

JOINT SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Concord-Carlisle School Committee
Concord School Committee
CCHS Library
October 8, 2013

- Present:** Pamela Gannon, Chair, CSC; CCSC
Jennifer Munn, Vice Chair, CCSC, CSC
Kathleen Snook, Vice Chair, CSC; CCSC
Phil Benincasa, CSC, CCSC
Johanna Boynton, CSC, CCSC
Melissa McMorrow, CCSC
- Present From Administration:** Diana Rigby, Superintendent of Schools, CPS & CCRSD
John Flaherty, Deputy Superintendent of Finance & Operations, CPS & CCRSD
Kathy Codianne, Director of Teaching and Learning, CPS & CCRSD
- Absent:** Louis Salemy, Chair, CCSC

I. CALL TO ORDER

The CCSC was called to order by Ms. Munn and the CSC by Ms. Gannon at 6:10 PM. Ms. Gannon noted that the meeting is being recorded by CCTV.

A motion was made by Ms. Boynton seconded by Mr. Benincasa that the Concord School Committee and the Concord-Carlisle School Committee adjourn into Executive Session to discuss strategy with respect to litigation and under Purpose 2 of the Open Meeting Law: Strategy session in preparation for contract negotiations with Superintendent Diana Rigby. Roll call vote: Munn Aye, Snook Aye, Benincasa Aye, McMorrow, Aye, Gannon, Aye, Boynton, Aye.

The Concord School Committee and the Concord-Carlisle School Committee returned to Open Session and were called to order by Ms. Munn for CCSC and Ms. Gannon for CSC at 7:00 PM. Ms. Gannon noted that the meeting is being recorded by CCTV.

II. READING OF THE MINUTES

A motion was made by Mr. Benincasa seconded by Ms. Snook for CSC to approve the minutes for the September 24, 2013 Joint School Committee Meeting. Mr. Benincasa seconded by Ms. Snook for CCSC. The motions were unanimously approved.

III. CHAIRS REPORT

Ms. Munn noted that there is a School Committee/Superintendent Coffee at Ripley October 9, 2013 9:30-11:00 AM.

Ms. Gannon stated that there is a revised Special Town Meeting schedule in the packets.

IV. CORRESPONDENCE

A. EDCO Quarterly Report. Ms. Rigby stated that the EDCO Quarterly Report has been published. Ms. Gannon reminded members that Ms. Rigby serves on the Board of Directors of EDCO and Ms. Gannon serves on the Advisory Board.

B. The Town of Concord is planning the Special Town Meeting for December to vote on the Knox Trail land acquisition and developing the Warrant for that Town Meeting. The Town is reviewing new language in the Fuel Efficient Vehicle Policy and has not yet voted on the policy. After the Board of Selectmen vote, the School Committee will vote on the policy.

V. RECOGNITIONS – October is National Principals Month

A. Recognize and honor CCHS Principal Peter Badalament (6 yrs.), CMS Principal Lynne Beattie (5 yrs.), Willard Principal Pat Fernandes (14 yrs.), Alcott Principal Sharon Young (11 yrs.), and Thoreau Principal Nancy

Peterson (3 months). Ms. Rigby gave a certificate to each principal and read the House of Representatives Resolution 353 expressing support for designation of October 2013 as National Principals' Month. National Principals' Month recognizes the essential role that principals play in our education system.

B. Michael Goodwin, English Teacher and teacher leader in the Rivers & Revolutions Program, was recognized for his innovative and highly successful approach to teaching. Mr. Goodwin is one of the 50 most exceptional teachers chosen nationally and is published in the book "American Teachers – Heroes in the Classroom" by Katrina Fried.

