

JOINT SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Concord-Carlisle School Committee  
Concord School Committee  
Ripley Conf. Room 4 & Zoom  
January 9, 2024

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 (via Zoom)

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 5:46 PM.

Roll call attendance: A. Anderson, C. Booth, T. Marano, C. Rainey, C. Patel, C. Rankin and S. Whitt (Zoom) - all present.

*A. Executive Session*

C. Booth made a motion 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 materials and to consider the approval and release of executive session materials 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. C. Rankin seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

Aye: A. Anderson (both), C. Booth (both) T. Marano (both), C. Rainey (both), C. Patel (Region), C. Rankin (both) and S. Whitt (Zoom/Region). All in favor.

**II. CCHS Student Update**

Harry Crowley and Felicity Zhang shared insight on upcoming events, including the spring musical, sporting events, the prom, and upcoming preparations for midterms.

**III. Public Comment**

*Gail Hire, Nancy Rd Concord, Ma*

Noted concerns with proposed ground-mounted solar panels and believes the school should evaluate proposals and weigh out additional options for the space that would be used prior to the Town Meeting.

#### **IV. Consent Agenda**

T. Marano made a motion to approve the consent agenda. C. Rankin seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Aye: A. Anderson, C. Booth, T. Marano, C. Rainey, C. Patel, C. Rankin and S. Whitt (zoom).

1. Minutes 10/24/23
2. Minutes 11/14/23
3. Minutes 12/4/23
4. Minutes 12/7/23
5. Warrants
  - a. CCRSD A/P

1145 12/28/2023 \$137.88	1146 12/28/2023 \$78,325.53
1143 12/21/2023 \$116,738.52	1131 12/15/2023 \$830,761.46
  - b. CPS A/P

1055 1/4/2024 \$161,039.11	1051 12/21/2023 \$408,290.12
1052 12/21/2023 \$64.34	
  - c. CPS Payroll

Paydate 1/4/2024 \$556,313.69	Paydate 12/21/2023 \$570,919.79
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  - d. CCRSD Payroll

Paydate 1/4/2024 \$965,432.03	Paydate 12/21/2023 \$1,313,346.15
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#### **V. Correspondence**

A. Anderson confirmed 4 pieces of correspondence, which included capacity numbers at the middle school, HS cell phone service and a flight in Hong Kong.

T. Marano confirmed the Region had 5 pieces of correspondence 3 focused on cell tower and frequency, solar task force and an inquiry on the school calendar from a resident from Lexington.

#### **VI. Superintendent, Chairs and Liaisons Update**

T. Marano shared insight from the League of Women Voters First Friday event that she and A. Anderson attended. She noted that Dr. Hunter and the administrative team gave an exceptional overview of how our students are faring post-Covid, and the League was very supportive of the district.

Dr. Hunter highlighted two events, including shadowing a HS student for an entire day which was a fantastic experience and the coat donation for the emergency shelter was a great success. In light of 24 hour notice, there was a massive contribution of coats and winter gear for students and families in the shelter.

#### **VII. Discussion**

##### *A. CCHS Administrators*

Brian Miller and Katie Stahl, CCHS Co-Principals, discussed the success of their shared partnership in the leadership of the HS and which is successful because of their educational experience, background, skills, and shared values and visions for the success of the High School. The co-principals shared that within the HS administration are two Assistant Principals, Meg Maines (Assistant Principal of Student Life) who has an amazing connection with the students and offers a lot of hands-on support and Dr. Darius Green (Assistant Principal of Teaching and Learning) who works with the department chairs with a focused lens on goals within the classroom.

Collectively the co-principals shared details on the SPACE framework.

### S - Supportive Schedule & Use of Time

The co-principals discussed the success of the new schedule. T. Marano shared that Flexblock has positive feedback from the students and parents.

### P - Pedagogy that Engages

The co-principals discussed a focus on creating authentic and deeper learning experiences for students that engage them in a way they may not have experienced before.

### A - Alternative & Authentic Assessment

The co-principals discussed looking at data in a new way and grading strategies as well as rolling out the Massachusetts Seal of Biliteracy that students receive on their diplomas. T. Marano confirmed that an additional seal is present on diplomas.

### C - Climate of Care

The co-principals discussed an added wellness coordinator on staff this year to help assist students with overall wellness and mental health. A. Anderson thanked the co-principals and acknowledged the importance of mental health.

### E - Education for Everyone

The co-principals discussed professional development and collaborations with multiple paths to success looking to ensure success for all students.

C. Rainey asked that additional data on programs and professional development be shared when the co-principals come back in February.

C. Booth thanked the co-principals for the shared information on CCHS and asked about new resources that have been brought in this year, which they would like to see embedded into the school. K. Stahl advised that many are important but believed identifying data was really important to identify challenges across the entire CCHS community. B. Miller echoed all of what K. Stahl stated.

