

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

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

I. CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Wilson called the CCSC to order at 6:31 PM and Ms. Rainey then called the CSC meeting to order. Roll call attendance was taken: Anderson, aye; Booth, aye; Marano, aye; Mostoufi, aye; Rainey, aye; Wilson, aye.

II. CCHS STUDENT UPDATE

Regarding sustainability initiatives, CCHS Student Rep Darcy Keenan-Mills stated that the Green Team is working on making CCHS a more sustainable place, noting that it is working on composting in the cafeteria as well as a pollinator garden. She stated that the Sunrise Club is advocating and fundraising for sustainability and the Environmental Club is releasing Blandings turtles into the wild and working on more sustainability projects. Darcy stated that there are many motivated students at CCHS, but the general student population does not seem to have the best care for sustainability, noting the littering across CCHS. She stated that Student Government recently held a campus cleanup, noting the great participation and noted the Trash Truck group that is helping to improve the skate park. Darcy stated that Spirit Week just concluded, noting the high participation rate.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

IV. RECOGNITIONS

Naomi Krakow, principal at Alcott, recognized the work of the METCO Family Friends program, a partnership between families and staff members. She stated that the program has been re-invigorated this year, with a focus on bringing the partnership into Boston. She stated that the first event held was in Franklin Park and the next event would be at Frog Pond in Boston. Ms. Krakow stated that the fall event could not have been possible without the work of Savaughn Dickerson (parent and new METCO liaison at Alcott), Kristen Ferguson (parent), and Kenlyne Exume (parent). Ms. Dickerson thanked everyone involved in the Franklin Park event, noting how great it was to connect the Concord families with Boston. Ms. Exume stated how great it is to bring Concord to Boston. Ms. Ferguson noted how informative it is to have the leadership of a Boston family and thanked the Alcott PTG for its support.

V. READING OF THE MINUTES

A motion was made by Ms. Anderson, for both CSC and CCSC, seconded by Mr. Booth, for both CSC and CCSC, to accept the open session minutes from the 10/26/21 and 11/9/21 meetings. The motion passed by roll call: Anderson, aye (for both); Booth, aye (for both); Marano, aye (for both); Mostoufi, aye; Rainey, aye (for both); Wilson, aye.

VI. CORRESPONDENCE

Ms. Wilson stated that CCSC received a communication for the student reps as well as a request for information on time and learning. Ms. Rainey stated that CSC had several communications on the middle school and one on the mask policy and facilities.

VII. CHAIRS & LIAISONS REPORT

Ms. Marano stated that the DEI Subcommittee is holding meetings via Zoom, encouraging the public to join, and noting that it will also be having focus groups in December and SC training as well.

Ms. Anderson stated that SEPAC held its monthly meeting, noting that Deb Dixson, Interim Student Services Director, gave a presentation. She stated that the presentation was very well received, noting that parents are feeling more informed about student services. Ms. Mostoufi noted that SEPAC is looking for more connections with Carlisle families and Carlisle SEPAC.

Mr. Booth stated that the SC attended the Select Board meeting to give updates on the Envision Concord initiative. He stated that the Policy Subcommittee met and devoted the entire meeting to facilities fees, noting that there is more work to be done. Mr. Booth stated that he and Dr. Hunter met with Sue Curtain, rep from the Nanae Committee, noting that there is a request from the Concord-Nanae connection for information about Concord and Carlisle schools to inform their children about life here.

VIII. DISCUSSION

A. COVID Updates. Dr. Hunter shared recent data on COVID, stating that the mask mandate is still in place and that COVID cases have seen a substantial uptick over the last three weeks. She stated that DESE has said to expect spikes in numbers, that there would be limited remote options with DESE permission and that, as of now, there will be traditional snow days this year. Dr. Hunter stated that the pediatric vaccination clinics have been very successful, with the second round starting the next day. Ms. Anderson noted how great the feedback from families has been on the vendor holding the clinics.

