

JOINT SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Concord-Carlisle School Committee
Concord School Committee
September 17, 2024

Present: Julie Viola, Chair; CCSC
Carrie Rankin, Chair CSC; CCSC
Cynthia Rainey, CSC; CCSC
Andrew Herchek, CSC; CCSC
Tracey Marano, CSC; CCSC
Brian Waterson, CCSC
Alexa Anderson, Vice Chair CCSC; CSC
Ayesha Lawton, CSC METCO Rep

Present from Administration: Dr. Laurie Hunter, Superintendent of School, CPS & CCRSD
Robert Conry, Asst. Supt. of Finance & Operations, CPS & CCRSD
Shelly Chin, Interim Assistant Superintendent, CPS & CCRSD

I. CALL TO ORDER – CONCORD SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Ms. Rankin called the Concord School Committee (CSC) to order at 5:45 PM. Ms. Marano motioned to move the Concord School Committee into Executive Session under Purpose Three of the Open Meeting Law to conduct strategy with respect to collective bargaining with the CPS Building Service Workers and to return to open session. Roll call attendance was taken: Herchek, aye; Marano, aye; Rainey, aye; Rankin, aye; Anderson, aye.

II. CALL TO ORDER – CONCORD CARLISLE SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Ms. Viola called the Concord-Carlisle School Committee to order at 6:00 PM.

Ms. Marano moved, and Mr. Herchek seconded the motion to move Discussion Item A – EEE Eastern Equine Encephalitis earlier on the agenda. Roll call was taken: Anderson, aye; Herchek, aye; Marano, aye; Rainey, aye; Rankin, aye; Viola, aye; Waterson, aye.

Melanie Dineen, Public Health Director of the Town of Concord, shared an update on the Triple E virus. Due to positive mosquito virus tests, the town is considered a high-risk area. The Board of Health recommends limiting outdoor activities at night, and sports teams are urged to adjust their schedules accordingly. To combat the virus, the town is spraying fields and perimeter areas at night while the school district has been closing events at dusk.

Ms. Rankin moved, and Mr. Herchek seconded the motion to approve the Department of Health recommendation to ban all nighttime activities until the EEE health crisis passes. Roll call was taken: Anderson, aye; Herchek, aye; Marano, aye; Rainey, aye; Rankin, aye; Viola, aye; Waterson, aye.

III. CCHS STUDENT UPDATES

High school committee members Maddie Clancy, Zariah Alves, and Felicity Zhang presented updates on student activities, including Kicks for Cancer, Mighty Moose, the Student Senate Activities Fair, the Performing Arts Convocation, the CC Theater play 'Trap,' and the

upcoming visit of Japanese exchange students. Other student highlights included the National Merit Semifinalist announcements and assisting the League of Women Voters National Voter Registration Day which was held in the library.

IV. RECOGNITIONS – PRESCHOOL SHELTER VOLUNTEERS

Concord Family Coordinator Andrea Wohler and volunteer Melissa Cherish were recognized for their exceptional work in establishing a preschool program designed for families residing in shelters. Massachusetts does not provide subsidies for preschool education, leading to challenges related to funding, space, transportation, and volunteer resources. To address these obstacles, educators and counselors were invited to volunteer their time and expertise to support the program, which successfully support forty-nine students. A video presentation of the program highlighted its positive impact on the preschool students.

V. PUBLIC COMMENT

Michael Williams thanked Dr. Hunter and the school committee for their work on honoring Ellen Garrison with the naming of a new building in her honor at the middle school.

VI. CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Joint Minutes 8/20/24
- b. Policies Approval: Policies D-H
- c. Surplus CCHS Science Department Equipment
- d. Surplus CCHS Math Department Materials
- e. Accept the Following Donations:
 1. \$20,679.88 Distribution from Manual Training School Donations Trust Fund
 2. \$5,146.70 Distribution from the High School Donations Trust Fund
 3. \$4,732.28 Distribution from the Public-School Donations Trust Fund
 4. \$6,200.00 Donation for New Drumline for the CCHS Band from Concord250 Corporation
- f. Warrants
 1. CPS A/P
1018 9/3/24 \$343,169.90
 2. CPS Payroll
Pay date 9/12/24 \$207,215.10
Pay date 9/12/24 \$353,660.03
 3. CCRSD A/P
1048 9/5/24 \$104,750.27
1049 9/5/24 \$6,552.75
 4. CCRSD Payroll
Pay date 9/12/24 \$41,621.39
Pay date 9/12/24 \$174,416.13
Pay date 9/12/24 \$74,647.47
Pay date 9/12/24 \$607,903.73

Mr. Waterson moved, and Ms. Rainey seconded the motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Roll call was taken: Anderson, aye; Herchek, aye; Marano, aye; Rainey, aye; Rankin, aye; Viola, aye; Waterson, aye.

VII. CORRESPONDENCE

No correspondence was received since the last committee meeting.

VIII. SUPERINTENDENT, CHAIRS AND LIAISONS UPDATE

Dr. Hunter has been actively involved meeting with various groups including the new SEPAC leadership; the Concord Education Fund; METCO PTG; the Sustainability Committee; the new PTG Presidents; Case Collaborative; a Superintendent Roundtable; and her first Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents meeting that focused on equity work. Additionally, she has attended three back-to-school nights, with three more to come.

Ms. Marano accompanied Mark Howell from the building committee on a tour of the middle school. This visit helped solidify plans for the complete electrification of the new building. Additionally, the town is proposing to allocate \$100,000 in ARPA funding towards a study exploring potential options for the Doug White fields.

