

JOINT SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Concord-Carlisle School Committee
Concord School Committee
Ripley Conf. Room 4 & Zoom
March 26, 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 (viaZoom)

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

SCHOOL CHOICE HEARING AND VOTE

I. Call to Order

Ms. Marano called the CCSC meeting to order at 6:05 PM and Ms. Anderson then called the CSC meeting to order.

A. Ms. Marano opened the School Choice Hearing.

Dr. Hunter stated that School Choice was an annual decision by school committees in the Commonwealth, recommending that the SC vote not to participate due to enrollment being too close to the capacity of the buildings and not having equitable or adequate transportation to allow all students to be able to attend school in another district.

B. Vote on School Choice for the 2024-2025 School Year. A motion was made by Ms. Whitt, seconded by Ms. Rankin, that the Concord and Concord Carlisle School Committees vote not to participate in School Choice for the school year 2024-2025. The motion was unanimously approved.

Ms. Marano closed the Hearing at 6:08 PM.

JOINT SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

I. CCHS Student Update

CCHS Student Reps, Harry Crowley and Felicity Zhang, provided an update from CCHS: Class government held its annual St. Patrick's Day luncheon, spring sports have officially started, there was a MICCA preview concert, musical performances in the cafeteria and annual hypnotist show, sophomores took MCAS, Q3 ends Friday, and Senate has started planning for spring events.

II. Recognitions- Chris Noce, CCHS

Dr. Hunter recognized Mr. Noce for being named at the national level as one of the 40 under 40 musicians, noting the characteristics that contributed to him being named. She also noted that he is a model of DEIB in the diverse music he's bringing into the program and a model of differentiation, reaching students at all levels. Ms. Marano stated that his students are given a space to express themselves musically and personally. Mr. Booth noted Mr. Noce's time and energy given to the Concord Nanae affiliation as well as the Instrumental Music School after school program. Ms. Anderson stated that Mr. Noce provides such an augmentation to the academic curriculum, noting that his program enables the students to feel special.

III. Public Comment

1. Kristen Hagerty. Ms. Hagerty stated that she appreciates everything being done to bring in more active learning and learner centered instruction, asked how often data from the Student Opportunity Act would be shared with the community, and thanked the METCO representatives, noting that the SC had planned to review their roles after the first two years and discuss a possible stipend for the representatives.

IV. Consent Agenda

- A. Surplus CCHS Health Books
- B. Exchange Student from Germany for 2024-25 School Year through Cultural Homestay International
- C. Exchange Student from Germany for 2024-25 School Year through AFS International
- D. Joint SC Minutes 2/6/24
- E. CCRSD Staff Child Enrollment Request at CCHS
- F. Warrants

1. CPS A/P

1076 3/21/24 \$113,378.66

1073 3/14/24 \$587,527.31

1072 3/11/24 \$67.23

2. CCRSD A/P

1221 3/19/24 \$137,725.40

1219 3/13/24 \$90,054.85

1218 3/13/24 \$126.92

1208 3/11/24 \$1,625,812.50

1207 2/28/24 \$1,534.25

1220 2/9/24 \$3,930.30

1217 2/9/24 \$2,208.38

3. CPS Payroll

Pay date 3/14/24 \$221,991.43

Pay date 3/14/24 \$358,754.48

4. CCRSD Payroll

Pay date 3/14/24 \$57,419.50

Pay date 3/14/24 \$2,803.31

Pay date 3/14/24 \$19,729.15

Pay date 3/14/24 \$1,675.74

Pay date 3/14/24 \$609,172.27

Pay date 3/14/24 \$73,871.56

Pay date 3/14/24 \$174,985.23

Pay date 3/14/24 \$45,340.08

Mr. Booth asked that Item D, the February 6, 2024 minutes, be pulled off the consent agenda. A motion was made by Mr. Booth, seconded by Ms. Rainey, to approve the consent agenda, with the exception of Item D. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Booth noted his concerns on the February 6, 2024 agenda, including the abbreviation of Mr. DaRosa's remarks and the reference to the CMS name during the comments section made prior to the vote. Ms. Anderson suggested having an MASC rep attend an upcoming meeting to discuss the role and specificity of the minutes and the video recording, and put off approving these minutes, as well as the January 23, 2024 minutes. Regarding the January 23, 2024 minutes, Ms. Rainey noted that there are factually incorrect items and omissions in the minutes. Ms. Marano asked Mr. Booth to bring his suggestions to the February 6, 2024 minutes to the next meeting.

V. Correspondence

Ms. Marano stated that CCSC received 3 pieces of correspondence: one looking for a job and one with feedback to an online webinar. Ms. Anderson stated that CSC received no correspondence.

VI. Discussion

A. Minutes of Jan 23, 2024. Ms. Rainey reviewed her edits and Ms. Marano stated that the edits would be made and brought to the next meeting.

