

JOINT SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Concord-Carlisle School Committee
Concord School Committee
Conference Room 4 & Zoom
January 10, 2023

Present: Tracey Marano, Chair, CCSC; CSC
Alexa Anderson, Chair, CSC; CCSC
Carrie Rankin, Vice Chair, CSC; CCSC
Courtland Booth, CSC; CCSC
Cynthia Rainey, CSC, CCSC
Sharon Whitt, Vice Chair, CCSC
Sara Wilson, CCSC
Domingos DaRosa, CCRSD METCO Rep
Ayesha Lawton, CPS METCO Rep

Present from Administration: Dr. Laurie Hunter, Superintendent of Schools, CPS & CCRSD
Robert Conry, Asst. Superintendent of Finance & Operations, CPS & CCRSD

Absent from Administration: Kristen Herbert, Asst. Superintendent of Teaching & Learning, CPS & CCRSD

I. CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Marano called the CCSC meeting to order at 5:31 PM and Ms. Anderson then called the CSC meeting to order.

A. Executive Session. A motion was made by Mr. Booth, seconded by Ms. Rainey, for the Concord School Committee and Concord-Carlisle School Committee to enter into Executive Session under Purpose 2 of the Open Meeting Law to conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with nonunion personnel, the Director of Student Services, and return to Open Session at approximately 6:00 PM. The motion was approved by roll call: Anderson, aye (for both), Booth, aye (for both), Marano, aye (for both), Rainey, aye (for both), Rankin, aye (for both), Whitt, aye, Wilson, aye.

The SC returned from Executive Session at 6:00 PM.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT

1. Wilson Odewahn, 136 Laurel Street, Concord MA. Regarding the recent comments and questions at previous school committee meetings about certain books and whether or not they should belong in the CCHS library, Wilson noted that this struggle is being played out across the country. He shared reasons why a book may be banned based on a ruling from the US Supreme Court, noting that the book Not All Boys are Blue does not fall under the category of a book that should be banned. He urged the existing party to drop the issue.
2. Kristen Hagerty, 95 Revolutionary Road, Concord MA. Regarding the SC and Superintendent goals, Ms. Hagerty urged the SC and Superintendent to look at the inputs and outputs. Regarding public comment periods, she suggested having longer public comment periods that included deliberation to help community members have a better understanding of the decision making process.
3. Robert Egri, 80 Wildwood Drive, Carlisle MA. In order to have full trust in school staff, Mr. Egri recommended establishing a Blue Ribbon Commission to examine how to deploy a remote controlled monitoring system on all of the professionals in contact with students.
4. Alex Nugent, 88 Melbourne Circle, Concord, MA. Alex stated that she was a junior at CCHS, noting that visibility matters. She stated that she has been in the district since elementary school, noting that this is the first year that she has a teacher that is openly queer. She stated that being able to see herself in a teacher makes a difference, noting that removing access to books where students may be able to feel seen would be a disservice to students.

5. Rachel Freed, Concord Street, Carlisle MA. Ms. Freed thanked Alex Nugent for speaking up and thanked the SC for opening the space for comments.

III. CCHS STUDENT UPDATE

CCHS Student Reps, Harry Crowley, Zariah Alves, and Felicity Zhang provided updates from CCHS: Student Senate has been planning many events for the upcoming months and discussing the issue of restructuring coordinated testing days, there has been an uptake in sickness after break, midterm exams are the following weeks, the Intersections Club is collaborating with the Esperanza Project to provide underprivileged children in Honduras with clothing, the chorus pop-up concerts were very popular and the cookie fest advisory activity went very well.

IV. CORRESPONDENCE

Dr. Hunter noted that there was an upcoming community wide MLK Day breakfast on Monday, noting that there would also be a 2-hour movie viewing to promote equity and inclusion in town.

Ms. Anderson stated that CSC had one piece of correspondence and Ms. Marano stated that CCSC received two pieces, one regarding literature and one regarding something that happened at an extracurricular event.

VI. DISCUSSION

A. Superintendent Evaluation. Ms. Anderson stated that the Superintendent Evaluation is completed through a prescriptive DESE form, noting that each member submits individual evaluations that are synthesized by a committee of two SC members. She noted that the process usually concludes in June and asked members interested in doing the aggregated review to email Ms. Marano. Ms. Anderson stated that Ms. Presser from MASC could do a review of the evaluation process if needed.

VII. RECOGNITIONS

A. Global Competence Certificate Program. Rachel Washa, CCHS World Language teacher, stated that the Global Competence Certificate Program at CCHS aims to foster students' global awareness and empower them to identify their role as global citizens while gaining an appreciation for other world cultures, viewpoints and perspectives. In order to participate, she stated that students must be good academic standing, have a strong attendance record, must model the core values of CCHS, and have studied at least 3 years in a language. She stated that the students do a minimum of 20 hours of volunteer or service work, either abroad or local. Ms. Washa introduced two students, Tucker Norton and Christopher Lynch, who spoke about their positive experiences with the program.

VI. DISCUSSION (continued)

B. Superintendent Goals Update. Dr. Hunter shared an update to her goals, highlighting: DEIB, MTSS and special education training to all staff during faculty meetings, regular data reviews, rebooting of Challenge Success, working collectively on revamping the high school schedule to ensure equity and access, and working on feedback loops and communication. Ms. Rainey asked when the SC would review the YRBS data and Dr. Hunter stated that she would talk to the Chairs about when to bring it to the SC. Regarding MTSS, Ms. Wilson asked about tracking the availability of teachers for students and Dr. Hunter stated that the new schedule would help to firm up teacher availability. Dr. Hunter noted how well the Strategic Planning process is going, noting the next meeting is coming up in February.

