

JOINT SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Concord-Carlisle School Committee
Concord School Committee
Zoom Meeting
November 17, 2020

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 5:01 PM, noting that it was being recorded. Mr. Booth then called the CSC meeting to order. Roll call attendance was taken: Anderson, aye; Booth, aye; Bout, aye; Mezdad, aye; Rainey, aye; Wilson, aye.

A. Executive Session. A motion was made by Ms. Bout, for both CSC and CCSC, seconded by Ms. Rainey, for both CSC and CCSC, that the Concord School Committee and Concord-Carlisle Regional School Committee would 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 5:30 PM. The motion passed by roll call: Anderson, aye (for both); Booth aye (for both); Bout, aye (for both); Mezdad, aye (for both); Rainey, aye (for both); and Wilson, aye.

The Committees returned from Executive Session at 5:30 PM and Ms. Wilson noted that the meeting was being recorded, calling CCSC back into session and Mr. Booth calling the CSC back into session by roll call: Anderson, aye (for both); Booth aye (for both); Bout, aye (for both); Mezdad, aye (for both); Rainey, aye (for both); and Wilson, aye.

A motion was made by Ms. Bout, for both CSC and CCSC, seconded by Ms. Rainey, for both CSC and CCSC, to move Item VIII Recognitions to the first order of business above Public Comments. The motion was approved 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); and Wilson, aye.

II. RECOGNITIONS

A. CMS Summer Readers. Justin Cameron, Principal of CMS, introduced CMS library staff, Elizabeth Stockwood and Sara Porth, and thanked the SC for its support of the library program. Ms. Stockwood stated that the CMS Summer reading program involves six carefully selected titles, noting that the CMS library partners with the Concord Library and local bookstore, Concord Bookshop, as well. She stated that 56 students participated over the summer in the program and then she and Ms. Porth acknowledged all of the students. Ms. Stockwood noted that the students filled out a reflection prompt sharing experiences from quarantine over the summer, which were shared with HomeBASE coaches to help them get to know the students better. Owner of the Concord Bookshop, Dawn Rennert, stated that the bookstore is always happy to see young readers in the shop, congratulating all of the readers. Mr. Cameron noted how well attended the reading groups were over the summer, also noting that Ms. Stockwood invited many of the authors to attend the groups as well. The SC members thanked the students for coming to the meeting, congratulating them on their accomplishment.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

IV. READING OF THE MINUTES

A. Open Session – Joint Meeting 10/27/20, 11/2/20. A motion was made by Ms. Bout, for both CSC and CCSC, seconded by Mr. Booth, for both CSC and CCSC to accept the joint meeting minutes from 10/27/20 and 11/2/20. 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); and Wilson, aye.

B. Executive Session – CCSC – 9/3/20, 9/10/20, 9/29/20, 10/6/20. A motion was made by Ms. Bout, for both CSC and CCSC, seconded by Mr. Booth, for both CSC and CCSC, to accept the CCSC Executive Session minutes from 9/3/20, 9/10/20, 9/29/20, and 10/6/20. 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); and Wilson, aye.

Executive Session CSC – 10/24/20. A motion was made by Ms. Bout, seconded by Ms. Rainey, to accept the CSC Executive Session minutes from 10/24/20. The motion passed by roll call: Anderson, aye; Booth aye; Bout, aye; Mezdad, aye; and Rainey, aye.

V. CHAIRS & LIAISONS REPORT

Ms. Rainey provided an update from the MASC Conference. Regarding the resolutions, she stated that there was some debate about MCAS as they relate to scholarships as well as discussion around the attendance resolution, noting that this resolution was tabled, but could come back at another time. She stated that all other resolutions passed and recommended that members watch the keynote speaker portion of the meeting recording, if possible, noting that she has reached out to organizers for a list of resources that were cited during the address.

Mr. Booth stated that he attended the Public Access Advisory Committee, noting that it is recommending to the town that the position of Education Director be filled. He stated that there was also reference to the bi-annual Concord Town satisfaction survey of town services. He stated that the Concord Select Board discussed the request from Minuteman Vocational School for borrowing to enable them to finish three fields, noting that the Select Board voted affirmatively but not unanimously to support the request.

Ms. Anderson noted Governor Baker's request that people in carpools wear masks, suggesting that Dr. Hunter reiterate this to parents.

Ms. Mostoufi stated that Concord-Carlisle Adult Education Committee met and discussed its budget, noting that the budget is healthy and going strong. She stated that CCHS Drivers Education would have an electric vehicle.

VI. CORRESPONDENCE

Ms. Wilson and Mr. Booth stated that no correspondence was received.

