

JOINT MEETING

Concord School Committee
Concord-Carlisle School Committee
Ripley Building
Concord, MA
May 25, 2004
7:00 PM

Minutes

PRESENT:

Ms. Rebecca Shannon, Chair, CSC
Mr. Patrick Sinnott, Chair, CCSC
Ms. Betsy Bilodeau
Ms. Nicole Burkel
Mr. Michael Fitzgerald
Ms. Jan McGinn
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 Mr. Sinnott for CCRSD and Ms. Shannon for CPS at 7:07 p.m.

Student Advisory Council

Louisa Slocum spoke about the teacher contract and the effect it has on students. Students feel the best way the school committee can support the students is to settle the contract. The students are afraid college recommendations will not be written. Teachers do a lot more than they have to, they give up free blocks to edit papers, attend games and plays.

Andy Harris suggested if the over-ride doesn't pass, a "Sponsor an Athlete" program could be started for kids who can't afford to pay for athletic fees.

David Pedra stated it is unfortunate with 3 days left; this is what they are talking about. It is very close to the student body and there are a lot of students interested and talking to teachers.

Mr. Harris stated the parking situation has improved a great deal, and there is huge development on the pool construction. The Art Association held an exhibit and scholarships have been awarded to several students.

Mr. Sinnott thanked the faculty at CCHS for the jobs they do and for having been particularly patient. We don't have control over some external issues and hope we can move forward quickly.

Mr. Sinnott stated it has been an honor to have Louisa Slocum on the School Committee for the past two years. The School Committee has loved having her at the table and gives her best wishes and congratulations.

Mr. Harris thanked the School Committee for listening to what students have to say.

II. READING OF THE MINUTES

A. Open Session

A MOTION was made by Mr. Wedge and seconded by Ms. Bilodeau for CCSC and a MOTION was made Mr. Wedge and seconded by Ms. Bilodeau for CSC to approve the minutes from the Joint School Committee meeting held April 13, 2004. A change was made on page 3. The secretary noted the change and the MOTION was approved by a vote:

CCSC

Aye: Bilodeau, Burkel, Fitzgerald, McGinn, Shannon, Wedge

Nay:

Abstain: Sinnott

CSC

Aye: Bilodeau, McGinn, Shannon, Wedge

Nay:

Abstain: Sinnott

III. CORRESPONDENCE

Ms. Bilodeau received correspondence regarding the Memorial Day parade Monday. She asked which School Committee members would be attending. Mr. Wedge and Ms. Bilodeau will attend the afternoon parade.

Ms. Shannon reported from the chair meeting that Comcast is leaving and we will manage our own local access channel. On August 12, at 7:30 in the Town House, the Finance Committee is holding an orientation. Anyone on School Committee can attend. There was a question regarding whether the Thoreau playground can remain during construction. It has to come down.

Ms. Bilodeau stated there are several events where 1 or 2 School Committee members must attend. They will be discussed later.

IV. RECOGNITIONS

B. CCHS

Mr. Dulong recognized Kate Swanson, a 10th grade student at CCHS who won the poster of the year contest under the direction of Ms. Elizabeth St. Jean.

C. Middle School

On behalf of Mr. Unobskey, Dr. Finn recognized the chaperones who served 4 days on a Washington trip for students: Mal Grant, Karen Lane, Doc Miller and Mitchell Stern.

Dr. Finn also recognized the students who received merit in foreign language. Ms. Shannon stated these students come in early to prepare for these tests. The projects are also phenomenal.

D. Willard:

Ms. Fernandes recognized the reading tutors at Willard and attribute some of the success of the reading program to them, Ann Donoghue, Judi Alexander, Kate Reid and Lori Bratzler.

E. Thoreau:

Mr. Popp recognized Beth Murphy in her “Miles for Smiles” program. She recognizes physical education is not just a class. Students are committed to making exercise a part of their daily lives. They commit to exercise 4 times a week.

Mr. Wedge recognized the middle school instrumental music program. They played a variety from Bach to the Monster’s theme song.

Ms. Shannon recognized the parents in the community and their help with the schools. They recently worked to decorate the high school for dances.

Ms. Bilodeau recognized the Chorus’s finale concert. The “sing for a cure” piece was phenomenal. They have a terrific director that supports them and CC Pops that supports them.

V. ACTION ITEMS

A. Ratification of the Concord-Carlisle Support Staff/MTA Bus Drivers’ Unit Contract

Mr. Sederstrom reviewed the differences in the new contract.

A MOTION was made by Ms. Bilodeau and seconded by Mr. Fitzgerald for CCSC and a MOTION was made by Mr. Wedge and seconded by

Mr. Sinnott for CSC to approve the proposed bus drivers' contract effective July 1, 2003-June 30, 2006 as presented. The MOTION was unanimously approved.

Mr. Fitzgerald asked if the funeral leave changed in all 3 contracts. Mr. Sederstrom stated this is the same as the others.

B. Approve School Committee Meeting Dates for 2004-05

Dr. Finn presented a tentative proposed schedule.

Mr. Fitzgerald asked if one meeting in fall and spring could be held in Carlisle. It was decided October 26 and May 24 would be held in Carlisle.

C. Vote to Accept two exchange students @ CCHS for the 2004-05 school year

Mr. Dulong stated we will only take students from certain approved program. This year we did not have an exchange student. It adds something to the school, brings a segment of culture to our system. They are required to take a US History class. Other than that, they can take whatever classes they want. They do not have requirements to meet for graduation. The FLEX program is a good program. Over 57,000 students apply, 1,200 are accepted.

Ms. Shannon asked if we send students. Mr. Dulong stated this is not a trade. Students have the option if they choose to do that.

