

JOINT SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Concord-Carlisle School Committee
Concord School Committee
Ripley Conf. Room 4 & Zoom
January 23, 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
Domingos DaRosa, CCRSD METCO Rep

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

A. Anderson called the CSC meeting to order at 5:00 PM and entertained a motion to go into executive session. C. Booth moved that The Concord School Committee will enter into Executive Session under Purpose 3 of the Open Meeting Law: To conduct strategy with respect to collective bargaining with the Concord Teachers Association and return to Open Session. C. Rainey second. All in favor- Roll call, A. Anderson aye, C. Booth aye, C. Rainey aye, C. Rankin aye, T. Marano aye.

Members of the CSC returned from Executive Session at 5:59 pm.

II. Recognition

A. Anderson and Dr. Hunter welcomed Willard's Mr. Fiandaca and his first grade students to the SC meeting. Mr. Fiandaca discussed Responsive Classroom and thanked the district for providing resources and training to support the teaching staff. The first grade students demonstrated their daily circle time and classroom transition activities that get their bodies moving in a happy and interactive way each day.

III. Chair Announcement: Concord Middle School Naming Submissions

A. Anderson shared the names the SC received from the public outreach with unique suggestions of names for the Middle School: Sara Alden Bradford MS, Mary Merrick Brooks MS, Peter Bulkeley MS, Concord Middle School, Simon Davis MS, Emerson Middle School (after Peter Emerson or Ralph Waldo Emerson), Margaret Fuller MS, Ellen Garrison MS, Garrison Peabody Sanborn MS, Kearns Goodwin MS, Hawthorne MS, Hudner Brown MS, Thomas J Hudner MS, Mary Mann MS, Jerry Moss MS, The Musketaquid School, Peabody MS, Peabody Sanborn MS, Dr. Isiah L. Pickard MS, Mary Rice MS, Sanborn MS, Charles Willie MS.

A. Anderson noted that the list was shared today with The Concord Bridge, along with stories and rationales. The list will also be sent out to the town and SC members, per the communication plan.

IV. Public Comment (20 minutes)

1. *Joe Palumbo* shared historical facts surrounding Ellen Garrison's life, from her youth through her adulthood. He noted that she was a brave individual and displayed a sense of American values.

V. Discussion

A. Concord Middle School Naming

A. Anderson suggested that in light of the amount of names that have been received, she questioned if the SC should extend the Public Comment for an additional two weeks, and move the vote to February 27th. C. Rankin noted that she believes the SC should stay on track with the proposed schedule.

D. DaRosa questioned if finalists would be selected, and how would they be chosen. A. Anderson confirmed that the common thread of submitted names is in honor of someone who has lived in Concord, aside from the Superintendent's recommendation of keeping the name Concord Middle School. A. Anderson also noted how nebulous the conversation surrounding the CMS name will be.

C. Booth asked if this process of selecting finalists is a referendum and an accurate reflection of counting votes. A. Anderson noted that the SC makes the final decision, however, the SC takes public input into serious consideration. She noted that the Hearing or Public Comment is scheduled for February 6th, and immediately following the hearing, the SC will deliberate on submitted names, and make a final decision.

T. Marano suggested that the story originally submitted with the name suggestion be sent out to the public to show support for their name submission. A. Anderson confirmed that The Bridge asked for this information, and she will send it this evening. It will be available on the district website as well, linked to the agenda and minutes.

C. Booth asked if the stories would be verbatim and unvarnished, and A. Anderson confirmed that everything being shared with The Bridge and the district website would be shared exactly as it was sent in, minus personal physical and email addresses. C. Booth noted that if a submission is sent in following the SC deadline, the SC would read and add it into consideration. C. Rainey confirmed that all information sent in would be reviewed but the deadline was clearly noted.

B. FY25 CPS Budget

Dr. Hunter noted that a DESE grant was awarded late last week, and due to this matching grant, CPS will accept \$60k from DESE and the district will cover the other half. Additional reduction in Professional Development - Staff Dev. Contract Services in the amount of \$27,229. B. Conry confirmed that the reduction in the budget brought the final budget to guideline.

C. Rainey asked about a budget workshop date, and T. Marano noted that dates will be sent out to SC for scheduling within the next week. C. Rainey also asked for clarification on the FY23 final close out budget, and Dr. Hunter said that all the accounts from FY23 are closed, but there are some pending transactions that need to be paid before the accounts are officially closed for town record.

