

Present: Tracey Marano, Chair, CCSC; CSC
Sharon Whitt, Vice Chair, CCSC
Alexa Anderson, Chair, CSC; CCSC (via Zoom)
Carrie Rankin, Vice Chair, CSC; CCSC
Courtland Booth, CSC; CCSC
Cynthia Rainey, CSC, CCSC
Carrie Patel, CCSC

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

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

I. CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Marano called the CCSC meeting to order at 6:00 PM and Ms. Rankin then called the CSC meeting to order. Roll call attendance was taken: Anderson, aye; Booth, aye; Marano, aye; Patel, aye; Rainey, aye; Rankin, aye; Whitt, aye. Ms. Marano noted that the meeting was being recorded.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

III. CORRESPONDENCE

Ms. Marano stated that the CCSC received two pieces of correspondence regarding the cell phone tower. Ms. Rankin stated that CSC did not receive any correspondence.

IV. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Warrants
1. AP CCRSD
 - a. 1005 7/31/2023 \$86.23
 - b. 1006 7/31/2023 \$40.99
 - c. 1015 7/20/2023 \$947,828.62
 - d. 1018 7/28/2023 \$63,662.08
 - e. 1024 8/4/2023 \$37,130.90
 - f. 1025 8/11/2023 \$114,992.86
 - g. 1032 8/17/23 \$150.00
 2. AP CPS
 - a. 1007 8/3/2023 \$229,283.73
 - b. 1011 8/14/2023 \$263,599.53
 3. Payroll CCRSD
 - a. 4, 1008 – 1013 7/20/2023 \$719,200.65
 4. Payroll CPS
 - a. 24.2 7/20/2023 \$1,111,436.21
 - b. 24.3 8/3/2023 \$1,205,152.91

A motion was made by Mr. Booth, seconded by Ms. Rainey, to approve the consent agenda. The motion was approved by roll call: Anderson, aye (for both); Booth, aye (for both); Marano, aye (for both); Patel, aye; Rainey, aye (for both); Rankin, aye (for both); Whitt, aye.

V. SUPERINTENDENT, CHAIRS & LIAISONS UPDATE

Dr. Hunter stated that the two-day administrative retreat was recently held at Ripley, where they worked on restorative justice practices, and at METCO Inc., where Mr. Nyamekye and METCO CEO Milly Arbaje-Thomas led the day. She noted that the theme of the retreat was to remember your “why”. She stated that new staff would be welcomed the following day and Commissioner Riley would be attending Opening Day on Monday.

Ms. Marano stated that she and Ms. Anderson attended the Chairs Breakfast the previous week and they would be meeting with some members of FINCOM, as well as Dr. Hunter, the following day to kick off the upcoming budget process. Ms. Marano stated that the SC schedule and packets were in the drive, noting that she would be plugging in some dates for reports throughout the schedule. Ms. Rainey suggested going over which policies to review prior to the first policy meeting. Mr. Booth noted the Community Education trips, noting that they should comply with the district’s policy.

VI. DISCUSSION

A. Cell Tower Updates with Concord Town Leadership. Jason Bulger and Megan Zammuto from the Town of Concord provided an overview of cell coverage in Concord, including the significant gap in coverage on school grounds. Mr. Bulger noted that the motivation for looking into additional cell towers included student/staff safety, public safety, school operations and quality of life/peace of mind. He then reviewed the history of the cell towers, including the Telecommunications Act of 1996, the 1998 Bylaw, the 2001 relief from general requirements that were added, and the expansion of the district map in 2003 and 2004. He provided highlights from the bylaw, including a height limit of 120 feet, 1,000 feet distance from schools/homes/historic districts and other restrictions. Mr. Bulger shared a map of bylaw approved locations and permissible cell tower development areas. He stated that cell towers have been an issue in Concord due to the restrictive bylaw and lack of momentum, noting that there needed to be more stakeholders involved than just the town or just a committee, to be more of a collaborative effort.

Mr. Bulger stated that the Town Manager created an interdepartmental working group to meet on a regular basis to discuss how to move forward, monitor the progress between private and carrier conversations, and grease the works. He stated that there were two RF consultants that work for the town on RF effects on humans and RF analysis. He stated that they have crowd-sourced cell coverage data and carrier provided data, such as dropped call lists and coverage data.

Mr. Bulger provided a current Verizon coverage map, noting that the majority of people living in Concord and visiting Concord had Verizon, noting that the coverage gaps were in Concord center and the CCHS/Alcott area. He stated that a cell tower at the “Tricon” church would require a special permit application depending on the timing of the submission, noting that the process was controlled by negotiations between the church and Verizon. He noted that Alcott and CCHS would not be covered by a tower at the church. Mr. Bulger stated that the three main components in selecting a cell phone tower site were coverage, aesthetics/siting and timeline. He stated that the Concord landfill site previously had a wireless facility, was within the wireless overlay district, may require a Bylaw waiver, but would provide poor cell coverage for the high school. He stated that a tower on the CCHS site would be within the wireless overlay district, would provide best coverage for the campus, would be the fastest timeline, would require a bylaw waiver, but would not improve reception downtown. He stated that the cell tower at Middlesex School was less than 120 feet from the closest school building and within 1,000 feet of multiple school buildings, noting that it was not an outlier in terms of Middlesex County and Concord itself.