Mr. Waterson stated the Carlisle Finance Committee has a new liaison for both Carlisle and the region, Carlisle Select Board Member Scott Triola.

Ms. Rankin recently toured the new Concord Middle School, which is now fully powered and has landscaping installed. She and Ms. Viola have reached out to school leaders to arrange breakfast roundtable discussions, and both met with all Concord Parent Teacher Groups.

Mr. Conroy is finalizing a draft of the Capital and Budget Plan to present at the committee's next meeting on October 8th prior to presenting it to FINCOM.

IX. DISCUSSION

A. EEE – This item was moved up earlier in the agenda by consensus vote.

B. School Committee Goals

The Committee reviewed the four primary school committee goals: Student Achievement and Success, Community Relations and Outreach, Budget-Based Goals, and School Committee Operations. SMART goals were reviewed, and specific metrics or targets were added to help the committee track achievement progress.

C. CCHS FY25 Status

Mr. Conroy presented the current CCHS FY25 budget and identified projected surpluses and deficits. Cost increases include Out of District Tuitions (OOD), IT budget lines, and SPED Contract Services. The increases all occurred since the budget was developed last winter. Teacher salaries are favorable by approximately \$108k, which factors in CCTA contract settling at 3.0% for FY25 vs. a budget of 2.75% COLA increase.

D. Policy to Discuss

IJNDD: Policy on Social Media

This policy is specific to staff members and not students and was last revised by MASC in 2016. A brief discussion was held on 1) renaming the policy to *Policy on Electronic Communication* to include email and texting 2) banning individual contact between student

and staff without prior approval from the Superintendent or their designee and 3) athletic coaches must always include another adult in any communication to the sports team.

X. ACTION ITEMS

A. Vote to Approve Bond Anticipation Note (BAN)

Ms. Anderson moved, and Mr. Herchek seconded the motion that the Concord-Carlisle Regional School Committee vote to approve the sale of the \$1,042,173, 4.90 percent General Obligation Bond Anticipation Notes (the “Notes”) of the district dated October 2, 2024, and payable October 2, 2025, to Unibank for savings at par and accrued interest, if any. Roll call was taken: Anderson, aye; Herchek, aye; Marano, aye; Rainey, aye; Rankin, aye; Viola, aye; Waterson, aye.

XI. ADJOURNMENT CCRSC

Ms. Viola adjourned the Concord Carlisle Regional School Committee meeting at 8:30 p.m. The Concord School Committee remained in session.

XII. DISCUSSION

Ms. Marano moved, and Ms. Rainey seconded to change the order of the agenda to 1) CMS Unified Basketball 2) Grade 8 Washington, DC Trip June 2025 3) CPS FY25 Status, and 4) CPS Building Service Workers Contract. Roll call was taken: Anderson, aye; Herchek, aye; Marano, aye; Rainey, aye; Rankin, aye.

A. CMS Unified Basketball

Mr. Justin Cameron commended third-year student Kate Blackham for her initiative and determination in establishing a Unified Basketball program at the middle school. Her advocacy and promotion of Unified Basketball, along with the school committee's support for CCHS, have inspired faculty and staff at Concord Middle School.

B. Vote to Approve Grade 8 Washington, DC Trip June 2025

A brief discussion was held on the agenda, travel costs, and fundraising efforts for the annual trip to Washington, DC. in June 2025. Families who struggle with trip costs may use scholarships, fundraising, and payment plans to defer the costs to help pay for trip expenses.

C. CPS FY25 Status

Mr. Conroy presented the current FY25 CPS Budget which has similar deficits as the CCRSD including Out of District Tuitions (OOD), IT budget lines, and SPED Contract Services. Teacher salaries are favorable by approximately \$5k, and it factors in both the CTA contract and COLA increases.

X. ACTION ITEMS

A. Vote to Approve Grade 8 Washington, DC Trip June 2025

Ms. Anderson moved, and Ms. Marano seconded the motion to approve the Grade 8 Washington DC Trip June 2025 as presented in the agenda. Roll call was taken: Anderson, aye; Herchek, aye; Marano, aye; Rainey, aye; Rankin, aye.

B. Vote to Approve CPS Building Service Workers Contract 2024-2027

Ms. Anderson moved, and Ms. Marano seconded the motion to approve CPS Building Service

Workers Contract 3-year Successor Agreement for the period of 2024-2027. Roll call was taken: Anderson, aye; Herchek, aye; Marano, aye; Rainey, aye; Rankin, aye.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Rankin moved, and Ms. Rainey seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:50 PM. Roll call was taken: Anderson, aye; Herchek, aye; Marano, aye; Rainey, aye; Rankin, aye.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Gilmore

Approved: 10.8.24

Abbreviations:

CCHS Concord-Carlisle High School
CCRSD Concord-Carlisle Regional School District
CCSC Concord-Carlisle Regional District School Committee
CCTA Concord-Carlisle Teachers' Association
CEF Concord Education Fund
CMS Concord Middle School
CMSBC Concord Middle School Building Committee
COAR Communities Organizing Against Racism
CPC Community Preservation Committee
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
ESSER Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund
FINCOM Finance Committee
LEAP Learning Executive and Academic Processes
MTSS Multi-Tiered System of Supports
PD Professional Development
SC School Committee
SEPAC Special Education Parent Advisory Council
WRAP Writing, Reading, and Academic Processes
YRBS Youth Risk Behavior Survey