

Concord School Committee
Ripley Conf. Room 4 & Zoom
December 19, 2023

Present:

Tracey Marano, Chair, CCSC; CSC
Sharon Whitt, Vice Chair, CCSC
Alexa Anderson, Chair, CSC; CCSC
Carrie Rankin, Vice Chair, CSC; CCSC
Courtland Booth, CSC; CCSC
Cynthia Rainey, CSC, CCSC
Carrie Patel, CCSC

Absent:

Ayesha Lawton, CPS METCO Rep
Domingos DaRosa, CCRSD 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 and A. Anderson called the CSC meeting to order at 5:45 PM.

A. Executive Session. A motion was made by Ms. Rainey, seconded by Mr. Booth, for The Concord School Committee and Concord Carlisle School Committee to enter into Executive Session under Purpose 7 of the Open Meeting Law: to comply with or act under the authority of, any general or special Law or federal grant-in-aid requirements, specifically M.G.L. c.30A, §22 regarding the review and approval of executive session minutes and to consider the approval and release of executive session minutes from February 2, 2021, February 9, 2021, February 23, 2021, March 2, 2021, March 9, 2021, March 16, 2021, March 30, 2021, April 13, 2021, April 27, 2021, May 11, 2021, May 18, 2021, May 25, 2021, June 1, 2021, June 8, 2021, July 7, 2021, July 12, 2021 and July 15, 2021: under Purpose 3, under which these sessions were held, and under Purpose 2, under which the March 2, 2021, March 9, 2021, March 16, 2021, March 30, 2021, April 27, 2021, May 11, 2021, May 18, 2021, May 25, 2021, June 1, 2021 and June 8, 2021 meetings were held, and to return to open session. The motion was approved by roll call.

II. CCHS Student Update

Felicity Zhang and Zariah Alves discussed holiday and winter fundraisers currently being organized by school clubs. They noted students are excited about the upcoming winter break.

III. Recognitions- CCHS Boys Soccer Team

T. Marano welcomed the CCHS State Champion Soccer Team to join the SC meeting. Coach Wells thanked the SC, the team for all their hard work throughout the summer and the season. He noted that the time and effort put in by the players and stated that the team winning the State Championship was remarkable to witness. Members of the team joined the SC meeting and stated that they knew from the beginning their team was outstanding, but their coaches and players had them do extra team building work, which resulted in an amazing team with lasting friendships. C. Booth thanked the team and their support for helping them get to this victory. C. Rankin thanked and commended the team on their success and recognized their influence over the younger generation in aspiration of goals that they were able to witness be achieved.

IV. Public Comment

Grace Grogin, 1172 Lowell Road, Concord MA

Stated she will be sending a survey to the SC and the CCHS community, on the solar panels, as she has been working with the Solar Task Force but is also the leader of her own club who is taking an active role in this.

V. Consent Agenda

Regarding the Nordic Ski Team Trip, C. Rainey asked if coaches are CORI checked. Dr. Hunter confirmed. C. Rainey also questioned where the donations go. B. Conry confirmed that the donation money is being placed back into donation accounts for the Rivers and Revolutions, athletics, and library books.

A. Nordic Ski Team Trip

B. Minutes 11/7/23

C. \$4370 Donation to Rivers Program in Memory of Max Carnathan

D. \$4200 Donation for Memorial Field Padding

E. \$1500 Donation from CCHS Class of 1963 for Library Books

F. Warrant Articles

1. CPS A/P

1048 12/7/2023 \$154,795.77

2. CCRSD A/P

1128 12/8/2023 \$172,987.94

1127 12/8/2023 \$16,233.20

1119 12/5/2023 \$214,132.92

1118 11/30/2023 \$17,760.00

1117 11/30/2023 \$99,765.70

3. CPS Payroll

Paydate 12/7/2023 \$1,598,402.38

4. CCRSD Payroll

Paydate 12/7/2023 \$940,504.74

C. Rankin motioned to approve the Consent Agenda. C. Booth seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

VI. Correspondence

T. Marano noted 3 pieces of correspondence from the region: one regarding parking, one regarding the crosswalk at Thoreau Street, and one agenda topic. A. Anderson noted 2 pieces of correspondence on the middle school name.

VII. Superintendent, Chairs and Liaisons Update

T. Marano noted she attended the recent Select Board meeting and made public comments to the Select Board on the Warrant Article for Solar Task Force. Additional information from the task force was requested, as there is missing information. She confirmed that she advised the Select Board the plan requires School Committee approval.

C. Rankin and C. Booth asked that solar be placed on an upcoming agenda. A. Anderson named a list of questions that are unanswered. C. Rainey felt the entire committee should have the list. C. Booth expressed the committee should know what is being expressed on behalf of the Committee. C. Rainey expressed the need to place the topic on the agenda to allow for discussion. T. Marano shared that she would send her remarks to the Committee.

T. Marano attended the DEI Commission meeting where warrant articles were discussed.

C. Booth confirmed that the Concord Teachers Association meeting has been set up to discuss contracts through mid-April.

T.. Marano noted that CCTA meetings are scheduled to begin in January.

