that the Strategic Plan should frame the goals of the SC and Dr. Hunter, noting that even through the lens of the pandemic, the plan is an incredibly valuable guide.

C. School Committee Goals. Ms. Rainey suggested determining yearly obligations by law of the SC. Mr. Booth listed yearly obligations, including: develop budget and capital plans, evaluate the Superintendent, participate in community engagement, vote on School Choice, negotiate with unions, and maintain/review policies. Regarding the strategic objective of inclusive culture, Ms. Mezdad suggested that the District strive to achieve a more collaborative community at the school level. Ms. Bout suggested keeping a focus on equity and well-being throughout the year. Ms. Mostoufi suggested getting an overview of where the District ended last school year. Ms. Rainey suggested compiling a goals draft to be discussed when Ms. Anderson is present at the next meeting.

D. School Committee Manual. Ms. Rainey stated that SC members should send her any edits to the manual via email. Ms. Bout thanked Ms. Rainey for compiling the manual, noting that everyone should feel comfortable with it. Mr. Booth suggested that the town clerks look at the manual and Dr. Hunter noted that MASC could be a resource as well. Ms. Rainey suggested that members send her any edits as soon as possible so she can make necessary changes to discuss the manual at the upcoming workshop.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

A. FY22 Budget Timeline. Dr. Hunter stated that the Town Moderator has suggested a late spring Town Meeting, with the mindset of not going past June 30th. Dr. Hunter stated that the District hasn't received any FY21 information from the State or any local receipts, noting that the FY21 budget is still moving, making it difficult to determine the FY22 budget. Mr. Stanton shared a high level review of the FY22 Budget Timeline draft, assuming a June 6, 2021 Concord Town Meeting. Ms. Rainey noted that the budget books should be available for the hearing and Mr. Stanton stated that he can adjust the timeline and have the budget books available earlier.

IX. ACTION ITEMS

A. Vote to Approve Revised 2020-2021 Calendar through Jan. 1, 2021. A motion was made by Mr. Booth, for CSC and CCSC, seconded by Ms. Rainey, for CSC and CCSC, that the calendar published in the agenda for 2020-2021 be adopted, as submitted. Dr. Hunter stated that the Calendar Committee focused on November and December, scheduling professional days on November 16th and December 11th and a CMS conference day on December 15th. The motion passed by roll call: Booth, aye (for both); Bout, aye (for both); Mezdad, aye (for both); Mostoufi, aye; Rainey, aye (for both); Wilson, aye.

B. Vote to Approve One Year Contract for the CTA. A motion was made by Ms. Rainey, seconded by Ms. Bout, to approve a one year contract with the Concord Teachers' Association, including a 1.75% cost of living salary increase. The motion passed by roll call: Booth, aye; Bout, aye; Mezdad, aye; Rainey, aye.

C. Vote to Approve School Committee Liaison Roles as Outlined. A motion was made by Ms. Rainey, for CSC and CCSC, seconded by Ms. Bout, for CSC and CCSC, to approve the School Committee Liaison roles, as outlined:

1. Adult & Community Education Liaison– Ms. Mostoufi
2. EDCO Advisory Board – Ms. Wilson
3. Concord Finance Committee Observer– Ms. Rainey
4. PEG Advisory Board – Mr. Booth
5. Policy Subcommittee – Ms. Anderson, Ms. Mostoufi, and Ms. Mezdad
6. Concord Select Board Meeting Observer – Mr. Booth and Ms. Anderson
7. Financial Audit Advisory Committee – Mr. Booth
8. LWV Education Committee – Ms. Bout

9. Concord Capital Planning – Ms. Rainey
10. SEPAC – Ms. Mostoufi and Ms. Anderson
11. Carlisle BOS/Finance Observer – Ms. Wilson and Ms. Mostoufi
12. CMS Building Committee – Ms. Bout and Mr. Booth
13. Calendar Committee – Ms. Rainey and Ms. Mezdad
14. Climate Action Advisory Board – Ms. Mezdad

Mr. Booth noted that SC representatives will also be needed for warrant signing. Dr. Hunter stated that the Transportation Committee will have staff representation from the District, noting that the designee at this time is John Arena from Transportation. The motion passed by roll call: Booth, aye (for both); Bout, aye (for both); Mezdad, aye (for both); Mostoufi, aye; Rainey, aye (for both); Wilson, aye.

D. Vote to Surplus CCHS Science Textbooks. A motion was made by Ms. Bout, seconded by Ms. Rainey, to surplus CCHS Science textbooks. The motion passed by roll call: Booth, aye (for both); Bout, aye (for both); Mezdad, aye (for both); Mostoufi, aye; Rainey, aye (for both); Wilson, aye.

X. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Ms. Bout, for CSC and CCSC, seconded by Ms. Rainey, for CSC and CCSC, to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed by roll call: 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 8:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Erin E. Higgins

Approved: 10.27.20

Abbreviations:

BOS	Board of Selectman
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
LWV	League of Women Voters
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