

Present:

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

A. Anderson called the CSC meeting to order at 5:00pm. A motion was made by C. Rankin, seconded by T. Marano, that the *Concord School Committee to 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 to discuss strategy with respect to litigation regarding Fitzgerald vs. Town of Concord, and return to Open Session.* Motion passed by roll call, A. Anderson, aye. C. Booth, aye. T. Marano, aye. C. Rainey, aye. C. Rankin, aye. T. Marano, aye.

### **II. Call to Order CCSC**

T. Marano called the CCSC meeting to order at 5:42pm. A motion was made by C. Booth, seconded by C. Rankin, that *The Concord-Carlisle 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 Purpose 7 to comply with or act under authority of, any general or special law or federal grant-in-aid Requirements.* Motion passed by roll call, A. Anderson, aye. C. Booth, aye. Marano, aye. C. Patel, aye. C. Rainey, aye. C. Rankin, aye. S. Whitt, aye.

CSC and CCSC returned to Open Session at 6:05pm.

### **III. CCHS Student Update**

Harry Crowley shared his update on behalf of the Student Senate and shared that CCHS is excited about the upcoming Multicultural Food Festival. Additionally, students who had the opportunity to visit New Zealand during this term are enjoying themselves. Families, staff, and peers are enjoying the updates and photos from their trip. He noted that IQH Fest is upcoming and that it is a cherished CCHS tradition. T. Marano stated that the CCHS girls swim team recently placed first in the state and the boys team placed 6th.

### **IV. Recognitions - WIQH Kids**

Dr. Hunter welcomed WIQH students and Mr. Ned Roos, who run the WIQH 88.3 FM radio station. The students collectively shared a slide show presentation of community events previously hosted by the station. They discussed recent stories covered by the station and their overall enjoyment of the roles with WIQH.

T. Marano thanked the WIQH team for their presentation and noted you can listen at WIQH.org or in the car at 88.3 within a 5 mile radius of CCHS campus or online.

**V. Public Comment**

- 1. Susan Kelleher, 244 Lindsey Pond Road, Concord - Thanked the SC for their involvement in the district and noted concerns with the CCHS English Department and the program changes.
- 2. Kristen Haddad, 442 Annershack Hill, Concord- Continued Susan’s written notes (on Susan's behalf) summarizing concerns towards the English department and urged the district to take caution with implementing the pilot program changes while referencing recent changes in Brookline.

**VI. Consent Agenda**

T. Marano stated that C. Rainey had requested to pull the trip approvals out of the consent agenda. Ms. Rainey stated that she felt it was important to approve the trips individually. C. Rainey also asked to remove the January 23, 2024 minutes from the consent agenda.

A motion was made by A. Anderson, seconded by C. Rankin, to approve the remaining consent agenda items. All in favor, aye.

C. Rainey stated that some of the 1/23/24 minutes needed to be redone, noting that she had send T. Marano her comments. Dr. Hunter asked for further guidance on the what Ms. Rainey wanted updated. C. Booth asked that T. Marano share C. Rainey’s comments with Dr. Hunter.

C. Rankin asked specific questions about the CCHS Robotics Trip to Houston. CCHS Advisor Alex Kuchar joined the meeting and confirmed that the request was provisional, and that if the team was eligible, it was projected to take place on 4/17/24. C. Rainey asked about fundraising efforts for the students and A. Kuchar confirmed that there was a 501c3 group fundraising for the trip. A. Anderson confirmed that raffle tickets were for sale among a parent group in support of the students' attendance on the trip. A motion was made by C. Rankin, seconded by C. Rainey, to approve the CCHS Robotics Trip to Houston, should they make the finals. All in favor, aye.

Regarding the CCHS Solar Eclipse trip, CoPrincipal B. Miller stated that the request was for 9th graders to go to Vermont to see the eclipse, providing additional information. C. Patel asked about the students who do not wish to attend the field trip and Mr. Miller confirmed that those students would have an enriching day at CCHS. A motion was made by C. Booth, seconded by C. Rainey, to approve the CCHS Solar Eclipse Trip, as presented. All in favor, aye.

- A. Donation from the Class of 1963 to CCHS Library
- B. Policy Meeting Minutes 2/6/24
- C. Joint Meeting Minutes 1/23/24
- D. Approval of CCHS Robotics Trip to Houston
- E. Approval of CCHS Solar Eclipse Trip
- F. Warrants

1. CCRSD A/P		
1192 2/16/24	\$450.00	1191 2/16/24 \$423,652.98
1184 2/9/24	\$154.31	1183 2/9/24 \$350,782.09
1182 2/2/24	\$98,820.96	
2. CPS A/P		
1065 2/15/24	\$79.66	1066 2/15/24 \$314,240.84

### 3. CCRSD Payroll

Pay Date 2/15/24 \$46,908.18

Pay Date 2/15/24 \$73,453.19

Pay Date 2/15/24 \$14,199.58

Pay Date 2/15/24 \$174,699.99

Pay Date 2/15/24 \$617,604.73

Pay Date 2/15/24 \$13,289.02

### 4. CPS Payroll

Pay Date 2/15/24 \$354,614.35

Pay Date 2/15/24 \$224,513.15

## VII. Correspondence

A. Anderson noted that CSC received 7 pieces of correspondence, which included 1 SEL curriculum inquiry, a turf question, a question from an orthodontist, and 3 pieces about the amenities building.