VII. CCHS STUDENT UPDATE

Students were not present.

VIII. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Hunter shared highlights from her report, including: the District is continuing to look at the Professional Development calendar, noting the value of not using all ten days at the beginning of the school year; the District is trying to give parents opportunities for connections through coffees and parent conferences; the tiered focus monitoring has wrapped up; as well as visiting in-person classes, she will be asking teachers to invite her to join in on hybrid classes; Ms. Herbert is overseeing curriculum coverage work; the District is focusing on assessments to identify students that need intervention services and strategize how best to help them; livestreaming at the secondary level has been critical; she is continuing to communicate often and collaborate with town officials, noting how grateful she is for the support of the Health Department; the Commissioner is meeting regularly with superintendents; she continues to meet with her roundtables often; she and Mr. Stanton are engaged with the Town to determine if they have any CARES Act funds available for the schools, noting that this would be in addition to the current school allocation; the FY21 budget status is still unsettled; there are many PD paths for cultural competency and anti-racism; the District will be posting earlier than normal for positions and will be focused on hiring people of color; the first meeting with the MASS Equity Committee is next week; she is meeting with the Boston families next week with Mr. Nyamekye; the District is working

on the equity audit; the CMS building project is starting to reconvene, noting that there is a Design Subcommittee this week; and MSBA is determining how to approach 2020 statement of interest requests.

The SC discussed how well the school year is going; recognizing the efforts of all of those involved over the summer to prepare for returning to school and Dr. Hunter noted that the visions were robust and deep. Ms. Mostoufi noted that the District listened to the needs of the parents and students, always keeping in mind what was best for the kids. She noted that this was not the case in other districts.

IX. DISCUSSION

A. 2020-2021 Calendar. Ms. Rainey stated how much having the additional PD days has helped the teachers, noting that the Calendar Committee worked on ensuring the days were divided appropriately between grade levels. Dr. Hunter shared a list of recommended PD days for January through June, noting that the last day of school would be June 15th for the kids and June 16th for staff.

X. OLD BUSINESS

A. COVID Update. Dr. Hunter noted that the Governor continues to voice that students should be attending school in person. She shared the enrollment numbers broken out by hybrid/remote/full day, noting that the District is not seeing the same type of exodus as in other districts. Dr. Hunter shared current COVID data, noting the impact in the schools and students in quarantine, also sharing the revised DPH Data Metric. She stated that club sports and high-risk sports are impacting the transmission of COVID, noting that MIAA has voted to postpone the winter season of all sports until the middle of December. Dr. Hunter shared the COVID dashboard data from Concord, Carlisle and the District, noting that family spread is also a pattern in transmission in student cases. Ms. Rainey noted that many college students would be returning home over the holidays and Dr. Hunter stated that she would be sending out a co-written letter with Susan Rask on COVID guidance, noting that the District is following the travel order of the Governor and would be pushing out his travel advisory as well. Dr. Hunter stated that many are asking when the District would go all-remote due to the increase in community cases and she stated that it would take a cluster in schools or across schools to cause the switch to remote learning for 2 weeks to stop the spread. Dr. Hunter shared early survey results on the start of school, noting that K-12 staff overall reported feeling good about the reopening. She stated that staff also reported that it has gone well for students. Dr. Hunter stated that 91% of K-12 parents are reporting that the start of school has gone good, very good or excellent. She stated that part of the success is the 6-foot distancing, noting that the only way to get kids back full time is to reduce this, which she stated that she would not recommend.

XI. ACTION ITEMS

A. Vote to Approve 2020-2021 Calendar. A motion was made by Ms. Rainey, for CSC and CCSC, seconded by Ms. Bout, for CSC and CCSC, to approve the 2020-2021 Calendar, as presented. Mr. Booth noted the addition of professional days, noting that the calendar was otherwise remaining the same. Dr. Hunter noted that all of the vacations remain the same. 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); and Wilson, aye.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Ms. Rainey, for CSC and CCSC, seconded by Ms. Bout, 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 7:15 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
CEF	Concord Education Fund
CMS	Concord Middle School
CPS	Concord Public Schools
CSC	Concord School Committee
DESE	Department of Elementary & Secondary Education
DPH	Department of Public Health
MASC	Massachusetts Association of School Committees
MASS	Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents
METCO	Metropolitan Council for Educational Opportunity
MIAA	Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association
MMN	Minuteman Media Network
MSBA	Massachusetts School Building Authority
PD	Professional Development
SC	School Committee
SEPAC	Special Education Parent Advisory Council