

JOINT SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Concord-Carlisle School Committee  
Concord School Committee  
Zoom Meeting  
May 8, 2020

Present: Wallace Johnston, Chair, CCSC; CSC  
David Model, Vice Chair, CCSC  
Heather Bout, Chair, CSC; CCSC  
Courtland Booth, Vice Chair, CSC; CCSC  
Cynthia Rainey, CSC, CCSC  
Eva Mostoufi, 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 Mr. Johnston at 11:03 AM, noting that it was being recorded. Ms. Bout then called the CSC meeting to order, also noting that it was being recorded. *Mr. Model was not in attendance at this time.*

**PUBLIC HEARING ON SCHOOL CHOICE**

Ms. Bout opened the Public Hearing for School Choice for CSC at 11:07 and Mr. Johnston then opened the Public Hearing for School Choice for the CCSC.

A. School Choice Memo. Dr. Hunter stated that the SC has to vote by June 1<sup>st</sup> of each year whether or not to participate in School Choice, regarding students coming into the District. Dr. Hunter recommended that the SC vote, as in the past, to not participate in School Choice because enrollment is too close to the capacity of the buildings and there is not an equitable or adequate transportation system to allow all students to attend school in another district.

B. Vote on School Choice for the 2020-2021 School Year. A motion was made by Mr. Booth, for both CSC and CCSC, seconded by Ms. Rainey, for both CSC and CCSC, to vote not to participate in School Choice for the school year 2020-2021. After no public questions or comments, the motion passed by roll call: Bout, aye (for both); Mostoufi, aye; Booth, aye (for both); Rainey, aye (for both); Johnston, aye (for both).

A motion was made by Mr. Booth, for both CSC and CCSC, seconded by Ms. Rainey, for both CSC and CCSC, to close the Public Hearing. The motion passed by roll call: Booth, aye (for both); Rainey, aye (for both); Bout, aye (for both); Mostoufi, aye; Johnston, aye (for both); and the Public Hearing closed at 11:11 AM.

**II. CORRESPONDENCE**

Mr. Johnston stated that he received several letters about spring coaching compensation, noting that all of the letters were all in favor of paying the coaches. Ms. Rainey noted that there was also an email about grading at CCHS.

**III. CHAIRS & LIASIONS REPORT**

Ms. Bout stated that it was Teacher Appreciation week, reading a letter of appreciation from the School Committee to all CPS and CCHS teachers. Ms. Bout also noted the physical education teachers for all of their work in keeping kids active during this time.

**IV. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Dr. Hunter stated that the District is discussing Phase 4 and re-entry, which involves all areas of learning and safety in food service, transportation, and health services. She stated that she will need input on these pieces to plan over the next couple of months.

## V. REPORTS FOR DISCUSSION

A. Budget Status FY20 and FY21. Mr. Stanton stated that there are 20 current spring coaches at the high school, for a total cost of \$117,823, noting that this is a general fund expense. Mr. Booth stated that everyone in the District is being compensated as if they were working in the jobs as expected, noting that he hopes Dr. Hunter receives a report from the Director of Athletics on how the coaches are each supporting and engaging with students. Mr. Johnston noted that coaches have been engaged with students throughout the spring, recommending that they be paid. Dr. Hunter noted that MIAA didn't cancel the season on March 13th, noting that there was hope for a spring season all the way until April 24th, noting that coaches were gearing up to get back. Ms. Rainey stated that coaches are engaged with students year-round, noting that this was also noted in the many emails received in support of paying the coaches. Ms. Mostoufi noted that the schedule that Dr. Hunter shared showed a very packed schedule for all of the spring coaches. The SC agreed to paying the spring coaches, thanking parents for their input.

Mr. Stanton stated that the state is projecting \$4-6 billion short in revenue, noting that it does have a high rainy-day fund compared to other states. He stated that he is hoping to receive money from the CARES Act next week, anticipating \$96,000 for CPS and \$24,000 for CCHS, noting that these monies can be used up to September of 2022. Mr. Stanton stated that he reviewed the numbers from 2010 to see what that would look like now, noting that he expects cuts in in Chapter 70, Chapter 71 Regional Transportation, Circuit Breaker reimbursement, and Circuit Breaker transportation.

He stated that the Business Office continues to be in close-out mode, preparing for next year, as well as FY22. For CPS, he stated that the District expects to lose \$160,000 in Food Services between lost revenue and paying the staff. He stated that he was able to put \$600,000 back into circuit breaker to carry on to next year and also brought the Food Service account back into good standing. Mr. Stanton stated that there is a \$365,000 available balance as of 5/6/20 at CPS, noting that it will be fluid. He stated that the max circuit breaker is \$802,000, noting that if the SC wants to prepay tuitions, he recommends first maxing out the circuit breaker. On the CCHS side, Mr. Stanton stated that on April 13th, there was a little over \$826,000 of an unencumbered balance. He stated that as of May 6th, there is \$1.2 million in available balances, noting how fluid the budgets are. He stated that he has maximized the circuit breaker account, and anticipates \$1,065,000, and that he is anticipating a surplus in revenue of \$331,000, which will automatically go into E&D.