Mr. Bulger stated that not having cell coverage was a known urgent public safety matter with risks of future events, noting that the impact on health/aesthetics and duration of the project were the primary criteria used when looking at sites. He stated that there were benefits and challenges to having a tower on a school site, noting that having a waiver from the bylaw would create a lot of conversation and concern, even though it had previously been done in the community. He noted that they have also been in contact with private businesses to explore sites as well.

Mr. Bulger stated that they would be holding a listening session on September 12th at the Town House Hearing Room. Ms. Rainey noted that the SC had a meeting that night, so Mr. Bulger stated that they would find a different date. Mr. Booth stated that he would like to hear more about the possibilities of a site at the MBTA. Ms. Marano asked Mr. Bulger to send the SC any letters/complaints from police, fire, residents and visitors regarding issues with emergency communications. Dr. Hunter noted that she does not have a strong opinion about where a tower should be placed, but noted that she hoped the conversation does not fade away.

B. Mental Health Forum October 3. Ms. Anderson stated that she invited guidance counselors from each level (elementary, middle and high school) to provide the scope of what happens at each level, as well as an overview of the five services outside the school buildings that are also available. She noted that the district was just starting a relationship with Cartwheel Care, which would provide support inside school buildings, but by outside providers. She stated that the multi-tiered system of support was also in place to identify students who may be struggling in order to provide them with the support they need. She stated that they would also have a smaller conversation around identity and the discipline system in place. Ms. Rankin noted the importance of making sure the community knows what resources are available to them. Ms. Anderson agreed and noted that parents need to know the district was aware of the mental health needs and was addressing them.

C. Beede Center Signage. Ms. Marano stated that the building inspector needs to know what the signage was before determining if it needed permitting. Ms. Marano stated that the SC needed to decide if it was appropriate to have an additional sign at both entrances, and if so, what type of sign. The SC discussed the Beede Center signage, agreeing that it made sense to install a wayfinding sign on town property, possibly across from the entrances. The SC also agreed it made sense to add signage in the parking lot and Ms. Anderson suggested it look similar to the current signs on campus. Mr. Booth suggested asking the high school personnel to see if they had an opinion about adding a potential map/key to help navigate the entire campus.

VII. ACTION ITEMS

A. Vote to Approve School Committee Practices and Protocols. A motion was made by Ms. Rankin, seconded by Ms. Whitt, to approve the amended FY24 School Committee Practices. Ms. Anderson reviewed the changes made. The motion passed by roll call: Anderson, aye (for both); Booth, aye (for both); Marano, aye (for both); Patel, aye; Rainey, aye (for both); Rankin, aye (for both); Whitt, aye. A motion was made by Ms. Anderson, seconded by Mr. Booth, to approve the proposed FY24 School Committee Protocols, as written. The motion was approved by roll call: Anderson, aye (for both); Booth, aye (for both); Marano, aye (for both); Patel, aye; Rainey, aye (for both); Rankin, aye (for both); Whitt, aye.

B. Vote on School Committee Goals. The SC discussed and agreed to changes to the goals document. A motion was made by Ms. Anderson, seconded by Ms. Rainey, to adopt: Goal #1, as written; Goal #2, as written; Goal #3, as written; Goal #4, as written; and Goal #5, as written; and discussed in the meeting. The motion was approved by roll call: Anderson, aye (for both); Booth, aye (for both); Marano, aye (for both); Patel, aye; Rainey, aye (for both); Rankin, aye (for both); Whitt, aye.

C. Vote to Approve Handbooks. A motion was made by Mr. Booth, seconded by Ms. Rainey, to approve the CPS and CMS Handbooks, as shared with the SC. The motion was approved by roll call: Anderson, aye; Booth, aye; Marano, aye; Rainey, aye; Rankin, aye. Ms. Patel noted that there were still outdated names on the CCHS Handbook and Ms. Rainey noted changes to be made in the translations. A motion was made by Mr. Booth, seconded by Ms. Rankin, to approve the CCHS Handbook, with changes made in translations. The motion was approved by roll call: Anderson, aye; Booth, aye; Marano, aye; Patel, aye; Rainey, aye; Rankin, aye; Whitt, aye.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Marano adjourned the CCSC and Ms. Rankin adjourned the CSC meeting at 8:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Erin E. Higgins

Approved: 10.10.23

Abbreviations:

AMP Association of Music Parents
CCHS Concord-Carlisle High School

CCRS	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
FINCOM	Finance Committee
PD	Professional Development
RF	Radio Frequency
SC	School Committee
SEPAC	Special Education Parent Advisory Council