

Minutes

PRESENT: Ms. Rebecca Shannon, Chair
Ms. Betsy Bilodeau
Ms. Jann McGinn
Mr. Patrick Sinnott
Mr. Jerry Wedge

PRESENT FROM ADMINISTRATION: Dr. Brenda Finn, Superintendent
Mr. John Flaherty
Ms. Diana Rigby

I CALL TO ORDER AND GREETING

The meeting was called to order by Ms. Shannon at 7:05 p.m.

II READING OF THE MINUTES

A. Open Session

A MOTION was made by Ms. Bilodeau and seconded by Mr. Wedge to approve the minutes from the Concord School Committee meeting held June 8, 2004. The MOTION was unanimously approved.

A MOTION was made by Ms. Bilodeau and seconded by Ms. McGinn to approve the minutes from the Concord School Committee meeting held September 14, 2004. The MOTION was unanimously approved.

III CORRESPONDENCE

A. Willard: Petition to SC for building construction

Dr. Finn stated she received a petition from concerned citizens urging the School Committee to move forward plans to rebuild Willard Elementary School.

Dr. Finn stated Nancy Dillon, a teacher at Thoreau, has had contact with a teacher from Germany who will be visiting Concord next week. A letter to Mr. Halliday was distributed.

Ms. Shannon stated she received correspondence regarding a School Committee picture for the yearbook. We will take one at the next joint meeting.

IV RECOGNITIONSA. Willard School

Pat Fernandes recognized Language Arts Specialists Susan Chafe of Willard, Bev Gautier of Alcott and Marjorie Condon of Thoreau and the huge amount of work preparing for a successful workshop. She congratulated and thanked them.

B. Alcott School

Sharon Young thanked the Alcott School Advisory Committee and the Daffodil Project Subcommittee, they will be planting the daffodils over the next three Tuesdays.

C. Middle School

Arthur Unobskey recognized the sixth grade teachers for the energy they put into the 2-night overnight program. This is outside the typical teaching environment.

V ACTION ITEMSA. Vote to approve Goals for 2004-2005

A MOTION was made by Ms. Bilodeau and seconded by Mr. Sinnott to approve the Goals for 2004-2005 as presented.

A discussion ensued regarding the verbage "restore needed programming" It was decided to delete the word "restore".

The MOTION was voted and unanimously approved.

B. Vote to approve School Committee Master Calendar

A MOTION was made by Ms. Bilodeau and seconded by Mr. Wedge to approve the School Committee Master Calendar as presented in Attachment B.

Mr. Wedge asked if the student advisory representative was aware of his duties. Ms. Bilodeau stated the student representative is a non-voting member of the School Committee. The student advisory council is a group of 5 students who attend 5 times a year to let us know issues and things going on at the high school.

Ms. McGinn stated in May and June, do we assume we are working on budget issues. Ms. Bilodeau stated we will leave that open, this is a flexible document and we will lose track of what we need to do if we don't have something like this.

The MOTION was unanimously approved.

C. Approval of Position Description: Change of Dispatcher to Transportation Coordinator

A MOTION was made by Ms. Bilodeau and seconded by Mr. Wedge to approve the position description of Transportation Coordinator.

Mr. Flaherty stated this position is being created due to a retirement. This person will assist in management, routing, running organization, payroll procedures and assist in directing people. The position has been advertised in the Globe. Out of 12 resumes, 8 were interviewed and we have narrowed it down to 3 people. One person has a license as well.

The MOTION was unanimously approved.

VI REPORTS AND ISSUES FOR DISCUSSION

A. Plans for October Exchanges

China: Mr. Unobskey stated 3 teachers and 9 students arrive tonight. They will teach our kids calligraphy, in PE classes, they will teach martial arts. This is a great experience to see Chinese culture, not Chinese American culture. This is also the first step in something bigger, possibly going over there.

Mr. Unobskey gave Melissa Lang a lot of credit for putting this all together. The kids are very excited, a lot of students wanted to be hosts.

Japan: Ms. Young stated 8 adults and 7 high school students from Japan will be here next week. They will be involved in activities at the high school as well as the elementary school. There will be a soba noodle workshop and a tea ceremony.

B. Report from Facilities Subcommittee

Mr. Wedge reported the subcommittee has met 3 times and have assumed their charge. They are focusing on the high school, Willard and the Concord middle schools. They are also focusing on Ripley, central office needs and the Strawberry Hill site.

We are looking at the high school and using the 2002 study as a starting point. The new SBA configuration may impact construction. The Willard issue will also be discussed, the possibility of using Alcott as a swing school.

C. FY-06 Budget Planning

Dr. Finn stated the administrative team has met, we are beginning to get an indication as to the level of support. We will have a better indicator on Thursday and a month from then. Principals have asked to gather info from staff in the schools.

Mr. Flaherty stated we have prepared reports to give to the Finance Committee for Thursday.

Ms. McGinn asked where do School Committee members fit in for Thursday's meeting. Dr. Finn stated there are very specific questions regarding enrollment, salary pieces, sped, trends, special problems, areas of interest.

Mr. Sinnott stated the recommended structure is the excel worksheet. The Finance Committee wants to know the drivers and how we can control them.

Mr. Flaherty thanked the Finance Committee for making the meeting a joint meeting with Carlisle so the administration only had to present once.

D. Traffic Plan at Alcott and Thoreau

Ms. Shannon stated this was added for review due to the accident in Stoneham recently.

Ms. Young stated Tuesdays at Alcott are an adventure, parents often take a child through the parking lot when they exit. They are asked not to do that. Mr. Flaherty stated the plan was to isolate the buses from cars. We are looking into that piece.

E. Volunteer for School Committee Calendar

Mr. Wedge volunteered to do this for another year.

VIII SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

A. Cultural exchange luncheon on October 21, 2004
FYI to put on calendar

B. MASC/MASS Joint Conference, October 27-29, 2004
FYI to put on calendar

X ADJOURNMENT

A MOTION was made by Mr. Wedge and seconded by Ms. Bilodeau to adjourn the Concord School Committee meeting at 8:10 p.m. The MOTION was unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura O'Sullivan
APPROVED: 11/23/04