A. Anderson noted that the wellness of the students has been of great importance post-COVID and was happy to hear that the goals shared align with the success of students' mental health and increased school spirit.

### *B. Proposed Solar Installation at CCHS*

T. Marano discussed campus advisory reports and previous meetings from 2018 where the School Committee, collectively with community members, came up with 5 priorities and recommendations for the CCHS campus: track and field, a recreational building, learning commons, a pavilion, and a garden with a greenhouse. Dr. Hunter confirmed that the committee, along with community members, conducted various surveys and listening sessions, to inform the decision-making process. Dr. Hunter noted that initially, they were unvetted options and that later, a campus oversight committee discussed what was actually feasible on the campus.

T. Marano confirmed that the solar task force has put together a warrant article to bring to the Select Board. Dr. Hunter confirmed that the 250<sup>th</sup> Tree Committee requested that each school property be discussed on where to plant more trees. Dr. Hunter shared that the 250<sup>th</sup> Tree Committee has a vision to plant more trees in the same space along the drainage basin where the Solar Task Force has proposed the solar panels be installed.

C. Rainey confirmed she is in favor of the solar panels in both projected locations.

C. Booth confirmed that he does not believe that much emphasis can be placed on the Campus Advisory Committee, as the report from 2018 did not chart out exactly what the SC is moving forward on in 2024. He stated he was interested in seeing what this proposal would look like and suggested that the SC needs to decide if they are partnering with the Solar Task Force.

A. Anderson stated that she is philosophically committed to solar and to putting solar panels on the roof of CCHS, but is hesitant to give up the last of the designated green space on campus. She stated that she would like to see the warrant article be revised to include only solar panels on the CCHS roof only, for now.

C. Rankin noted that the solar project at the middle school will offer a lot of insight, and she supports more solar throughout the town but is not ready to commit her agreement on the panels being placed in the last green space.

C. Patel confirmed that she supports the solar panels.

S. Whitt confirmed there are a lot of benefits to solar, but she is leaning towards utilizing the green space for something other than solar panels.

D. DaRosa stated that he does not believe the solar panels should take up any additional ground space, as we could utilize it for a future track, additional trees, new buildings etc. He confirmed his support for the solar panels on the roof of the HS or over the CCHS parking lot.

A. Lawton believes she would need to see more information on this warrant.

T. Marano confirmed she fully supports the solar panels on the roof but believes the green space should not have the panels placed there and worries about the MOU usage. Dr. Hunter confirmed 10% of the building's usage is given back to the school and feels that the entire process has been smooth and flawless from the middle school. Dr. Hunter offered a usage report to be given to the SC at a future meeting.

C. Rainey asked what the Solar Task Force asked the SC. T. Marano confirmed that the Solar Task Force asked the SC to support the solar panels, and if the SC did not vote to support the panels, then they would not continue with the warrant article.

#### *C. CCRSD FY24 Quarterly Report and Transfers*

B. Conry reported the FY24 quarterly amounts for the FY24 CCRSD budget. He noted that some adjustments made within the leadership model were offset by savings.

#### *D. CCRSD FY25 Budget*

Dr. Hunter noted that the ongoing review of the HS salaries in the FY25 budget indicated a reduction in the math department, reducing the overall budget by \$110,394 for an overall CCRSD FY25 budget of \$38,974,907. She noted that they are not asking to be voted on today but at the next meeting. Dr. Hunter also confirmed that the enrollment shift to Concord should be recognized in FY25 guideline.

### **VIII. Action Item**

#### *A. Vote to Approve the November 2023 Bullying Plan*

Dr. Hunter noted that, as part of the DESE review, the revised bullying plan is legally driven. C. Rainey confirmed that she does not support DESE not allowing the public and SC to review the plan. Dr. Hunter confirmed that DESE was ensuring the district was compliant with the law, noting that the plan was posted for the community.

T. Marano made a motion to approve the November 2023 Bullying Plan. C. Rankin seconded the motion.

C. Booth questioned the title, as this plan is the 2010 plan that has been reaffirmed. T. Marano confirmed that this title was dictated by DESE in November 2023. C. Booth would like it referenced to the current date. T. Marano withdrew the motion. T. Marano entertained a motion to approve the DESE-recommended Bullying

Plan as listed on the district's website. C. Booth moved the motion. C. Rainey seconded the motion. Roll Call vote:

Aye: A. Anderson (both), C. Booth (both), T. Marano (both), C. Rainey (both), C. Patel (Region), C. Rankin (both) and S. Whitt (Zoom/Region)

*B. Vote to Approve CCRSD FY24 Quarterly Report and Transfers*

C. Booth moved a motion to approve the CCRSD FY 24 Quarterly Reports and Transfers. C. Rainey seconded the motion. Roll Call vote:

Aye: A. Anderson (both), C. Booth (both), T. Marano (both), C. Rainey (both), C. Patel (Region), C. Rankin (both) and S. Whitt (Zoom/Region).

