

JOINT SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Concord-Carlisle School Committee
Concord School Committee
Hybrid Meeting (Zoom & Ripley Conf. Rm. 4)
December 7, 2021

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

Absent: Eva Mostoufi, 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

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; Rainey, aye; Wilson, aye.

II. CCHS STUDENT UPDATE

Harry Crowley, CCHS Student rep, stated that there is some tension around the new COVID variant and students are having a hard time focusing and completing work with the anticipation of the upcoming winter break. He stated that the start of the winter sports season is adding excitement amongst the students.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

IV. CORRESPONDENCE

Ms. Rainey and Ms. Wilson stated that CSC and CCSC received no correspondence since the last meeting.

V. CHAIRS & LIAISONS REPORT

Ms. Marano state that the DEI Subcommittee met and has a January meeting scheduled, noting that the entire SC should be part of the DEI Subcommittee. She stated that the equity survey would be forthcoming.

Ms. Anderson stated that SEPAC is holding its monthly meeting on December 13th at 7:00 PM.

Mr. Booth stated that the PEG Advisory Committee met with a representative from Comcast to look at subscriptions and revenue flow, noting that Concord is embarking on its contract renewal with Comcast. He stated that he and Dr. Hunter have been in contact with Sue Curtain from the Nanae Connection and Matt Lucy and Kate James from Willard, noting that they will be holding a meeting on how Concord schools can begin again with outreach to Nanae.

Ms. Rainey stated that CSC met with the Concord Select Board on the CPS capital plan, noting that both committees voted to approve the current long-term capital plan. She stated that there was discussion of the succession plan for the town manager, with discussions continuing on December 13th.

VI. DISCUSSION

A. COVID Updates. Dr. Hunter shared COVID data, stating that there have been 71 total cases to date this school year and stated that testing numbers remain steady with outstanding participation at the elementary school. She shared Test and Stay and symptomatic testing data. She stated that DESE sent out a clarification with the nuances of Test and Stay and stated that the 2nd round of the COVID vaccines will be held at CCHS next week. Mr. Booth suggested that communications be sent to staff regarding the booster shot.

B. CCRSD Capital Plan. Mr. Stanton stated that Russ Hughes, Facilities Manager, spoke with the Town of Concord regarding the repaving at CCHS. Mr. Hughes stated that Concord DPW is interested in collaborating with the District on the entrance way and roadway in front of the Beede Center, as well as the lighting and sidewalk work. He stated that the district could combine the project with the towns in the spring to have economies of scale, noting that some engineering work has already been done. Mr. Stanton confirmed this, stating that some preliminary engineering work has been completed and noted that the district would need to get on the town's schedule of projects because they book up very fast. Regarding the campus tractor-trailer, Mr. Stanton stated that this would save between \$20,000-\$25,000 per year, noting that a shed is not necessary for it. Regarding the amenities building, Mr. Hughes stated that the district has an application that can be submitted to the state plumbing board to reduce the number of fixtures in the restrooms of the building. He stated that the building would be located in front of the tennis courts near the bleachers and Mr. Stanton shared a concept drawing of the building. Dr. Hunter noted that they would need to vet the impervious surface bylaw to make sure that it is not exceeded. Regarding the turf field, Mr. Stanton stated that the replacement cycle is 10-14 years, noting that in 2026 it will be at 12 years.

C. FY23 CCRSD Superintendent's Recommended Budget. Dr. Hunter stated that the CCRSD budget is level-service, with one or two exceptions. She stated that the guideline number being used in Concord reflects the additional \$300,000 that was placed in E&D to offset FY22. Mr. Stanton reviewed the budget timeline, noting that his target is to have the budget voted no later than January 28th. He then reviewed the budget by 1000 function and budget drivers by expense type of teacher salaries, special education tuitions, support staff salaries, insurance, assistant/tutor salaries, driver salaries and buses. He reviewed cost savings of contracted transportation, contracted services, leases and debt, and requested FTE's, grant/revolving account salary/expenses offset, special education tuitions, E&D projections, early retirement incentive estimated savings, OPEB, transportation, health insurance, debt service, CARES Act/Esser Funds, general fund revenue estimates, and assessments. The SC recommended moving the DEI position out of the METCO grant and adding the METCO director position instead.

