

JOINT MEETING

Concord School Committee
Concord-Carlisle School Committee
Ripley Building
Concord, MA
September 28, 2004
7:00 PM

Minutes

PRESENT: Mr. Patrick Sinnott, Chair, CCSC
Ms. Rebecca Shannon, Chair, CSC
Ms. Betsy Bilodeau
Mr. David Dockterman
Mr. Michael Fitzgerald
Ms. Jan McGinn
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 Mr. Sinnott for CCSC and Ms. Shannon for CSC at 7:05 p.m.

Mr. Sinnott welcomed Matt Briggs and David Graham, Student Advisory Committee representatives.

II READING OF THE MINUTES

A. Open Session

It was decided to get June, July and August minutes for the next Joint meeting.

B. Executive Session

It was decided to have minutes from 8/24 emailed to the committee.

IV RECOGNITIONS

Mr. Dulong recognized Eric Rivera in having his first novel published by Vantage Press. It is titled, "The Almighty", is in the final stages and should be released next spring. They have commissioned him to write a second novel.

Mr. Dulong recognized Dick Kerr for securing 4 exercise bikes from the Thoreau Club to be used in the athletic facility.

Mr. Dulong recognized Jere Mead in placing 24th in a national Scrabble Championship.

Mr. Dulong recognized Dave Prifti in completing a photography course about the earliest processes of photography. As appropriate, he will apply them to courses.

Mr. Dulong recognized Spectrum organization. It has been chosen to be a model program for the Gay and Straight Alliance because of its respect for differences.

V ACTION ITEMS

A. Gift Acceptance – Donation from Middlesex Savings Bank to Adult and Community Education

A MOTION was made by Mr. Wedge and seconded by Ms. Shannon for CCRSD to accept a donation of \$200 from Middlesex Savings Bank to the Adult and Community Education program. The MOTION was unanimously approved and Middlesex Savings Bank was thanked for its donation.

B. Gift Acceptance – Donation to Adult and Community Education

A MOTION was made by Mr. Wedge and seconded by Ms. Shannon for CCRSD to accept a donation of \$60 from Mr. Charles Agonis of 65 Summit Street to Adult and Community Education. The MOTION was unanimously approved and Mr. Agonis was thanked for his donation.

C. Request permission to plan a trip to China

Mr. Dulong stated Ms. Hai-Ming Wu would like to plan a trip including juniors and seniors, for the dates of April 14-23. Mr. Wedge asked how many students. Mr. Dulong stated she would hope for 12-15 students.

A MOTION was made by Ms. Bilodeau and seconded by Ms. McGinn for CCRSD to approve the request of Hai-Ming Wu to plan a trip to China and to report back to the School Committee regarding the planning. The MOTION was unanimously approved.

D. Request permission to plan a trip to the National Parks

A MOTION was made by Ms. Bilodeau and seconded by Ms. Shannon for CCRSD to approve the request of Laurie Giunta to plan a trip to the national parks. The MOTION was unanimously approved.

E. Designation of voting delegate to the annual MASC business meeting

Dr. Finn stated we need to notify MASC who the delegates are.

A MOTION was made by Ms. Bilodeau and seconded by Mr. Wedge for CCRSD that Rebecca Shannon be designated the official delegate for MASC for CCRSD, with Jan McGinn designated as the alternate delegate. The MOTION was unanimously approved.

A MOTION was made by Mr. Sinnott and seconded by Mr. Wedge for CSC that Jan McGinn be designated the official delegate for MASC for CSC with Rebecca

Shannon designated as the alternate delegate. The MOTION was unanimously approved.

F. Request to authorize revisions to the swim facility agreement

Dr. Finn stated she and Mr. Wedge need the School Committee's direction regarding whether or not to move forward with the Intergovernmental Agreement.

A discussion ensued regarding changes made to the agreement. A MOTION was made authorizing the Superintendent and Jerry Wedge to negotiate terms of the agreement with Chris Whelan on behalf of the School Committee, and prior to any approval, it be brought back to the School Committee. The MOTION was unanimously approved.

VI REPORTS AND ISSUES FOR DISCUSSION

A. Mentor Program

Diana Rigby introduced Brian Haas from the Peabody School and Karen Hoyt from the elementary schools. Ms. Rigby stated the professional orientation program is designed to support new teachers with a 5-year induction program. The goals of this program are to give non-evaluative support from colleagues, learn the culture of the school, recognize experienced teachers and improve on the culture/reduce teacher isolation. There are 30 new teachers, 26 of whom are brand new.

Karen Hoyt discussed the notebook given to mentors and guides. Mr. Hass discussed the 5 mentor meetings held throughout the year.

Ms. Shannon asked how long has the mentoring program been in effect. Ms. Rigby stated 14-15 years and has not changed much.

