

JOINT SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Concord-Carlisle School Committee
Concord School Committee
Ripley Conf. Room 4 & Zoom
February 6th, 2024

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
Domingos DaRosa, CCRSD METCO Rep

Absent:

Sharon Whitt, Vice Chair, CCSC
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 6:00PM

II. Public Comment Period- CMS Naming Only

A. Anderson noted that tonight's Public Comment section of the meeting was solely for public input on the CMS name (out of the 23 submitted options), and this segment is limited to 40 minutes and the standard public comment guidelines, which allows each speaker 3 minutes and does not allow for responses from the SC members.

1. Jen Turner - Director of The Robbins House, shared a desire for the CMS to be named after Ellen Garrison following a petition with 1,100 signatures supporting the CMS name to be after Ellen Garrison.
2. Kristen Tyson, Concord resident- Voiced her support of the name Hudner Brown Middle School.
3. Edward Hurley Whale - 66 Old Marlboro Rd Concord, Ma supports the CMS name, The Ellen Garrison Middle School.
4. Kristin Moore, Concord resident- voiced her favor in naming CMS, The Ellen Garrison Middle School
5. Steve Block, Concord resident- supports the CMS name, The Ellen Garrison Middle School.
6. Maria -Member of the Robbins House voiced her support of the CMS name, The Ellen Garrison Middle School.
7. Dr. Karen Hodges, Concord resident- Support CMS name to be Moss Middle School, after Jerry Moss.
8. Ellen Quakenbush, Concord resident- Strongly supports the CMS name, The Ellen Garrison Middle School.
9. Michael Williams, Concord resident- agrees and supports the CMS name, The Ellen Garrison Middle School.
10. Tom Hudner , Concord resident- As the son of Thomas Hudner, he voiced the support and positive consideration for the CMS to be named Thomas Hudner.

11. Suzanna Benner, Concord resident- Supports keeping the existing CMS name.
12. Stanley Griffith , Concord resident- Supports the CMS name, The Ellen Garrison Middle School.
13. Joe Palumbo - Suggests and supports the CMS name, The Ellen Garrison Middle School.
14. Denise Jantzen - 126 Partridge Lane, Supports keeping the existing CMS name.
15. Grady Flynn- 125 Central St. supports the CMS name, The Ellen Garrison Middle School.

A. Anderson noted that on behalf of the School Committee, all members are collectively thankful for the community support and that the history and shared stories are a testament to the Concord Community.

III. Discussion

A. Naming of Concord Middle School

Harry Crowley, Zariah Alves, and Felicity Zhang shared the CMS name feedback based on a survey of 40 CCHS students and noted that the top two choices selected by students were CMS 69.4% and the Ellen Garrison Middle School name 11.1%. They shared insight that the majority of students felt keeping CMS as the name is simple and familiar, but students value and appreciate the history of Ellen Garrison.

Per policy, A. Anderson welcomed Dr. Hunter to speak on her perspective and suggestion on the CMS name. Dr. Hunter confirmed she sent out notice to families sharing her opinion and suggestion on the Middle School name, remaining the Concord Middle School.

DEIB Director Andrew Nyamekye shared that in light of his role in focusing on anti-racism and advocacy for civil rights, he supports CMS as the name. Mr. Nyamekye stated that he believes continuing with the name is considerate to the work Concord has done over the years to be performative and supportive of Anti-Racism morals and values while avoiding division.

T. Marano confirmed that she has researched other districts that had recently renamed a school building and confirmed that she takes this role of choosing a name very seriously. She believes all names and suggestions are personable, informative, and educational, and confirmed there are many individuals who she believes are deserving of the name but hearing Dr. Hunter's recommendation and A. Nyamekye's voice, she is supportive of keeping CMS.

D. DaRosa stated that the SC has the opportunity to educate and inspire the community and supports CMS to be named after The Ellen Garrison School. He confirmed that he believes naming CMS after Ellen Garrison allows for change within the community that supports all individuals not only in Concord but across Massachusetts.

C. Rainey thanked the community who took to submit name suggestions for the CMS and feels a great weight in making this decision. She noted that many names and stories mean a lot to her and has very much enjoyed reading all the letters and submissions. She confirmed she recommends renaming CMS to the Ellen Garrison School.

C. Booth noted that this decision is difficult and does not believe the SC should be afraid of this decision. He voiced his hope that the SC is able to see that no other towns have an Ellen Garrison, but Concord does and supports naming the CMS after Ellen Garrison. He stated that he feels this name would be a unifying addition to the community and hopes to have a unanimous decision in support of the Ellen Garrison name.

