

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  
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**

Ms. Marano called the CCSC meeting to order at 6:00pm and then Ms. Anderson called the CSC meeting to order.

**II. CCHS Student Update**

Student Reps Harry Crowley, Zariah Alves and Felicity Zhang provided updates from CCHS: Members of Class Government and Student Senate visited Thoreau to talk with members of Thoreau’s new student council, CCHS MVP Club hosted its annual 8<sup>th</sup> grade training with participants from CMS, Fenn and Carlisle Middle School, the multicultural food fest was a big hit, the IQH Fest was very successful, there will be a unique schedule for the next two days to accommodate an early release and the Youth Risk Behavior Survey, Student Senate will be hosting its annual blood drive, the upcoming weekend will be homework free, spring sports begin March 18<sup>th</sup> and the Choral Concert is March 19<sup>th</sup>.

**III. Recognitions**

METCO members of the CCHS Black Student Union (BSU) spoke about how successful the 2023-24 school year was, and how they made connections with black and brown students from different districts. They noted how they were able to share successes and failures with these other districts, while giving and receiving feedback on how they can improve the school community, as well as participate in fundraising events.

**IV. Public Comment**

1. Sheila Teixeira-Andrade, METCO parent. Ms. Teixeira-Andrade voiced her concerns around communication with METCO families for transportation and after school activities.

**V. Consent Agenda**

- A. January 23, 2024 minutes
- B. Warrants
  - 1. CPS A/P
  - 1071 2/29/24 \$150,599.64
  - 1070 2/29/24 \$278,182.02
  - 1069 2/29/24 \$616,700.76

2. CCRSD A/P

1205 3/8/24 \$251,160.36

1203 2/29/24 \$130,600.22

3. CPS Payroll

Pay date 2/29/24 \$278,128.02

Pay date 2/29/24 \$150,599.54

4. CCRSD Payroll

Pay date 2/29/24 \$20,816.78

Pay date 2/29/24 \$178,864.97

Pay date 2/29/24 \$736,662.21

Pay date 2/29/24 \$669,839.12

Pay date 2/29/24 \$255,987.00

C. \$1,500 Donation from CCHS Volleyball Boosters for new poles

D. \$1,000 Donation from Jordan's Furniture Coats for Kids for CMS after school programs

E. \$50 Donation from an individual for the Andrew First Scholarship Fund

F. \$3,000 Donation from Friends of CCHS Sports & Activities for Memorial Field padding

G. \$2,000 Donation from Friends of CC Girls Lacrosse for Memorial Field padding

H. \$1,000 Donation from an individual for Memorial Field padding

I. \$1,500 Donation from CCHS Friends of Field Hockey for Memorial Field padding

J. \$6,400 Donation from Willard PTG for Math Olympiad staff

Ms. Rainey asked to move the approval of the January 23, 2024 minutes to the next meeting. Dr. Hunter reviewed the donations. A motion was made by Mr. Booth, seconded by Ms. Rainey, to approve the consent agenda, with the exception of the January 23, 2024 minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

**VI. Correspondence**

Ms. Marano stated that CCSC received two pieces of correspondence: one thank you for the Robotics Team and a question about Latin over the summer. Ms. Anderson stated that CSC received a question from a parent in Lincoln regarding the CPS literacy programs.

**VII. Discussion**

A. Finance Committee Hearing Recap and B. Amenities Building Warrant Article. Ms. Marano stated that she attended the Finance Hearing, along with Ms. Anderson, Dr. Hunter and Mr. Conry. Ms. Marano stated that she shared what the SC had discussed at the last meeting regarding the amenities building, noting that she presented the three options to the Finance Committee: 1) Use the \$150,000 from the CCHS road paving project surplus for the design and feasibility of the amenities building, 2) Amend the town meeting article and ask the town to fund the \$150,000 feasibility study and design, and 3) Proceed as planned by moving forward with the article. She noted that the Concord and Carlisle Select Boards and Concord and Carlisle FINCOMs would like the SC to wait on the article. Ms. Marano asked for SC feedback and Mr. Booth stated that he was opposed to moving the article. The general consensus from the SC was to not move the article. Ms. Anderson noted the moral obligation to ensure that the campus is accessible for everyone, but stated that if some people do not feel it is the right time, she would accept it. Ms. Marano stated that she understands the financial constraints in both towns, but she is committed to bringing awareness to the project. She stated that, moving forward, they should be asking the CPC in both towns for funding and should be looking for ADA compliance grants, as well as any other possible grants available.

Mr. Booth asked the SC to revisit the minutes of October 10, 2023, providing a handout of suggested edits. A motion was made by Mr. Booth, seconded by Ms. Rainey, to amend Action Item IV. D in the October 10, 2023 minutes, as stated in his handout. Ms. Anderson noted that she does not agree with the precedent of updating

approved minutes. Mr. Booth, aye; Ms. Marano, aye; Patel, aye; Rainey, aye; Rankin, aye; Whitt, aye; Anderson, nay.

Ms. Marano stated that the SC needs to discuss which option to move forward with, and Ms. Rainey noted that she couldn't make a decision on amending the article until she had more clarity from the town moderators around how that would look. Ms. Patel noted that she agreed with Ms. Rainey and questioned where the \$150,000 would go to if it was not used for the study and Mr. Conry stated that the funds are allocated to capital projects only. Ms. Marano stated that she would get clarity from both moderators and bring back the information at the next SC meeting.

C. METCO Program Updates. Dewayne Clacher, METCO Director of CPS, and Andrew Nyamekye, DEIB Director, shared METCO program updates. Mr. Clacher thanked the SC for having the meeting at METCO HQ, noting that it reflects the partnership that the district and METCO have and introduced several METCO staff in attendance in person and online.

