

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 (via Zoom)  
Ayesha Lawton, CPS METCO Rep  
Domingos DaRosa, CCRSD 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 Anderson, Asst. Superintendent of Teaching & Learning, CPS & CCRSD

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Ms. Marano called the CCSC meeting to order at 6:02 PM, noting that it 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.

**II. CCHS STUDENT UPDATE**

CCHS Reps Harry Crowley and Felicity Zhang provided an update from CCHS: extended advisory day was coming up the next day, AP exams start the following week, ticket sales are open for *Into the Woods*, a new choral director was hired, Student Senate is planning the Color Run and other spring events, French exchange students have been attending morning classes and sightseeing around town, and prom tickets go on sale Friday.

**III. PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

**IV. RECOGNITIONS**

A. CCHS Guidance. Alison Nowicki, Guidance Department Chair, and Malintha Fernando, METCO School Counselor, shared a video from CCHS Guidance highlighting what was going on at CCHS across all grade levels. Ms. Nowicki noted that the music in the video was composed by Dan Simone who runs the Reverb club at CCHS. She spoke about the guidance newsletter that they have revamped with Piktochart to highlight what's going on at each grade level as well as to provide college information. She stated that they have been implementing a seminar model, where students are able to come into Guidance and work on their college applications and processes over a six-week period. Ms. Marano noted that Ms. Fernando runs the social media for CCHS, noting that how fantastic it is. Ms. Fernando stated that she was hired as the METCO Adjustment Counselor, noting that she works on social emotional learning and provides additional supports for the students. Ms. Wilson asked about the students having access to laptops over the summer to access the Common App and other college search applications. Ms. Nowicki stated that a lot of updating of the laptops happens over the summer. Dr. Hunter stated that they could have the conversation again with IT about summer laptop use.

**V. CORRESPONDENCE**

Ms. Marano stated that CSC received one email, but noted that it was about enrolling in CCRSD.

**VI. CHAIRS, LIAISONS AND SUPERINTENDENT REPORT**

Dr. Hunter stated that was the busiest time of year, noting all of the activities and end of year events that occur. She stated that they were also heavily focused on hiring for the fall, noting that they've hired two assistant principals at CCHS, Mr. Cameron was in the process of hiring an assistant principal at CMS and there were three strong finalists for the

Thoreau principal position. She thanked Ms. Anderson for running the first round of the hiring process and screening committee. Dr. Hunter stated that they were setting up professional development and training for the fall. Ms. Anderson stated that they had a meeting earlier in the day to develop a MTSS (Multi-Tiered System of Support) for social emotional learning and mental health, noting that they would be using screeners from Kindergarten up to grade 12. She stated that they were also meeting on Restorative Justice and the three tiers of community building, looking at little interactions and harmful situations. Dr. Hunter stated that Concord Recreation was offering camperships to the kids at the shelter in the long stay rooms, Kindergarten through Grade 8.

Ms. Marano stated that there was a DEIB Strategic Steering Committee meeting the following night.

Mr. Booth stated that the Human Rights Council held its Holocaust memorial on Sunday night, noting that it was very well attended. He stated that he was on the 2229 Main Street Advisory Committee (committee formed to monitor the process leading to the cleanup at Starmet, formerly Nuclear Metals, Inc., that is now a Superfund site) as a citizen of the town, but would be able to keep the SC informed as to what was happening in terms of the ultimate use of the property.

Ms. Whitt stated that the Carlisle SEPAC was hosting an event on April 27<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM about learning disorders and anxiety. She stated that the Carlisle DEI Community Advisory Council was working on a community education event called Stories of Us in June in collaboration with COAR.

## **VII. DISCUSSION**

A. PEG Access Update. Karleen Reed, from the PEG Access Advisory Committee, stated that the committee was conducting a needs assessment to help the town of Concord negotiate the Comcast franchise agreement. She stated that every household in Concord would receive a postcard with a QR code to RSVP for one of three available focus group events. She stated they would also be able gain access to an online survey to help the town receive input about what citizens and those who work in Concord think about the Comcast service and what the needs will be for the next 10 years. During the focus groups, she stated that consultants would be walking people through four basic areas to get an idea of what was going on. She stated that people could also email her at [paac@concordma.gov](mailto:paac@concordma.gov) if they were unable to attend the focus groups. She stated that the survey was open from May 1<sup>st</sup> to June 9<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Reed noted that the Committee has a warrant article asking for authorization of \$537,557, noting that \$135,000 was to improve the capital equipment. Dr. Hunter noted that there were still some needs in the SC conference room at Ripley.