VI. Action Items

A. Vote to Approve Revised FY25 CPS Budget

A. Anderson entertained a motion to vote for the revised FY25 CPS Budget.

T. Marano moves to approve Revised FY25 CPS Budget \$46,515,714.

Second, C. Booth. All in favor, aye

B. Vote to Approve Revised FY25 CPS Capital Request

A. Anderson entertained a motion to vote to approve the revised FY25 CPS Capital Request.

T. Marano moves to approve Revised FY25 CPS Capital Request in the amount of \$446,000

Seconded by C. Booth. All in favor.

C. Rainey requested a more thorough discussion on current and future fiscal plans and proposals with greater detail be brought to the SC in the future, but confirmed this request does not impact her vote tonight. Dr. Hunter noted that these discussions reflect what the district is able to defer and what needs to be addressed sooner rather than later. C. Booth noted that he believes the Town and Schools goals should be pushed

against fiscal realities and aligned priorities.

Concord School Committee to remain in Session

JOINT SCHOOL COMMITTEE

I. Call to Order

T. Marano called the CCSC meeting to order at 7:10 pm.

II. CCHS Student Update

Harry Crowley, Felicity Zhang, and Zariah Alves discussed that following midterms, second semester courses have begun, all winter sports and spring musical are going well, a new session of the Rivers to Revolution program has begun, and Spectrum is celebrating its 30 year Anniversary! They also stated that next week the Nutrition break for early release at the HS is changing from 10 am to 11 am, and the student body population is excited about this change, as it aligns better with lunch schedules. They also proudly explained that CCHS is hosting the National Qualifying Debate Tournament for the region next week, and looks forward to hosting the surrounding towns and teams. Additionally, they informed the SC that they are currently asking the CCHS student body for their opinions on the new Middle School name and will report back with the results at the February 6th SC meeting.

III. Consent Agenda

T. Marano motions to approve the Consent Agenda, C. Booth second, all in favor, aye.

1. Warrants

A. CCRSD A/P

1/12/2024 \$254,237.81 1163	1/12/2024 \$117.13 1162
1/4/2024 \$450.00 1152	1/4/2024 \$106,323.88 1153
1/3/2024 \$21,000 1151	

B. CPS A/P

1/8/2024 \$72.36 1058	1/8/2024 \$451,476.58 1059
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C. CCRSD Payroll

Paydate 1/18/24 \$46,212.96	Paydate 1/18/24 \$172,949.87
Paydate 1/18/24 \$73,329.72	Paydate 1/18/24 \$628,688.91
Paydate 1/18/24 \$14,050.33	Paydate 1/12/24 \$389.15
Paydate 1/12/24 \$763.24	Paydate 1/4/24 \$45,199.78
Paydate 1/4/24 \$186,823.25	Paydate 1/4/24 \$73,554.53
Paydate 1/4/24 \$659,854.47	

D. CPS Payroll

Paydate 1/18/24 \$353,143.27	Paydate 1/18/24 \$219,704.98
Paydate 1/4/24 \$348,250.75	Paydate 1/4/24 \$208,062.94

2. \$150.00 Donation from 40% Club

3. Staff Child Enrollment Request

IV. Correspondence

A. Anderson confirmed CSC had multiple pieces of correspondence, which included safe routes to school but primarily consisted of public input on the naming of the middle school. Although an exact number was

unavailable to be reported, A. Anderson confirmed that over the last two weeks, there have been over 100 pieces of correspondence on the naming.

T. Marano confirmed CCSC had 1 piece of correspondence, which she believes is a duplicate of CSC middle school naming suggestion.

V. Superintendent, Chairs and Liaisons Update

Dr. Hunter discussed the MASS Conference, where topics about managing politics in the present challenging times of the economy and social aspects of society were discussed. She further discussed ongoing conversations with the staff at the Middle School in terms of fixtures, furniture, and equipment. The new build is going smoothly and staff are eager to help plan the design inside the classrooms.

Dr. Hunter also discussed the recent grant notification. CPS received \$45,000, which will offset the cost for staff to support in trauma. K. Anderson thanked the entire mental health team who recently helped assist the administration with the writing of a \$15,000 grant, which was graciously awarded to the regional district. Dr. Hunter noted that often very little notice is given on the grant applications. The staff who made this a priority are to be recognized as they worked efficiently and effectively.

T. Marano shared an update on the Solar Task Force and noted that on February 12th, the Select Board is meeting to discuss CPS, Regional & Capital Planning including the amenities meeting. She noted that on February 15th, there is another joint Finance Committee meeting scheduled, and on February 8, there is a disability meeting.