Mr. Clacher stated that K-8 was focused on academic growth and achievement, as well as social-emotional wellbeing and sense of belonging. He then shared that more METCO students made the honor roll this year than the previous year and students have access to additional opportunities during the school day, such as Homework Club and one on one academic support. He noted that they are looking to provide more opportunities at the middle school level for intervention during study hall. He stated that they are participating in the Tenacity Challenge at CMS, an academic challenge specifically for students of color in urban and suburban middle schools across Massachusetts. He stated that they are focusing on identifying best practices on building self-esteem and healthy friendships.

Regarding CCHS, Mr. Clacher stated that 47% of the METCO students participated in an achievement strategy in the resource center. He stated that 30% of METCO students receive weekly mental health counseling from their METCO adjustment counselor. Regarding academic achievement, he stated that they hope to address the under representation of METCO students in Honors and AP classes and address any barriers that are preventing the students from accessing these classes.

Latoya Ogunbona, School Adjustment Counselor, provided information on her background, noting how happy she was to be in the district and her gratefulness for the diverse staff in the district and the district's investment in the METCO program.

Members discussed METCO enrollment and bringing students in at different grade levels and Mr. Nyamekye stated that he felt the most overall successful METCO students were those who started in Kindergarten. Ms. Lawton stated that she did not agree with this, noting that METCO students that come to the district after attending Boston schools are not behind. Mr. DaRosa asked how to ensure that METCO students are brought up to speed and Dr. Hunter noted the discrepancy over the performance of the white and black population, noting that this was not just a high school issue. She stated that they need to start unravelling the layers and naming it and taking it content area by content area to determine where the issues are. Mr. Nyamekye noted the importance of understanding the rich anti-racist history of Concord, stating that they are looking to include an African American history community tour into the new student orientation process. Ms. Rainey noted the benefits of integration between both communities by holding more events in Boston. Ms. Whitt noted the importance of diversifying staff, especially at the younger grades and the importance of teaching about Boston history as well as Concord history. Mr. Nyamekye noted that he and Ms. Zahn, HR Director, would be attending an upcoming MA Partnership for diversity in Education career fair that is widely attended by BIPOC educators. Mr. Nyamekye spoke on creating a video highlighting METCO families and experiences. Mr. Clacher and Ms. Solange Benjamin spoke about attendance at METCO sponsored events.

D. Alumni METCO Panel. Ms. Anderson stated that this was the first year of Flex blocks at CCHS to allow for social, emotional and learning opportunities. Ms. Lawton stated that she and other METCO alumni hosted panels during flex block times, noting what a great experience it was.

E. METCO PTG. Akia Obas, METCO PTG President, stated that the last time she spoke at the SC meeting two years ago, Boston parents were voicing their concerns about the lack of equity and inclusion. She stated that they asked for a seat at the table, noting that they have made progress over the last two years. She stated that they have organized multiple parent socials in Boston, with the goal of increasing engagement and fostering community. She stated that there will always be room for improvement. Ms. Obas stated that transportation continues to be a challenge and limits Boston student participation in the before and after school activities. She stated that they are also hoping that more Boston parents become involved and hope to strengthen the Boston and Concord family connection.

F. METCO Representatives. Ms. Anderson stated that Ms. Lawton and Mr. DaRosa's terms were coming up, noting that the policy outlined two-year terms. She stated that the election would be handled by the METCO PTG. Ms. Marano noted that they that created the METCO representative policy with the intent to revisit it to review items such as term length. Ms. Rankin thanked Ms. Lawton and Mr. DaRosa for serving as METCO representatives.

#### **VIII. Action Items**

A. Vote Regarding Amenities Building Warrant Article. A motion was made by Ms. Anderson, seconded by Mr. Booth, to not advance a warrant article in the amount of \$2.3 million for the design and construction of the bathrooms, but to consider an alternative path forward. All in favor of the motion.

B. Vote to Adopt the Resolution to Join MIIA. A motion was made by Mr. Booth, seconded by Ms. Rainey, that the Concord-Carlisle Regional School District adopt the resolution to join MIIA, including authorizing the following: A RESOLUTION authorizing and empowering the Concord Carlisle Regional School District to participate in the MIIA Health Benefits Trust; approving, and authorizing and directing the execution and delivery of, the MIIA Health Benefits Trust Agreement dated as of January 1, 2020 by and among the Trust and those governmental units participating in the Trust; authorizing and directing all officials, employees and agents of the Concord Carlisle Regional School District to take any and all action necessary or appropriate to effect the participation of the Concord Carlisle Regional School District in the Trust; making certain findings in connection with the participation of the Concord Carlisle Regional School District in the Trust; and generally relating to the participation of the Concord Carlisle Regional School District in the MIIA Health Benefits Trust. All in favor of the motion.

#### **IX. Adjournment**

Ms. Marano adjourned the meeting at 8:02 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Erin E. Higgins

Approved: 5/7/24

Abbreviations:

CCHS

Concord-Carlisle High School

CCRS	Concord-Carlisle Regional School District
CCSC	Concord-Carlisle Regional District School Committee
CCTA	Concord-Carlisle Teachers' Association
CEF	Concord Education Fund
CMS	Concord Middle School
CMSBC	Concord Middle School Building Committee
CPC	Community Preservation Committee
CPS	Concord Public Schools
CSC	Concord School Committee
CTA	Concord Teachers Association
DEIB	Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging
FINCOM	Finance Committee
SC	School Committee
SEPAC	Special Education Parent Advisory Council