

JOINT SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES Concord-Carlisle School Committee Concord School
Committee
Ripley Conf. Room 4 & Zoom
October 24 , 2023

Present: Tracey Marano, Chair, CCSC; CSC

Sharon Whitt, Vice Chair, CCSC
Alexa Anderson, Chair, CSC; CCSC (Partially 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 6:54 PM and Ms. Anderson then called the CSC meeting to

order. II. CCHS Student Update

Present: Harry Crowley and Zariah Alves

H. Crowley and Z. Alves stated that the school's athletic teams and guest attendance at the games have been going well. They advised that the Flex Block discussions with Mr. Miller and Dr. Laurie Hunter have been well received by the student population and there has been a lot of interest in attending one of the sessions. Alves noted that the Junior class will be given the opportunity to purchase parking spots, which will be granted based on a lottery system. H. Crowley thanked the administration on behalf of the entire Senior class, as the support they are receiving during the college application process is greatly appreciated.

On behalf of the entire SC, T. Marano thanked H. Crowley and Z. Alves for their continued support and

involvement. III. Recognitions (10 minutes)- Bike/Walk to School Days

Together, D. Laurie Hunter and T. Marano explained the Bike to School initiative. They noted that this event happens twice per school year, and the students are given the opportunity to ride their bike/walk to school from access points all over the district. They note that without the support of the Concord Police Department and the public's involvement, this state sponsored project would not be possible.

- Kenji was his last name given?, a 5th grade student, joined the SC meeting via zoom thanking the Concord Police Department for keeping everyone safe during the Bike to School days!
- Eliza Spang and her daughter Sylvia joined the SC meeting via zoom stating that they are on a long bike path from the Middlesex School to Thoreau which takes approximately 40 minutes. They stated that they bike together upwards towards 25 students.
- Mrs. Kai and son, Cam joined the SC meeting thanking the community, school and local police departments all alike for their support during the Bike to school day. Banners were made for Peter Nichol and they stated that the

spring Bike/Walk to School day will be dedicated to Mr. Nichol. They each discussed their desire to make the spring Walk/Bike to school 'day' for an entire week or multiple days so that more students are able to participate.

- SC guest Phil along with 300 kids participated in Bike to School day, kids had a great event and a great time. He noted that the Concord Police Department, officer Ron Holsinger who is their contact liaison with CPD.
- Judy Crocker thanked the community for opportunities given to students to participate in the Bike to school day, and believes accredited pedestrian and bike education programs for staff and students would be a positive attribution to enhance the wellness of our community. She offered the SC pamphlets on these professional development programs.

T. Marano and Dr. Laurie Hunter confirmed all 5 schools participated in the Bike to School day.

V. Public Comment (20 minutes)

A. Gail Hire, 54 Nancy Rd, Concord

G. Hire joined the SC meeting to bring attention to her concerns on the cell phone tower being placed at the High School. She noted that there is a minority of people with a condition called Electro Hypersensitivity and fears that this cell phone tower will cause harm to this vulnerable minority.

B. Matt Kamon, 89 Hawthorne Ln, Concord

M. Kamon stated that he appreciates the health risks that have been previously discussed at the listening session and supports the science which has been outlined. He also discussed his appreciation for the SC consideration for the cell tower being placed 500 feet away from the HS, but wondered if that was enough. Upon further research M. Kamon found that he would support placing the cell phone tower 1,600 feet away from the HS.

C. Lela Jacobsohn, 39 Walden Terrace, Concord

L. Jacobson advised that she believes every person in the community and on the SC should do their own individual research on the Scientific research surrounding the risks of a cell phone tower being within a certain distance from the students. L. Jacobson Jacobson Also confirmed that she believes the goal of this would be to eliminate the safety risks by not having cell service, without introducing another set of risks, noting that the range of the tower plays an important role in the decision making on the Cell phone tower addition to the High School campus.

D. Linda Nieman, 58 Mallard Dr, Concord (joined online)

L. Nieman stated that she was very intrigued by the listening session for the cell tower forum. She noted that some concerns discussed during the forum are hypotheticals and she believes the SC and community should focus their attention to the present health concerns, as when needing to contact outside resources for help, support and safety, ample cell phone coverage is critical.

E. Courtney Whalen, 65 Dover St. Concord, Ma (joined online)

C. Whalen joined the SC meeting discussing the information she learned from the listening session, and wanted to ensure those who did not have the opportunity to attend, were given the opportunity to hear the data shared on human health hazards from radiology. She noted a court hearing from 1996 which provides many references of Scientific research and studies that describe the dangers to children being in close proximity to cell phone towers. She stated she would like the cell phone tower to be placed at the Compost

Site, rather than the High School and hopes the cell phone coverage and range will be ample enough.