T. Marano noted the CCSC received 3 pieces of correspondence, which included a note thanking Dr. Hunter and 2 pieces from the same individual who referenced the memo sent out to the Select Board about the cell phone tower.

## VIII. Superintendent, Chairs and Liaisons Update

T. Marano shared that she and A. Anderson recently attended the Concord Select Board meeting, Concord Finance Committee meeting, and Concord Commission of Disability. All meetings were about the amenities building. T. Marano confirmed that she has been in recent communication with Mr. Banfield from the Solar Task Force, and the multicultural celebration at all schools begins on March 5th at CCHS.

A. Anderson shared that come Fall 2024, there will be a recommitment to the process played out by the Capital Planning Task Force and all the committees will have a renewed focus.

## IX. Discussion

### A. English Language Arts

#### 1. Early Literacy

- Ariel Nierenberg, Willard ELA Specialist, shared insight on The Science of Reading, which significantly leads to the evolving research on how young children learn to read. There are 5 key concepts that are fundamentally used within the curriculum by the teachers. A. Nierenberg confirmed that fluency greatly changes over the span of students in elementary school, and the Science of Reading is not a one size fits all approach. She shared that the structure of the literacy program is a 90 min session, and within that time, 30 minutes focus on practicing with the Foundations program, and 60 minutes are focused on a flexibly designed block, where the teachers can implement whole group activities, small group activities, the use of independent work and adaptive technology.
- Katie Carr, Alcott ELA Specialist, discussed the wealth of materials for ELA that are readily available to all teachers. She cited a large range of trade books with many genres and topics, in addition to ELA computer adaptive programs for students K-2 (Lexia, Freckle). Heggerty is a program that supports phonemic awareness by enabling students to hear the phonemic levels of sound, where words are built, the blending of sounds, and the sound symbol correspondence to write the letters of the sounds they hear.
- Tara Venuti, Thoreau Reading Specialist, explained she sees students as champions with humor, emotion, artistic abilities, and a desire to explore, learn, and grow. She confirmed that screening tools are key early interventions due to the rapidly developing brain through age 8. The onset of recognizing reading struggles can be identified as early as Kindergarten through applicable screen tools such as DIBELS, a resource approved by DESE given 3 times a year.

K. Anderson confirmed the achievement data is very strong in the district and thanked the specialists and classroom teachers for their dedication to the students.

C. Rainey thanked the specialists for their work and asked how the specialists and K. Anderson know which research to adhere to for the success of the students. Matt Lucey, Willard Principal, confirmed that with K. Anderson's oversight, the adaptation process includes vetting all of the available research that is solely evidence-based. C. Booth thanked the specialists for their clear passion and asked what amount of time students are on screens. M. Lucey confirmed a maximum of 10-20 min a day per student.

A. Anderson thanked the specialists for their presentation, as the insight shared was full of direct detail on the English path the district is on.

C. Rainey thanked the specialists and asked about family involvement. N. Krakow advised that partnering with families is critical. She confirmed that the state requires the school to share DIBELS results below benchmark and the district believes that all students' data should be shared regardless of being at risk or not at a risk.

## *2. CMS MCAS*

K. Anderson confirmed the presented slideshow pages 26 and 27 outline data with confirmed high growth and high achievement at the middle schools. K. Anderson confirmed the students are working on writing, and the district is implementing a program, No Red Ink, which will encourage proper grammar and functional writing capabilities.

## *3. CCHS Embedded English*

Dr. Hunter confirmed the Embedded English program is not dismantling English but rather encouraging other learning methods, new challenges, and new support.

CoPrincipal Katie Stahl confirmed that students who requested honors and those in standard English classes will be in the same room at the same time. The goal of the shift is high expectations with high support. This change has led to smaller class sizes with more opportunities for students to learn from each other and more individualized teacher support. CoPrincipal Brian Miller confirmed that combining both high honors and standard level students will increase the levels of each student.

T. Marano confirmed the slide show presentation is available to view on the agenda.

C. Booth also requested rigorous first year assessment and reflection. B. Miller confirmed they would gladly report back with the end of the year data.

## *B. Goals Discussion*

A. Anderson confirmed that the five goals of this school year were supported by 13 report requests and asked the SC if the presentations received through the support requests were beneficial.

C. Rainey confirmed the best demonstration was tonight as it was full of personable conversation without slideshow presentations. The same feelings were echoed by C. Rankin.

A. Anderson noted A. Charles' presentation was very interactive and did not include slides or visual presentations.

C. Patel confirmed that she prefers to receive the slides prior to the meeting so that she can review and then during the meeting she can hear the presentation and ask applicable questions based on the presentation viewed prior. T. Marano confirmed that the SC needs to trust the team presenting to determine if slides are applicable, such as K. Anderson's sharing of MCAS data, where that information needs to be formatted in a slide presentation.

