

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 7:20 p.m.

IV RECOGNITIONS

A. Willard School

Pat Fernandes recognized Matt McDougal, Ms. Saunders, Ms. Bethell and Ms. Cicchetti on the Winter Solstice Assembly. The sun with rays is hanging outside the office.

B. Thoreau School

Jim Halliday congratulated Mr. Hourihan and Ms. Keefe on their presentation to 5th grade students. He also recognized Bob Lemaire and Roseanne Swain for their work on the grade 5 play.

C. Middle School

Arthur Unobskey recognized the student leaders and teacher Vivian Aldrich involved in decorating the school's cafeteria.

V ACTION ITEMS

A. Gift Acceptance – Donation from Lueders Environmental, Inc.

A MOTION was made by Mr. Sinnott and seconded by Ms. Bilodeau to accept a donation of \$50 to the School Department from Mr. Michael E. Lueders, President of Lueders Environmental, Inc. The MOTION was unanimously approved and Mr. Leuders was thanked for his donation.

VI REPORTS AND ISSUES FOR DISCUSSION

A. CPS Capital Improvements: July 1-December 31, 2004

Mr. Barrett reported on the progress made over the last six months in the four buildings. At the Willard School, the carpet and asbestos tile in the cafeteria has been replaced and windows have been replaced. At the Peabody School, carpet and asbestos tile have been removed, the bathrooms have been renovated. The forum has had a new ceiling, lighting and flooring installed. The music room has also replaced flooring. There is a new freezer at the Sanborne. Ripley has had ceilings replaced, carpets in classrooms replaced and the fire alarm panel has been updated. The School Committee thanked Mr. Barrett and extended thanks to his crew. The buildings look much better.

B. Nutrition in Schools

Bonnie Hardy, Manager of Food Services, and Kathy Bowen, Health Services, have been working with parent groups and teacher groups toward changes within the schools. In terms of breakfast, all high-fat and high sugar foods have been replaced with bagels, breakfast sandwiches and cereals. There have been changes to the school lunches as well. In order to be a reimbursable meal, the student lunch must contain a certain number of protein, fruit, and vegetable. Students have many choice offerings at each of the schools.

Ms. Shannon asked if the freezer were on a backup generator. It is not, but if kept closed the food would be good for days.

Ms. McGinn asked what is a reimbursable meal. Ms. Hardy stated the student must choose 3 out of 5 pieces of the lunch in order for the meal to be reimbursed by the federal government. Food service is drawn from revenues. It is outside the operating budget.

Mr. Sinnott asked the average participation in purchasing school lunches. Ms. Hardy stated more than half students purchase lunch.

Dr. Finn thanked Ms. Hardy for her leadership in proactively taking on this challenge of providing healthier meals for students. She thanked Ms. Bowen for coordinating together with Ms. Hardy.

C. Budget FY-06

Mr. Flaherty stated the documents have been updated. This expanded list shows cost drivers.

Ms. McGinn asked why there is a difference between the three elementary schools teacher budget. Mr. Flaherty stated there is a lot of movement, whether it be lane changes, longevity in salary lines.

Mr. Flaherty stated it is worth considering reducing the budget to the finance committee over-ride guideline.

A MOTION was made by Ms. Bilodeau and seconded by Mr. Wedge to reduce the CPS Budget to \$24,285,000, the Finance Committee over-ride guideline.

Mr. Sinnott asked why do this tonight. Ms. Bilodeau stated the final meeting is a week from Thursday, the public hearing is March 1. She stated she is thrilled to be in this position to be able to continue to advocate for the schools, for only \$22,000 less than the budget.

The MOTION was voted and unanimously approved.

D. Long Range Plan Report

Ms. Shannon stated she and others met with the Long-Range Planning Committee. They continue to agree to disagree regarding merits of financial plan to the schools.

VIII SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

A. Annual Town Report - 2004

Dr. Finn stated the annual report has been submitted to the town, she thanked Ms. Fernandes, Mr. Halliday, Ms. Young, Mr. Unobskey, Ms. Rigby and Mr. Warfel for their contributions. She also thanked Mr. Dulong for the high school report. Also attached are the School Committee reports.

B. League of Women Voters Forum, January 12, 2005

FYI

C. Fincom Budget Presentation – January 20, 2005 7:30 p.m.

This is the final time before the hearing.

D. US Educators Delegation to China, February 18-25, 2005

FYI

E. Upcoming subcommittee meetings:

FYI

Ms. Bilodeau stated the topic of Willard design funds needed to be discussed. If design funds do not move forward, what does the Capital Improvement Plan look like for Willard. Mr. Flaherty stated the roof will need to be replaced within next 1-2 years at an updated cost of \$780-830K. If Willard goes through, then a number of projects at other schools get pulled forward.

Mr. Wedge asked if there were leaks in the new additions. Are there any warranties. Mr. Flaherty will look into that.

IX CITIZENS' COMMENTS

Mark Russell Prior thanked the School Committee and administration for the gesture. The Finance Committee will appreciate that. He asked where the teacher will come from for the class size adjustment. Dr. Finn stated there is a teacher working in administration.

X ADJOURNMENT

A MOTION was made by Mr. Sinnott and seconded by Mr. Wedge to adjourn the Concord School Committee meeting at 9:05 p.m. The MOTION was unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura O'Sullivan
APPROVED: 2/8/05