C. Rankin thanked the community for their honesty and courage in sharing their stories and suggestions for the CMS. She voiced her appreciation for public speaker Grady Flynn for sharing his personal insight at the CCHS and is thankful that her own children get to go through this public school system as she feels it is diverse and unifying.

A. Anderson stated that this decision is challenging and robust within the community and believes elevating a single individual over anyone else strays away from the collectiveness and community sense that resonates with her. She noted that Concordians are always striving to do better with positive changes and support, paying homage to everyone, past and present. A. Anderson noted she supports keeping the CMS name as it currently is

A motion was made by C. Booth, seconded by Ms. Rainey, to name the Concord Middle School that is under construction at this time the Ellen Garrison Middle School.

T. Marano voiced her desire to honor everyone who was recommended by the community and would like all the names and suggestions to be brought into consideration. D. DaRosa confirmed that the town elected each member of the SC and believes the SC has a responsibility to the community and to the youth to teach them about historic individuals from the community that opens their eyes to diversity and history.

A. Anderson confirmed current curriculum includes a partnership with The Robbins House and believes that unity and inclusion are embedded in the building itself, and suggests a mural be painted within the middle school that displays each individual suggested for the CMS as a celebratory piece of Concord History.

C. Rankin confirmed that everything D. DaRosa spoke about why she values being on the SC so much and is committed to working with the district to continue unifying, being anti-racist, and creating inclusive programs and curriculum.

C. Rainey voiced her strong belief that the name of the Middle School is critical and that naming CMS after a Black woman is remarkable and would be a wonderful tribute specifically for the children in the community.

A. Anderson confirmed nearly 300 emails were received on the CMS name. 160 were in favor of keeping CMS. 94 were in favor of Ellen Garrison.

IV. Action Items

A. Vote to name the Concord Middle School

A motion was made by C. Booth requested a roll call:

A. Anderson, no. C. Booth, aye. T. Marano, present. C. Rainey, aye. C. Rankin, no. The motion failed.

A. Anderson entertained a motion to name the Concord Middle School, the Concord Middle School.

T. Marano moved. C. Rankin seconded.

A. Anderson, aye. C. Booth, no, T. Marano, aye. C. Rainey, no. C. Rankin, aye. The motion passed.

C. Rankin requested that the SC add to a future agenda a discussion on how the names of all submissions can be honored. T. Marano thanked the SC and the community for their support and understanding that this decision was not taken lightly and A. Anderson believes the CMS name holds courage and demonstrates that the community values everyone equally.

Recess 8:05 pm

Concord-Carlisle Regional Meeting

I. Call to Order

T. Marano called the CCRS meeting to order at 8:13PM.

II. Public Comment

1. Carrie Patel, 85 Tophet Rd, Carlisle - Expressed how disappointed she was in the middle school naming vote to remain CMS.
2. Derek Pinto, spouse of a CCHS teacher and father of CCHS/CPS students - Congratulated the French Department on their international trip to Canada, which included 27 students from CCHS, and thanked the Superintendent, the French Department chair, and the CCHS administration.

III. CCHS Student Update

H. Crowley, Z. Alves, and F. Zhang shared positive feedback from students from the recent bell schedule and the start of course selections for next year. They explained how The Debate Team hosted the New England District Qualifier Tournament and that Girls' Swim and Dive team won the DCL championship! Additionally, an Alumni Panel recently took place at CCHS, and it was a great opportunity for students to see what possible future paths they could take based on previous student experiences.

T. Marano thanked Harry, Zariah, and Felicity for their insight and dedication to the SC. C. Booth thanked them as well. F. Zhang confirmed the Multicultural event will take place on March 5th, and Dr. Hunter confirmed that the district is hosting a festival at each school.

IV. Recognitions

T. Marano confirmed no recognitions.

V. Consent Agenda

C. Booth asked to have #4 updated.

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

A. Warrants

1. CCRSD A/P

1177 1/26/24 \$220,736.16

1172 1/19/24 \$140,721.76

2. CPS A/P

1062 2/1/24 \$168,142.18

3. 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 1/18/24 \$13,605.82

Paydate 1/18/24 \$270.08

Paydate 1/18/24 \$4,258.12

Paydate 1/18/24 \$273,552.00

Paydate 2/1/24 \$46,500.64

Paydate 2/1/24 \$172,768.31

Paydate 2/1/24 \$73,504.47

Paydate 2/1/24 \$621,067.66

4. CPS Payroll

Paydate 1/18/24 \$353,143.27

Paydate 1/18/24 \$219,704.98

Paydate 2/1/24 \$356,624.26

Paydate 2/1/24 \$223,915.38

B. \$500 Donation to Rivers and Revolution in Memory of Max Carnathan from the Class Of 2018

C. \$500 Donation to Rivers and Revolution in Memory of Max Carnathan from an Individual

D. Joint Minutes 12/5/23

E. Joint Minutes 12/19/23

F. Joint Minutes 1/9/24

VI. Correspondence

A. Anderson confirmed there were many pieces of correspondence for CMS regarding the CMS name.

T. Marano confirmed there were 2 pieces of correspondence for the Region, which included information on the audio from the last SC meeting and information surrounding the Solar Task Force.