Dr. Hunter explained a Department of Public Health grant for \$35,000 including \$25,000 for Cartwheel. Dr. Hunter noted that the DESE Tier focus monitor complete report is back, and there are no findings of corrective actions or civil rights. Dr. Hunter thanks K. Anderson and A. Charles for the successful endeavor. The report will be available on the CPS website and DESE website soon. Dr. Hunter also explained that they are exploring options/ideas to offer a program to students a working retail store which would be organized and implemented by the district to assist students with additional life skills and experiences.

C. Rankin thanked the administrators for the hard work on the DESE audit. C. Booth asked if the annual grant can help with FY25. Dr. Hunter noted that she is unsure with the timing and availability of funds.

VIII. Discussion

A. K-12 Math Overview

T. Marano noted that the presentation is available to view on the website, and welcomed the teachers to the SC meeting.

K. Anderson welcomed the staff and happily noted that DESE achievement guidelines were originally allotted for 5 years of expected time to regain the lost time from the pandemic. She stated that it was remarkable CPS has made up for all the learning loss from the pandemic in one year.

The math specialists presented information regarding professional development and MTSS. Information about 5th Grade MCAS data was provided. K. Anderson noted that NATM offers incredible resources and professional relationships among districts. Freckle is a software program designed to reach students at their own individual levels. K. Anderson explained that Everyday Mathematics has been used within the district for 8 years, and programs are usually used for approximately 10 years. She expects that within 2 years the district will start looking.

A. Anderson asked if Freckle could replace LEXIA. K. Anderson confirmed LEXIA goes further than Freckle for ELA and Phonics purposes. A. Anderson also inquired if this program could be used at home, and what the goal is for the classroom. K. Anderson confirmed that teachers will use this program with small group lead instruction and it is available for families to use at home. C. Rankin positively shared that her children enjoy the program.

Middle School Update

The CMS math chair explained the MCAS results and their goals for improvement and that they are piloting enVision Mathematics with the plan to utilize it in grades 6 through 8 in 2024-2025.

A. Anderson asked if small groups are led based on skill and levels. It was confirmed they are compiled into groups based on skills, levels, and development. T. Marano inquired about the online component of enVision.

A. Anderson thanked and commended K. Anderson and the teaching staff in CPS, as they collectively looked at the data and responded to it, leading to adjustments to our curriculum. T. Marano stated the challenges in the pandemic and that we are still feeling those effects.

C. Rainey asked how the placement of students moving to the middle school from the elementary school. It was confirmed that teams all work closely and maintain communication about students who may need additional support. Communication between the schools is strong. C. Rainey asked how to get kids to love math.

C. Patel inquired about the middle school data about grades. Discussion ensued about curriculum in middle school and characteristic of middle school students.

CCHS Update

The CCHS math specialist explained the sequence of math classes and curriculum updates.

Dr. Hunter stated that math instruction had been transformed at the HS level, noting that most of the teachers have adapted to using Building Thinking Classrooms, using large whiteboards where the students' work is displayed throughout the room to encourage students to visually see their peers learning and success. She noted that the robust environment in the math classrooms has been extremely successful.

T. Marano asked how the MARC (Math Resource Center) works for students. The Math Resource Center is where students can go to get additional support through their IEP or on their own choice as a drop-in option.

C. Rainey asked about the change in individual assessments for the student's progress. The math chair stated that there is not a standard protocol throughout the math department, however each group must agree on grading and testing practices. She offered the example of her teaching Honors Geometry. There are many other scenarios where the teachers review anecdotal evidence from each student to encourage success as they get closer to college and higher expectations.

S. Whitt asked if terms like "mild or spicy" are actually used in differentiation at CMS. It was confirmed that they are.

C. Rankin asked about differences in readiness at CCHS between Concord and Carlisle students. K. Anderson explained that Carlisle gathers Star data as Concord does. The CCHS chair indicated that Carlisle anecdotally seems better be prepared for the rigor. C. Rankin inquired the number of students at each level. The data reference in the slides was shared.

C. Rainey requested that the presentation be posted and inquired about curriculum in the Atlas software.

The SC thanked K. Anderson for her and her team's time this evening discussing all the updates for the math program.

B. FY25 CCRSD Budget

C. Rainey confirmed the vote is the number for the Warrant and C. Booth requested that this Budget stays on the agenda, noting that resources and funding/guidelines/date are evolving.

C. Rankin referenced that the number in the article is not to be exceeded. C. Booth requested that the budget remain on the agenda for additional updates. C. Rankin and B. Conry confirmed no additional budget meeting has been scheduled, but believe a workshop could be scheduled in January.

C. Booth questioned the replacement of district vehicles and B. Conry identified the buses in most need of replacement are two vehicles purchased in 2008.

C. Rainey asked that the budget slide be posted after this evening.

IX. Action Items

A. Vote to Approve FY25 CCRSD Budget

C. Rainey entertained a motion to approve the CC budget for an amount of \$39,085,301 and the resultant Concord assessment of \$26,225,271 and Carlisle assessment of \$8,092,016 and to further approve the accompanying draft warrant article language for Town meeting approval.

