

JOINT SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Concord-Carlisle School Committee
Concord School Committee
Hybrid Meeting (Zoom & Ripley Conf. Rm. 4)
August 17, 2021

Present: Sara Wilson, Chair, CCSC
Cynthia Rainey, Chair, CSC; CCSC
Courtland Booth, Vice Chair, CCSC; CSC
Alexa Anderson, Vice Chair, CSC; CCSC (via Zoom)
Tracey Marano, CSC; CCSC (via Zoom)
Eva Mostoufi, CCSC (via Zoom)

Absent: Fatima Mezdad, CSC; CCSC

Present from Administration: Dr. Laurie Hunter, Superintendent of Schools, CPS & CCRSD
Jared Stanton, Asst. Supt. of Finance & Operations, CPS & CCRSD

I. CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL

Ms. Wilson called the CCSC meeting to order at 8:00 AM and Ms. Rainey then called the CSC meeting to order. Ms. Wilson noted that the meeting was being recorded. Roll call attendance was taken: Anderson, aye; Booth, aye; Marano, aye; Rainey, aye; Wilson, aye.

Ms. Wilson and Dr. Hunter welcomed the new interim SPED Director, Debbie Dixon. Ms. Dixon stated that she felt honored to be working in the district, noting that she was looking forward to working with the SC on behalf of the students, families and staff.

Ms. Mostoufi joined the meeting.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT

1. Ashley Healy, 77 Adin Drive, Concord, MA. Ms. Healy expressed her support of the mask policy for the elementary students.
2. Robert Lonadier, 72 Finigan Way, Concord, MA. Mr. Lonadier stated that it was very hard to hear the words being said in the meeting room over Zoom and asked for more information about the meeting next Tuesday.

III. READING OF THE MINUTES

A. Open Session: Joint Meeting 6/8/21. A motion was made by Mr. Booth, for both CSC and CCSC, seconded by Ms. Marano, for both CSC and CCSC, to approve the joint meeting minutes from 6/8/21. The motion was approved by roll call: Anderson, aye (for both); Booth, aye (for both); Marano, aye (for both); Mostoufi, aye; Rainey, aye (for both); Wilson, aye.

IV. CORRESPONDENCE

Ms. Wilson stated that CCSC received no correspondence and Dr. Hunter stated that CSC received one email.

V. DISCUSSION

A. Face Covering Policy. Dr. Hunter introduced Concord Public Health Nurse, Trish McGean; Pre-K to age 22 Lead Nurse, Lisa Koski; and Concord Health Director, Susan Rask. Ms. Wilson shared suggested updates to the current facemask policy. Dr. Hunter stated that all students, staff, faculty, and visitors would need to wear masks to school, regardless of vaccine status, noting that this may change depending on the status of the virus going forward. Mr. Booth noted that acceptable masks are not listed on the updated policy and the SC agreed to add the acceptable masks to the policy. Dr. Hunter also noted that masks would be required on the school buses as well. Ms. Rainey suggested adding references to MASC and Mass Health.

B. COVID Protocols August 2021. Dr. Hunter shared the COVID Protocols document, noting that the District will be aiming for 3 feet distancing, when possible. She stated that, at lunch, the students would be spaced with outdoor eating being the primary plan. She stated that hygiene protocols would continue with sanitizer and hand washing, cohorting would be done at the elementary level and seats would be assigned in classrooms and on the bus. Dr. Hunter stated that the symptom screener would be re-instated through Aspen, noting those with symptoms should remain home and get tested prior to returning to school. Dr. Hunter stated that if there were a positive test, the District would be working with the nurses and health leaders to close contact trace and quarantine the entire classroom at the elementary level. She stated that the older kids who are close contacts would not need to quarantine if vaccinated, unless they are symptomatic. Dr. Hunter stated that unvaccinated close contacts would quarantine for 7 days. She stated that quarantined students would receive asynchronous work, noting that if an entire elementary class were quarantined, they would be supported remotely. Dr. Hunter stated that the District would be participating in the asymptomatic state pooled testing option and would be aligned with the MDPH and CDC guidance, which does not require testing after travel out of state. Dr. Hunter stated that the same cleaning protocols that were in place last year would remain this upcoming year as well. She stated that the District is looking to open the schools to community groups after hours and stated that parents will have access to the main office, principal's office and nurse's offices on an as needed basis. She stated that IEP meetings and teacher conferences would continue to be held remotely. Dr. Hunter stated that indoor large group events would be held virtually and outdoor athletics would run without restriction. She stated that the District is developing protocols for the music program. Regarding field trips, Dr. Hunter stated that trips would be reinstated upon approval of the principal and superintendent.

Ms. McGean shared local COVID case data from July to present for Concord, Lincoln and Carlisle, noting the increase of positive cases in children under age 12. She stated that Concord is up to 59 cases since July 1st, noting that 40 of these were fully vaccinated. She stated that most of the cases had mild symptoms. Ms. Rask stated that she would be updating the case numbers again to be posted on the District's website and noted the importance of being vaccinated. She stated that people's behavior counts for many of the breakthrough cases in vaccinated people.

C. Capital Project and Thoreau Fire Updates. Mr. Stanton stated that, regarding the capital projects, the District is in line with all of the timelines of the projects. He stated that Phase I is complete of the well project at Willard, noting that Phase II is being engineered for a bid. He stated that the Willard boiler exhaust is on schedule to be completed before school starts and the chiller is complete. Mr. Stanton stated that the energy recovery units at Alcott are 90% completed and the rooftop units at Ripley are being engineered for the bid. He stated that the District is working with Weston and Sampson on the water line at Knox Trail and engineering is in progress on the electrical charging station.

