

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
Sharon Whitt, Vice Chair, CCSC
Sara Wilson, CCSC
Ayesha Lawton, CPS METCO Rep

Absent: Domingos DaRosa, CCRSD METCO Rep

Present from Administration: Dr. Laurie Hunter, Superintendent of Schools, CPS & CCRSD
Robert Conry, Asst. Superintendent of Finance & Operations, CPS & CCRSD
Kristen Herbert, Asst. Superintendent of Teaching & Learning, CPS & CCRSD

I. CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Marano called the CCSC meeting to order at 5:30 PM, noting that the meeting was being recorded. Ms. Anderson then called the CSC meeting to order. Roll call attendance was taken: Anderson, aye; Booth, aye; Marano, aye; Rainey, aye; Rankin, aye; Whitt, aye; Wilson, aye.

II. RECOGNITIONS

None.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

IV. READING OF THE MINUTES

A. A motion was made by Ms. Rankin, seconded by Ms. Rainey, to approve the meeting minutes from 1.24.23. The motion passed by roll call: Anderson, aye (for both); Booth, aye (for both); Marano, aye (for both); Rainey, aye (for both); Rankin, aye (for both); Whitt, aye; Wilson, aye.

V. CORRESPONDENCE

Ms. Anderson stated that CSC received one piece of correspondence regarding Article 19 and Ms. Marano stated that CCSC received three pieces of correspondence: one public records request, one from a local business and one regarding a bench donation to CCHS.

VI. CHAIRS, LIAISONS AND SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

Mr. Booth stated that the financial audit meeting was postponed and the 2025 Committee was moving along.

Ms. Rankin stated that Strategic Planning was wrapping up and had been a great experience.

Ms. Whitt stated that DEIB will be holding its Strategic Planning meeting the following night and the Carlisle SC is having a meeting with the community regarding the Sold a Story podcast.

Ms. Wilson stated that the conversation around the Sold a Story podcast would be held tomorrow morning at 9:30 AM in person and in Zoom.

Ms. Rainey stated that the FINCOM hearing was the following night and the DEI Commission was focused on the article for the DEI Director.

Ms. Anderson stated that SEPAC was gearing up for its appreciation awards on May 11th, noting that SEPAC would also be coming to a May SC meeting with their summary report.

Ms. Marano stated that Verizon made a site visit to review the CCHS campus.

Ms. Rankin stated that there would be a policy meeting the following week on Monday, March 6th.

Dr. Hunter stated that she was informed by DESE that they are about to place long-term stays at the homeless shelter as soon as March 13th, noting that this was a substantial change to the information previously received involving only short term stays. She stated that she has connected with the Superintendent of Salem who turned a dormitory at Salem State into homeless housing in December, noting that transportation had been the biggest impact for them. She stated that the musical Xanadu Jr. at CMS is opening on Friday and running through the weekend.

Ms. Wilson noted that Carlisle's middle school musical, Footloose, was coming up in March.

Mr. Booth noted that at the Select Board meeting, they stated that the MOC group does not have a contract with DHCB, asking how DHCB speaks with DESE. Dr. Hunter stated that the agencies are speaking with each other in a circular manner.

VII. DISCUSSION

A. Superintendent Evaluation. Ms. Anderson stated that rubric she shared out includes the focus indicators that Dr. Hunter would be evaluated on. She asked if anyone had interest in having MASC rep, Dorothy Presser, review the evaluation process due to the fact that three members had never been through the process. Ms. Rankin, Mr. Booth, and Ms. Marano expressed their interest in meeting with Ms. Presser. Ms. Anderson stated that she would be sending out the evaluation forms this week, noting that they will be due Friday, April 7th, to be presented at the April 25th SC meeting.

Ayesha Lawton joined the Zoom meeting.

B. Spring Forum. Ms. Marano stated that the SC would be holding a spring forum, noting that Ms. Wilson suggested mental health as a potential topic. Ms. Anderson agreed that mental health and well-being felt like a particularly acute issue for the students at this time. Ms. Marano noted that the YRBS results could also be brought into the forum discussions and Ms. Rainey stated that it was critical that the SC review the YRBS results prior to holding a forum. Ms. Herbert noted that the results from about 2012 are on the website under Teaching & Learning, noting that you can see the progression and change throughout the years. She stated that they are working now on how to address the issues coming up in the survey through MTSS, noting that she would be happy to present what is happening at the schools on each level of need and what is available to families. Mr. Booth stated that a forum around mental health would make mental health more discussable, suggesting other agencies be involved as well. Dr. Hunter stated that the new Health Director in Concord has been gathering different people from town departments to talk about mental health. Ms. Wilson suggested having someone from each school level provide guidance as well. Ms. Rankin noted her support, stating that families are looking to schools on how to address this issue.

C. School Committee Coffee Schedule. Ms. Marano stated that there would be several spring coffees and Ms. Lawton suggested having the Boston coffee at a more central location in Dorchester to have more parents to come. Ms. Rankin shared the schedule and location of the meetings in Boston, Carlisle and Concord and the SC discussed spreading the word through different channels.

