

JOINT SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Concord-Carlisle School Committee

Concord School Committee
Ripley Conf. Room 4 & Zoom
November 7, 2023

Present

Tracey Marano, Chair, CCSC; CSC
Sharon Whitt, Vice Chair, CCSC (via zoom)
Alexa Anderson, Chair, CSC; CCSC
Carrie Rankin, Vice Chair, CSC; CCSC
Courtland Booth, CSC; CCSC
Cynthia Rainey, CSC, CCSC
Carrie Patel, CCSC
Domingos DaRosa, CCRSD METCO Rep (via zoom)

Absent

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

T. Marano called the CCSC meeting to order at 6:00 pm. and A. Anderson called the CSC to order immediately following.

II. CCHS Student Update

Present: Harry Crowley
Felicity Zhang
Absent: Zariah Alves

Harry and Felicity joined the SC meeting together via zoom and provided an slide show presentation, showcasing the Spirit Assembly, Spirit Week, Club Window Paintings, and highlighted that Fall sports have all unanimously entered the MIA State Tournament, Fall Concerts began November 2nd.

III. Recognitions- Thoreau School Council

Thoreau Schools Principal, J. Sparks proudly presented the SC with words of praise for his students headlining the new student council at the Thoreau Middle School. Their committee is compiled by a group of 5th grade leaders who were voted into office by their peers. J. Sparks recognized the following students for their involvement with the Thoreau Student council, and thanked the Thoreau counselor, Rachel Evans for her attendance this evening and continued support through this process. Mr. Sparks welcomed *Ayham Alsharafi, Autumn Carsonto, Isla DeAngelis, Anaya Felix, Thomas Hoffman, Hadley Killeen, Cameron Martin, Shemi Oluwasemilore* and *Anaya Rana* to speak in their leadership capacity at Thoreau Middle School.

IV. Public Comment (20 minutes)

T. Marano noted that the public comment section of the meeting is limited to 20 minutes. If any one person was unable to speak during the meeting whether in person, or connected via zoom then she recommended that they either attend the next meeting or send in email correspondence to voice their concerns, suggestions etc.

Jen Turner, 3T Norman Rd. Quincy, Ma 02149

J. Turner, Executive Director of the Robbins house, asked SC to consider naming the Concord Middle School after Ellen Garrison.

Tim Alexander 172 Ministerial Drive West Concord, Ma

T. Alexander joined the SC meeting via Zoom to voice his support for the proposal of building facilities and bathrooms at the lower fields of the High School.

Joe Palumbo 737 Lexington Rd. Concord, Ma

J. Palumbo joined the SC as a citizen of Concord, a Board Member of Robins House and also as one of the co-chairs of the Concord DEI Commission, he believes that a building's name can change the climate culture of the building.

Justin Moy, 305 Ministerial Drive Concord, Ma (joined via zoom)

J. Moy expressed his happiness for the conversation of building accessible restrooms at the CCHS campus.

Jan Power, 73 Coburn Hill Rd. (joined via zoom)

J. Power expressed her support for renaming Concord Middle School after Ellen Garrison.

Shair Barzun (joined via zoom)

S. Barzun, one of the Co-Chairs of the Concord Carlisle Human Rights Council, confirmed her support for the new Concord Middle School being named the Garrison School, in honor of Ellen Garrison.

Kristen Hagerty, 95 Revolutionary Rd Concord, Ma

Confirmed support for the renaming of the Concord Middle School to be Ellen Garrison.

Elizabeth Frank, 1218 Elm St Concord, Ma (joined via zoom)

Elizabeth Frank joined the SC meeting to express her support for the renaming of the Concord Middle School after Ellen Garrison.

Betsy Olson Mackowski, 1741 Wedgewood Common Concord, Ma

Betsy echoed the request to consider Ellen Garrison in the renaming of the new Middle School.

V. Consent Agenda

A. Minutes 10/10/23

B. Warrants

1. CPS A/P

1031 10/26/2023 \$299,320.67

1032 10/26/2023 \$58.93

2. CCRSD A/P

1077 10/23/2023 \$79,376.85

1089 10/26/2023 \$91,787.57

1090 10/31/2023 \$928,977.13

1091 10/31/2023 \$450.00

C. Staff Enrollment Request

D. Danish Exchange Student 2024-2025

T. Marano motioned to approve the Consent Agenda, A. Anderson second. Roll Call, A. Anderson for both, aye. C. Booth for both, aye. T. Marano for both, aye C. Patel for Region, aye, C. Rainey for both, aye. C.Rankin for both, aye. S. Whitt for region, aye.