B. Superintendent Evaluation. Ms. Marano noted that each members filled out an evaluation for Dr. Hunter, noting that Ms. Wilson and Ms. Anderson compiled the results. Ms. Anderson reviewed the evaluation, stating that her overall evaluation was "Proficient". Mr. Booth noted that "Proficient" was a high bar according to MASC, noting that it was not equated with average. Mr. Anderson stated that Dr. Hunter received a "Proficient" rating on the first standard of Instructional Leadership, "Proficient" on the second standard of Management and Operations, "Exemplary" on the third standard of Family and Community Engagement, and "Proficient" on the fourth standard of "Professional Culture". Ms. Anderson shared some of the comments, including how Dr. Hunter "continues to have the admiration of the Concord community.... she has worked collaboratively to set and implement a shared vision for our community". Ms. Anderson stated that Dr. Hunter met all of the Performance Goals this year. Regarding Instructional Leadership, Ms. Anderson stated that under Dr. Hunter's leadership, the districts continue the tradition of academic excellence, noting the focus on inclusivity. Regarding Management and Operations, Ms. Anderson noted the amount of levelheadedness that Dr. Hunter led the district with during the last three tumultuous years. She noted the onboarding of Mr. Conry, and noted Dr. Hunter's ability to quickly and smoothly establish a strong relationship with him. Regarding Family and Communications, Ms. Anderson stated that there was extraordinary broad consensus that this sets Dr. Hunter apart as a leader, commanding respect from all stakeholders in the town. Regarding Professional Culture, Ms. Anderson noted the professional culture and team of building based leaders and administrators that work well together under Dr. Hunter's leadership. Mr. Booth noted that he would like to see the SC more involved in the budget development and deliberation in the future than they have been this year. Members thanked Dr. Hunter for the foundation she has built, noting her leadership through so many difficult times. Mr. DaRosa stated that he appreciated the work Dr. Hunter was doing for the families in Boston and looked forward to continuing the relationship for years to come.

C. Assistant Superintendent Update. Mr. Conry stated that there were some questions at the last meeting on CCRSD budget transfers. He then reviewed budget transfers, including a METCO staff position, Curriculum Director

lines, DEI Contract services, and counselor and school psychologist positions. He stated that Medical Therapeutic Services line increased to fund the Speech Language Pathologist for the language based program.

D. Budget Transfers. Ms. Marano stated that she had done some research since the last meeting on how other school committees were handling budget transfers. She stated that everyone sees adjustments/transfers through the year, with cleanup occurring at the end of the year. She asked for feedback from the SC as to how they would like to move forward. After discussion, the SC agreed to start voting on quarterly budget adjustments/transfers.

E. Review of Concord Town Meeting Article 16 CCRSD Budget. Dr. Hunter shared a preview of the Town Meeting slides, noting that the content had not changed since the regional budget was voted on months ago. The SC discussed meeting at 12:00PM prior to Town Meeting in the Learning Commons at CCHS.

F. Cell Phone Tower. Ms. Marano stated that there were two feasible areas for a cell phone tower at the high school, noting that the tower at the Middlesex School campus was similar to what could be placed at the high school. She also noted that they would need to file for a variance because it would be a little under the 1,000 foot distance from the school that is required. She stated that safety was a priority on campus, noting that the entire campus would be covered from this tower. She stated that it would be at no cost to the district and Dr. Hunter noted that the safety on campus has been a top concern of hers since coming to the district. Dr. Hunter recommended connecting with the town departments to coordinate efforts. Ms. Wilson asked if there were ever audits done on the coverage of the modems to see where the ranges break up and Dr. Hunter stated that IT had added responders and have tried to push the Wi-Fi out as far as possible. She suggested having IT come to an upcoming SC meeting to share their efforts.

G. Mental Health Forum. Ms. Marano recommended moving the mental health forum to September, given the fact that it was already April and there was only one available date. The SC agreed it made sense to move the forum to the fall to start the school year off to allow more families to be engaged.

H. Second Reading School Committee Policies

- EBC-S (Supplemental) – General (Interim) Policy on COVID-Related Issues
- CBI – Evaluation of the Superintendent
- KLG – Relations with Police Authorities
- KLJ – Relations with Planning Authorities
- KLK – Relations with Local Governmental Authorities
- LA – Education Agency Relations Goals
- LB – Relations with other Schools and School Districts
- LBC – Relations with Nonpublic Schools
- LDA – Student Teaching and Internships

Ms. Rankin stated that they previously reviewed these policies, asking for feedback or questions. Ms. Rainey asked about EBC-S and Ms. Rankin stated that the recommendation was to remove this policy.

## **VIII. ACTION ITEMS**

A. Vote to Approve School Committee Policies. A motion was made by Mr. Booth, seconded by Ms. Rankin, to adopt the updated policies as outlined in the agenda CBI, KLG, KLJ, KLK, LA, LB, LBC and LDA and remove EBC-S. 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.