C. Rainey stated that she hopes the community watches tonight's presentation on Early Literacy, as it was a wonderful presentation full of storytelling and insight into the district's fundamental programs.

## *C. CCHS Amenities Building*

T. Marano identified new information that became available from the meetings last week, and Dr. Hunter noted that everyone is in agreement about the need for an Amenities Building. It is the 'how' where there are some concerns and questions coming up. B. Conry confirmed funding for the amenities building could result from the road project, where the base bid was \$154,000 under budget. There is an option to complete the Lighting upgrade piece for \$164,000, which would be funded by capital stabilization, but it is not included in the original amenities building bid. The borrowed money needs to be spent first, and unused funds allocated to the project can be returned to capital stabilization. B. Conry noted that the lighting seemed sufficient. C. Rankin confirmed that the current lights are approximately 5 years old, and the cost to replace them includes the poles.

Dr. Hunter confirmed with \$153,000 of funds available in capital stabilization that her recommendation is to fund the feasibility and design of the amenities building such that the schematics are thorough and could be readily available for town meetings to move this process forward.

C. Rainey stated that she does not believe that the SC should rush the bid and believes there needs to be a clear discussion of options.

T. Marano contacted a prefab company in Las Vegas and was quoted \$1.4 million without even seeing the space. Dr. Hunter confirmed that these companies will require a feasibility study. C. Rankin noted that the Commission on Disabilities suggested that SC apply for additional grants and believes applying for more grants and offsetting some of the costs will be highly desirable to the community and Select Boards to move this process forward.

C. Booth asked how many restroom units are necessary for the amenities building. B. Conry confirmed we won't get a number until the variance and study is complete. Dr. Hunter confirmed that you don't formally have a variance until a design is complete, and when you put the variance in, you project the number of restrooms.

C. Booth voiced concern over the October 10, 2024, minutes, as there were two votes surrounding the amenities building and they were documented as one. T. Marano requested his changes be outlined.

C. Patel confirmed that she believes that the amenities building is necessary and suggested that the SC encourage more public support from younger families with children in the district so they are able to have a voice and vote.

T. Marano confirmed there would be no vote tonight, but the hearing is March 7. She is happy to attend and explain that the SC is in the process of discussing the amenities building and is considering other options.

#### *D. Second Reading School Committee Policies*

S. Whitt thanked C. Rankin for chairing the last meeting and confirmed that they reviewed 17 policies: 8 were removed, 8 were updated, and 1 needed to go back to MASC for clarification (JL- Student Welfare).

A. Anderson confirmed that this is not on the list for approval this evening. Dr. Hunter confirmed that this can be discussed at the next policy meeting.

JLA Student Insurance Program District (REMOVE)

JLB Student Allergy Policy District (REMOVE)

JLC Student Health Services & Requirements Updated Policy

JLCA Physical Examination of Students Updated Policy

JLCB Immunization Requirements Updated Policy

JLCC Communicable Diseases Updated Policy

JLCCA School Attendance for Students w/ HIV/AIDS District (REMOVE)

JLCCA-E AIDS School Attendance Policy District (REMOVE)

JLCD Medication Administration Updated Policy

JLD Guidance Program District (REMOVE)

JLDBD Reporting of Child Abuse & Neglect District (REMOVE)  
JP Student Gifts & Solicitations District (REMOVE)  
JQ Student Fees, Fines & Charges Updated Policy  
JRA Student Records Updated Policy  
JRA-R Student Records District (REMOVE)  
JRD Student Photographs Updated Policy

*E. FY25 CCRSD Budget Update*

Dr. Hunter confirmed that the budget movement over the last few weeks is going in the wrong direction, as revenue projections from the state are projected for FY25 to be short \$84,000. Other key changes include insurance closeouts and athletics. C. Rainey asked that the athletic costs be reviewed as it is not equitable given ice rink costs. C. Booth asked for athletic numbers and a specific outline of funds spent on athletics. B. Conry confirmed there is an upcoming expense to exit Minuteman Nashoba Health Group. The district will be assessed \$395,887 to be funded by E and D.

**X. Action Items**

*A. Vote Regarding CCHS Amenities Building Warrant Article*

Ms. Marano stated that the SC would not be voting on the CCHS Amenities Building Warrant Article.

*B. Vote to Approve School Committee Policies*

A motion was made by C. Booth, seconded by C. Rainey, to approve the policies as submitted. All in favor for CSC, aye; All in favor for CCSC for both, aye.

**XI. Adjournment CCRSC**

T. Marano adjourned CCRSC meeting at 9:45pm.

*CSC to Remain in Session*

**XII. Discussion**

*A. FY23 Homeless Transportation Reinforcement*

Dr. Hunter discussed funds spent in FY23 for earlier reimbursement and that the CPS reimbursement went to the town. Dr. Hunter thanked the Town Manager and Town Moderator for assistance in rewording the warrant article to allow the movement of the funds.

**XIII. Adjournment CSC**

A. Anderson adjourned CSC meeting at 9:48pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Teresa Patukonis

Approved: 4.23.24