*C. Vote to declare the Bus Surplus*

B. Conry confirmed this needs to be voted on both districts. T. Marano confirmed both can be voted on during this portion of the meeting.

C. Booth moved the motion to declare the buses surplus as outlined. C. Rainey seconded the motion. Roll Call vote: Aye: A. Anderson (both), C. Booth (both), T. Marano (both), C. Rainey (both), C. Patel (Region), C. Rankin(Both) and S. Whitt (zoom/Region)

**IX. Adjournment CCRSC**

T. Marano adjourned the Concord Carlisle Regional School Committee at 7:48PM. CSC remained in session. C. Booth left the meeting at the end of the CCRSD meeting.

**I. Discussion**

*A. CPS FY24 Quarterly Report and Transfers*

B. Conry noted that being so early into the quarter there are no items to transfer and he is hopeful with current trends to remain within proposed standings.

*B. Outline of Concord Middle School Naming Process*

A. Anderson confirmed the Concord School committee is officially opening the renaming process on the Concord Middle School pursuant to School Committee Policy FFI. She encouraged active participation as the SC moves forward, and as of this evening, the SC is accepting name suggestions for a full 2 weeks. She requested that the suggestions be sent via email in written form and due by 12 pm on January 23<sup>rd</sup>. She shared that on February 6th, there will be extended public comment time at the SC meeting. A. Anderson discussed the breakdown of the timeline and noted the distribution of notices to the community in multiple format.

C. Rainey stated that this feels very rushed. A. Anderson confirmed that she worked closely with MASC on the creation of the public process and is following their guidance. Dr. Hunter stated that she can put this on the school website banner for all visitors to the site to easily access. T. Marano recommended that the policy be advertised as public postings.

Dr. Hunter explained that the vision of the middle school is a united Concord Middle School. She shared that the vision of merging the buildings, reconfiguring the student population, and creating a school culture has always been toward a unified Concord Middle School which is why the name should remain the same.

*C. CPS FY25 Capital Plan*

Dr. Hunter noted that during the development of the Capital Plan, the school administration aligned with the CPS capital process in existence for decades where the town manager designated \$900,000 to the school to manage facility needs. Dr. Hunter confirmed concerns and questions regarding a conflict between sustainability priorities and the fiscal mindset, as the schools have been told they are not doing enough for sustainability and the schools have also been told they are spending too much. With recent confusion over the Capital threshold and categories, Dr. Hunter recommended revisions to the FY25 Capital Plan to \$446,000, which read as follows: \$200,000 to fund the improved grounds deemed by the Thoreau feasibility study, \$96,000 in funds to replace the Alcott Fire Alarm systems, \$150,000 to replace a 20-year-old dump truck.

C. Rainey thanked Dr. Hunter for her memo and confirmed that as a member of the Capital Task Force, she felt frustrated by the boundaries and agreed that there needs to be common planning, language, and structure and that she would like to see the priorities established within this school year. A. Anderson noted that the SC could begin the process of working with the town and involve committees this Spring and through the Summer to get the plans better partnered for the FY25 and future Capital Plans. C. Rainey asked for an update on the Thoreau project. C. Rainey asked Dr. Hunter to send the information to the SC on the meeting being held at 7pm on January 17th at Thoreau.

#### *D. CPS FY25 Budget*

Dr. Hunter confirmed that they are continuing to watch and monitor the budget, and that with the recent reduction to the capital needs she does not see CPS going to guideline. A. Anderson mentioned a prior discussion with Mr. Patel, Chair of the Concord Finance Committee. She explained to the committee that instead of looking to discuss negotiating the guideline, Mr. Patel and the Finance Committee are not considering changing the guideline at 3.26%, but in the future would take a vote whether to recommend affirmative action on the SC FY25 Operating Budgets.

C. Rainey asked if there is a way to calculate what is spent versus used in curriculum and staffing throughout K-8 and what the changes have been made from FY24 to FY25. Dr. Hunter confirmed that at a SC meeting in February, the literacy report will be presented and additional requested budgeting insight can be presented at the meeting.

## **II. Action Items**

#### *E. Vote to Approve CPS FY24 Quarterly Report and Transfers*

C. Rainey made a motion to approve the CPS FY24 Quarterly Report and Transfers. T. Marano seconded the motion., The motion was approved unanimously.

## **III. Adjournment:**

A. Anderson adjourned the CSC meeting at 8:25 PM.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Teresa Patukonis*

Approved: 2.6.24