B. Challenge Success CMS/CCHS. Mr. Cameron, CMS Principal, shared the CMS Challenge Success data overview. He stated that there were about 15 team members, comprised of students, staff and parents. He shared highlights from the spring of 2021 data (noting that students were hybrid and in the midst of the pandemic when surveyed), including students: describing school as “fun, caring, welcoming, and boring, getting an average of 7.7 hours of sleep, 72% feeling like they have an adult they can go to (dramatically up from 2017 even given the pandemic), 32% saying they have too much homework, 65% saying they had the right amount of homework, 42% saying they were just “doing school” and not engaged, 18% saying they were fully engaged, asking for reduced homework and diverse voices be added in school. Mr. Cameron shared the action plan, including: homework free weekends, student shadow day, open session with faculty, parent coffees, unplugged night, parent Facebook page, no more than 2 major assessments a day, homeBASE and schedule adjustments such as increased passing time. Mr. Cameron stated that they are hoping to reinstate the student shadow day in a hybrid way and noted that they are meeting 90 minutes per month strictly on engagement.

Mike Mastrullo, Principal at CCHS, presented data from CCHS Challenge Success, stating that the survey was taken in June of last year, noting that this complicates the data. He stated that 1,071 students participated in the survey and reported school descriptors as fun, stressful, caring and competitive. He highlighted some of the data from health and stress, including: 73% report feeling pressure to do well in school, 64% often or always worry about taking assessments and 46% report stress from lack of sleep. He stated that there was a drastic decline in the percentage of students who missed school due to health or an emotional problem, noting the success of the half-day Wednesdays last year. He stated that 76% of students feel they have an adult at school they can go to and 73% of 9th graders, due to 9th Grade Academy. Mr. Mastrullo stated that homework remains a topic of conversation and a source of stress, noting that 66% of students reported feeling often or always stressed due to homework. Mr. Mastrullo shared student suggested changes, including: adding mental health resources, creating more time for students to work on homework/projects at school, having teachers coordinate due dates for projects/assessments, no homework on weekends/over breaks and reduce homework load.

C. CCRSD Capital Plan. Mr. Stanton shared the CCRSD Capital Plan spreadsheet for the SC to discuss where to place the proposed capital projects. After discussion, the SC agreed to place the repaving & lighting in FY23 and “pencil in” the turf field in FY26, amenities building design and tractor trailer in FY24 and amenities building in FY25. The SC agreed it needed to find out more information on the amenities building regarding the bathroom requirements and the plumbing code.

D. Policy Second Readings: JJF, JFABB, JIH, JJIF, JICC, JICC-R. Mr. Booth reviewed policies JJF, JFABB, JIH, JJIF, JICC, JICC-R, which had previously been brought to the SC for a first reading.

IX. ACTION ITEMS

A. Vote to Approve School Committee Policies. A motion was made by Mr. Booth, seconded by Ms. Anderson, to adopt policies JJF, JFABB, JIH, JJIF, JICC as discussed and remove JICC-R from the policy manual. 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

X. ADDITIONAL PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

XI. ADJOURNMENT CCSC

A motion to adjourn the CCSC meeting was made by Mr. Booth, seconded by Ms. Marano. The motion was unanimously approved and the CCSC meeting adjourned at 8:27 PM.

XII. DISCUSSION

A. CMS Building Project. Ms. Anderson stated that the increased engagement with the community has been very successful, noting several of the upcoming events. Mr. Booth stated that the full CMSBC met on November 18th to cover the 2nd round of value management, resulting in a project budget with contingencies of 5% for construction, 5% for soft costs and 2 ½% for bidding, for a total project cost of \$102,716,610. He stated the discussion on Thursday would be around the way soil would be moved around to excavate, build and re-fill, as well as ventilation.

B. CPS Capital Plan. Mr. Stanton shared the CPS Capital Plan recommendations. He stated that he would research any grants available for the Alcott boilers and controls with the new sustainability director in Concord. Ms. Rainey suggested looking back at the energy audit previously completed for the Ripley building.

Public Comment: Christine Reynolds, Chair of the Concord Finance Committee. Ms. Reynolds stated that she appreciated the discussion on the amenities building for CCHS, suggesting that the SC take into consideration that the peak debt years for the middle school will be 2026-2028 when discussing the timing of the capital projects. She also stated that the number for the middle school project needs to remain down and not increase.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn was made by Ms. Marano, seconded by Mr. Booth. The motion was unanimously approved and the CSC meeting adjourned at 8:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Erin E. Higgins

Approved: 1.11.22

Abbreviations:

CCHS	Concord-Carlisle High School
CCRS	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
MSBA	Massachusetts School Building Authority
OPEB	Other Post-Employment Benefits
PD	Professional Development
RTI	Response to Intervention
SC	School Committee
SEPAC	Special Education Parent Advisory Council