VII. Superintendent, Chairs and Liaisons Update

T. Marano confirmed that there are no updates to share from the chairs. On February 12, the Select Board is meeting, and on February 15, the Carlisle and Concord Finance Committee are meeting and requested to call to order. The meeting will take place at the Concord Town House.

VIII. Discussion

A. Budget Book

C. Rankin confirmed the overview from B. Conry will include requests and inclusions that will be presented at the March 7th meeting. C. Booth asked to expand the conversation into what type of outreach the SC wants to achieve. C. Booth asked if there was any plan to release the book. C. Rankin advised she would like to see a narrative document that would separate the budget book as simpler information to be outlined by B. Conry as a secondary source of information. A. Anderson advised that the budget book should be something that members of the community would want to read, and everything included in the book should be to streamline the process with a narrative. C. Rainey confirmed that she would like to see trends, programs, and data all be accessible in one place so that the public can see the mechanics of the budget, bulleted items on the circuit breaker, capital plans, etc. B. Conry confirmed he can produce two documents one for the district and one for the region.

B. Amenities Building

T. Marano outlined current conditions at CCHS. The history of CCHS being built in 2015 and what was and was not included in the original plan and construction. C. Booth asked that the slideshow be corrected to read Amenities Building, not Buildings. Additionally, the SC worked collectively to ensure updates were made to reflect proper language in the slideshow presentation so that it is an easier read for the public and public record.

T. Marano confirmed the presentation is a schematic, and no financial schematics can be completed until this proposal passes. C. Booth asked why Westford Academy is included in the slides. A. Anderson confirmed that Westford Academy is the most recent and compatible with the Concord Amenities Building proposal.

C. Solar at CCHS

T. Marano confirmed she and A. Anderson attended the most recent Solar Task Force meeting and confirmed that the force has requested to do a feasibility study on the roof and has removed the basin from the warrant article. T. Marano advised that only B. Conry (the point of contact) and CMLP be allowed on the roof. C. Rainey asked what the timetable was, and T. Marano confirmed the Task Force would like to get on the roof for a full evaluation as soon as possible. Dr. Hunter confirmed that following the study done by the Task Force, they will present the results to the SC. A. Anderson confirmed that the Task Force is requesting the SC's support in understanding the study is expensive and is only going to move forward with support from the SC.

A. Anderson identified that the Solar Task Force would cover future repairs to the panels and the CCHS repairs, and the possibility of parking lot canopies may be something the Solar Task Force looks into in the future. She continued that the Solar Task Force is only looking to do a Feasibility Study for the roof, and the vote tonight is to authorize the Solar Task Force to move forward with the feasibility study.

Wendy Rovelli, a member of the Solar Task Force, confirmed the Task Force is ultimately looking for the SC approval of the feasibility study prior to the Select Board Hearing on February 27th.

C. Booth requested an engineering review and verified that the SC could tell the light plant that if everything looked good from the feasibility study. He recognized that at any time the SC can remove their support.

Dr. Hunter confirmed that the HS will not receive a direct fiscal discount at CCHS for the utility expenses.

A. Anderson confirmed she is comfortable with all the presented guidelines of the task force, except for bullet #2.

D. Materials for February 12th meeting with Select Board

T. Marano confirmed material given to the SC will be sent to the Select Board concluding the SC agreement on the changes to the regional budget, amenities building etc. A. Anderson stated that she believed the Select Board requested all the possible pertinent information, as they want to reserve the right to ask any applicable questions. She confirmed that all documents have been previously viewed, discussed, and deliberated amongst the entire SC.

IX. Action Items

A. Solar at CCHS

A motion was made by Ms. Marano, seconded by Ms. Rainey, to allow the Solar Task Force to do a Feasibility Study on the CCHS campus. All in favor, aye.

B. Vote to Approve 2024-2025 School Calendar

A motion was made by A. Anderson, seconded by C. Rankin, to approve the 2024-2025 School Calendar. All in favor, aye.

X. Adjournment CCRSC

T. Marano adjourned the meeting at 9:52pm.

Teresa Patukonis

Approved: 5/7/24