

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

Absent: Sara Wilson, CCSC

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 CSC**

Ms. Anderson called the CSC meeting to order at 5:30 PM. She noted that Ms. Rankin was re-elected at Town Meeting.

**II. SEATING OF THE CONCORD SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

A. Seating of the CSC members. A motion was made Mr. Booth, seconded by Ms. Marano, to recognize Alexa Anderson, Courtland Booth, Tracey Marano, Cynthia Rainey, and Carrie Rankin as members of the Concord School Committee. The motion passed by roll call: Anderson, aye; Booth, aye; Marano, aye; Rainey, aye; Rankin, aye.

B. Election of Officers of the CSC. A motion was made by Ms. Rankin, seconded by Mr. Booth, to elect Ms. Anderson as Chair of the CSC. The motion passed by roll call: Anderson, aye; Booth, aye; Marano, aye; Rainey, aye; Rankin, aye.

A motion was made by Ms. Marano, seconded by Mr. Booth, to elect Ms. Rankin as Vice Chair of the CSC. The motion passed by roll call: Anderson, aye; Booth, aye; Marano, aye; Rainey, aye; Rankin, aye.

C. Appointment of SC Recording Secretary CSC. . A motion was made by Ms. Marano, seconded by Ms. Rainey, to elect Erin Higgins as Recording Secretary CSC. The motion passed by roll call: Anderson, aye; Booth, aye; Marano, aye; Rainey, aye; Rankin, aye.

**III. CALL TO ORDER CCSC**

Ms. Marano called the CCSC meeting to order at 5:34 PM.

A. Executive Session. A motion was made by Mr. Booth, seconded by Ms. Rankin, for the Concord School Committee and Concord-Carlisle School Committee to enter into Executive Session under Purpose 3 of the Open Meeting Law to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining with the Secretaries and Maintenance unions, and return to Open Session at 6:15 PM. 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.

The SC returned from Executive Session at 6:15 PM.

**IV. DIPLOMA FOR VIETNAM VETERAN DAVID MCPHILLIPS**

Ms. Marano welcomed David McPhillips, his family, friends and members of the CCHS Class of 1968 to celebrate his graduation from CCHS. She stated that he enlisted in the Marines at age 17, earned his GED after returning from Vietnam,

and earned his Bachelor's Degree from the University of MA. Ms. Marano congratulated Mr. McPhillips on behalf of the CCSC. Dr. Hunter stated that it had been a privilege and pleasure interacting with Mr. McPhillips, stating that in accordance with MA General Law, school committees may award diplomas to any WWI, WWII, Korean War or Vietnam War veterans who withdrew from secondary school before graduation in order to serve in the armed forces, and then shared Mr. McPhillips history. Dr. Hunter stated that she attested that Mr. McPhillips met the requirements of the law to retroactively receive a 1968 Concord Carlisle diploma. Mr. McPhillips thanked Dr. Hunter and the SC, accepting the diploma and recognizing some of his classmates from high school that attended the meeting. School Committee members and Dr. Hunter took pictures with Mr. McPhillips, his classmates, and his family.

## **V. CCHS STUDENT UPDATE**

CCHS Student Reps, Felicity Zhang, Zariah Alves and Harry Crowley provided an update from CCHS: AP exams were almost over, Into the Woods was opening Thursday, the Color Run and Spirit Assembly were coming up, Senate elections were coming up, the METCO Senior dinner happened on Friday, Senate was working on a video for Teacher Appreciation Week, and May 19<sup>th</sup> would be Nets for Vets with benefits the Brown Hudner Navy Scholarship Foundation.

## **VI. PUBLIC COMMENT**

1. Liz Crowell, 212 Hubbard Street, Concord MA. Ms. Crowell stated that she was in support of the pilot for embedded levels within the CCHS English Department, noting that evidence shows that heterogeneous groupings lead to better teaching and learning for all. She also stated that equity and diversity could not be dismissed in any educational discussion.

2. Heidi Kaiter, 100 Elm Brook Lane, Concord MA. Regarding the potential cell phone tower at CCHS, Ms. Kaiter stated that she recently submitted testimony for MA House Bill 2158, which would recognize electromagnetic sensitivity as a disease and a public health concern. She stated that, in the town of Concord. Cell towers can be no closer than 1,000 feet near a school building. She asked 1) If there would be independent monitoring of the EMR levels should a tower be installed, 2) What was the undisclosed possible location of another cell tower in town, 3) Were citizens allowed to have public access to know the locations of 5G and hardware in town, and 4) What was the process for approval of a cell tower. She also noted her concern for placing a tower near Walden Pond.

