

JOINT MEETING
Committee

Concord School Committee
Concord-Carlisle School

Ripley Building
Concord, MA
July 27, 2004
5:00 PM

PRESENT:

Mr. Patrick Sinnott, Chair, CCSC
Ms. Rebecca Shannon, Chair,

CSC

Ms. Betsy Bilodeau
Mr. David Dockterman
Mr. Michael Fitzgerald, Vice Chair,

CCSC

Ms. Jan McGinn
Mr. Jerry Wedge, Vice Chair,

CSC

PRESENT FROM ADMINISTRATION:

Dr. Brenda Finn, Superintendent
Mr. John Flaherty
Ms. Diana Rigby
Mr. Gene Warfel

The meeting was called to order for CCRSD and CPS at 5:00

I. Resident Lee Ann Kay was granted permission to address the Committee re parental consent policy language. She requested that parents be contacted prior to a student being referred to an adult outside of the school system for advice or counsel.

II. Executive Session Minutes.

On a MOTION made by Jerry Wedge and seconded by Betsy Bilodeau for CCRSC and a MOTION made by Betsy Bilodeau and seconded by Jerry Wedge for CPS, executive session minutes of May 3, 2004 were approved. David Dockterman abstained as he was not present.

Meeting Minutes

On a MOTION made by Jerry Wedge and seconded by Becky Shannon for CCRSC, and on a MOTION made by Pat Sinnott and seconded by Jerry Wedge for CPS, minutes of June 22, 2004 were approved. David Dockterman abstained as he was not present.

III. Correspondence: Brenda Finn reported that the Town Manager has sent the dates of the 2005 Town Meeting and meetings leading up to that time.

IV. Recognitions

Brenda recognized Pat Nelson for her strong work at the Ripley Center for Parents and Teachers, and congratulated her on her new position as Executive Director of the Concord Children's Center. Brenda presented her with a plaque. The Committee thanked Pat for her dedication to children.

V. Action Items

A. Gift Acceptance – Bequest of Cyrus Stow

On a MOTION made by Jerry Wedge and seconded by Mike Fitzgerald for CCRSC, the SC accepted a gift of \$888.73 from the Trustees of Town Donations of the Town of Concord, which represents the earnings for fiscal year 2004 on the High School Donations Trust Fund. The MOTION passed unanimously with thanks.

B. Approve surplus of modular for CCRSD

On a MOTION made by Jerry Wedge for CPS and seconded by Jan McGinn it was unanimously voted that we declare the modular unit used for music surplus.

On a MOTION made by Mike Fitzgerald for CCRSC and seconded by Becky Shannon it was voted unanimously that CCRSD accept the modular classroom from the Concord Public Schools.

C. Vote to accept exchange student at CCHS for the 2004 –2005 school year.

On a MOTION made by David Dockterman for CCRSC and seconded by Becky Shannon it was voted unanimously to approve the request to have Gloria Valeri, an exchange student from Italy, attend CCHS for the school year 2004 – 2005.

D. Surplus shelving (added to agenda)

On a MOTION made by Betsy Bilodeau and seconded by Jerry Wedge for CPS it was unanimously voted to surplus unused Softpro shelving components.

VI. Reports and Issues for Discussion

A. Audit FY03: Findings for CPS and CCRSD

Brenda reported that the audits had gone well. Auditors will be on the August agenda to give full report but please review the audits and get back to her if there are questions.

B. Fibre Optic Network Update

Gene Warfel gave an update on the installation of the new Fibre Optic network. August 28 is the latest projected finish date, much later than hoped largely due to a bid challenge by a subcontractor. The challenge will be getting ready for the opening of the school year. The expectation is that the new system will give great improvement over the reliability and speed of the network. The Committee thanked Gene for his work.

C. Position Description Drafts

Position description drafts were distributed for the positions of Superintendent and Principal. This is part of an ongoing update of position descriptions. These should be reviewed, comments forwarded, and they will need to be approved at a future meeting.

D. Energy Conservation Improvement Program Awards

John Flaherty announced that CPS will receive \$100,000 and CCRSD will receive \$100,000 in energy improvement awards from the state based on applications submitted for work done on some of the buildings. The system pays for the construction improvement and then is paid back over a period of time.

E. Updates on Elementary School Moves

Town Tag Sale move ran smoothly. Thanks to Ann Dorfman of Public Works.

Moving into Alcott and Thoreau is going smoothly, with thanks to staff. Traffic patterns and parking at Alcott and Thoreau. A meeting took place inviting parents. All parents are encouraged to use the school buses. Thank you to Sharon Young for all of her work on this.

F. Thoreau Interim Principal Status

Brenda is working with the Department of Education to secure permission to hire an interim principal for Thoreau. She hopes to report an appointment very soon.

G. Discussion of Concord's Charter re Town Meeting Date

Becky had written to the Board of Selectmen on behalf of SC asking about the possibility of a charter change in order to make an earlier Town Meeting date possible. No word back yet.

H. FY05 Budget Adjustments: State and Federal Funding

Some grant funding information is still not available. It will be a couple of months before we know fully the impact of changes.

I. Policy Subcommittee Report

The policy manual review began and completed sections A and part of B. Jim Hardy from MASC has been good to work with.

VII. Old Business

There has been a complaint about a Driver Ed instructor using CCHS without permission. Brenda will look into liability issues.

VIII. Superintendent's Report

Brenda called SC attention to the MASC conference recognition forms, and the 2005 Town Meeting schedule list.

IX. Citizen Comments

Lilie Atkins commented that many Thoreau School parents are used to driving their children to school. She suggested using the PTG, SAC, and other avenues to advocate for using the school buses in order to alleviate traffic concerns.

Liz Hopkinson asked about Medicaid reimbursement for the district for specific special education services.

Ruth Armknecht asked how much money was made on the furniture tag sale at Alcott. The answer was about \$2,000.

Karen Venti asked about the process for filling the Director of Student Support Services position. Brenda responded that four positions, including the K-12 Department head for Music, Assistant Superintendent, Director of SPED Services, and Director of Information Technology were posted internally, with the idea that if we did not have suitable candidates we would look beyond the district. Diana Rigby explained that she had met with SPED parents, and that consistency was important within the district for the SPED director position. The internal process will not include parental involvement in the hiring choice. Pat Sinnott suggested that any parent has access to Diana or Brenda for comments. Brenda stated that she welcomes input.

Meeting adjourned 7:30 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,
Betsy Bilodeau

APPROVED: 10/26/04