C. School Committee Goals Update. Ms. Anderson and Ms. Marano reviewed the SC goals, stating that: the work on communication is ongoing, noting that there would be a roundtable with similar district chairs on January 25th, a follow up meeting with Rob Evans is scheduled, there would be a budget workshop coming up on January 24th with Tracey Novak, many of the academic reports have occurred, the budget was initially approved, several policy meetings have occurred, DEIB work is ongoing with the results of the equity audit coming up on January 17th, ongoing professional development is occurring in the district, and the SC has been identifying and updating policies that intersect with DEIB. Ms. Whitt asked if current diverse staff have provided any ideas with how to retrain staff and Dr. Hunter stated that they speak to current staff regularly about recruiting and retaining. Regarding diverse recruitment efforts, Mr. DaRosa noted the group Black Teachers Matter.

D. Search Committee Director of Student Services – SC Reps. Dr. Hunter stated that the search committee for the Director of Student Services would be meeting on February 7th and February 13th, with interviews occurring on March 1st and 2nd. Ms. Marano noted her interest in being on the search committee.

E. First Reading Policy: KBA, KBBA, KBBA-E, KBBA-R, KBE, KCB, KCD, KCDA, KCDA-R, KDB, KDD, KHA, KHB, KHE, KI, and KJA. Ms. Rankin reviewed the recommendations for the policies that were discussed at the recent policy meeting, noting that she would review the cross references prior to bringing the policies back for a second reading.

KBA – recommendation to adopt MASC version
KBBA – recommendation to adopt MASC version
KBBA-E – recommendation to remove policy due to not being used in district
KBBA-R – recommendation to remove policy due to not being used in district
KBE – recommendation to adopt MASC version with reference to ACA removed
KCB – recommendation to adopt MASC version (content moved to KA)
KCD – recommendation to adopt MASC version
KCDA – recommendation to remove policy (content included in KCD)
KCDA-R - recommendation to remove policy (content included in KCD)
KDB - recommendation to adopt MASC version
KDD – recommendation to make edits to current version
KHA - recommendation to adopt MASC version with edits
KHB – recommendation to combine MASC version with district version
KHE - recommendation to remove policy (content included in GBI)
KI - recommendation to make edits to current version
KJA - recommendation to remove policy

F. Second Reading Policy. KA, KE, KEB, KEB-R, KEC. Ms. Rankin reviewed the following policy recommendations:

KA – recommendation to adopt MASC version
KEC - recommendation to remove policy
KEB – recommendation to remove policy
KEB-R - recommendation to remove policy
KE - recommendation to adopt MASC version

G. Bargaining: Secretaries, Maintenance. Ms. Marano stated that two SC members would sit on the bargaining teams for the secretaries and maintenance units. Dr. Hunter noted that they would take about five meetings, with the schedule based on the membership availability. Mr. DaRosa noted his interest.

H. Remote Participation. Ms. Marano stated that the Governor is allowing for remote participation until March, noting that Attorney General's office and the town also have policies on remote participation. Ms. Rainey noted that she was confident it would be extended beyond March. Ms. Marano stated that being in person is the goal, but there are extenuating circumstances for remote participation by members, noting that the Chairs are not allowed to be remote and only one person can be remote at each meeting.

VII. ACTION ITEMS

A. Vote to Approve Policies. A motion was made by Mr. Booth, seconded by Ms. Rankin, to adopt updated policies KA and KE and remove policies KEB, KEB-R, and KEC. The motion was unanimously approved.

B. Vote to Approve Staff Enrollments. A motion was made by Ms. Rankin, seconded by Mr. Booth to approve the following staff requests to enroll their children in Concord Public Schools/Concord-Carlisle Regional School District for the 2023-2024 School Year, and that tuition be waived: CMS teacher - son to enroll in Kindergarten at Alcott and Carlisle teacher – daughter to enroll in 9th grade CCHS. The motion was unanimously approved.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT CCSC

A motion was made by Ms. Anderson, seconded by Mr. Booth, to adjourn the CCSC meeting. The motion was unanimously approved and the CCSC meeting adjourned at 7:55 PM.

IX. DISCUSSION

A. CMSBC Update: Special Town Meeting Preparation. Ms. Anderson stated that the CSC held a meeting prior to last year's Special Town Meeting, suggesting this occur with the upcoming Special Town Meeting on January 19th. She suggested meeting at the CCHS Learning Commons at 6:45 PM, prior to the 7:00 Special Town Meeting. Dr. Hunter suggested meeting at 6:30 PM.

X. ADJOURNMENT CSC

Ms. Anderson made a motion to adjourn and the meeting adjourned at 8:06 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Erin E. Higgins

Approved: 2.7.23

Abbreviations:

CCACE	Concord Carlisle Adult and Community Education
CCHS	Concord-Carlisle High School
CCRS	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
CPS	Concord Public Schools
CSC	Concord School Committee
CTA	Concord Teachers Association
DEIB	Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging
ELA	English Language Arts
FINCOM	Finance Committee
MTSS	Multi-Tiered System of Supports
PD	Professional Development
SC	School Committee
SEPAC	Special Education Parent Advisory Council
YRBS	Youth Risk Behavior Survey