3. Erin Fife, 174 Hill Street, Concord MA. Ms. Fife thanked Dr. Hunter for the email follow up regarding the incident on the METCO bus, noting that she appreciated the messaging of everyone needing to do better. She encouraged the SC to look at the transportation policy when they review policies again, noting that there were many discrepancies in student behavior and expectations for Concord families vs. METCO families.

4. Elizabeth Frank, 1283 Elm Street, Concord MA. Ms. Frank also noted her appreciation for Dr. Hunter's second email to the community regarding the bus incident, which clarified that the students were not at fault and that implicit racial bias was likely involved in the mistakes made by the adults. She noted the pain and trauma the children experienced, stating that she was discouraged, angry and heartbroken that this happened in the community. She asked that additional DEI training be given to the bus drivers, especially those on the METCO routes. She asked that the community educate themselves and work on dismantling any racial bias that has been passed down through the culture in order to better serve all Concord students.

## **VII. RECOGNITIONS**

A. CCHS Math. Sara Kiesselbach, CCHS Math Department Chair, shared updates from CCHS Math. She stated that the Math Department became interested last year in Peter Liljedahl's, *Building Thinking Classrooms in Mathematics*, which teaches strategies and different student learning opportunities. She stated that they were able to meet with Mr. Liljedahl through the PD paths, noting that teachers were utilizing a number of his practices. She stated that the goals of a thinking classroom were to shift from a teacher-centered traditional lecture style experience to a student-centered experience where students explore concepts in a strategic format built on prior concepts and understanding. Ms. Kiesselbach stated that students were randomly placed into groups of three, working at vertical whiteboards, given frequent mastery checks and used fun and engaging online platforms. She then shared examples, such as quiz retakes, to prioritize the mental health of the students while maintaining rigor. She shared examples of math problems across different math levels and information on the Calculus Project program. She stated that the Computer Science teacher had created a goal of increasing diversity in computer science and engineering courses, noting that the efforts have

yielded much success. Ms. Kiesselbach shared information on the CCHS Senior Internship Program and data on the math AP course exams.

#### **VIII. READING OF THE MINUTES**

A. 3/14/23, 3/28/23, 4/11/23, 4/12/23. A motion was made by Ms. Rainey, seconded by Mr. Booth, to approve the meeting minutes of 3/14/23, 3/28/23, 4/11/23, and 4/12/23. The motion was unanimously approved.

#### **IX. CORRESPONDENCE**

Ms. Anderson stated that CSC received two pieces of correspondence: one from an 8<sup>th</sup> grader regarding their Civics project and one thankful for the correspondence regarding the incident on the bus. Ms. Marano stated that CCSC received three emails on embedded English at CCHS and one email on the cellphone tower.

#### **X. CHAIRS, LIAISONS AND SUPERINTENDENT REPORT**

Dr. Hunter stated that Justin Sparks has been hired as Thoreau's next principal, noting that he was currently a sitting principal in Fitchburg. She stated that he would be officially starting July 1<sup>st</sup> and would be attending a School Committee meeting prior to July 1<sup>st</sup>. Dr. Hunter noted the rich end of the year activities happening, as well as planning for the upcoming school year.

Ms. Marano stated that she, D. Hunter and Mr. Conry attended the Carlisle Town Meeting the previous night, noting that the regional budget was passed very quickly with no questions.

#### **XI. DISCUSSION**

A. Special Education Update. Interim Student Services Director, Debbie Dixson, provided an update on Special Education. She provided: March 1 SIMS Data, noting the increases in autism, emotional and communication; headcount comparisons by school; placement patterns; and continuum of services from preschool to the launch program. Ms. Dixson introduced CCHS Special Education staff: Tom Keane, Director of Pathways, Courtney Latta, Harbor Program teacher, Erin Pineau, Department Chair, and Fran Wooff, Administrator. They then spoke about the 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> grade transition, 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Academy, supports for all students, how services are determined, 9<sup>th</sup> grade academic support, WRAP (Grades 10-12), LEAP (grades 10-12), Bridge (grades 9-12), Literacy and Beyond (LAB), Anchor (grades 9-12), Pathways, and Launch. They then shared a video written and designed by the Launch program students, shared the math and reading skills services support that are provided to students, ongoing transition supports, and related service providers.

B. SEPAC. Casey Atkins and Kristin Streeter-Tarlow from SEPAC presented the SEPAC annual report. They reviewed SEPAC's purpose, mission statement, membership, board members, school and program liaisons, priorities and accomplishments, coordinated programming with administration, visibility and profile raising, and the SEPAC appreciation awards, at which Chris Chamberlain, Donna Balmuth, Angel Charles and Dr. Hunter were recognized. They spoke about SEPAC's visibility and profile raising events, including the Dr. Ross Greene presentation and the presentations on Basic Rights, Summer Camp and ESY. They spoke about SEPAC participating in the search committees for the Director of Student Services, Deputy Director of Student Services and Thoreau Principal, as well as the District Strategic Planning Committee. Looking ahead, they stated that they were hoping to increase family engagement, continue collaborations, advocate for budget support and continue participation on the DEI Strategic Planning Committee and district initiatives.

