

Present: Alexa Anderson, Chair, CSC; CCSC
Tracey Marano, Chair, CCSC; CSC
Carrie Rankin, Vice Chair, CSC; CCSC
Andrew Herchek, CSC; CCSC
Cynthia Rainey, CSC, CCSC
Ayesha Lawton, CPS METCO Rep
Carrie Patel, CCSC
Sharon Whitt, CCSC

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

I. Call to Order CSC

Ms. Anderson called the CSC meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

II. Public Comment

1. Wendy Rovelli, 42 Bow Street, Concord MA. Ms. Rovelli stated that she was a Select Board liaison to the SC, speaking on behalf of the Select Board. She stated that the Select Board voted to schedule a special town election on June 25, 2024, noting that a number of advisory questions will be added, including: would you be in favor of asking the SC to reconsider the name of the publicly financed and owned property currently being built at 923 Old Marlborough Road in Concord MA as Ellen Garrison Middle School. She stated that the Select Board has received many comments about the naming, along with concerns about the process and handling of the town meeting vote by the SC, noting the Select Board's concern over the divisiveness and erosion of trust in town government over the ongoing discussion. She stated that the ballot vote would allow broad participation.
2. Chesley Chen, 196 Williams Road, Concord MA. Mr. Chen noted his work in DEIB efforts. He read a statement he wrote, asking the SC to name the middle school the Ellen Garrison Middle School. He voiced his concern for tarnishing the town's reputation if the SC did not name the middle school after Ellen Garrison.
3. Greg Creamer, 233 Elm Street, Concord MA. Mr. Creamer stated that he strongly supported the Superintendent and SC's decision to retain the name of Concord Middle School, noting that the opposition's refusal to back down was causing a major wedge in the Town. He stated that the DEI Committee should not be allowed to overrule the decisions of elected officials, noting that it was bad governance and sets a terrible precedent. He stated that, due to this issue, many SC members were being labeled as racists, noting that due to the fact that a group of citizens chose to leak the story to the Boston Globe, SC members were now being vilified well beyond Concord's borders. He stated that good government requires compromise, noting that the SC has already given compromise ideas.
4. Craig Awmiller, 27 Lang Street, Concord MA. Mr. Awmiller read a letter that the SC received from the Anti-Defamation League on May 17, 2024 in support of naming the middle school after Ellen Garrison.
5. Elizabeth More, 105 Blueberry Lane, Concord MA. Ms. More commented on Ms. Rovelli's previous comment, noting that the Select Board was not allowed to make the decision related to Town Meeting. She stated that there have been many unlawful requests and that both sides need to check with legal before making any decisions with the public. She encouraged Ms. Rovelli to check everything with legal on all sides.
6. Constance Levine, 149 Stow Street, Concord MA. Ms. Levine stated that she had requested a copy of the petition presented by Jen Turner on February 6, 2024 and was told that the school district was not in possession of the petition because it was received in hard copy and not retained. She stated that it was shocking someone would throw away a

petition with over 1000 names advocating for Ellen Garrison. She stated that there were 363 Concord residents' names on the petition. She stated that the minutes from February 6th on the vote were wrong and incomplete.

7. Steven Block, 165 Cambridge Tpk., Concord MA. Regarding the assertion that no one was naming buildings after people anymore, Mr. Block stated that he was surprised to hear this at the February SC meeting. He noted that, after very little research, he discovered that this assertion was false, sharing examples.

III. Discussion

A. Concord Middle School. Ms. Lawton stated that she was still in support of naming the school The Concord Middle School, noting that it creates a sense of unity. She stated that naming the building after Ellen Garrison will not change anything happening in Concord, noting that forcing the naming after Ellen Garrison would reflect a sense of entitlement that Concord has. Mr. Herchek stated that he observed the conversation while campaigning for the SC, noting all of the data received. He stated that they need to move forward with compromise, but noted that there was no compromising with the Ellen group so he was unsure of how to move forward. Ms. Rankin shared written remarks she prepared, proposing renaming the building the Ellen Garrison Concord Middle School. Ms. Rankin asked if renaming Ripley was still open to conversation, noting that she does not believe Ripley's legacy was negative to the town. She also stated that the SC has not yet responded to Town Meeting and the overwhelming vote for naming the building Ellen Garrison. Ms. Marano stated that there has been a lot of feedback on this topic, noting that the opening of the new school has become lost in all of this debate. She stated that the only way forward is to find a compromise. Ms. Anderson stated that the SC is all volunteers and they spend tireless hours advocating for students, noting that she feels this perspective has been lost. She stated that she agrees there needs to be a compromise, noting the work of the previous SC in naming the CMS building after Sanborn and Peabody. She proposed naming the building The Ellen Garrison Building at the Concord Middle School.