C. Mr. Benincasa noted the passing of Mr. Wilson Flight and asked we remember this exemplary Concord educator.

IV. REPORTS & ISSUES FOR DISCUSSION

A. Historical Reviews and Cost Growth Analysis CCRSD Budget – Ms. Munn and Ms. Snook gave a presentation of historical budget data from FY05 – FY14, and an estimate for FY15 budget increases based on this data. Annualized 5-year cost growth from FY 2005-2009 was 5.9%; annualized cost growth for FY 2010-2014 was 3.4%. For the proposed FY15 budget, the impact from teachers' salaries is an increase of 2.2%, other employees is an increase of 0.8%, for a total impact of 3.0% for employee costs. The non-employee cost increase is 0.5%. The total proposed cost growth for CCRSD is 3.5%. Members asked questions about special education services, tuitions, material costs, and estimated growth increases.

B. Quarterly Financial Reports for FY14 CPS and FY14 CCRSD. Mr. Flaherty went over the CCRSD quarterly financial report; the quarter was completed at the end of September. Mr. Flaherty stated that overall the district is on track and the debt service will move out accordingly, and we are in good shape for the quarter. Mr. Flaherty went over the CPS Quarterly Financial Report. Mr. Flaherty stated that encumbered funds include known salary and contractual obligations and out-of-district tuitions. He anticipates that no funds will be set aside for the CPS Technology Stabilization Fund or the CPS Capital Stabilization Fund. At this time, CPS will not need to request supplemental funding for FY14. Mr. Flaherty noted that for the FY 14 Budget: regular education budget increased by 5.8%, Special Ed was increased by 7.88%, operations were reduced by 3.04%, administration was increased by 0.40%, and fixed costs were reduced by 25.63%.

C. Proposed FY15 CCHS Budget & FinCom Response. Mr. Flaherty gave a presentation on the FY2015 Planning Budget. The proposed CCRSD budget shows an increase of 3.25% from FY14 to FY15. Responses to the July 2013 Annual Budget Data request from the Concord Finance Committee were distributed. Ms. Rigby and Mr. Flaherty will present this budget to the Concord Finance Guidelines Committee on Thursday, October 10, 2013.

D. Proposed FY15 CPS Budget & FinCom Response. Mr. Flaherty gave a presentation on the FY2015 CPS Planning Budget. The proposed CPS budget shows an increase of 4.5% from FY14 to FY15. Responses to the July 2013 Annual Budget Data request from the Concord Finance Committee were distributed. Ms. Rigby and Mr. Flaherty will present this budget to the Concord Finance Guidelines Committee on Thursday, October 10, 2013.

E. 2013 MCAS Report for CPS. Ms. Codianne gave a presentation on the 2013 MCAS Report. The District Goals for 2013-2014 are: 90% Advanced/Proficient on Grade 5 and Grade 8 ELA MCAS and 80% Advanced/Proficient on Grade 5 and Grade 8 Math MCAS. Ms. Codianne gave an overview of grade level performance and cohort performance, and described new initiatives being used in both the mathematics and English language arts areas. Also, schools are developing and using common assessments to assist in informing teachers and students of progress. School Committee members expressed concern about middle school math scores and expectations.

VI. ACTION ITEMS

A. End of FY13 budget closing report was completed on time. Due to financial performance and higher circuit breaker payments, funds remain that can be transferred. Vote to reserve \$300,000 of FY2013 operating funds for the OPEB Budget liability account. A motion was made by Mr. Benincasa seconded by Ms. McMorrow that the CCSC: vote to reserve \$300,000 of FY2013 operating funds for the OPEB budget liability account; vote to transfer \$155,000 of FY2013 operating funds into the CCHS Stabilization Fund; and vote to transfer \$245,000 of FY2013 operating funds into the CCHS Technology Stabilization Fund. The motions were unanimously approved.

B. Vote to accept donation from the Ruetters Family Charitable Foundation. A motion was made by Ms. Boynton seconded by Ms. McMorrow that the CCSC accept a gift in the amount of \$20,000 to the Concord-Carlisle High School Ruetters Enrichment Series Fund. The motion was unanimously approved.

ADJOURNMENT of CCSC

A motion was made by Ms. Gannon seconded by Mr. Benincasa to adjourn the CCSC meeting. The motion was unanimously approved and the CCSC adjourned at 8:05 PM. Ms. McMorrow departed and the CSC continued their meeting.