V. Consent Agenda

A. Minutes - Joint 9/26/23, Policy 10/10/23

B. Warrants

1. CPS A/P

1017 9/11/2023 \$2.45
1018 9/14/2023 \$389,007.52
1025 9/28/2023 \$255,972.49
1028 10/12/2023 \$335,320.78

2. CCRSD A/P

1042 9/8/2023 \$10,201.16
1048 9/13/2023 \$296,012.33
1049 9/13/2023 \$9.67
1050 9/21/2023 \$293,434.43
1051 9/22/2023 \$41,421.36
1052 9/22/2023 \$450.00
1061 9/29/2023 \$78,364.60
1062 9/29/2023 \$201,447.95
1063 10/6/2023 \$213,586.22
1073 10/17/2023 \$160,896.38
1074 10/17/2023 \$132.54
1075 10/17/2023 \$18,288.77

3. CPS Payroll

Pay date 9/14/23 \$1,509,052.69
Pay date 9/28/23 \$1,659,225.57
Pay date 10/12/23 \$1,679,278.57

4. CCRSD Payroll

Pay date 9/14/23 \$917,935.07
Pay date 9/28/23 \$938,230.59
Pay date 10/12/23 \$1,036,250.85

T. Marano motions to approve by the consent agenda, second C. Patel. SC unanimously voted,

yes. VI. Correspondence

A. Anderson outlined correspondence within the Concord Public Schools. She stated that excluding the several pieces of public comment from the survey that was sent out, there were 2 pieces of correspondence, both from reporters on the cell phone tower.

T. Marano confirmed 5 pieces of correspondence for the Region as of 3:00pm 10/24, all regarding the cell phone tower. T. Marano also noted that if any emails or correspondence was sent in after 3:00 pm, then it will be noted at the next SC meeting.

VII. Discussion

A. Special Education Updates: Angel Charles, Director of Student Services

T. Marano welcomed and introduced Angel Charles, the Director of Student Services to the SC meeting to discuss student services plans and productivity within the district since she began working with the district 3 months ago. A. Charles stated that the decision to add an additional integrated preschool class, hiring for all the special education programs, ESY focus, program student selections and building updates have all been done with ease and positive responses throughout the district. A. Charles introduced new staff members Nicole Stallions Elementary Coordinator, Francis Woof-Interim Assistant Special Director and Nancy Boutin -Special Education Administrator. She confirmed that the plans for 2023 ESY program is well underway and onsite monitoring is beginning this month; this monitoring program is provided by the state and will allow parents the opportunity to offer feedback on special education and their services. She confirmed the newly implemented Wilson reading program that launched this year has multiple staff members who are currently registered to become registered Behavior technicians, will only further build their capacity to work within the Wilson Program and offer enhanced support to the district. Charles noted that there are many opportunities for vocational on site training, specific evolving programs and classrooms alike with additional certified teachers/support staff that can be utilized with focus being on very specific needs to students, and confirmed that the big picture perspective as the Director of Student Services is to be able to meet more needs of current and future students.

B. CCHS Campus: Cell Phone Tower and Listening Session

T. Marano offered an overview of the Cell Phone Tower, 759 replies - 572 parents 90 staff 79 community and 17 students with 74% in support (566 people) 18% against the cell phone tower (139 people) and 52 people uncertain. T. Marano confirmed common themes within the survey responses, that most agree cell phone service is a unifying issue and concerns with the lack of cell service throughout the CCHS campus. T. Marano confirmed she has requested maps from all cell phone carriers, to get carrier coverage maps, as she believes this information is pertinent for the final decision makings.

C. Rainey noted that she is also interested in finding the information from the cell phone carriers and was alarmed by an incident she learned about with the Alcatraz school, and that doctor was unable to get text messages. She would like to know what the 'Plan B' is if the cell phone tower is not placed at the HS, what will be the next step for locating another location that would service not only the HS but also the Tricon Concord Center Gap.

C. Booth stated that he also believes the coverage maps are important, but cell coverage does not honor school property lines and this is really a town problem and moving unilaterally is not in anybody's best interest. C. Booth asks for an updated analysis from sources and Mr. Bulger for any other potential sites that would cover this remaining gap after the Tricon Concord Center Gap gets solved.

