

CONCORD SCHOOL COMMITTEE
MEETING

Concord School Committee
Ripley Building
Concord, MA
February 24, 2004
6:30 PM (Joined Regional at 7:00 PM)

Minutes

PRESENT:

Ms. Betsy Bilodeau, Chair, CSC
Ms. Rebecca Shannon
Ms. Meg Gaudet
Mr. Pat Sinnott
Mr. Jerry Wedge

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

I. CALL TO ORDER AND GREETING

The meeting was called to order by Ms. Bilodeau for CPS at 6:37 p.m.

IV. RECOGNITIONS

Ms. Bilodeau recognized Janet Friedman. She has put together a school budget primer and also puts together the Willard Watch paper. She did a stupendous job and plans to distribute this at the hearing. Ms. Bilodeau stated Ms. Friedman was concerned that the town money not be used to fund this. She will check before a mass mailing is done.

VI. ACTION ITEMS

A. Bid Award/Ripley Roof Project – Phase 2

Mr. Flaherty stated nine bids were submitted for phase 2 of the Ripley Administration Building. A MOTION was made by Ms. Gaudet and seconded by Mr. Wedge for CPS to award Capeway Roofing Systems the contract for the Removal and Replacement of Roofing, Flashing, and Associated Work – Phase 2 at the Ripley Administration Building.

Ms. Gaudet asked if there were leaks in the first phase. Mr. Flaherty stated there weren't. Is there any worry this company will go bankrupt? Mr. Flaherty stated they are bonded and provided proper authentication.

The MOTION was unanimously approved.

VI. REPORTS AND ISSUES FOR DISCUSSION

Ms. Bilodeau stated there is a breakfast next Wednesday at the Sanborn Middle School at 7:30 a.m. Ms. Bilodeau is going, Ms. Shannon cannot go.

Budget Review

CPS Budget

Dr. Finn stated the administration was asked to expand on the side of the budget reduction list.

Ms. Bilodeau stated at the Finance Committee meeting last Thursday, she learned after this year, we will not be able to ask the town for an appropriation for Sped over-runs. There will be a different process next year. They are getting too close to the 5% free cash. Next year's budget will have to increase in order to accommodate that number. Ms. Bilodeau suggested taking an average of the past 3 year's over-runs and increasing this current budget.

Mr. Flaherty stated the past 3 years' average is about \$260K. Ms. Bilodeau stated we are in discussions on how to handle this, we need to state this clearly to people. Let's use our March meeting to decide about whether to raise the budget number or not.

Reduction List

Ms. Bilodeau stated this is a detailed list of reductions, she is comfortable with. The administration has done an admirable job with this task.

Mr. Wedge agreed this reduction list was a tremendous amount of work. He expressed ideas around moving the band on the list. He suggested looking at items 24, and items 12 and 13.

Ms. Shannon stated if band goes to after-school it will kill the program. It is important for kids and lots of kids enjoy the program. It is important to provide music lessons.

Ms. Gaudet stated she is leaving it in the hands of Dr. Finn and Mr. Flaherty.

Dr. Finn stated she has talked to principals regarding the music classes and class sizes and is willing to clarify questions.

VIII. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

A. Notification to Abutters Under Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act

Dr. Finn distributed the notice that had been received.

B. Finance Committee/Public Hearing, February 26, 2004

The budget hearing at Alcott Thursday evening.

X. ADJOURNMENT

A MOTION was made by Ms. Shannon and seconded by Mr. Sinnott for CPS to adjourn the CPS School Committee meeting at 10:04 p.m and enter into Executive Session. The MOTION was unanimously approved

Respectfully Submitted,

Laura O'Sullivan

APPROVED: 3/24/04