

JOINT SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Concord-Carlisle School Committee
Concord School Committee
CCHS Library
December 9, 2014

Present: Jennifer Munn, Chair, CCSC; CSC
Kathleen Snook, Chair, CSC; CCSC
Phil Benincasa, Vice Chair, CSC; CCSC
Johanna Boynton, Vice Chair, CCSC; CSC
Wallace Johnston, CSC; CCSC
William Fink, CCSC
Mary Storrs, CCSC

Present from Administration: Diana Rigby, Superintendent of Schools, CPS & CCRSD
John Flaherty, Deputy Superintendent of Finance & Operations, CPS & CCRSD

I. CALL TO ORDER

The session was called to order by Ms. Munn for CCSC and Ms. Snook for CSC at 6:32 PM. Ms. Snook noted that the meeting is being recorded.

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS

1. Anne Hayden, 342 Sudbury Rd., Concord, MA. Ms. Hayden stated she was very excited that the bus depot was moving forward, but had a few suggestions. She recommended that a community forum be held in January regarding all aspects of the depot. She also felt a committee should be formed to pull the information together and bring forward to the School Committee as well as having a building committee for bus depot.

2. Robert Grom, Mildred Circle, Concord, MA. Mr. Grom had concerns regarding CC at Play in regards to the synthetic fields and player health. He suggested having a public forum to discuss the issue.

3. Heather Bout, 33 Alton Rd., Concord, MA. Ms. Bout spoke regarding her support for the Foreign Language Teacher position at the elementary school level. She noted that children are more receptive to learning a language in the early years. She also noted there are many related benefits to learning a language early on. Lastly, she noted that most of the surrounding communities already have foreign language at the elementary level.

Student representatives Rahul Chopra and Samantha Shih spoke regarding the bill that was created by the Student Senate to delay implementation of 1:1 technology until school year 2016-2017. They noted that students don't feel part of the process and many do not understand the initiative. They recommended that a student forum be held to help educate the students on integrating technology. Ms. Munn felt that would be a great idea and Ms. Rigby noted that Mr. Badalament is very interested in working with the student senate to organize the forums.

III. READING OF THE MINUTES

A. Open Session - 11/25/14. Mr. Benincasa made a motion for both CSC and CCSC, seconded by Ms. Boynton, to approve the minutes for the November 25, 2014 Joint School Committee Meeting. Both Committees unanimously approved the motion.

IV. CHAIRS REPORT

A. Ms. Snook spoke regarding the 3rd Annual Warriors for Warriors Hockey Game that will be taking place on Saturday, December 13, 2014 at 3:00 PM between Concord-Carlisle and Lincoln-Sudbury at the New England Sports Center. She stated that it is a fundraiser for Lieutenant Scott Miley, a former Lincoln-Sudbury hockey player, who died in Afghanistan. She noted that this is the first year that the girls' team will participate and they are changing the name to Warriors for Warriors and Patriots for Patriots.

V. CORRESPONDENCE

A. Emails. Ms. Snook stated that the Committees received 5 emails since the last meeting. Three pertained to the budget, in regards to the social workers, development/success measures as well as foreign language. One pertained to the SC Community Coffee dates. Ms. Snook noted that the dates would be published after the New Year. One email pertained to legal fees. Ms. Snook also noted that they were cc'd on an email addressing handicapped access at the new high school facility.

B. METCO Grant. Ms. Rigby stated that she received a letter from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education informing CPS that the METCO Grant will be reduced \$8,657 at CPS and \$5,281 at CCHS. Ms. Rigby noted that the cuts were from State Ch29, S9C reductions.

C. MSBA. Ms. Rigby stated that they have the 2nd Amendment to the Project Funding Agreement for the building project. She noted that the reimbursement rate is \$26.9 million to \$28 million. Ms. Rigby also stated that she received a letter from the MSBA regarding their findings for the change orders and how they will be reimbursing them.

VI. RECOGNITIONS

A. Ms. Rigby recognized two outstanding seniors who received awards for Academic Excellence by the Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents, voted for by faculty and administration.

Jacob Meyerson is recognized for his many accomplishments, including: academics, Nordic skiing, student senate, woodworking and robotics. Jacob has received several awards, including: Departmental awards in English, Social Studies, Science, Foreign Language and Art; The Bausch and Lomb Honorary Science Award; The Princeton Book Award, The Yale Book Award; Boston Globe Art Awards for ceramics. Jacob accepted his award from Superintendent Rigby.

