

JOINT SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Concord-Carlisle School Committee
Concord School Committee
Zoom
March 14, 2023

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
Ayesha Lawton, CPS METCO Rep
Domingos DaRosa, CCRSD METCO Rep

Present from Administration:

Dr. Laurie Hunter, Superintendent of Schools, CPS & CCRSD
Robert Conry, Asst. Superintendent of Finance & Operations, CPS & CCRSD
Kristen Anderson, Asst. Superintendent of Teaching & Learning, CPS & CCRSD

I. CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Marano called the CCSC meeting to order at 5:31 PM, noting that the meeting was being recorded. Ms. Anderson then called the CSC meeting to order. Roll call attendance was taken: Anderson, aye; Booth, aye; Marano, aye; Rainey, aye; Rankin, aye; Whitt, aye; Wilson, aye.

A. Executive Session. A motion was made by Mr. Booth, seconded by Ms. Anderson, to enter into Executive Session under Purpose 2 of the Open Meeting Law: To conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with nonunion personnel or to conduct collective bargaining sessions or contract negotiations with nonunion personnel (Director of Student Services) and Purpose 7 to comply with or act under authority of, any general or special law or federal grant-in-aid requirements, specifically M.G.L. c.30A, §22(a) and (f) with regard to the review and approval of executive session minutes from June 6, 2022, September 6, 2022, September 20, 2022, October 11, 2022, October 25, 2022, and January 10, 2023 and under Purpose 2, under which the June 7, 2022, September 6, 2022, September 20, 2022 and January 10, 2023 executive sessions were held, and under Purpose 3, under which the September 6, 2022, September 20, 2022, October 11, 2022 and October 25, 2022 executive sessions were held, and return to Open Session at approximately 6:00 PM. The motion was approved by roll call: Anderson, aye (for both); Booth, aye (for both); Marano, aye (for both); Rainey, aye (for both); Rankin, aye (for both); Whitt, aye; Wilson, aye.

The CSC and CCSC returned from Executive Session at 6:00 PM.

II. CCHS STUDENT UPDATE

CCHS Student reps, Harry Crowley, Zariah Alves and Felicity Zhang provided updates from CCHS: there were many things happening during the week for World Language Week, the sophomores have been meeting with Guidance on career searches, etc., students were appreciative of the upcoming no-homework weekend and early release days, spring sports start on Monday, student senate was planning many spring activities, MVP (Mentors in Violence Prevention) club ran a successful 8th grade training session, and the March Choral Concert was coming up on Thursday.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

1. Dean Banfield, 73 Walden Terrace, Concord MA. Regarding the Alcott consultant study, Mr. Banfield stated that it would be helpful to view the presentation before making comments. He stated that there was no stress position currently to replace the boilers, noting that they should last for another ten years. He stated that the energy consumption of the building was dramatically different from the other school buildings, noting that it was almost 5 times as energy consumptive per square foot than the new middle school building. He suggested looking at some conservation measures in the building before doing anything elaborate.

Regarding the public comment made at the March 8, 2023 DEIB meeting regarding Mr. Nyamekye's salary, Ms. Marano stated that he was a full time employee, noting that he is paid .6 by CPS and .4 by CCRSD. She stated that this was common practice for employees that work for both districts.

IV. RECOGNITION – STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE

Ms. Anderson and two members of the Strategic Planning Committee, Hillary Drake and Erinn McNeill, recognized the 49 members of the Strategic Planning Committee that have been working diligently over the last few months to make a new Strategic Plan that would last until 2028. Ms. Drake stated that the Strategic Planning Committee has met three times this year, with a fourth meeting scheduled the following week. She noted that members represented different parts of the school community, including: students, teachers, staff, community members and parents. She stated that they tried to take the current plan and revise it by brainstorming what they wanted the school system to look like in 2028 and committee members communicated with their constituent groups to get feedback and bring it back to the larger group at the meetings. She also noted the district wide survey that was sent out as well. Ms. Drake stated that they would be working on measuring outcomes at the upcoming meeting. Ms. McNeill reviewed the draft of the new Strategic Plan, including, initiatives and outcomes for progress monitoring.

V. CORRESPONDENCE

Ms. Anderson stated that CSC received several pieces of correspondence: one email regarding the use of ARPA funds, two with questions on the capital planning process, one with feedback of candidate Angel Charles for Director of Student Services, one email asking the CSC to substantiate and defend the benefits of professional development, and eighteen in support of the CPS budget.