VI. Discussion

A. 2024-2025 School Calendar

Dr. Hunter shared the drafted 24/25 SY Calendar, and confirmed this proposed Calendar will be up for SC vote at the February 6th meeting.

B. LAUNCH Pathways Retail Space

Angel Charles discussed the LAUNCH Mission Statement, where highly individualized experiences are provided and supported throughout the LAUNCH program. A. Charles discussed insight for program considerations and enhancement of in house opportunities for a wide level of transition needs. A. Charles excitedly explained her and the entire Student Services team's goal in opening a storefront for graduating students from the LAUNCH program.

B. Conry confirmed that obtaining a retail space is a formal FRP process, and with that, various proposals will need to be considered. He noted that the projected program costs may include different variations of start up costs and the condition of the building, as well as the pipeline of the initial inventory. The primary monthly costs will include the rental space, utilities, payment processing systems, and possible staffing costs. He noted that circuit Breaker Carryover funds and fundraising/donations are potential funding sources.

C. Booth asked if there would be post-graduation job opportunities and A. Charles confirmed there would absolutely be. C. Rainey asked A. Charles if they would be open to a shared retail space, and A. Charles confirmed they are open to that idea. C. Rainey also suggested contacting the Chamber and Concord Business directors to discuss opportunities within the community and believes the community would be happy to help with this process.

D. DaRosa asked what type of items they would like to sell, and A. Charles confirmed that it would not be food based and would likely be a local retail establishment, but the exact items have not been identified as of yet.

C. Director of Student Services Update

Angel Charles shared the success and progress made within the staff and recognized her appreciation for the relationships formed amongst herself, her staff, and the families.

Social and emotional goals, inclusion variations, and overall program support over the next 18th months are the focus of the program.

C. Rainey thanked A. Charles for her updates and welcomed the invitation to tour the schools and Student Services facilities.

C. Patel asked about dyslexia testing, and students who are currently enrolled and are dyslexic.

A. Charles confirmed that by law, all young students are required to be tested, and every newly enrolled student is assessed for all levels of learning when they enter the district.

D. Mid-year Update Superintendent Goals

Dr. Hunter confirmed the district's MCAS goal to grow by 10% will be discussed and presented at a later date in February, but voiced her happiness with the reports thus far.

The Middle School is 26% complete as of now, and on track for continued timeline success! Dr. Hunter identified that, as mentioned earlier, the planning of indoor classroom design is well underway with the staff.

Deeper Learning initiative at CMS and CCHS

The DCAP (District Curriculum Accommodation Plan) has been updated and is currently being reviewed by Staff. At the region the new schedule has been in place since the beginning of the year and is going very well

Student Wellbeing: The highlight is the rollout of Responsive Classroom at CPS DEIB and anti-racism: Restorative Justice and Restorative Circles. Dr. Hunter serves on MASS and DESE committees as well as district work on METCO 2.0 initiatives.

Dr. Hunter noted that as the end of the 23/24 SY fast approaches, the administration is beginning to think forward for incoming students' readiness and additional needs and services they may require and is doing the due diligence to identify the required resources and staff. She also identified the shelter population does have a large number of expected preschoolers and Kindergartners for the 24/25 SY.

C. Patel asked what will happen to the Sanborn site. Dr. Hunter confirmed they would be putting fields in that space, and Peabody's land would be apportioned back to Concord.

E. Mid-year Update Joint School Committee Goals

T. Marano confirmed that the goals are outlined and attached to the Agenda and opened up the discussion with the SC with attention directed to each goal.

F. Solar at CCHS

Due to Zoom meeting audio difficulty, this line item was removed and will be added to the February 6th SC meeting.

VII. Action Items

A. Vote to Approve Revised FY25 CCRSD Budget

C. Rainey motioned to approve the Revised FY25 CCRSD Budget of \$38,974,907. C. Booth seconded the motion. All in favor, aye.

VIII. Adjournment - CSC

A. Anderson adjourned the CSC meeting at 9:18pm. A

IX. Executive Session

The Concord-Carlisle Regional School Committee will enter into Executive Session under Purpose 3 of the Open Meeting Law: To conduct strategy with respect to collective bargaining with the Concord Carlisle Teachers Association and not return to Open Session.

Move and seconded. Roll Call Booth-aye, Marano, aye, Patel, aye, Rankin, aye, Rainey, aye, Whitt, aye

Approved: 4.23.24