Michelle Chen is recognized for her many accomplishments, including: academic, national honor society, music and chess. Michelle has received several awards, including: English and Chemistry departmental awards; 2nd and 3rd place in National Chess tournaments, and the President's Award for volunteer work. She has also taken classes at Harvard, attended a math camp at Carnegie-Melon, worked with an MIT professor and worked as a computer tutor at the Senior Center. Ms. Chen was not present at the SC meeting, but her mother was there to accept the award on Michelle's behalf.

Ms. Rigby also recognized Jenna Wong for being selected as one of the Massachusetts United State Senate's Youth Scholarship Program finalists. Ms. Rigby noted that there are two students selected from Massachusetts.

VII. REPORTS & ISSUES FOR DISCUSSION

A. CC At Play. John Boynton presented an update on Phase 1, which he noted is substantially complete. Phase 1 includes: the 6 tennis courts, softball fields/dugouts and reconstruction of the varsity diamonds, new irrigation system, drainage work, electrical work and plumbing, access road and related pathways. Mr. Boynton stated that they are continuing with Gale Associates for Phase 2, which was the architectural firm, which handled Phase 1. Planning is starting now, with a construction start date of June 1, 2014. The JV baseball and softball fields, as well as the football field area and concession stand will be included in Phase 2. He noted that Phase 2 is fully permitted and designed. Mr. Boynton asked the Committee to consider the possibility of naming the new concession stand after a donor who could be making a substantial contribution to the project. He also asked the Committee for their consideration in re-naming the lower field complex to "Patriot Park", which he felt would reinforce the idea that it is a community resource. Mr. Boynton also noted that the CC at Play group has attained 501C3 status as a non-profit organization. Mr. Boynton will return to the Committee in February to outline final design plans for Phase 2.

Mr. Benincasa noted that Mr. Grom had inquired about the health impact of the synthetic fields and Mr. Boynton stated that they are aware of the concerns. Mr. Boynton stated that Gale Associates has reviewed the literature and they are currently assembling the material to share with the community, noting that the information shows the fields as being safe. Committee members thanked Mr. Boynton for all of his hard work on CC At Play.

B. Hour of Code. Jane-Sarah MacFarlane spoke regarding the Global Tech Initiative called "Hour of Code", which encourages students to learn programming languages. The program is occurring over a one-week period at CCHS. She noted that the initiative began last year with about 150 students. This year, there are 5 teachers, representing 300 students involved. She stated the supporting website is hourofcode.com and includes tutorials for any age level.

C. FY16 Budget Proposals and 2015 Town Meeting Warrant Articles. Mr. Flaherty stated that the CPS FY16 Preliminary Budget request is \$34,642,735, which is a 6.79% increase and includes a 4.58% 5-year operating average increase. He noted that the Finance Committee guideline allows the growth of \$1.4 Million, which only supports the following budget items: steps, lanes, scales, other non CBU and CBU salary contingency, CMS special tuition education tuitions, integrated preschool and special education transportation (totaling \$1,440,000). Ms. Rigby noted that these are fixed costs and are \$40,000 above the FINCOM guideline. Mr. Flaherty stated that in order to meet the FINCOM guidelines, the budget would need to be reduced by \$802,197. The Committee discussed their concerns with the proposed budget cuts and agreed that they were all risks/delays. The Committee also discussed the proposed elementary foreign language program and other FTE increases. The Committee agreed to reduce the proposed budget by \$100,000, resulting in an operating budget proposal of \$34,542,735.

Mr. Flaherty identified the Capital Needs, including: \$40,000 for re-loaming and re-seeding at Thoreau, \$545,000 for walkway repairs and boilers at Sanborn and \$265,000 for the bus depot construction, ADA updates and chimney repointing at Ripley for a total of \$850,000.

Mr. Flaherty stated that the CCRSD FY16 Preliminary Budget is \$31,016,179, including the estimated debt service amount of \$4,840,208. This translates into a net operating budget of \$26,175,971. Mr. Flaherty stated that between a combination of reductions and an increase in in-district funds, they could support an operating budget of \$25,802,829 to meet the Finance Committee Guidelines. The total budget would then be \$30,643,037, with an operating budget impact of \$1,197,323 for FY16.

Mr. Flaherty and Ms. Snook spoke regarding the Bus Depot Warrant Article, indicating a couple of adjustments have been made since the Coordination Meeting. Ms. Snook stated that the Town of Concord will own the bus depot land and of the \$1.875 Million needed to develop the bus depot, \$925,000 was set aside last year and we need \$950,000 more to complete the depot. A portion, \$200,000, was moved to the Capital Plan and \$750,000 will go before the Town as a Warrant Article. Ms. Snook noted that the Regional School District would pay a fee in the future to use the bus depot and the Town of Concord and The Concord Public Schools would own the depot.