Ms. Marano stated that CCSC received three pieces of correspondence: one with recommendations on the podcast Sold the Story, one regarding the new Director of Students Services, and one from a parent expressing their unhappiness with the budget process and recent public comment period.

VI. CHAIRS, LIAISONS AND SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

Ms. Marano stated that there would be a Chairs breakfast on Friday with Chairs of school committees in the area. She stated that the member onboarding meeting has been moved to the following week. She stated the Concord Finance Committee would be recommending the CCRSD budget in the affirmative at Town Meeting.

Ms. Anderson stated that neither she nor Ms. Marano were able to attend the February Chairs Breakfast due to February vacation, noting that the meeting this week has been postponed.

Regarding the CCHS leadership, Dr. Hunter stated that Mr. Mastrullo resigned the previous week, noting how grateful the District was for all that he has done for CCHS. She stated that she has appointed Brian Miller and Katie Stahl as Co-Principals of CCHS. She stated that the homeless shelter opened the previous day, noting that the families were registered earlier in the day. She stated that two thirds were heading back to their school or origin, noting that the District is working with those districts and getting transportation arranged. Dr. Hunter thanked the bus drivers for driving in the challenging conditions earlier in the day.

Mr. Booth recognized Mark Pauley from MMN, noting the tremendous service he did for the School Committee meetings.

Ms. Wilson stated that Adult & Community Education has some great parenting sessions coming up, noting that they were all in the evening and accessible on Zoom. She stated that there are discussions around the next *Can We Talk* series focusing on mental health.

Ms. Marano shared the schedule of the three upcoming School Committee coffees.

VII. DISCUSSION

A. 2023-2028 Strategic Planning Update. Dr. Hunter stated that the Strategic Plan correlates with the school improvement plans, her goals and the educator goals. She stated that the 2023-2028 Strategic Plan has similar thread lines with the current plan, noting that there are slightly different areas of emphasis due to the incredibly reflective work of the Strategic Planning Committee. She stated that the Strategic Planning Committee would be spending the next meeting working on how the outcomes would be measured. Mr. Booth stated that he was apprehensive about the short

length of the next meeting, given the importance of metrics. Mr. DaRosa stated that he attended one of the meetings, noting that the groups all seemed to have the same concerns and were able to discuss coming up with plans to address the concerns. Ms. Anderson noted how they discussed how the use of social media can be disrupting, a conversation that had started prior to COVID. Regarding tracking elective participation, Ms. Wilson asked about the multiple paths to success and different learning experiences and Dr. Hunter stated that would be looking at the participation rates and longevity of the kids staying in these classes. Ms. Rainey asked that the survey be distributed to the SC and posted on the website.

VIII. ACTION ITEM

A. Vote to Approve Exchange Student SY 23-24. A motion was made by Mr. Booth, seconded by Ms. Rankin, to approve one Pan Atlantic Foundation Exchange student from Germany for the 2023-2024 school year at CCHS. The motion passed by roll call: Anderson, aye; Booth, aye; Marano, aye; Rainey, aye; Rankin, aye; Whitt, aye; Wilson, aye.

B. Vote to Accept a Grant from NVIDIA Foundation. A motion was made by Mr. Booth, seconded by Ms. Rainey, to accept a grant in the amount of \$5,000 from the NVIDIA Foundation in support of the Lighthouse Program at CCHS. The motion passed by roll call: Anderson, aye; Booth, aye; Marano, aye; Rainey, aye; Rankin, aye; Whitt, aye; Wilson, aye.

C. Vote to Approve Staff Enrollment Request. A motion was made by Mr. Booth, seconded by Ms. Rankin, to approve the following staff request to enroll her children in the Concord Public Schools/Concord-Carlisle Regional School District for the 2023-2024 School Year, and that tuition be waived: CCHS Teacher – children to enroll in 6th and 8th grade at CMS. The motion passed by roll call: Anderson, aye (for both); Booth, aye (for both); Marano, aye (for both); Rainey, aye (for both); Rankin, aye (for both); Whitt, aye; Wilson, aye

D. Vote to Appoint Director of Student Services. A motion was made by Ms. Rankin, seconded by Ms. Whitt, to appoint Angel Charles as the Director of Student Services. The motion passed by roll call: Anderson, aye (for both); Booth, aye (for both); Marano, aye (for both); Rainey, aye (for both); Rankin, aye (for both); Whitt, aye; Wilson, aye

E. Vote to Approve School Committee Resolution Supporting an Increase in Special Education Circuit Breaker Funding. Ms. Marano noted that the language needed to be updated to "up to 14%" and that she would like all members and Mr. DaRosa's names included on the resolution. A motion was made by Mr. Booth, seconded by Ms. Whitt, to endorse the recommendation and send it to the MA State representatives, as amended. The motion passed by roll call: Anderson, aye; Booth, aye; Marano, aye; Rainey, aye; Rankin, aye; Whitt, aye; Wilson, aye.

