

CONCORD SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Concord School Committee
Ripley Building
February 14, 2019

Present: Johanna Boynton, Chair, CSC; CCSC
Wallace Johnston, Vice Chair, CSC; CCSC
Robert Grom, Chair, CCSC; CSC
Heather Bout, CSC; CCSC
Courtland Booth, CSC; CCSC

Present from Administration: Dr. Laurie Hunter, Superintendent of Schools, CPS & CCRSD
Jared Stanton, Director of Finance & Operations, CPS & CCRSD

I. CALL TO ORDER

The CSC meeting was called to order at 11:32 AM by Ms. Boynton. A motion was made by Ms. Bout, seconded by Mr. Johnston, for the CSC to enter into Executive Session under Purpose 3 of the Open Meeting Law: To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body and return to Open Session at approximately 12:00 noon. The motion passed by roll call: Mr. Johnston, aye; Ms. Boynton, aye; Mr. Grom, aye; Ms. Bout, aye; Mr. Booth, aye.

At 12:00 PM, Ms. Boynton called the CSC meeting back into order, noting that they were being recorded live.

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

III. READING OF THE MINUTES – Open Session CPS Meeting – 1/8/19. A motion was made by Mr. Booth, seconded by Ms. Bout, to approve the Open Session minutes of 1/8/19. The motion was unanimously approved.

IV. RECOGNITIONS – Integrated Preschool. Dr. Hunter stated that this portion of the meeting would be rescheduled due to the time of the meeting.

V. CHAIRS & LIAISONS REPORT

Mr. Grom stated that he visited the FINCOM meeting, noting that they approved the motion to ask the Select Board to create a municipal building committee and a facilities planning committee. He stated that the Select Board would be voting on the creation of the committees. Ms. Bout noted that she had a question regarding how the SC feels about these committees at one of the CMS info sessions. She noted her personal concern of having another big planning study done and thus causing a delay in the CMS building project. Mr. Booth stated that he didn't feel that this was intended to reset the clock for the middle school. Mr. Johnston stated that he felt as though they were separate conversations, noting that there should be SC input on the building committee. Ms. Boynton noted that these types of committees take a long time to form, and noted that the new Alcott building was being done when the 2003 Facilities Committee was meeting.

Ms. Bout stated that she attended the Select Board meeting, noting that they asked questions about CMS and ballot election questions.

VI. CORRESPONDENCE

Ms. Boynton stated that they received an email with questions regarding CMS and an email thanking Ms. Bout for her support and efforts.

VII. REPORTS FOR DISCUSSION

A. CMS Facilities Presentation. Ms. Boynton and Ms. Bout shared the CMS Facilities Presentation. Ms. Boynton shared the overview, including the history with the MSBA and cost and control. Ms. Bout reviewed the building

histories, noting that the only major work done in recent years was new boilers and the addition of modular classrooms. She noted that Peabody was designed as an open concept elementary school and was opened as an overflow for Sanborn. Ms. Bout shared the history of the Facilities Planning Committee and the findings of the Finegold Alexander Architects, stating that the themes that emerged were: that the buildings were at the end of their lifespan, the 2 campus configuration is inefficient and expensive and the that the current situation creates a struggle for the school community. She noted that the estimated cost to remain in the current buildings for 10 years and would cost \$34-\$47 million.

Ms. Boynton reviewed the current conditions, including: operational inefficiency, outdated infrastructure, aging equipment, overcrowded buildings and educational shortcomings. Ms. Bout noted that a new building would enable a completely new curriculum at another level from where it currently is. She reviewed MSBA process and timeline, noting that applying many times doesn't mean you'll eventually get in. Ms. Boynton reviewed project costs, noting that based on average costs and the 2017 Finegold Alexander study, the total estimated cost in 2019 is approximately \$81 million, but with construction growth costs and timeline, likely cost is \$90 million plus range. She shared a slide on town fiscal factors and school building debt, noting that with the \$90 million estimate and 4.25% interest over 25 year term, the average median household tax impact would be \$764. Mr. Booth noted that the costs associated with maintaining the buildings should a new building project not occur should be included in the information presented. Mr. Stanton noted that the median household valuation is \$881,550 for 2019.

Ms. Bout shared the costs of waiting and shared major infrastructure failure risks, including: heating lines, sarnafil PVS roofs and septic systems. She stated, assuming waiting a year to reapply for MSBA funding, the total waiting cost would be \$6.3 – 22.3 million. Ms. Bout reviewed the MSBA reimbursement, stating that on a \$90 million building, the estimated reimbursement would be \$18-22.5 million. She noted that there is a significant chance that waiting could cost Concord more.

Ms. Boynton shared benefits of self-funding, including: school design that meets the needs of the students and teachers, school design that enables incremental community value, accelerated construction timeline by 1-2 years and potential savings of \$6.3-22.3 million.