Mr. Fitzgerald asked if there were liability issues. Mr. Dulong stated the students come fully insured.

A MOTION was made by Ms. Bilodeau and seconded by Mr. Fitzgerald for CCSC to approve the requests to have two exchange students attend CCHS in the fall of 2004. The MOTION was unanimously approved.

D. To Approve High School Chorus Trip to Czech Republic, Austria, Germany

Mr. Dulong stated this trip was planned for last year. It wasn't a good time to do that so they pulled out. Chuck Brown inspires the students and knows how to get the most out of them in a variety of ways. He commands the respect of his students.

A MOTION was made by Mr. Wedge and seconded by Ms. Bilodeau for CCSC to approve the request from Chuck Brown for the high school chorus trip to the Czech Republic, Austria and Germany. The MOTION was unanimously approved.

Ms. Burkel asked if there were a lot of people anticipated in participating. Would a number of flights be booked. Mr. Dulong stated it is fully subscribed at 160. He would not be surprised if it is fully subscribed.

Mr. Wedge asked if any district funds were used to fund the trip. Mr. Dulong stated it will receive funding through CC Pops and fundraisers.

E. Vote to declare surplus equipment at CCHS

Dr. Finn stated this is standard procedure. Mr. Fitzgerald asked if there were any other districts that could use this equipment. Inquiries have been made. Some items will be donated.

A MOTION was made by Ms. Bilodeau and seconded by Mr. Wedge for CCSC to declare the (previously distributed) list of items surplus to the school system and authorized the appropriate sale, transfer or disposal of same. The MOTION was unanimously approved.

F. Vote to approve Budget Transfer Request

Mr. Flaherty stated this will cover the additional AP Biology course at the high school and will get textbooks to start summer reading.

A MOTION was made by Ms. Bilodeau and seconded by Mr. Wedge for CCSC to approve the appropriate transfer of money to cover additional AP Biology textbooks. The MOTION was unanimously approved.

G. Vote to ratify the CTA Contract

Ms. Bilodeau stated the CTA was ratified that afternoon. She stated she has the utmost respect for the CTA teachers and the final conclusion reached recognizes the issues we had concerns about.

A MOTION was made by Ms. Bilodeau and seconded by Mr. Sinnott to ratify the CTA contract. The MOTION was voted:

Aye: Bilodeau, Shannon, Sinnott, Wedge

Nay:

Abstain: McGinn

Ms. Bilodeau thanked Tom Hourihan for his leadership in this process and the ability to move forward with a unified vision. The School Committee appreciates the CTA's cooperation throughout the process.

VI. REPORTS AND ISSUES FOR DISCUSSION

A. Sabbatical Research Report/Andrea Gillis

Ms. Gillis spoke about creating an aquatics program for students. She has been a health and fitness teacher for 16 years. Some courses that

will be offered are lifeguard training, learn to swim, water exercise and games.

Mr. Sinnott asked the frequency of physical education classes. Ms. Gillis stated grade 9 meets 3 times a week and also has health. Grade ten meets 2 times a week, Grade 11 and 12 meet 2 times a week and also has health.

Ms. Gillis stated it is great to see new programs implemented. The rock wall is beneficial to students like the pool in attracting kids not interested in traditional fitness classes.

B. Tuition Waived Students

Mr. Fitzgerald stated Carlisle will be asked to pay a percentage now for tuition-waived students. Ms. McGinn asked if a student with tuition being waived needed to be placed out of district, which district would be responsible. Dr. Finn stated that would be the sending district's responsibility. If a student needed aid in district, that would be our responsibility.

C. Special Education Summer Services

Diana Rigby stated we will provide a 4-week long preschool program at Thoreau from 9-11. There are also 11 teachers with tutors at Willard to work on decoding, phonemic, vocabulary and comprehension. The students will then have transportation to the recreation program. All staff are current special ed teachers, we did not have to hire outside of the district.

Ms. Rigby stated we may be piloting the Lexia Learning software program this summer and then be part of a research project next year.

D. Summer Academic Success Program

Court Booth stated the summer academic success program focuses on early literacy needs. In grades K-5, 240 students were identified, 80 are enrolled. There is also a before school program offered through Community Ed. to help working parents. Parents who decline this program become part of our due diligence. Mr. Booth stated kids enjoy a less busy school schedule, we get a chance to simplify daily life.

Adult/Community Education Program

Mr. Booth stated this program is self-funding. We will break even this year. This is the 50th anniversary of the adult and community ed program. We've had 3 members step down from the advisory committee. There are now 3 Carlisle and 6 Concord representatives.

E. Review of 2003-04 Goals and Progress Made

Dr. Finn stated we will have an extended conversation and will review goals. Dr. Finn will email them tomorrow.

F. Choose two Fincom Observers; one CPS, one Region

It was decided Mr. Wedge would represent Concord for CPS and CCRSD and Mr. Fitzgerald would represent Carlisle for CCRSD.

VIII. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

A. School Committee member list 04-05

FYI

B. MASC Academy for School Leadership

Registration form distributed.

IX. CITIZENS' COMMENTS

Mark Russell Prior stated he was disturbed by hearing the students talk about the contract issues and that their school environment is affected by this.

X. ADJOURNMENT

A MOTION was made by Mr. Wedge and seconded by Ms. Bilodeau for CSC and a MOTION was made by Ms. Bilodeau and seconded by Mr. Fitzgerald for CCSC to adjourn the regional at 9:45 p.m. The MOTION was approved by roll call

Respectfully Submitted,

Laura O'Sullivan
APPROVED: 6/22/04