IX. ADJOURNMENT CCSC

A motion was made by Mr. Booth, seconded by Ms. Rankin, to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously by roll call and the CCSC meeting adjourned at 7:08 PM.

X. DISCUSSION

A. Alcott Electrification Feasibility Study.

Public Comment: Charlie Parker. Mr. Parker asked for a clarification on the process in terms of when the public can comment on the presentation material. Ms. Anderson stated that the public comment period for the meeting had passed, but that he would be able to make a comment at the next meeting.

Mr. Conry stated that Weston & Sampson was selected as the engineering firm to do the feasibility study and then introduced Scott Henrique and Sam Alpert from Weston & Sampson. Mr. Alpert stated that they viewed the existing conditions, heating/ventilation systems, and conducted a utility bill and documentation review, as well as an energy model to look at various options to calculate savings and energy impacts associated with each option. He stated that they completed HVAC system analysis and cost estimations. He stated that Alcott currently has a natural gas heating systems and the idea was to look for alternate options for zero and near zero emissions in comparison to the natural gas boiler upgrade previously considered. Mr. Alpert reviewed the options: 1) gas fired, high efficiency boilers upgrade (BASE), 2) VRF (Variable Refrigerant Flow) with DOAS (Dedicated Outside Air System -100% Electric), 3) Air-to-Water Heat Pump/Boilers (Hybrid Approach), and 4) Biomass Boilers (wood chip/wood pellets). He reviewed each option, including the energy savings, electricity impact, biomass usage, annual carbon emission savings, and individual impacts of the different types of fuels, capital project costs, estimated incentives and customer post-incentive ROIs. Mr.

Henrique noted his optimism for the air to water heat pump option, noting that there will be new technologies coming in the next few years.

B. CPS FY24 Budget. Ms. Anderson stated that there was still about a 1.5% delta between the current FY24 budget and the FINCOM recommendation for guideline. She stated that Dr. Hunter and Mr. Conry presented the budget at the hearing at the previous week, noting that the Finance Committee did not get to deliberate on the guideline due to the length of the hearing. Mr. Booth asked Mr. Conry to speak to the projected 3% increases and Mr. Conry stated that the increase was predicated on many things, noting that 80% of the costs were salaries, the variability of year-to-year retirements, and out of district tuitions. He stated that he is a bit uncomfortable predicting out many years, and would rather focus on what the district can control. He also noted the short-term variable of the homeless shelter in Concord, stating that there was a new bill that may help to significantly offset costs of the current grant funding. Dr. Hunter noted that there was a lot of lobbying going on about special education reimbursements from the state, noting that this may have a positive impact on the coming years. Ms. Marano stated that it was a level service budget, providing the necessary services for kids. Ms. Anderson stated that the CSC would have another opportunity to discuss the budget after FINCOM deliberates.

C. Representative for Thoreau Principal Search. Dr. Hunter stated that Ms. Anderson would be forming a search committee, including SC members and stakeholders from Thoreau. She stated that the process would be similar to the Director of Student Services search, noting that the hope was to get finalists secured prior to April break. She stated that it was a moderate time commitment, including a day of interviews. Ms. Anderson noted that the full day of interviews was Wednesday, April 12th. Ms. Rankin noted her interest in being on the search committee. Mr. Booth recommended there be some form of METCO representation on the search committee.

XI. ADJOURNMENT CSC

A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Booth, seconded by Ms. Rainey. The motion passed by roll call: Anderson, aye; Booth, aye; Marano, aye; Rainey, aye; Rankin, aye, and the CSC meeting adjourned at 8:13 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Erin E. Higgins

Approved: 5.9.23

Abbreviations:

CCHS	Concord-Carlisle High School
CCRSD	Concord-Carlisle Regional School District
CCSC	Concord-Carlisle Regional District School Committee
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
CTA	Concord Teachers Association
DEIB	Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging
DHCB	Department of Housing and Community Development
ESSER	Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund
FINCOM	Finance Committee
MTSS	Multi-Tiered System of Supports
PD	Professional Development
SC	School Committee
SEPAC	Special Education Parent Advisory Council