Ms. Boynton noted that they would share the date and time of Town Meeting on the presentation as well as the Ballot Vote information. She noted that there would be addendums to the presentation from Finegold Alexander. The SC discussed the level of detail to be included in the slides and communication strategy.

Ms. Bout stated that the Facilities Planning Committee has been meeting on the educational visioning work, noting that they had a parent forum that was well attended. She noted that they've received feedback from middle school students and have also received feedback results from a recent survey. She also noted that they would receive teacher feedback as well through a survey. Ms. Bout stated that they visited the new middle school in Scituate, noting how inspirational their new school building was.

Ms. Bout stated that the tours of Peabody and Sanborn would be starting the upcoming weekend and shared tour notes and the list of upcoming tour times/dates. Mr. Booth noted that the residents might already have formed opinions of the buildings prior to the tours.

B. CMS Warrant Article Update and Planning. Ms. Boynton stated that there's a town election that happens before Town Meeting. She noted that when you ask for debt exclusion in town, the common practice is to go before the polls and Town Meeting. She stated that since the election is before Town Meeting, they would need to request that they have a ballot vote after Town Meeting should it be approved. Dr. Hunter noted that if they wanted it in the general election, the SC would have to decide today since it would be voted on Tuesday night. Mr. Johnston noted that they community likes to discuss things at Town Meeting.

A motion was made by Ms. Bout, seconded by Mr. Grom, to delay the discussion on goals (CSC – Goals Update) until the next CPS meeting. The motion was unanimously approved.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

A. FY19 CPS Budget Transfers. Mr. Stanton stated that there were \$9,017.97 in transfers.

B. CPS Monthly Variance Report. Mr. Stanton shared the CPS Monthly Variance Report, noting that they continue to be in good shape, with an available balance of \$1.62 million. He noted the 9,000s (Programs with other Districts) had significantly gone down due to reclassification of circuit breaker. He stated that they have encumbered everything that they know of.

IX. OLD BUSINESS

A. CSC Goals Update. *(To be discussed at next CPS meeting)*

B. Alcott Principal Search Update. Ms. Boynton stated that they drafted questions and are reviewing the 15 or so resumes of potential candidates. She stated that they will narrow the pool down to 8 candidates and would be interviewing after the break.

IX. ACTION ITEMS

A. Vote to approve improvements to Alcott Baseball/Softball Field. A motion was made by Ms. Bout, seconded by Mr. Johnston, to approve improvements to the Alcott Baseball/Softball Field. The motion was unanimously approved, with thanks. Ms. Boynton noted Steve Soares' work with the kids of baseball and softball.

B. Vote to accept Enrichment Fund donation. A motion was made by Ms. Bout, seconded by Mr. Johnston, to accept a donation from the Enrichment Fund in the amount of \$32.

Public Comment: Cory Spaulding, Framingham resident. Ms. Spaulding questioned if the Enrichment Fund was the name of the non-profit fiscal sponsor and Ms. Boynton stated that she would find out.

The motion was unanimously approved.

C. Vote new membership CMS Facilities Planning Committee. A motion was made by Ms. Bout, seconded by Mr. Booth, to seat teachers Seeta Durvasula and Megan Hogan Steadman, and resident Dawn Guarriello to the Facilities Planning Committee to replace those members who left. The motion was unanimously approved.

X. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Mr. Booth, seconded by Ms. Bout, adjourn the meeting. The motion was unanimously approved and the meeting adjourned at 1:43PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Erin E. Higgins

Abbreviations:

ACLU	American Civil Liberties Union
CASE	Cooperative Association for Special Education
CEF	Concord Education Fund
CSC	Concord School Committee
CCSC	Concord-Carlisle Regional District School Committee
CMLP	Concord Municipal Light Plant
CPA	Community Preservation Act
CPC	Community Preservation Committee
CPS	Concord Public Schools
CCRSD	Concord-Carlisle Regional School District
CCHS	Concord-Carlisle High School
CHPS	The Collaborative for High Performance Schools
CSEC	Comprehensive Sustainable Energy Committee

CPW	Concord Public Works
CTA	Concord Teachers Association
DESE	Department of Elementary & Secondary Education
ELA	English Language Arts
EOYR	End of the Year
FAAC	Financial Audit Advisory Committee
FINCOM	Finance Committee
FCCPF	Friends of Concord Carlisle Playing Fields
GASB	Governmental Accounting Standards Firm
MAAB	Massachusetts Architectural Access Board
MASC	Massachusetts Association of School Committees
MIAA	Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association
NEASC	New England Association of Schools and Colleges
NESDEC	The New England School Development Council
NFPA	National Fire Protection Association
OPEB	Other Post-Employment Benefits
PEG	Public Education Government
RTI	Response to Intervention
SEPAC	Special Education Parent Advisory Council
SOI	Statement of Interest
SPED	Special Education
SWOT	Strengths, Weakness, Opportunities, Threats
YRBS	Youth Risk Behavior Survey