VI. Correspondence

A. Anderson confirmed that the Concord Public Schools had 5 pieces of correspondence all of which were voicing their opinions on the name of the new middle school.

T. Marano confirmed 6 pieces of correspondence for region 5 were in regards to the Cell Phone Tower, and one was from another towns SC member inquiring about the CCSC schedule.

VII. Superintendent, Chairs and Liaisons Update

Superintendent

Dr. Laurie Hunter discussed a few highlights from the last week and future topics.

- Recently, she and Justin Cameron toured the construction site with the Student Building Committee which includes 10 students in grades 5-7 who will have the privilege of learning in the new building.
- The first Playbook initiative happened for the first of 3 times school wide at the middle school, and this was an opportunity of listening to students talk about scenarios that involve race and other types of difficult situations and how they would handle it.
- Deeper Learning consultants from Harvard, will be starting to meet with the High School Leadership team over the next few weeks. These consultants will work together to find a starting place to find a common definition of deeper learning.
- Elementary responsive classrooms and 5:5 classrooms are up and running successfully. These classroom environments are designed to be inclusive with the embedding of early literacy.

Chairs

C. Rainey asked for an update on the Finance committee updates and upcoming schedule as she was surprised to not see this topic on the Agenda for this evening. A. Anderson responded that an email was sent out by the Finance Committee and within that email it stated, due to the Residential Tax Exemption a preliminary guideline was not able to be issued at this time. A. Anderson further stated that they are hoping to issue a guideline on November 27th, where she will be meeting with them; following that meeting the SC will be updated. A. Anderson confirmed there will be no joint meeting at 7pm on November 14, but Dr. Laurie Hunter will be attending the Finance committee meeting with K. Leflur, and B. Conroy where they will be discussing the tier 1, 2 and 3 Capital budgets.

A. Anderson confirmed that only the FY25 and Regional Capital is going to be shown to the Finance Committee on November 14 and on December 5th, there will be a joint SC meeting and Budget meeting where as a group the SC will be viewing the Superintendent's Recommendation. The public hearing is tentatively scheduled for December 12th. C. Rainey asked for a timeline for the 5 year capital plan and B. Conroy confirmed that they have reached out to companies and expects more information to be available Spring 2024.

C. Rainey asked if there will be a rescheduled policy meeting, as there was one previously missed due to a scheduling conflict. T. Marano confirmed that we are not losing any meetings, but anything highlighted on the SC schedule is tentative as the SC is trying to schedule the Boston meeting and a few moving parts to ensure all meetings can be scheduled.

C. Booth asked if the generating and sharing of ideas about budget directions would move toward the Administration before the Administration makes its first recommendation to us or if we are strictly in a reactive mode. A. Anderson confirmed that ultimately most of the capital is maintenance, so that we are reactive. C. Booth advised he would like to question the process of the schools function, what we want them to prioritize and what kind of outcomes and achievements have been sought out. T. Marano confirmed that the budget workshop would be a great opportunity to have the conversations of goals and strategic plans. S. Whitt confirmed the rescheduled policy meeting was rescheduled for March 20th, but there is also one scheduled on February 6th.

T. Marano reported that MASC conferences are coming up this week, and thanked C. Patel for attending as the SC representative. She continued to note that the chairs breakfast is next week and together with A. Anderson they will be rescheduling the roundtable as it has been extremely invaluable to them and other towns SC has reached out asking about the round table benefits.

VIII. Discussion

A. MCAS Data

K. Anderson outlined the MCAS Data for the district; Math K-12 will be outlined on December 19th and K-12 Literacy (ELA) will be outlined on January 9th.

She noted that all specialist and department chairs will be in attendance at the listed meetings and show data from the new platform where they describe how to play around the data and how the specialists and departments have been able to analyze the results throughout curriculum, span analysis, grade, level analysis and truly identify where the strengths and weaknesses are.