Mr. Stanton stated that, regarding the Thoreau fire, the demo is complete and the salvaged and non-salvaged items have been reviewed by the teachers, noting that the teachers have been coming in to get their temporary spaces set up. He stated that most of the cabinets were not salvageable and there would be temporary cabinets in place while the replacement cabinets are being constructed. He stated that he continues to work with the insurance company, noting that the cause of the fire was the heater in the attic. Mr. Stanton stated that there would be a 35X40 tent, as well as two other tents for outdoor classroom space. He stated that there would be two office trailers that will house the eight displaced teachers. Mr. Stanton recognized the custodians for all of their hard work and Dr. Hunter also recognized the entire Thoreau staff.

D. DEI Subcommittee. Mr. Booth shared the original concepts around the formation of a DEI Subcommittee, including membership and participation by members of the school and community. He stated that, due to the expanded DEI efforts by a number of community groups, the formation of a commission by the Concord Select Board, and the multiple initiatives by school based groups, a smaller and more targeted subcommittee is in order. He stated that this subcommittee could inform and advise the school committees on how to best meet the District's DEI goals and objectives through policy, budget and engagement with the Superintendent. He stated that the subcommittee would report to the SC at least quarterly, providing well-informed recommendations for policy and budget. The SC agreed that scheduling the meetings at different times would allow more people to have access to them. Mr. Booth recommended seating one SC rep from the CSC, one SC rep from the CCSC, and leaving one seat open until all SC members have been consulted.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Concord Finance Committee Guideline Request. Ms. Rainey stated that Concord Fincom's Guideline request is looking the school's perspective on the top 3-5 strategic issues, challenges and/or opportunities facing the Town or

schools. In addition to these, she stated that the Finance Committee is also looking for spending projections for the next 5 years. Mr. Stanton noted that most of the information the Town is requesting is provided in the fall budget books, noting that he feels the Town's request is very manageable.

B. Warrant Approval Process. Mr. Stanton stated that the transition to the new SC members has been seamless. He stated that three signatures are required out of the five CSC members and four signatures on the CCSC side (three from Concord and one from Carlisle) to pass forward to the Town. Mr. Booth noted how impressed he was with the ease of Mr. Stanton's staff in responding to any questions that may arise and Ms. Marano thanked Accountant Kristen Vasquez for helping her understand the process.

VIII. ACTION ITEMS

A. Vote to Appoint SC Warrant Signers. A motion was made by Ms. Rainey, seconded by Ms. Anderson, to accept Ms. Marano, Ms. Rainey, Mr. Booth and Ms. Mostoufi as the warrant signers for the region. The motion was approved by roll call: Anderson, aye; Booth, aye; Marano, aye; Mostoufi, aye; Rainey, aye; Wilson, aye.

B. Vote to Approve Change in CCACE Advisory Board Membership. A motion was made by Mr. Booth, seconded by Ms. Marano, to appoint Barbara Magee to the remainder of Ron Bernard's term on the Adult and Community Education Advisory Committee. The motion was approved by roll call: Anderson, aye; Booth, aye; Marano, aye; Mostoufi, aye; Rainey, aye; Wilson, aye.

C. Vote to Approve Face Covering Policy – File: EBCFA. A motion was made by Mr. Booth, seconded by Ms. Marano, to approve Face Covering Policy EBCFA, with the modifications noted earlier in the meeting. The motion was approved by roll call: Anderson, aye (for both); Booth, aye (for both); Marano, aye (for both); Mostoufi, aye; Rainey, aye (for both); Wilson, aye.

D. Vote to Form a DEI Subcommittee. A motion was made by Mr. Booth, seconded by Ms. Anderson, to form a SC DEI Subcommittee serving both districts. The motion was approved by roll call: Anderson, aye (for both); Booth, aye (for both); Marano, aye (for both); Mostoufi, aye; Rainey, aye (for both); Wilson, aye.

E. Appoint DEI Subcommittee Members. A motion was made by Mr. Booth, seconded by Ms. Anderson, to appoint Ms. Marano as a Concord member and Ms. Wilson as the Carlisle member, with the third seat to be determined in the future. The motion was approved by roll call: Anderson, aye (for both); Booth, aye (for both); Marano, aye (for both); Mostoufi, aye; Rainey, aye (for both); Wilson, aye.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Booth, seconded by Ms. Anderson. The motion was approved by roll call: Anderson, aye (for both); Booth, aye (for both); Marano, aye (for both); Mostoufi, aye; Rainey, aye (for both); Wilson, aye, and the meeting adjourned at 9:44 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Erin E. Higgins

Approved: 9.28.21

Abbreviations:

- CCHS Concord-Carlisle High School
- CCRSRD Concord-Carlisle Regional School District
- CCSC Concord-Carlisle Regional District School Committee
- CCTA Concord-Carlisle Teachers' Association
- CDC Center for Disease Control & Prevention
- CEF Concord Education Fund
- CMLP Concord Municipal Light Plant

CMS	Concord Middle School
CMSBC	Concord Middle School Building Committee
CPS	Concord Public Schools
CSC	Concord School Committee
E&D	Excess and Deficiency
DEI	Diversity, Equity and Inclusion
FINCOM	Finance Committee
MDPH	Massachusetts Department of Public Health
OPEB	Other Post-Employment Benefits
PD	Professional Development
SC	School Committee