D. ESSER-3. Dr. Hunter noted that ESSER-3 was reviewed during the budget recommendation discussion.

VII. ACTION ITEMS

A. Vote to Approve CCRSD Capital Plan. A motion was made by Mr. Booth, seconded by Ms. Anderson, to approve the CCRSD Capital Plan for FY23 as outlined to include lighting and paving. The motion was unanimously approved.

VIII. ADDITIONAL PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

IX. ADJOURNMENT CCSC

A motion to adjourn the CCSC meeting was made by Ms. Rainey, seconded by Ms. Marano. The motion was unanimously approved and the CCSC meeting adjourned at 8:13 PM.

X. DISCUSSION

A. CMS Building Project Update. Mr. Booth stated that the CMSBC met to discuss additional value engineering and took no action, noting that the budget ceiling is \$103.7 million and a budget of \$102.7 million. He stated that the CMSBC meets again on Thursday morning. Ms. Anderson stated that the CMSBC is continuing its robust outreach, noting the upcoming panel discussion on sustainability as well as engagements with groups in town. Citing several concerns, Ms. Rainey asked the CMSBC to reconsider construction manager at risk versus design bid build.

B. CPS Capital Plan. Mr. Stanton shared the CPS Capital Plan document, which had been previously discussed at the November 30th SC meeting.

Public Comment: Terri Ackerman, Concord Select Board. Ms. Ackerman stated that there is a citizen with construction experience who is willing to come onto the CMSBC when there is an opening.

Ms. Rainey asked that the new sustainability director for the town be consulted to see if there are any grants available for the Alcott ERU work and that the \$55,000 be removed from the plan for the canopy outside of the locked admin door at Ripley. Dr. Hunter suggested taking the \$55,000 to allocate for an inclusive, assessable playground for Thoreau and

the SC agreed on this change. Ms. Rainey asked Dr. Hunter to confirm that the Thoreau PTG has matching funds prior to making the allocation.

C. FY23 CPS Superintendent’s Recommended Budget. Dr. Hunter stated that they are looking to extend the Branch program at Alcott and the autism and language based programs at CMS, noting that these programs would need additional support staff. She stated that they are also recommending an adjustment counselor at CMS and noted that due to the census numbers being down, kindergarten sections may need to be reduced. Mr. Stanton reviewed the budget timeline, numbers by 1000 function for a total percentage increase of 3.87%, budget drivers of teacher salaries, assistant/tutor salaries, other transportation, support staff salaries, custodial/maintenance salaries, principals/asst. principal salaries, contract services and teacher stipends. He then reviewed cost savings in special education tuitions, sick leave/early retirement and curriculum instruction. Mr. Stanton reviewed FTEs, grant/revolving account salary offsets, special education tuitions, early retirement projected savings, transportation, budgets by specific locations for the Preschool, Alcott, Thoreau, Willard, CMS, district-wide elementary and district-wide. He then reviewed CARES Act and ESSER funds.

D. ESSER-3. Dr. Hunter noted that Mr. Stanton reviewed ESSER-3 during the budget discussion. The SC discussed the FTE positions under ESSER-3 funds.

E. Middle School Project Financial Offsets. Dr. Hunter stated that the offset chart was developed at a brainstorming session with the Concord Select Board around ways to pay for the new middle school. She stated that they are being asked to respond to offsets as part of the upcoming Public Hearing on December 16th. The SC discussed the chart of offsets and agreed to endorse an estimate of offsets without binding a future school committee. A motion was made by Mr. Booth, seconded by Ms. Anderson, to direct the SC chair to communicate with the Concord Finance Committee to the effect that the 2019 estimated operational savings of \$548,000 continues to be a sound estimate based on available information. The motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment: Christine Reynolds, Chair of the Concord Finance Committee. Ms. Reynolds stated that the FINCOM discussion on offsets was around the way to realize the \$548,000.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn was made by Ms. Marano, seconded by Ms. Anderson. The motion was unanimously approved and the CSC meeting adjourned at 10:00 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