C. Budget Update Quarterly FY23 Q3. Mr. Conry stated that the SC would be voting on adjustments at the 1,000 level at the end of each quarter. He noted that there would be a final vote at the end of the year.

D. Cell Phone Tower. Ms. Marano stated that there was limited cell coverage on the CCHS campus, noting that it was a safety issue across campus. She stated that options included: 1) cell phone tower, 2) Wi-Fi calling enabled inside the building, 3) Wi-Fi calling outside of the building, and 4) blue lights. She stated that the district was currently exploring all options. David Tivnan, from Verizon, stated that if the SC decided to put up the cell tower, they would need to release an RFP to which interested parties would respond, noting that Verizon would respond with the intent of winning the RFP. He stated that there were three available options for the cell tower on the property, noting that "option 2" is the most disguised option and would provide excellent coverage to the campus and surrounding areas. He stated that the entire process would take between a year and eighteen months for the site to be activated. Mr. Tivnan noted

that he has been working with the Town of Concord for over seven years to try to place a cell tower at another location in town. Mr. Booth asked if Verizon had ever looked at the solar farm near CCHS and Mr. Tivnan stated that AT&T had a temporary tower there 15-20 years ago, but the Town made them remove it. Ms. Marano stated that the IT Department was looking into what could be done in the near future, such as Wi-Fi calling, to help with the coverage problem. She stated that they would continue to discuss this topic on future agendas.

E. CCHS Early Release. Dr. Hunter stated that the 10 early release days at CCHS was all part of the schedule changes that were made, noting that these early releases would be at 1:15 PM.

**XII. ACTION ITEMS**

A. Vote to Approve CCRSD FY23 Q3 Quarterly Budget Transfers. A motion was made by Ms. Rainey, seconded by Mr. Booth, to vote the CCRSD FY23 Q3 quarterly budget transfers. The motion passed by roll call: Anderson, aye; Booth, aye; Marano, aye; Rainey, aye; Rankin, aye; Whitt, aye; Wilson, aye.

B. Vote to Approve CCHS Early Release 23-24. A motion was made by Mr. Booth, seconded by Ms. Whitt, to approve the 2023-2024 School Calendar, including ten additional early release days at CCHS. The motion passed unanimously.

C. Vote to Approve Contribution for All Night Live. A motion was made by Ms. Rainey, seconded by Ms. Whitt, to approve the \$500 grant from the Middlesex District Attorney's Office in support of All Night Live. The motion passed unanimously.

**XIII. ADJOURNMENT CCSC**

Ms. Marano adjourned the CCSC meeting at 9:06 PM.

**XIV. DISCUSSION**

A. CMSBC Update. Dr. Hunter stated that CTA was awarded as general contractor for the project, noting that everyone was excited for the project to begin. She stated that there would be a ground-breaking ceremony next Wednesday at 6:00 PM, noting that the actual ground-breaking might occur late May/early June. Mr. Booth stated that conversations about naming the school were starting to occur around town, as well as the timing of the intended opening and the 250<sup>th</sup> recognition for the town. He stated that the next CMSBC meeting would be May 25<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 AM.

B. Budget Update Quarterly FY23 Q3. Ms. Anderson stated that the SC has seen these numbers three times. Mr. Conry stated that he would give one more update the end of June. Ms. Rainey asked about capital appropriations for prior years and Mr. Conry stated that he would provide an update of state of capital at the June meeting.

**XV. ACTION ITEMS**

A. Vote to Approve CPS FY23 Q3 Quarterly Budget Transfers. A motion was made by Ms. Rainey, seconded by Mr. Booth, to approve the CPS FY23 Q3 quarterly budget transfers. The motion was approved by roll call: Anderson, aye; Booth, aye; Marano, aye; Rainey, aye; Rankin, aye.

**XVI. ADJOURNMENT**

Ms. Anderson adjourned the CSC meeting at 9:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Erin E. Higgins

Approved: 7.20.23

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
LEAP	Learning Executive and Academic Processes
MTSS	Multi-Tiered System of Supports
PD	Professional Development
SC	School Committee
SEPAC	Special Education Parent Advisory Council
WRAP	Writing, Reading, and Academic Processes
YRBS	Youth Risk Behavior Survey