Ms. Lawton stated that she loved the idea of compromising and what it shows the kids, but noted that there was a lot of work to do. Ms. Marano noted Ms. Anderson and Ms. Rankin's suggestions, asking if anyone else had any other options to put on the table. Ms. Rainey stated that she didn't feel they were listing to Town Meeting and confirmed that her choice would be to name it The Ellen Garrison Middle School. Ms. Lawton stated that compromise and inclusion go hand in hand, noting that the community should practice the freedoms that Ellen Garrison fought for instead of just naming a building after her. Ms. Rankin stated that the SC was doing what was asked of them at Town Meeting, to reconsider naming the building. Mr. Herchek noted his support of the Garrison Building at Concord Middle School. Ms. Rankin stated that she felt naming it this way does not put the middle school on the same level as Ellen Garrison. Ms. Marano noted that she felt it put Ellen first naming it this way.

Ms. Marano stated that the Town was putting this issue on the ballot, noting that she felt it was premature since the SC was voting on it this evening. Ms. Anderson noted her concern for the town doing this whenever a highly contested issue arises. Ms. Lawton stated that they need to make the children and their education a priority, noting the lack of compromise on the side of town groups speaks volumes to their sense of entitlement.

B. Representative to Concord Middle School Building Committee. Ms. Anderson stated that she appointed Mr. Herchek to the CMSBC for the remainder of the project.

IV. Action Items

A. Vote to Determine Action on Concord Middle School. A motion was made by Ms. Rankin to name the middle school the Ellen Garrison Concord Middle School. The motion was not seconded. A motion was made by Ms. Marano, seconded by Mr. Herchek, to name the middle school The Garrison Building at Concord Middle School. A motion to amend was made by Ms. Rainey. She moved that the CSC respond to the voters that the school currently being built at 923 Old Marlboro Road in Concord MA The Ellen Garrison Middle School. Ms. Rainey's motion was not seconded. Mr. Herchek made a motion, seconded by Ms. Marano, to amend Ms. Marano's motion to The Ellen Garrison Building at the Concord Middle School. Ms. Marano, Ms. Anderson and Mr. Herchek were in favor of the amended motion. Ms. Rainey and Ms. Rankin were opposed. Members voted on the original motion: Ms. Anderson, Ms. Rankin, Ms. Marano and Mr. Herchek were opposed.

A motion was made by Ms. Marano, seconded by Ms. Rankin, to appoint Andrew Herchek to the CMSBC. The motion passed unanimously.

V. Executive Session. A motion was made by Ms. Marano, seconded by Ms. Rankin, for The Concord School Committee to enter into Executive Session under Purpose 3 of the Open Meeting Law: To conduct strategy with respect to collective bargaining with the Concord Teachers Association and the CPS Building Service Workers, and return to Open Session. The motion passed by roll call: Anderson, aye; Herchek, aye; Marano, aye; Rainey, aye; Rankin, aye and the SC left open session at 7:08 PM.

CONCORD CARLISLE JOINT SCHOOL COMMITTEE

VI. Call to Order CCSC

Ms. Anderson called the CCSC meeting to order at 8:00 PM.

VII. CCHS Student Update

Zariah Alves and Harry Crowley provided an update from CCHS: A/P exams concluded last week, the CC Theater concluded "The Prom", prom took place at the Park Plaza, Sophomores are taking MCAS today and tomorrow, post-season is starting for most spring sports teams and seniors only have two more days of classes. Ms. Anderson thanked Harry for representing the high school for the past three years, noting his exceptional leadership.