B. CCRSD Budget. Mr. Conry shared an update on the 2025 budget, noting that the initial budget was proposed at a 3.37% increase over the FY24 Adopted Budget and was reduced to 3.08% after reductions were identified. He stated that the state's projections for revenue were approximately \$84,000 less than what was estimated in the budget, noting that the district would need to identify spending cuts to offset the revenue shortfall. Regarding E&D, he stated that \$300,000 has been incorporated into the budget as a revenue source annually, to reduce assessments of the two member towns. He stated that the district plans to utilize \$395,000 more in E&D funds to cover the CCRSD share of exit costs for Minuteman Nashoba Health Group as the district transitions to MIIA for health insurance to cover one-time costs for run off claims.

Mr. Conry stated that he and Dr. Hunter do not recommend reducing the budget, but focus on identifying \$84,000 fairly soon. Ms. Rainey asked if athletic expenditures would be reviewed and Dr. Hunter stated that it is on their radar and that they are in the analysis phase.

C. Amenities Building Options. Ms. Marano stated that Dr. Hunter's recommendation was to fund the design and feasibility study for an amenities building from capital stabilization, noting that Anthony Ansaldi from the Town of Concord is also in agreement. Members noted their support and Mr. Booth asked that the SC see the RFP.

D. School Committee Representatives CPS and CCHS Building Service Worker Negotiations. Mr. Marano asked if anyone would be interested in participating in either negotiations and Ms. Rainey noted her interest.

E. CCHS Travel 2024-2025 First Approval. Ms. Marano stated that there were 4 international trips up for approval and 2 domestic trips. Dr. Hunter stated that the teachers are aware that the SC is concerned with cost, cancellations, and safety. She stated that there is a wide range of costs, reflective of the district hearing that accessibility was important. Dr. Hunter stated that the goal is to publish a four-year trip view to help students and families plan. Members discussed revitalizing the Sharon Young Scholarship Fund.

F. June 30, 2023 E & D Certification. Mr. Conry stated that E&D was certified on March 15, 2024 at \$1,776,766, representing 4.7% of the FY2024 Budget. He noted that the budget would need to be reapproved due to this certification.

VII. Action Items

A. Vote Regarding Amenities Building Warrant Article. A motion was made by Ms. Anderson, seconded by Ms. Rainey, to withdraw Article 21 from the Concord Town Warrant for 2024. The motion was unanimously approved.

B. Vote to Approve CCRSD FY25 Budget Following E and D Certification. A motion was made by Ms. Anderson, seconded by Ms. Rankin, to approve the CCRSD proposed FY25 budget in the amounts above. The motion was unanimously approved. Mr. Conry noted that this was the same budget amount that was previously approved.

C. Vote to Approve Transfer from E and D to cover MNHG Exit Costs. A motion was made by Ms. Anderson, seconded by Ms. Rankin, to approve the use of \$395,888 from E&D to increase the FY24 CCRSD Budget to cover the costs to exit Minuteman Nashoba Health Group. The motion was unanimously approved.

D. Vote to Approve Student Opportunity Act. Ms. Anderson noted that this money has already been received as part of Chapter 70. A motion was made by Ms. Rankin, seconded by Ms. Anderson, to approve the Student Opportunity Act, as written. The motion was unanimously approved.

E. Vote First Approval of CCHS Travel 2024-2025. A motion was made by Mr. Booth, seconded by Ms. Anderson, to approve initial approval of the 2024-2025 CCHS trips, as presented. The motion was unanimously approved.

VIII. Adjournment CCRSC

Ms. Marano adjourned the CCRSC meeting at 7:27 PM.

I. Discussion

A. Thoreau Campus Proposed Plan. Dr. Hunter introduced Tyler King from CHA Consulting. She noted that funds were allocated at Town Meeting in 2023 and proposals were sent out for campus improvements and design. Regarding funding, she noted the donation from the estate in the amount of \$200,000 for the playground portion and the \$200,000 suggestion in the capital plan. Dr. Hunter noted that the total estimated amount is greater than \$400,000, so they are looking at other fundraising efforts and options. Mr. King presented on the project background including the scope of the RFP: performing site assessment, conducting public outreach, and providing recommendations for next steps. He then reviewed the plan that was initially presented in January and the revised plan presented in March which incorporated feedback, including: additional parking and live drop off procedures, resurfacing of hard surfaces, and playgrounds relocation and replacement. He then shared the cost breakdown, broken out into phases, totaling \$672,490.

Principal Sparks noted that the updates to the play spaces would foster over all wellbeing and belonging for the Thoreau students. He stated that the updated recommendations were well received by the community, staff and students. He noted that Safe Roads to School would also be providing feedback. Mr. Booth recommended looking into vehicle charging during the process.

Dr. Hunter stated that Town Meeting would be the next step in community support for the \$200,000 and then they could move forward with proposed next steps.

II. Adjournment CSC

Ms. Anderson adjourned the CSC meeting at 8:04 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Erin E. Higgins

Approved: 5/7/24

Abbreviations:

CCHS	Concord-Carlisle High School
CCRSD	Concord-Carlisle Regional School District
CCSC	Concord-Carlisle Regional District School Committee
CCTA	Concord-Carlisle Teachers' Association
CMS	Concord Middle School
CMSBC	Concord Middle School Building Committee
CPS	Concord Public Schools
CSC	Concord School Committee
CTA	Concord Teachers Association
DEIB	Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging
FINCOM	Finance Committee
PD	Professional Development
SC	School Committee
SEPAC	Special Education Parent Advisory Council