

Present: Tracey Marano, Chair, CCSC; CSC
Alexa Anderson, Chair, CSC; CCSC
Carrie Rankin, Vice Chair, CSC; CCSC
Courtland Booth, CSC; CCSC
Cynthia Rainey, CSC, CCSC
Sharon Whitt, Vice Chair, CCSC
Sara Wilson, CCSC
Domingos DaRosa, CCRSD METCO Rep
Ayesha Lawton, CPS METCO Rep (via Zoom)

Present from Administration: Dr. Laurie Hunter, Superintendent of Schools, CPS & CCRSD
Robert Conry, Asst. Superintendent of Finance & Operations, CPS & CCRSD
Kristen Herbert, Asst. Superintendent of Teaching & Learning, CPS & CCRSD

I. CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Marano called the CCSC meeting to order at 6:00 PM. Ms. Anderson then called the CSC meeting to order.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT

1. Monica Granfield, 110 Carlisle Pines Drive, Carlisle MA. Ms. Granfield stated that she was against the American Library Association's willingness to expose minors to pornographic content currently being shelved at the CCHS library, noting that it harms the kids and creates an intimidating and hostile environment that can be considered sexual harassment and not a safe place for kids. She then read excerpts from the book she referenced, All Boys Aren't Blue. Ms. Granfield asked the SC to revisit the book review process to ensure that all voices are heard.

2. Erin Fife, 174 Hill Street, Concord MA. Ms. Fife thanked the SC, Superintendent and District for all of the work they are doing with the Celtics Playbook Initiative, noting the importance of supporting the social emotional learning of the students.

3. Katalin Egri, 8 Wildwood Drive, Carlisle MA. Ms. Egri asked if the SC was aware of any studies that show the positive correlation between enhanced learning and education on one hand and sex education in the curriculum with easy access to pornographic books in the school library on the other. She said, if there are no such studies, how does the district justify the availability of such material to the students. She asked for access to a study, if available, as well as any other teaching material being used on sex education and gender ideology in every class and every level. She noted that she would like these sent within the next three days.

4. Robert Egri, 8 Wildwood Drive, Carlisle MA. Mr. Egri congratulated the teachers, Administration and SC for getting 31st place in the rankings. He expressed his disapproval of the library books All Boys Aren't Blue by making a metaphor with math education.

5. Elizabeth Frank, 1283 Elm Street, Concord MA. Ms. Frank thanked CMS for the work on the Playbook Initiative, encouraging the district to broaden this to other grades.

6. Carmela Gee, 328 Border Road, Concord MA. Ms. Gee stated that she reached out to the SC two years ago with concerns over her daughter learning about gay sexuality as part of the educational program, noting that parents were not included in this decision-making. She gave an example of a book that was taught and discussed in her child's classroom, stating that the SC is deliberately trying to hide their curriculum to further divide.

7. Krysta Johnson, 58 Shagbark Road, Concord MA. Ms. Johnson continued reading Ms. Gee's written comments, stating that kids K-12 are being educated that something is wrong with them and they should be ashamed of their own white race, noting that they are also being taught it is normal to have many pronouns on papers. She stated that the district needs to go back to basics and start teaching the kids reading, math and science and to be good and successful people.

8. Rachel Freed, 790 Concord Street, Carlisle MA. Ms. Freed stated that she is a woman of color who will be sending her children to CCRSD in the future, expressing her thanks and gratitude for the work being done to build belonging into the communities. She stated that helping children recognize their own identities is critically important to community health and wellness and building belonging in the communities, noting that she is deeply appalled by what she has heard at this meeting. She stated that schools get to decide what to education students about, not the parents, and thanked the district for the work it is doing.

III. SUPERINTENDENT UPDATE

Mr. Conry stated that he appreciated the bus driver incentive program being approved, noting that many drivers have been interested, with one recently passing the DOT exam. He noted the importance of keeping the incentive program in place, noting that other districts have incentive programs as well.

Dr. Hunter stated that the 2nd Strategic Planning session would be held the following night, noting that she's been receiving the visioning data from all of the different stakeholders. She stated that during this time of Thanksgiving, pre-COVID activities have returned, noting the level of generosity and community service being promoted across the district. Dr. Hunter noted many of the fun activities happening across the school that have not happened since pre-COVID.

Dr. Hunter noted that Adult & Community Education is doing a great job filling the Center for Parents and Teachers merger, noting the many upcoming parent events coming up. She stated that the Thoreau accessible playground will break ground this week and students would be able to use it the following week.

IV. CCHS STUDENT UPDATE

CCHS Student reps, Harry Crowley and Zariah Alves, provided an update from CCHS: Spirit Week and Blood Drive were a great success, winter sports have started, the 2Voluteer Activity Fair was a good opportunity for students to earn community service hours, chorus is having a recruiting concert for 8th graders, senate has approved new clubs – knitting and chamber music, everyone feels refreshed after Thanksgiving and Harry, Zariah and Felicity are looking forward to the strategic planning session the following day.