D. CCHS Dean of Students. Dr. Hunter stated that there were many factors leading to the recommendation of moving forward with a CCHS Dean of Students, including having someone dedicated to student facing issues as their primary focus on a proactive basis. She shared the draft job description, which was aligned with the Strategic Plan, including: being a lead on MTSS work and restorative justice, acting in a supervisory role in problematic situations, and liaising with students and families in need. Dr. Hunter noted that the leadership structure at CCHS is the same as CMS for twice as many students and stated that this position would free the other administrators to do the big picture work

at a much deeper level. Regarding budget impact, she stated that the district has confirmed a few retirements and there may be options after seeing where teachers' time was being allocated after students sign up for courses. She noted it would be a school year based position, totaling 200 days. Mr. Booth stated that the responsibilities seem very extraordinarily wide and broad and urged Dr. Hunter to pause and look at a tighter focus, also asking how this would impact current roles. Dr. Hunter stated that it was an oversight position, being a spoke to the current roles in place. Regarding the structure of CCHS Administration, Ms. Wilson stated that it would nice to see the silos and what the different positions are supporting. Ms. Marano noted her support of the position, stating that it was a necessary position and would allow the high school to run more efficiently.

VIII. ACTION ITEM

A. Vote to Approve Staff Enrollment Request. A motion was made by Ms. Rankin, for both CSC and CCSC, seconded by Mr. Booth, for both CSC and CCSC, to approve the following staff request to enroll her children in Concord Public Schools/Concord-Carlisle Regional School District for the 2023-2024 school year, and that tuition be waived: Administrator – two children to enroll in Kindergarten at Alcott. The motion passed by roll call: Anderson, aye (for both); Booth, aye (for both); Marano, aye (for both); Rainey, aye (for both); Rankin, aye (for both); Whitt, aye; Wilson, aye.

IX. ADJOURNMENT CCSC

Ms. Marano adjourned the CCSC meeting at 6:45 PM.

X. DISCUSSION

A. CMSBC Update. Ms. Anderson stated that the CMSBC would be meeting again on Thursday and noted that the bids would be coming in on April 21st. She stated that Town Meeting would be held April 30th. Ms. Anderson stated that the CMSBC had created an alternative deduct list should the bids be in excess of the \$87 million estimate, triggering deductions in the project scope. Mr. Booth noted that the alt deducts would allow the project to move forward without having dire consequences for kids or teachers. Ms. Anderson noted that the alt deducts are stand-alone pieces of the project.

B. CPS Budget Update. Ms. Anderson stated that the Town recommended that CPS increase the budget by 3.3%, noting that the current recommended budget is 4.7%, or a delta of just under \$600,000. Mr. Booth noted that the reductions list that FINCOM viewed were produced independent of the SC, noting that they have not debated or discussed them yet. Ms. Anderson stated that the FINCOM chair had asked for the list, noting her reluctance to share it. Mr. Booth stated that he would hope the SC would have a chance to discuss things presented in its name, noting that he does not think the FINCOM has the authority to demand this information. Ms. Rainey noted the stress and anxiety this is adding to student and teacher mental health, stating that she does not feel this should happen again unless the SC discusses it first. Ms. Anderson stated that the SC works in partnership with FINCOM, so she felt that she needed to provided them the list since they asked for it. Ms. Marano stated that the SC had the opportunity to discuss the list at its meeting on Monday, noting that there was not a lot of discussion around the list.

Ms. Rainey asked what COLA would be put into the 5-year projections and Mr. Conry stated that he believed it was a little over 3%, including steps and lanes. Dr. Hunter stated that the district worked together with FINCOM on the 5-year projections, noting that the further out the data goes, the less reliable it is. Mr. Conry stated that there are many factors making FY24 particularly challenging, noting that the 4.7% increase is not a precedent. Ms. Marano noted that 4.7% is a level service budget. Ms. Anderson stated that she feels the SC should be presenting a budget that captures and addresses students' needs, while ensuring these needs do not adversely harm the taxpayers. She stated that they would be having further dialogue with the FINCOM at the upcoming hearing. Ms. Rankin stated that the budget was level service, at a time when there are extreme needs from mental health, special education, utilities and COVID fall out, noting that they need to look at the bigger picture as a town and not cut things that are important for the students.

XI. ACTION ITEMS

A. Approve CEF Donation for Responsive Classroom. A motion was made by Mr. Booth, seconded by Ms. Marano, to accept a donation from the Concord Education Fund for Responsive Classroom, the elementary social emotional approach, in the amount of \$60,000, with gratitude. The motion passed by roll call: Anderson, aye; Booth, aye; Marano, aye; Rainey, aye; Rankin, aye.

XII. ADJOURNMENT CSC

Ms. Anderson adjourned the CSC meeting at 7:33 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Erin E. Higgins

Approved: 4.11.23

Abbreviations:

ARPA	American Rescue Plan Act
CCACE	Concord Carlisle Adult and Community Education
CCHS	Concord-Carlisle High School
CCRSD	Concord-Carlisle Regional School District
CCSC	Concord-Carlisle Regional District School Committee
CCTA	Concord-Carlisle Teachers' Association
CEF	Concord Education Fund
CMLP	Concord Municipal Light Plant
CMS	Concord Middle School
CMSBC	Concord Middle School Building Committee
COAR	Communities Organizing Against Racism
CPS	Concord Public Schools
CSC	Concord School Committee
CTA	Concord Teachers Association
DEIB	Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging
DHCB	Department of Housing and Community Development
ELA	English Language Arts
ESSER	Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund
FINCOM	Finance Committee
MOC	Making Opportunities Count
MTSS	Multi-Tiered System of Supports
PD	Professional Development
SC	School Committee
SEPAC	Special Education Parent Advisory Council
YRBS	Youth Risk Behavior Survey