C. Vote to authorize FY14 Capital Plan Funds for the Knox Trail Land Acquisition. Mr. Flaherty recommended that the district use capital funding from the 2013 Concord Town Meeting to fund the school's portion of the land purchase at Knox Trail. The Peabody roof replacement would be deferred until FY15. A motion was made by Mr. Benincasa seconded by Ms. Boynton that the CSC vote to approve use of Town Meeting 2013 Article 8 Funds to be used for the school department's portion of land acquisition at Knox Trail in Acton to support in-district school transportation department requirements. The amount is estimated at \$350,000. Ms. Gannon indicated that she was in favor of this use of these particular funds and was not in favor of taking the funds out of the stabilization funds. Ms. Snook clarified that the entire plot is about 6½ acres and the school is providing half of the purchase price. The motion was unanimously approved.

D. Vote to accept Alcott PTG donation for a GaGa Pit. A motion was made by Ms. Snook seconded by Ms. Boynton that the CSC votes to accept the Alcott PTG donation in the amount of \$1,100 - \$1,300 for a GaGa Pit. The motion was unanimously approved.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

A. Long Term Transportation. Mr. Flaherty stated that the potential acquisition of Knox Trail is a very significant step towards solving the transportation issue.

B. Proposed School Committee Goal 2013-2014. Ms. Munn presented a communication goal and benchmark for the School Committee. Key Action: The School Committee will explore new initiatives to improve communication with stakeholders. Process Benchmarks: School Committees hold regular coffees, use district communication manager to produce and submit regular articles to the media, continue to post robust meeting *Updates* on the website and promote all of these vehicles at meetings and through various outreach activities. Outcome Benchmarks: Increased public satisfaction with the level and frequency of communication from School Committees as measured by formal and informal feedback. A motion was made by Mr. Benincasa seconded by Ms. Boynton that the CSC votes to approve the School Committee communication goal for 2013-2014. The motion was unanimously approved.

IX. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

A. Wellness Committee. Ms. Rigby stated that the K-8 Wellness Committee is being re-established to meet quarterly and is asking for volunteers to be on the committee. The committee consists of nurses, physical education teachers, teachers and parents.

X. CITIZENS' COMMENTS

1. Cynthia Rainey, 80 Hunters Ridge Rd., Concord. Ms. Rainey stated that maintenance on the Peabody and Sanborn Buildings should be evaluated on a more intensive basis so it is a healthy learning environment for the children.

2. Paul Horwitz, 173 Hayward Mill Rd., Concord. Mr. Horwitz stated that he works at the Concord Consortium, an organization that addresses the teaching and learning of STEM in elementary, middle and high schools. He believes the Concord Schools should take advantage of the Consortium and perhaps engage in collaboration.

3. Cheryl Kirkpatrick, 94 Sorrel Rd., Concord. Ms. Kirkpatrick stated that MCAS data should include some kind of comparative data with a comparative group outside of, but similar to Concord.

4. Miguel Echavarri, 210 Border Rd., Concord. Mr. Echavarri stated that FinCom asked the school committee about leading cost drivers for FY15, which included legal services. Mr. Echavarri urged the school

committee to direct administration officials to answer the questions. Mr. Echavarri provided members a handout containing his questions and comments.

5. Cindy Nock, 41 Canterbury Court, Carlisle. Ms. Nock stated that she is Co-President of the League of Women Voters of Concord-Carlisle. They sent a letter to the school committee and the school administration on September 23, 2013 and it didn't show up on the September 24, 2013 SC agenda and she would like to know when it will show up on the agenda.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Mr. Benincasa seconded by Ms. Boynton for CSC to adjourn the meeting. The motion was unanimously approved and the meeting adjourned at 9:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Sally W. Ferguson
Approved: 11/12/13

Abbreviations:

CSC	Concord School Committee
CCSC	Concord-Carlisle Regional District School Committee
CPS	Concord Public Schools
CCRSD	Concord-Carlisle Regional School District
CCHS	Concord-Carlisle Regional High School