V. RECOGNITIONS

A. CMS Playbook Initiative. Mr. Cameron stated that the Playbook Initiative was in year 5 at CMS, sharing a brief history of the Initiative throughout the years. Mr. Cameron stated that there were 85 student leaders this year and then student leaders shared their experiences around the student leader training at the library held on October 30th. Mr. Cameron stated that the school community gathered on November 3rd for a "Playbook Day" assembly on anti-discrimination, social justice and bias prevention. He stated that Boston Poet Laureate Porsha Olayiwola did a couple of readings for both buildings as well. Student leaders shared their experiences with different student written scenarios and the meaningful discussions around religion, race, orientation and disability that took place on Playbook Day. Mr. Cameron explained how the Boston Celtics uses Project 351 as a platform to get the playbook into each MA school. He stated that they are talking with the elementary school principals about bringing the idea to the elementary schools.

VI. READING OF THE MINUTES

A. Open Session 11/8/22. A motion was made by Ms. Rankin, seconded by Ms. Rainey, to approve the meeting minutes from 11/8/22. The motion was unanimously approved.

VII. CORRESPONDENCE

Ms. Anderson stated that CSC received one piece of correspondence about the METCO application process. Ms. Marano stated that CCSC received no correspondence.

VIII. DISCUSSION

A. CCRSD FY24 Budget. Mr. Conry reviewed the budget process, student enrollment trends, and per pupil expenditure data. Dr. Hunter reviewed the Strategic Objectives and Initiatives of Student Success, Mental Wellness, DEIB and Learning Environments, noting that they are driving the budget. Mr. Conry reviewed the budget by DESE 1000 function (3.58% expenditure increase), key drivers (Administration, Teaching & Instructional Support, Other School Services, Maintenance & Operations, Fixed Charges, and Out of District Tuitions), salaries/non-salary accounts breakout, key drivers in salary and non-salary accounts, ESSER funding, use of ESSER III funds, FY24 revenues, assessments to the towns with and without debt (1.86% increase to Concord/8.66% increase to Carlisle), and the excess and deficiency projection. Dr. Hunter stated that this budget gets to Concord's guideline.

IX. ADJOURNMENT CCSC

A motion to adjourn the CCSC meeting was made by Ms. Marano and the meeting adjourned at 7:53 PM.

X. DISCUSSION

A. CMSBC Update. Ms. Anderson stated that the CMSBC will be meeting on December 15th to begin working on the alt deduct list. She stated that there has been some discussion around floating a capital article that would address some of the items that come from the upcoming meeting. Ms. Rainey questioned how the article would be funded, noting that it would not be within the levy. Mr. Booth asked members to provide input on potential alt deduct ideas to him, Ms. Anderson and Dr. Hunter to then bring forward to the CMSBC to allow for vetting by the professionals. Ms. Rainey asked to move this discussion to the December 20th meeting because it was not on the agenda.

B. CPS FY24 Budget. Mr. Conry shared the FY24 CPS Budget, reviewing: budget by DESE function (5.08% expenditure increase), key drivers (Teaching & Instructional Support, Other School Services, Maintenance & Operations, Fixed Charges, and Out of District Tuitions), sample in-house program costs compared to outside placement, salaries/non-salary accounts breakout, key drivers in non-salary and salary accounts, FTE summary by school site, and use of ESSER funds. Mr. Booth noted the 3.3% recommendation from Concord FINCOM and Mr. Conry stated that there would be discussions going forward with all constituents and Dr. Hunter noted that there were a considerable amount of risks taken in the budget a year ago and much of this budget is recuperating from that.

Public Comment

1. Peggy Briggs, Concord Finance Committee Chair. Ms. Briggs thanked the district for the hard work it is doing, noting that the budget number cannot increase and would need to be within the scope of the article.

C. CPS Capital Plan. Ms. Rainey asked for more information on scope of the electrical work at Ripley, including the bids, before voting on the CPS Capital Plan. Ms. Anderson asked members to send any additional questions ahead of the December 20th meeting.

XI. ACTION ITEMS

A. Vote CPS Capital Plan. *Vote postponed.*

XII. ADJOURNMENT CSC

Ms. Anderson adjourned the CSC meeting at 8:59 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Erin E. Higgins

Approved: 1.24.23

Abbreviations:

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| CCACE | Concord Carlisle Adult and Community Education |
| CCHS | Concord-Carlisle High School |
| CCRSD | Concord-Carlisle Regional School District |
| CCSC | Concord-Carlisle Regional District School Committee |

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| CCTA | Concord-Carlisle Teachers' Association |
| CEF | Concord Education Fund |
| CMS | Concord Middle School |
| CMSBC | Concord Middle School Building Committee |
| CPS | Concord Public Schools |
| CSC | Concord School Committee |
| DEIB | Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging |
| ELA | English Language Arts |
| FINCOM | Finance Committee |
| MTSS | Multi-Tiered System of Supports |
| PD | Professional Development |
| SC | School Committee |
| SEPAC | Special Education Parent Advisory Council |