Mr. Stanton stated that he was recently asked by the Carlisle Finance Committee to look at what a 5% assessment reduction would look like in FY21, and shared what this would look like. He also spoke on what could be included to reach 5%, including: using FY20 available balance to prepay OPEB obligation, purchasing the 2 new buses at CCHS, prepaying the 1st three months of tuitions, and purchasing FY20 replacement cycle of laptops. He noted that any offsets taken this year in next year's budget will cause gaps in future years. He stated that if these options are not used, the District would have to look into personnel and programming.

Mr. Johnston noted that there is a meeting on Monday with Carlisle's FinCom, noting that this is where the exercise on the 5% reduction of the budget has come from. He stated that the District is looking for a way to lower the FY21 budget ask, noting that the overages mentioned could be placed towards next year's expenses. *Mr. Model joined the meeting.* Mr. Johnston confirmed that Concord's percentage the District was asked to look into was 2.3%, and Ms. Rainey noted that this was a very rosy outlook. Mr. Stanton stated that if the District uses the \$3 million in potential losses of revenue, CPS would be at a \$1.3 million decrease and a \$750,000 decrease for Concord's CCHS portion, in addition to losses in state aid and circuit breaker. Mr. Johnston noted how little information the District has from the state, and that it will be some time before receipts are received. The SC discussed the Town Meeting being moved passed June 22nd.

Public Comment: Mike Lawson, Concord Select Board. Mr. Lawson stated that the Town Moderator would be postponing Town Meeting until sometime in the fall, preferably September, to make sure enough information was available to make good financial decisions. Mr. Model noted that Carlisle expects to go ahead with its Town Meeting, questioning how it will work if Carlisle votes the regional budget on the table. Mr. Lawson noted that Concord has contacted town counsel regarding this issue. The SC discussed the 1/12th budget process, and Dr. Hunter stated that she will be getting more clarity on this from the Town Manager.

Mr. Johnston stated that the SC should get as much real and anecdotal information as possible to create a revised budget. He stated that the goal is still to provide the best education to the students, while understanding the realities the District is faced with. Ms. Bout recommended getting a feel from Committee members on their support of pushing Town Meeting back to the fall.

A motion was made by Mr. Booth, for CSC, seconded by Ms. Rainey, for CSC, that the CSC will share its desire for Concord Town Meeting to be delayed to September or later of 2020 and send to the Concord Town Moderator and Concord Select Board. The motion passed by roll call: Rainey, aye; Johnston, aye; Booth, aye; Bout, aye.

A motion was made by Mr. Model, for CCSC, seconded by Ms. Bout, for CCSC, to request both Town Moderators of Concord and Carlisle send to both Select Boards of Concord and Carlisle a request that Town Meeting be held off until the fall. The motion passed by roll call: Rainey, aye; Bout, aye; Booth, aye; Mostoufi, aye; Model, aye; Johnston, aye.

Mr. Booth suggested that work begin on a zero-based approach to remote teaching for FY21, with potential for having a hybrid of remote and on ground teaching. Dr. Hunter stated that these conversations have already began, noting that the challenge is the fluidity of all the variables. Mr. Johnston questioned the formation of a task force around Phase 4 and Dr. Hunter stated that this will be discussed at the next meeting. The SC discussed holding a meeting the following week.

#### **VI. OLD BUSINESS**

A. Update on Phase 3 Remote Learning. Dr. Hunter stated that there would be a lot more to share on Phase 3 after the first week of roll out, noting all of the preparatory work being completed this week to start Phase 3 on Monday, May 11th.

#### **VII. NEW BUSINESS**

A. Withdrawal from EDCO Collaborative. Dr. Hunter stated that the District has been a member of the long standing EDCO Collaborative, a member board of public schools. She stated that, over the last 10 months, a very serious fiscal situation has evolved, with unknowns being brought to light of deficits in the FY20 budget in operating and debt that had occurred. She stated that the districts have had to compensate for this with additional membership costs this year, noting that the problem originated from a combination of accounting issues in the central office at EDCO as well as over estimates in anticipated revenues for the special education program. Dr. Hunter stated that, given the current financial situation and FY21, she has reviewed the benefits from EDCO, noting that there are currently no students enrolled. She stated that the District does benefit from professional development. She noted her concern for the wellbeing of the two districts she is responsible for over the wellbeing of the collaborative, recommending the District withdraw from EDCO. She stated that a vote would have to happen by the end of June, since the withdrawal can only happen on a fiscal year cycle.

#### **VIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

A. Executive Session: A motion was made Mr. Booth, for both CCSC and CSC, seconded by Ms. Rainey, for CCSC and CSC, for The Concord School Committee and Concord-Carlisle Regional School Committee to 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 not return to Open Session. The motion passed by roll call: Bout, aye (for both); Booth, aye (for both); Mostoufi, aye; Model, aye; Rainey, aye (for both); Johnston, aye (for both); and the Open Session ended at 12:40 PM.

#### **IX. ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Mr. Johnston, for both CSC and CCSC, seconded by Ms. Rainey, for both CSC and CCSC, to adjourn the meeting. The motion was unanimously approved and the CCSC meeting adjourned at 1:36 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Erin E. Higgins

Approved: 5.26.20

Abbreviations:

CCHS	Concord-Carlisle High School
CCRSD	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
MIAA	Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association
OPM	Owners Project Manager
SC	School Committee