B. Vote to Approve Enrollment of Staff Member Children. A motion was made by Ms. Rankin, seconded by Ms. Rainey, to approve the following staff requests to enroll their children in Concord Public Schools/Concord-Carlisle Regional School District for the 2023-2024 school year, and that tuition be waived: Alcott Teacher, child to enroll in 3rd grade and CCHS Teacher, child to enroll in 3rd grade. 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.

## **IX. ADJOURNMENT CCSC**

Ms. Marano adjourned the CCSC meeting at 8:17 PM.

## **X. DISCUSSION**

A. Review of Concord Town Meeting Articles. Article 17 – CPS Budget. Dr. Hunter noted that the slides had not changed since the public hearing. Ms. Anderson stated that at the Select Board meeting the previous night, the Finance Committee talked about the fact that an accounting error was uncovered last week that demonstrated that the town's budget was overstated by about \$500,000. She stated that, because this had been discovered so late, Ms. Lafleur did not feel she had enough time to reallocate the money and recommended that the Finance Committee would remove \$515,000 from the town's operating budget. Ms. Anderson stated that, in light of this information, she put together a letter to present to the Finance Committee, to see if they would apply the \$500,000 towards the CPS budget. She asked if there was interest of urging the Finance Committee to re-examine the CPS budget and if the delta of \$70,000 could be achieved.

Public Comment: Matt Johnson, Select Board Chair. Mr. Johnson stated that he did not connect the reduction in the town budget to any reconsideration of the guideline versus the requested amount for the CPS. He noted that he was trying to reopen the discussion because there was a member that had been requesting a lot of information related to the historical percentage of spend for the schools vs. the town. He stated that they were able to get some of this data the previous night, which is why they had a re-vote. He noted that there has not been a trend of the schools spending more as a percentage compared to the town over the last 20 years.

Ms. Anderson noted that if the town adjusted its guideline to meet this request from CPS, the impact to the taxpayer would remain neutral. Ms. Marano noted that the district reduced the capital plan and reduced the budget by \$150,000, noting that she does not like how all departments are looking separate in this as its one total budget. Ms. Anderson asked, should the letter be sent, would the \$70,000 difference be achievable in addition to the \$150,000 already reduced. Dr. Hunter stated that \$70,000 would be achievable through taking more risks or going into reserves a bit more. Ms. Rankin noted that she felt they should go into town meeting with the budget they agreed upon, stating that she doesn't feel the Finance Committee would move. Mr. Booth noted his concern over the community perceiving that the SC took advantage of an error at the townhouse. Ms. Anderson stated that it would represent the opportunity to be more collaborative with the town to solve problems collectively. Ms. Marano stated that she didn't like the divisive feeling happening in the town, noting that although the schools have the CMS building project in process, they shouldn't be punishing today's kids for tomorrow's building.

A motion was made by Ms. Marano, seconded by Ms. Rankin, to send the draft version of the letter to FINCOM for discussion purposes. Mr. Booth stated that he brought a motion to the floor weeks ago that wasn't permitted because it wasn't on the agenda, noting that this was not on the agenda either. Ms. Rankin noted that Mr. Booth was against a motion she had previously made as well that was not included on an agenda. Ms. Marano stated that the SC was not informed by the new information presented until earlier in the day.

Public Comment: Don Kupka, 39 Devens St, Concord MA. Mr. Kupka stated that he was a member of FINCOM, but was speaking on behalf of himself. He stated that he just learned of the error earlier in the day as well, noting that the guideline is set as a function of the sustainable growth rate of the income of the town. He stated that it was a percentage over the prior baseline and if the error had not been caught, the total spend would have exceeded the guideline percentage increase of the sustainable growth rate.

Regarding the motion to send the letter, Mr. Booth, Ms. Rainey, and Ms. Rankin voted nay on the motion and Ms. Anderson and Ms. Marano voted aye. The motion did not pass.

Article 18 – CPS Capital. Ms. Anderson noted that they have reduced their capital ask by about half. Ms. Rainey stated that she would like the SC to make a Town Meeting commitment to pursue CPC funding for the Thoreau playground. Ms. Anderson noted her concern for this possibly competing with CMS building bids. Ms. Rainey stated that the town should be dealing with the bids for the CMS project. Ms. Rankin suggested not making a public statement, but retain the ability to pursue CPS funds if needed. Ms. Rainey noted that the community might be looking for details on the study.

## **XI. ACTION ITEMS**

A. Vote to Not Move Article 19. The SC agreed to add an additional meeting on Friday, April 28<sup>th</sup> to discuss and vote on Articles 17 and 19.

**XII. ADJOURNMENT CSC**

The CSC meeting adjourned at 9:24 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Erin E. Higgins

Approved: 5.23.23

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
COAR	Communities Organizing Against Racism
CPC	Community Preservation 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
YRBS	Youth Risk Behavior Survey