

JOINT SCHOOL COMMITTEE WORKSHOP

Concord-Carlisle School Committee
Concord School Committee
Ripley Building
August 27, 2019

Present: Wallace Johnston, Chair, CCSC; CSC
David Model, Vice Chair, CCSC
Heather Bout, Chair, CSC; CCSC
Courtland Booth, Vice Chair, CSC; CCSC
Yuval Erlich, CSC, CCSC
Cynthia Rainey, CSC, CCSC
Eva Mostoufi, CCSC

Present from Administration: Dr. Laurie Hunter, Superintendent of Schools, CPS & CCRSD

Absent from Administration: Jared Stanton, Director of Finance & Operations, CPS & CCRSD

I. CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Bout called the CSC meeting to order at 5:14 PM, noting that they were being recorded. Mr. Johnston then called the CCSC meeting to order.

Dr. Hunter stated that they had a fantastic opening day for teachers, noting the strong energy and enthusiasm. She stated that they do have a candidate secured for the administrative position at the high school, Jared Wickham, coming from Newton. She stated that the funding source is due to the Governor's increased revenue, noting that Mr. Stanton will be coming in September with positive news on E&D.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

III. ISSUES FOR DISCUSSION

A. MASC: School Committee Practices and Procedures. Dorothy Presser, Field Director at MASC, stated that she was going to provide an overview of roles and responsibilities of the school committees. She stated that, according to the National School Boards Association, the overall responsibility of the school committee is student achievement, noting that this doesn't just mean test scores. She shared attributes of school committees that have positive impacts on student achievement, including: visions of high expectations, accountability, strong relationships with superintendents and all stakeholders, data for project monitoring, and united team leading. She also shared practices of effective school boards, including: goal setting, progress monitoring, varied and purposeful meetings focused on student achievement, self-governance, professional development, and collaboration with the superintendent. Ms. Presser shared effective school committee – superintendent team attributes, the roles of committee members and the superintendent and informed oversight in balanced governance. She shared the importance of goal setting for overall student achievement. Ms. Presser reviewed responsibilities within: policy, personnel, and budget. Ms. Presser and the school committee members discussed the roles of the chairs and members, as well as overall practices and protocols.

The school committee thanked Ms. Presser for attending and then took a brief recess at approximately 6:40 PM, returning at 7:10 PM.

Mr. Booth reviewed the practice of reviewing a draft agenda several days before the final draft and Mr. Johnston recommended waiting to add it as a practice. The school committee discussed the value of having days to review the topics on the agenda, but also the issue of not having all of the information available that early.

Mr. Johnston recommended reviewing the practices and protocols and updating as needed.

B. Strategic Plan Overview. Dr. Hunter stated that, in January of 2018, the desire for systemic work was apparent. She stated that, through work with consultant Lori Likis, they worked on the strategic plan from January to June 2018. She noted that 50 stakeholders were involved in the process, each holding focus groups with their own constituents, on a visionary look ahead of what they schools would look like in 5 years. She stated that they held forums, surveyed the middle and high school students and held focus groups with staff. Dr. Hunter reviewed the 4 strategic objectives: multiple paths to success, well-being, inclusive culture, and innovative environment, noting that academics aren't included in these because the expectation for high performing is an assumption. She noted that this is a growth plan and the academic initiatives are sustaining. Dr. Hunter reviewed the strategic initiatives for each objective, noting that many of the outcomes were qualitative. Mr. Booth noted that several initiatives were added over the last year and Dr. Hunter stated that it's a fluid plan and they were hoping to receive feedback on.

Mr. Yuval asked what the progress was in well-being at CCHS and Dr. Hunter stated that they have the ongoing advisory program, direct instruction, and therapeutic opportunities in supportive settings, noting that the classroom day to day interactions are most important. She noted that Ms. Herbert would also be running a Social-Emotional Curriculum Committee. Dr. Hunter stated that they are working with teachers and also providing professional development opportunities. Mr. Yuval suggested hearing from Challenge Success on how they see the process in CCHS. Dr. Hunter stated that the action plans are still being developed, but noted that the middle and high school have rebooted their Challenge Success programs in the last year. She noted that there was no master direction in the first few years of Challenge Success. Mr. Model suggested that the school committee be more of a liaison with the community to embrace the issue. Mr. Erlich suggested having Challenge Success present to them and Dr. Hunter noted that they've had discussions about finding captive audiences to talk to. Mr. Model stated that the parents need to attend a Challenge Success session, noting his own experience with attending a session. Ms. Mostoufi stated that there is always low attendance to talks she's attended, suggesting they make it possible for parents to view from home. The school committee agreed that this was a priority to look at and Mr. Model suggested reaching out to nearby schools in Concord for their approach.

Dr. Hunter stated the action plans and school improvement plans would be coming in September.

C. School Committee Goals 2019-2020. Dr. Hunter noted that they normally finalized goals during the November meetings and Mr. Booth noted that the goals are not solely driven by the strategic plan. Ms. Bout reviewed the CCSC and CSC goals from 2018-2019 and the school committee then discussed which goals were still relevant to include, rephrase or add to the 2019-2020 goals. Ms. Mostoufi noted that they should use the Strategic Plan as a lens through which they develop their goals for the upcoming year.

Mr. Johnston noted that they hired a special education administrator for the high school and recognized the effort of onboarding. Ms. Bout noted that there is pacing involved in all of the goals to enable the social/emotional health of the staff that they strive for with the students. Mr. Johnston stated that they need to recognize all that they are asking the district to do. Dr. Hunter stated that they have made a lot of progress in the last 2 years but remain careful that they don't become a top down mandate. She noted that all of their initiatives are very complimentary. Mr. Model stated that the new sped team that's in transition should stay focused on the basic building blocks and, regarding community engagement, they should encourage more communication between Concord and Carlisle. He stated that, regarding the budget, he'd like to have a meaningful subcommittee engagement with true engagement by the school committee in the budget process. Mr. Johnston described the current budget process and Mr. Erlich noted the turnaround of those members involved.

Ms. Bout stated that she would share a summary of her notes with everyone.

IV. ACTION ITEMS

A. Vote to approve staff request to enroll child at Concord-Carlisle High School. A motion was made by Ms. Rainey, seconded by Mr. Erlich, to approve the request of Mr. Fang to enroll his child in Concord-Carlisle High School and that tuition be waived. The motion was unanimously approved.

V. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Johnston noted that he would not be attending the next 2 meetings, but would attempt to dial in.

A motion was made by Mr. Ms. Rainey, for both CSC and CCSC, seconded by Mr. Johnston, for both CSC and CCSC, to adjourn the meeting. The motion was unanimously approved and the meeting adjourned at 9:14 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Erin E. Higgins

Approved: 9/24/19

Abbreviations:

CCHS	Concord-Carlisle High School
CEF	Concord Education Fund
CSC	Concord School Committee
CCSC	Concord-Carlisle Regional District School Committee
CMS	Concord Middle School
CPS	Concord Public Schools
CCRSD	Concord-Carlisle Regional School District
CCHS	Concord-Carlisle High School
DESE	Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education
E&D	Excess and Deficiency
MASC	Massachusetts Association of School Committees
NEASC	New England Association of Schools and Colleges
OPM	Owner's Project Manager
PTG	Parent Teacher Group