VIII. Recognitions

A. Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Learning Kristen Anderson. Ms. Anderson recognized Asst. Supt. Ms. Anderson, thanking her for her 10 years of service to the CPS, noting her thoughtfulness and curiosity. She noted that the mental wellness of students has been prioritized under Ms. Anderson's leadership. Dr. Hunter echoed Ms. Anderson's thoughts, noting the strong foundation of systemic work that Ms. Anderson built.

IX. Consent Agenda

- A. Warrants
 - 1. CPS A/P
 - 1092 5/16/24 \$226,544.29
 - 1087 5/9/24 \$617,324.73
 - 2. CCRSD A/P
 - 1268 5/15/24 \$286,561.14
 - 1267 5/10/24 \$450.00
 - 1266 5/10/24 \$72,333.60
 - 3. CCRSD Payroll
 - Pay Date 5/9/24 \$614,358.53
 - Pay Date 5/9/24 \$72,826.97
 - Pay Date 5/9/24 \$176,656.64
 - Pay Date 5/9/24 \$45,595.56
 - 4.. CPS Payroll
 - Pay Date 5/9/24 \$223,710.16
 - Pay Date 5/9/24 \$354,319.20
- B. Alcott Weeded Library Materials
- C. Willard Weeded Library Materials

A motion was made by Ms. Rainey, seconded by Ms. Anderson, to approve the consent agenda. The motion was unanimously approved.

X. Correspondence

Ms. Marano stated that CCSC received no correspondence and Ms. Anderson stated that CSC received over 200 pieces of correspondence in the last two weeks regarding CMS.

XI. Superintendent, Chairs and Liaisons Update

Ms. Marano stated that she sat on the interview committee for the Asst. Supt. Position, noting that it was a good experience. Dr. Hunter stated that there were a lot of amazing things happening, noting the CCHS musical and prom, Graduation June 1st, concerts at CMS and CCHS, and several award ceremonies.

XII. Discussion

A. SEPAC Year End Review. Dr. Hunter stated that SEPAC has had a productive year, with several information nights and organizational meetings. She noted that there would be some leadership turnover in the fall and that the SEPAC awards night celebrated nominated educators.

B. Policy ADF second reading. Ms. Marano stated that Policy ADF needed to be fixed and noted the current version and MASC version.

C. Policy EFD second reading. Ms. Marano stated that Policy EFD also need to be fixed and noted the current version and the MASC version.

D. Book Challenge CCHS. Dr. Hunter stated that a high school parent had formally challenged the inclusion of a particular book, Persepolis, asking where it was being used and if it was a balanced presentation. She stated that Ms. Anderson led the committee through the review process and it was the recommendation of the committee that the high school retain the book and it teach it in 9th grade in the context of balanced perspective, as requested. She stated that the high school would not be repeating the book in 12 grade courses. Ms. Anderson noted that this was a wonderful example of how a policy could work really well.

XIII. Action Items

A. Vote on CCHS Book Challenge. A motion was made by Ms. Anderson, seconded by Ms. Rankin, to approve the recommendation of Literature Review Committee regarding the book Persepolis. The motion was unanimously approved.

B. Vote on Policy ADF and EFD. A motion was made by Ms. Rainey, seconded by Ms. Rankin, to approve Policy ADF as written on the agenda from MASC. The motion was unanimously approved. A motion was made by Mr. Herchek, seconded by Ms. Rankin, to approve Policy EFD as written on the agenda from MASC. The motion was unanimously approved.

XIV. Executive Session

A motion was made by Ms. Rainey, seconded by Ms. Rankin, that the Concord-Carlisle Regional School Committee enter into Executive Session under Purpose 2 of Open Meeting Law: to discuss strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with non-union personnel and the Superintendent and under Purpose 3: to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining with the CCTA and the CCHS Building Service Workers, and not return to Open Session. The motion was approved by roll call: Anderson, aye; Herchek, aye; Marano, aye; Pate, aye; Rainey, aye; Rankin, aye; Whitt, aye and the CCSC went into Executive Session at 8:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Erin E. Higgins

Approved: August 20, 2024

Abbreviations:

CCHS	Concord-Carlisle High School
CCRS	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
CTA	Concord Teachers Association
DEIB	Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging
FINCOM	Finance Committee
PD	Professional Development

SC	School Committee
SEPAC	Special Education Parent Advisory Council