K. Anderson showcased a slide show presentation which outlined the 2023 Accountability Report . , where she happily reported that all 5 of the schools and CCHS got an overall classification not requiring assistance or intervention, meaning that both achievement scores and growth scores are on target.

K. Anderson sent out praise to the district's educators and administrators who have worked tirelessly for the last 3 or 4 years with the pandemic, but mostly in the last year in their efforts to help the students bounce back from years without or limited standardized testing. She noted that High Schools are allowed to choose which Science MCAS the students take, and at CCHS they take Biology. K. Anderson confirmed that with all the collective data inputted into a program allows the district to look at specific information on a student, a class, a teaching technique etc. allows the district to review all the data to analyze within the teachers and school leadership teams to ensure the teaching approach is being utilized for all students and subgroup. Students at the middle and elementary school, who did not reach their achievement level, are put into the MTSS Pro Process which gives additional support in ELA, Math and/or their IEP. At the HS level, the students who did not meet their achievement goals are placed on SSP (Student success plan) where the administrators and teachers collectively work together to focus on these students' specific needs. T. Marano asks if parents will have access to the data platform for displaying their students' success and goals, K. Anderson confirmed that they would like to offer this to parents in the families, but it is still in the works. K. Anderson again thanks the entire team of educators and administrators for the work they did to fully support the full talent development of every student, every day.

B. CCHS Amenities Building

T. Marano confirmed she and A. Anderson has recently been on a tour of all local schools and had met with the Athletic Directors who took them on a tour of their facilities. She showed a slide show presentation to show what other districts have. She confirmed that the CCHS current facilities are: 3 portable restrooms (1 accessible), exposed storage under bleachers, 1 shipping container for storage, proximity of a permanent bathroom is too far from the field for accessibility, no permanent structures for bathrooms, concessions or storage, concessions is a temporary pop up tent that has access to one power outlet under the bleachers. She noted that she and Alexa toured the following schools: Westford Academy, West High School, Wayland High School, and Wayland High School.

T. Marano shared a slide show presentation that outlined 11 districts CCHS sports teams often play, and within that slideshow, she outlined the different amenities available on their campus, approximate dates of completion, and approximate cost for building.

C. Policies Second Reading

T. Marano confirmed that SC has seen the policies during their first read, and tonight consists of the second read. C. Booth questioned that there have been no changes in the policies since the first read, and T. Marano confirmed all information remains the same from the first read.

1. JIC - Student Discipline
2. BEDH - Public Comment
3. JII - *Student Complaints & Grievances*
4. JK - *Student Conduct*
5. JKA - *Corporal Punishment (to be removed)*
6. JKAA - *Physical Restraint of Students*

IX. Action Items

A. Vote to Approve School Committee Policies

A. Anderson moved to approve the Concord and Carlisle school committees discussed, one JIC - Student Discipline, 2. BEDH - Public Comment, 3. JII - Student Complaints & Grievances, 4. JK - Student Conduct, 5. JKA - Corporal Punishment (which will be removed) and 6. JKAA - Physical Restraint of Students. Second,

Roll call, A. Anderson for both, aye. C. Booth for both, aye. T. Morano for both, aye. C. Patel for region, aye. C. Rainey for both, aye. C. Rankin for both, aye. S. Whitt for region, aye.

B. Vote to Amend Non-Discrimination Statement in All School Handbooks

T. Marano motioned to approve the Concord School Committee and Concord Carlisle School Committee vote to amend the nondiscrimination statement and all school handbooks to align with school committee policy. Second, A. Anderson. Roll call, A. Anderson for both, aye. C. Booth for both, aye. T. Morano for both, aye. C. Patel for region, aye. C. Rainey for both, aye. C. Rankin for both, aye. S. Whitt for region, aye.

C. Vote to Approve District Bullying Plan

Dr. Laurie Hunter noted that this is a reaffirmation of the plan as it exists and needs to be noted on every year. She explained that although no changes are being made, as the policy aligns completely with the law, the SC needs to vote to reaffirm it. C. Rainey stated she cannot vote to approve a 13 year old plan, as there are many errors in it and does not represent the Concord Carlisle School district nor does it reflect the changes made in 2014. C. Booth agreed with C. Rainey.