Mr. Flaherty discussed the Bus Replacement Warrant, noting that a bus has not been purchased since 2010. He stated that the warrant article at CPS is for 8 buses and at CCRSD for 10 buses; at \$100,000 per bus. The committee discussed changing the schedule of the bus replacements, moving toward a twelve-year schedule versus a ten-year schedule and also the possibility of creating a committee in the future to look into more fuel-efficient modes of transportation. Mr. Flaherty noted that once the funds and location are secured, they could manage the type of buses and phasing/timing of the buses. The Committee agreed to change the warrant articles to request 6 buses for CPS at a total cost of \$600,000 and 4 buses at CCRSD at a total cost of \$400,000.

VIII. ACTION ITEMS

A. Vote to Approve CCHS Field Trips. Ms. Rigby noted that the Dance Club NYC Trip has been moved from December 13, 2014 to January 24, 2015. Mr. Benincasa, seconded by Ms. Storrs, made a motion to approve the following field trips: CCHS Dance Club NYC trip, CCHS Track and Field Trip to Yale University on January 16-17, 2015 and CCHS Men's & Women's Fencing Team trip to Huntington, NY on January 25, 2015. The motion was unanimously approved.

B. Vote to adopt FY16 Budget Proposals & 2015 Town Warrant Articles. A motion was made by Ms. Boynton, for CSC, seconded by Mr. Benincasa, to approve the CPS FY16 Budget Proposal at an adjusted amount of \$34,542,735. A motion was made by Mr. Benincasa, for CCSC, seconded by Ms. Storrs, to approve the CCRSD FY16 Budget Proposal of \$25,802,829, with a total Operating Budget of \$30,643,037. Both motions were unanimously approved.

A motion was made by Ms. Boynton, for CPS, seconded by Mr. Benincasa, to approve both the adjusted amount of \$600,000 for the School Bus Replacement Warrant Article (Article TBD) and the amount of \$750,000 for the CPS Bus Depot Warrant Article (Article TBA). The motion was unanimously approved as adjusted.

A motion was made by Ms. Boynton, for CCSC, seconded by Mr. Johnston, to approve the adjusted amount of \$600,000 for the Regional School Bus Replacement Warrant Article (Article TBD). The motion was unanimously approved as adjusted.

IX. OLD BUSINESS

A. Transportation. Ms. Boynton stated that the terminology is being discussed around the access road at WR Grace that will access the Acton parcel. She noted that the Purchase and Sale Agreement is still targeted for January 2015.

B. CCHS Building Project. Ms. Boynton stated that the building is 88% complete and is right on schedule. Ms. Rigby noted that the science department is very excited about the labs. The Committee commented on how bright the new building is. Ms. Rigby noted that the dedication ceremony would be in the fall.

C. Website. Mr. Johnston asked if people could send ideas/thoughts via email and they can discuss at the January 13, 2015 meeting.

X. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

A. Elementary Math Review. Ms. Rigby stated that they are looking at a new elementary math curriculum for grades K-5. The Elementary Steering Committee is involved with the teachers in selecting the new curriculum to recommend to her. Ms. Rigby stated that on December 2, 2014, the subcommittee of 26 teachers selected "Everyday Math 4" to pilot in January and February. Information will be collected from the pilot and the teachers will be able to make a final recommendation at that time. Ms. Rigby noted that the teachers involved in the pilot would receive 20 professional development points for participating.

B. CCHS Parent Meeting on 1:1 Learning Environment. Ms. Rigby acknowledged Mr. Badalamant and his tech team of June Patton and Terri Smolka who presented at two parent meetings on the Blended Learning Environment (use of 1:1, computers, laptops).

C. Coordination Meeting. Ms. Rigby acknowledged Mr. Flaherty for all of his work with the Admin Team in developing the budget and presenting and explaining the information.

D. Elementary Professional Development in Reading. Ms. Rigby stated that Nancy Boyles attended the Alcott School's third and fifth grades and modeled her non-fiction reading strategies for the teachers. She noted that he teachers would be able to use the new strategies immediately.

E. Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. Ms. Rigby stated that the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education has been running PARCC boot camps. Kristin Herbert attended a boot camp with the principals and tech specialists and they have been able to develop a packet of six pages of notes to prepare the students to take the tests.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Ms. Boynton, seconded by Mr. Johnston, for both CCSC and CSC to adjourn the meeting. The motion was unanimously approved and the meeting adjourned at 9:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Erin E. Higgins

Approved: 1/29/15

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 High School
CHPS	The Collaborative for High Performance Schools
FINCOM	Finance Committee
OPEB	Other Post-Employment Benefits