

Present:

Sara Wilson, Chair, CCSC
Heather Bout, Vice Chair, CCSC; CSC
Courtland Booth, Chair, CSC; CCSC
Cynthia Rainey, Vice Chair, CSC; CCSC
Eva Mostoufi, CCSC
Alexa Anderson, CSC; CCSC
Fatima Mezdad, 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 CCSC meeting was called to order by Ms. Wilson at 5:33 PM and the CSC meeting was then called to order by Mr. Booth. Roll call attendance was taken: Anderson, aye; Booth, aye; Bout, aye; Rainey, aye; Mostoufi, aye; Wilson, aye. Ms. Wilson noted that the meeting was being recorded.

Concord FINCOM members introduced themselves: Mary Hartman, Chair; Christine Reynolds, Vice Chair; Dee Ortner, Observer to the SC; Dean Banfield; Greg Guarriello; John Hickling; Kathy Cuocolo; Ray Andrews; Andrea Zall.

Carlisle FINCOM members introduced themselves: Jim Darr, Chair; Melissa McMorrow, SC liaison.

School Committee members introduced themselves: Alexa Anderson, Court Booth, Heather Bout, Fatima Mezdad, Eva Mostoufi, Cynthia Rainey, Sara Wilson. Mr. Stanton introduced Dr. Hunter and Ian Rhames, Assistant Business Manager.

II. DISCUSSION

A. School Finance Overview Presentation. Mr. Stanton shared his School Finance presentation, reviewing in depth the following topics: Budget Structure and Reporting, Type of Funds, Zero Based Budget Process, Regional Assessments, Financial Impact of Enrollment Shifts, Funding Sources, Regional Agreement, Excess & Deficiency (E&D), Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB), and Municipal Finance Laws. Regarding the Regional Assessments, Mr. Banfield asked if the district had embarked on revisiting the Regional Agreement based on former School Committee member, Dan Conti's recommendation. Dr. Hunter stated that in the fall of 2019, the School Committee discussed reopening the Regional Agreement and agreed they did not want to reopen it based on the size and scope of the process and the fact that it was working the way it was. Mr. Stanton answered specific budget questions around circuit breaker, excess & deficiency, and revolving funds. Mr. Stanton provided an Appendix of definitions of terms used throughout the presentation.

B. Concord Finance Committee Sustainable Growth Rate and Guidelines. Christine Reynolds shared the Concord Finance Committee Guidelines Process FY2022 presentation, noting that the preliminary guidelines would be published by the end of January and the final guidelines would be published by the end of February. She noted that the sustainable growth rate informs the guidelines. Ms. Reynolds reviewed the items included in inputs: non-property tax revenue projections, fixed expense projections, levy limit capacity, reserves, and potential expense offsets; and the process for determining the guidelines.

C. Carlisle Finance Committee. Jim Darr stated that Carlisle is roughly on the same track as Concord, noting that Carlisle's guideline letter would be going out in early February, with a final guideline by early March. He stated that the FY21 budget was a zero increase to FY20, noting that Carlisle doesn't get significant growth year to year in residential

properties and zero commercial growth.

Mr. Booth encouraged attendees to send any comments/feedback on the workshop to Ms. Wilson.

D. On-Site COVID Testing. Dr. Hunter stated that the District is very dependent on testing availability and turnaround time for staff and students, noting the extended period of absenteeism this has created. She stated that the district has an opportunity to provide on-site COVID testing, with 24-hour turnaround time, noting that there is also access to a physical site in Cambridge. Dr. Hunter stated that CCHS would be the central testing site and the cost would be \$60 per test for students, but noted that the proposal includes district financial coverage of staff. She noted that families could still go to any of the testing sites that are in place, but that this will be another option available. She stated that the vendor is Pro EMS in Cambridge and has testing available 7 days per week, days and evenings, with same day appointments and test results in 24 hours or less. Dr. Hunter noted that there have been about 1,000 people tested since school opened, noting that there's an average of 25-30 people tested each week, noting that the cost may be about \$1,500/week, for a \$40,000 cost for the remainder of the year, noting that there are offsets available.

After discussion, the SC agreed this was a good option and valuable to the health and safety of the community.

III. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Ms. Bout, for CSC and CCSC, seconded by Ms. Rainey, for CSC and CCSC, to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed by roll call: Anderson, aye (for both); Booth, aye (for both); Bout, aye (for both); Mezdad, aye (for both); Mostoufi, aye; Rainey, aye (for both); Wilson, aye and the meeting adjourned at 8:07 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Erin E. Higgins

Approved: 1.12.21

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
DCL	Dual County League
DESE	Department of Elementary & Secondary Education
FTE	Full Time Employee
MASC	Massachusetts Association of School Committees
METCO	Metropolitan Council for Educational Opportunity
MMN	Minuteman Media Network
OPEB	Other Post-Employment Benefits
SC	School Committee
SEPAC	Special Education Parent Advisory Council