Mr. Dockterman asked about the retention rate of new teachers. Ms. Rigby stated 48% of K-8 teachers last less than 5 years. The number is 52% at the high school.

Dr. Finn stated the enthusiasm level is very high. Teachers are also rejuvenated in taking on a mentor role. Ms. Rigby stated they meet informally a lot with other colleagues.

B. Adequate Yearly Progress

Dr. Finn stated we will have a full presentation of K-12 MCAS at the November 19 meeting.

C. Opening of School

Staff new to Concord-Carlisle

Mr. Dulong stated at the high school there is almost 100% match of mentor/new teacher in the exact discipline. He also stated teachers left for reasons other than dissatisfaction with teaching or with Concord/Carlisle. The new teachers are

doing very well, last night was Back to School night, he heard many positive comments from parents.

Mr. Fitzgerald asked if the 70% new teachers in science was an anomaly, and will it have a negative impact. Mr. Dulong stated it was very peculiar, and it will have an impact, could very well be positive. New teachers do a lot of sharing.

Enrollment numbers

Mr. Dulong stated Chuck Brown has been compiling the data as part of an administration internship. The enrollment numbers are right in line this year. Over the past two years they have been up or down 35 students. Mr. Dulong discussed the complexity of scheduling students at the high school.

Mr. Wedge asked when does scheduling begin. Mr. Dulong stated it begins in November, by February we give it to the students, and requests come back mid-March. We then divide up sections with department chairs and in mid-April put together a master schedule to tinker with who will teach what. It is finalized mid-May, and done by the last day of school or first week out of school.

Mr. Fitzgerald thanked Mr. Dulong for having such a command of a complex process.

Dr. Finn thanked Mr. Dulong and Mr. Brown for giving the School Committee some visibility on how complex this is.

D. Preliminary plans for NEASC visit: November 14-17

Mr. Dulong stated the NEASC evaluation team will visit in November. They may want to meet with the School Committee on Sunday of their visit. A chair has been named and Mr. Dulong will meet with that person and plan the schedule. They will be moving around the schools and meeting with teachers and students.

E. Student Advisory Committee attendance at School Committee meetings for 2004-05

Dr. Finn stated the Student Advisory Committee will meet 5 times a year with the School Committee beginning in October.

F. Discussion of public participation at committee meetings

Dr. Finn stated the topic was introduced, this is the time to discuss it. Ms. Bilodeau stated she would like to take out the regulation, feels it is harsh. She feels under the general rules 20 minutes is too long, 12 at most and 4 people at maximum. We cannot respond to comments, we can only listen and make it a future agenda item.

Mr. Fitzgerald asked if people could be part of discussion at the agenda item. Ms. Bilodeau stated it should be at the chair's discretion, she is not sure if it is right to deliberate with the public during the meeting.

Mr. Dockterman asked what was inappropriate under Rule 3.

Mr. Sinnott asked if people will see this and read it. Ms. Bilodeau stated we will put it on the back of the agenda at every meeting. Mr. Wedge stated it sends a message that we welcome comments. Mr. Fitzgerald stated anyone can call or email a member of the School Committee.

VII OLD BUSINESS

Ms. Bilodeau and Dr. Finn attended an EDCO meeting regarding the achievement gap. The new EDCO Executive Director previously worked at DOE. He has a lot of knowledge. Ms. Bilodeau stated she is a member of the policy committee and there is a slot for a second member if anyone is interested. They meet 4 times a year.

VIII SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

A. Joint Meeting for FY05-06 Budget Planning of BOS, FinCom and School Committee on September 23, 2004

Dr. Finn stated this was the first coordination meeting and we listened to what the financial state projections would be, Tony Logalbo indicated the situation is better than last year. There may be an over-ride but he anticipates it will be small. There is a FinCom planning meeting in October.

Mark Russell Prior, of the audience, stated there is a joint FinCom meeting on October 14 at a site to be determined, a presentation will be made to both, followed by CPS.

B. MASC/School Committee workshop, October 4, 2004

A preliminary agenda is attached.

Mr. Sinnott sadly noted that Carolyn Musicant, a long-time school committee member, passed away a week ago.

IX CITIZENS' COMMENTS

Mr. Dulong stated the high school was widely reported to have 100% passing in MCAS. One student did not pass the language arts, this student had recently moved into the country and did not speak the language.

X ADJOURNMENT

A MOTION was made by Mr. Fitzgerald and seconded by Ms. Bilodeau for CCRSD and a MOTION was made by Ms. McGinn and seconded by Ms. Bilodeau for CSC to adjourn the Joint School Committee meeting at 9:15 p.m. The MOTION was unanimously approved.

Joint
9/28/04

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Respectfully submitted,

Laura O'Sullivan
APPROVED: 11/23/04