C. Rankin confirmed that within the 73 pages of survey notes, the consistent theme is that the people want a solution, but she does not know or believe that the HS is the best location for the Cell Phone Tower. She would like to hear more evidence and additional information offered from the town level as this is for a bigger solution to this cell service issue. Dr. Laurie Hunter confirmed that the town is offering the information the SC has asked of them, but if there are more specifics that any one is looking for, she would be happy to reply to the request.

A. Anderson (joined from zoom) reconfirmed her desire to see the carrier coverage map, as Verizon is the provider who is interested in erecting a tower, but believes looking at additional variable locations and the overlay maps with coverage from all the possible locations would be greatly beneficial. She noted that

expediency cannot be the only factor with this decision.

C. First Reading School Committee Policies

First read of the policies by Sharon Whitt.

1. JIC - Student Discipline

S. Whitt stated the district's current version was dated 2022 and the MASC version is dated 2023.

She explained that this policy was recommended for review, prioritized by Dr. Laurie Hunter this policy has clarifying updates added to intentionally include references to regulatory requirements specific to procedures to engage students considered for suspension and learning and required documents of efforts prior to suspension. This policy also includes required notification to parents related to the process on rights of parents, students and guidance, references on special education, student discipline and continuing education.

District was recommended to adopt the updated MASC version in full, and move to the first read.

2. BEDH - Public Comment

S. Whitt stated the district's current version was dated 2015 and the MASC version is dated 2023. She explained that the policy was recommended for review by MASC and the highlight for this was paragraph 4, which talked about the chair's authority to terminate speech that contained obscenities.

District was recommended to adopt the updated MASC version in full with the following change, keep public comment of 20 min and not adopt MASC 15 min recommendation, and move to the first read.

C. Patel moves that there should not be residency requirements, C. Rainey seconds. Roll call: A. Aderson (via zoom), aye. K. Anderson , aye. C. Booth, aye. L. Hunter, aye. T. Marano, aye. C. Rankin , aye. C. Rainey, aye.

3. JII - Student Complaints & Grievances

S. Whitt stated the district's current version was not dated and the MASC version is dated 2021. She explained that the policy has updates and adds a cross reference to JIB (student involvement and decision making) and JIC (student discipline), it removes the legal references to mass general laws 76.17.

District was recommended to adopt the updated MASC version in full, and move to the first read.

4. JK - Student Conduct

S. Whitt stated the district's current version was not and the MASC version is dated 2021. She explained that this policy removes and adds legal references.

District was recommended to adopt the updated MASC version in full, and move to the first read.

5. JKA - Corporal Punishment

S. Whitt stated the district does not have a version of this, and one for MASC does not exist.

It was recommended that this policy be removed from the MASC reference material.

6. JKAA - Physical Restraint of Students

S. Whitt stated the district's current version was dated 2015 and the MASC version is dated 2021. She stated that the highlight of this policy recommended for review from MASC to update language to incorporate the restraint of corporal punishment.

District was recommended to adopt the updated MASC version in full, and move to the first read.

C. Booth and C. Rainey asked to have the schedule added to the agenda to discuss the second read of the policies.

D. MASC Resolutions

T. Marano thanks C. Patel for being the representative and encourages anyone with questions or concerns to email C. Patel.

VIII. Action Items

A. Vote to Approve CCRSD End of Year Transfers

T. Marano motions to approve CCRSD End of Year Transfers, second C. Rainey.

Roll call: A. Aderson (via zoom), aye. K. Anderson , aye. C. Booth, aye. L. Hunter, aye. T. Marano, aye. C. Rankin , aye. C. Rainey, aye.

B. Vote to Approve CCHS Student to New England Golf Tournament

C. Rainey moved to Approve CCHS Student to New England Golf Tournament at Mohegan Sun in Connecticut on October 30, 2023. seconded by, C. Booth.

Roll call: A. Anderson (via zoom), aye. C. Booth, aye. T. Marano, aye. C. Rankin , aye. C. Rainey, aye.

IX. Adjournment CCRSC

Concord School Committee to remain in session

I. Action Items

A. Vote to Approve CPS End of Year Transfers

C. Rankin moved to approve the CPS End of the Year Transfers, Second, C. Rainey

Roll call: A. Aderson (via zoom), aye. C. Booth, aye. T. Marano, aye. C. Rankin , aye. C. Rainey,

aye. **I. Adjournment**

Ms. Marano adjourned the meeting at 8:41 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Teresa Patukonis.

Approved 1.9.24

Abbreviations:

AMP Association of Music Parents

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 E and D Excess and Deficiency

FINCOM Finance Committee

PD Professional Development

SC School Committee

SEPAC Special Education Parent Advisory Council