C. Booth questioned the numbers as to why the total does not equate. B. Conry explained the assessments are net of the total to arrive at the towns' assessment. C. Rainey asked if Carlisle would need a similar article. B. Conry stated that Carlisle would put the number in the overall budget directly.

The motion was seconded by A. Anderson. The motion passed unanimously.

B. Vote to Approve Amenities Building Warrant Article

C. Rankin made a motion that the Concord-Carlisle Regional School Committee adopt and approve the votes presented tonight, as written, related to the construction of an amenities building, and the associated borrowing and notification to Town Select Boards.

A. Anderson seconded the motion.

C. Patel noted that Carlisle is concerned about the funds and wondered if the finances need to be paid upfront or over time. T. Marano explained that the Carlisle Finance Committee asked the question earlier. B. Conry replied that DESE was consulted and that the regional agreement governs the assessment meaning both towns need to be assessed in the same way. Carlisle could place the funds in a capital stabilization fund. C. Rainey noted that the description should include Concord's share in the warrant article. B. Conry reminded that the number could shift based on enrollment as demonstrated in a spreadsheet that was shared. C. Booth noted that the assumption that the project would pass code and comply with impervious service requirements.

The motion was passed unanimously.

X. Adjournment CCRSC

T. Marano adjourned the CCRSC meeting at 8:15pm.

Concord School Committee to remain in session

I. Discussion

A. FY25 CPS Budget

A. Anderson asked if there were questions about the CPS budget noting the \$87,000 delta with the guideline.

B. FY 25 CPS Capital Plan

C. Booth asked about the \$900,000. B. Conry confirmed he and Dr. Hunter are operating under the assumption that this allocation would not be exceeded and rely on the building conditions assessment. The next 4 years are placeholders, and this allocated \$900,000 is asking within the allocation. Certain times were not included such as the Alcott boiler.

C. Booth asked about the flooring. B. Conry discussed the focus on fixing flooring hallways in Alcott and the next phase is the classrooms to be followed by Thoreau. C. Booth asked if conditions were worse or if we were accelerating the schedule. B. Conry confirmed that the goal was getting the flooring done in FY25 prior to the completion of the full study.

C. Booth asked if the infrared should be an operating expense and if this is a backup to existing fire protection. B. Conry confirmed that it is a different project at Thoreau and the thermographic images help to identify leaks in the roof.

C. Booth asked if the furniture was picked by classroom, age, etc., and what specifically drives the needs and numbers. B. Conry confirmed that the furniture at Thoreau is described as eclectic and outdated, and there is no extra inventory to replace broken items. Dr. Hunter confirmed that there are additional needs in other schools for furniture/seating etc.

C. Booth asked about the panels and detectors at Alcott. B. Conry confirmed the replacement panel and detectors are compliant but the Fire Department believes that existing panels are not sustainable and need to be replaced. B. Conry confirmed that the district is not locked into one vendor.

C. Booth asked about the Thoreau campus study. Dr. Hunter confirmed that FY24 had a \$25,000 placeholder, and that \$158,000 is the balance on the capital plan to execute the determination from the study.

C. Booth asked about the tractor proposed for Willard. B. Conry advised that he spoke with Russ Hughes and confirmed that the tractor for Willard is needed due to their large amount of open space and will assist with labor charges versus using snow blowers. C. Booth asked where the tractor would be stored, and B. Conry confirmed he would ask Russ Hughes.

C. Booth discussed campus safety needs at the CMS buildings. He noted that the budget approach is that they hope they do not need the funds, but it would be there should it be needed.

B. Conry confirmed that the copier equipment inventory was categorized by needs and shared the inventory. Many printers in the CPS district will need replacement

C. Policy FF - Facilities Naming

This was the second read of Policy FF from the MASC reference document.

A. Anderson noted that she reviewed all online databases in the state where this policy is available for viewing online and all but one or two have adopted the policy. C. Booth stated that he would vote against the change because first, the current policy serves us well, second, the timing is unnecessary and unfortunate and third, not to exclude the Select Board from the process.

II. Action Items

D. Vote to Approve FY25 CPS Budget

C. Rankin made a motion to approve the FY25 CPS operating budget in the amount of \$46,602,943, and to further approve the accompanying draft warrant article language for Town meeting approval. C. Booth seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

E. Vote to Approve FY25 CPS Capital Plan

C. Rankin made a motion that the Concord School Committee vote to approve the FY25 capital budget in the amount of \$900,000 and to further approve the accompanying draft warrant article language for Town meeting approval. C. Booth seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

F. Vote to Approve Policy FF - Facilities Naming

C. Rankin moved to approve the Policy FF Facilities Naming as recommended by MASC. T. Marano seconded the motion. A. Anderson, C. Rankin, and T. Marano voted aye. C. Booth and C. Rainey voted nay.

III. Adjournment CSC

A. Anderson adjourned the CSC meeting at 8:45pm.

Approved: 2.6.24