Dr. Laurie Hunter confirmed that we do not have to vote on this tonight, to allow for edits as the state is on site November 20th and 29th. K. Anderson stated that the changes could be made and incorporated into the 24/25 SY handbook. C. Booth suggested that the SC members go through the plan individually and highlight areas they would like to see changed, and hand them into T. Marano within the next week so that the SC could review and vote in December. T. Marano removed the vote.

X. Adjournment CCRSC

T. Marano adjourned the CCRSC SC meeting at 8:02 PM. Concord School Committee to remain in session.

XI. Discussion

A. Concord Middle School Naming

A. Anderson offered background information on the Peabody and Sanborn buildings history, to help assist with the decisions on the Concord Middle School naming. She noted that upon construction in 1964 the SC was tasked to consider what to name the new facility, and as the process ensued there were 8 submissions and the SC named the new school Concord Junior High School, while naming the building itself, the building itself was named The Sanborn Building, after Frank Sanborn. A. Anderson continued to explain that a few years later, the Elementary School was being built, and was named The Peabody School after Elizabeth Peabody. She acknowledged that both of the two buildings she listed were new builds and not remodels and as members of the SC, they are responsible for responding to constituents.

A. Anderson asks if the SC would like to open up the naming process with the more formal would allow constituents or residents to offer suggestions, within a designated time frame and followed by SC review, as the SC legal consultant confirmed that the first order of business is to not discuss specific names, but rather the idea of renaming with the help/suggestions of the community. C. Booth asks why legal counsel was contacted before the SC considered the town policy for naming town Buildings. A. Anderson confirmed that the Select Board noted that the policy is leaving the schools with the authority and responsibility to name a school, which is why she contacted their legal council.

C. Booth asks to read 2 sentences from the town record "Request for naming of any public property, such as buildings, rooms within buildings, playgrounds, recreational facilities, squares, parks and other facilities, shall be considered at an advertised public hearing before the board or committee responsible for operating the facility. The board of committee shall then refer a suggestion or suggestions to the Select Board with a record of the heading and committee recommendation for approval." With this statement, C. Booth states his disapproval as to why the SC legal counsel interpreted the above statement the way they did.

A. Anderson noted that all people contacted on this matter have agreed that the authority rests solely with the school committee to name a school building contrary to said policy, and she is not an attorney but through her discussions with 2 legal teams, they confirmed the above statement however, if the SC would like a third opinion she would

C. Booth noted his opinion to follow the policy is to create a public forum, so that the groups all have the opportunity to discuss their opinions. A. Anderson confirmed that the nuance is that this is not a new facility, we are renovating an existing one within the existing policies of MGL. There was not a discussion for Willard or the HS, as they were pre existing schools. C. Booth asked if we share an attorney with the Superintendent, and A. Anderson confirmed that the SC attorney is Michelle McNulty and although Dr. Laurie Hunter consults with her on personnel matters, she is not directly the attorney to the Superintendent.

C. Rankin questioned whether our policy in discussion was specific to new facilities, or is it a new building. C. Booth responded that this is a new building, as the SC has been campaigning for this new building for many years and C. Rainey concluded that there should be a conversation surrounding the name choice for the new middle school; T. Marano responded with confirmation that the SC is discussing the option to entertain a naming process, and will be voted upon next week. C. Rankin suggested that we discuss this option with the select board, and T. Marano confirmed that she believes there needs to be a bit more clarification on this process to allow every member of the SC to be more comfortable with the decision making process.

B. CPS Capital Plan

B. Conroy presented the Capital plan for FY25 and resetting future years based on facilities conditions analysis. He presented his slide show with presented information pertaining to the Capital Plan and identified that the focus for FY25 is on Alcott and damaged flooring areas that will be

continually monitored and upgraded over time. My. Conry noted that there are building recommendations to calibrate and help the district be more efficient in the usage of systems.

XII. Action Items

A. Vote to Approve Grade 8 Trip to Washington DC

A. Anderson stated that this action item has been moved to the next meeting.

XIII. Adjournment

At 8:52 PM, A. Anderson moved to adjourn the regular meeting and entertain a motion for the 5 of the SC members to move into executive session under purpose 3 of the open meeting law to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation. If an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body, and we will not return to open session. C. Rainey second, all in favor.

Approved: 12.19.23