

Ms. Fernandes recognized the custodial staff at Willard. Willard has never looked better as it did when the doors opened this fall. She also recognized Gene Warfel and the IT staff for the excellent job they did installing the ActivBoards.

C. Alcott

Dr. Finn stated the Alcott School will be holding a Turkey Trot on November 1, all proceeds will go to their sister school.

Lynn Paradis was recognized for arranging the “Constitution Day” celebration.

D. Thoreau

Dr. Finn stated the Thoreau School held a Jump-a-thon which raised \$7,500 for their sister school.

V ACTION ITEMS

A. Final Reading and Approval: Kindergarten Entrance Age (JEB)

Dr. Finn stated this is a second reading. No changes have been made since the first reading.

A MOTION was made by Ms. McGinn and seconded by Ms. Shannon to adopt the policy for Kindergarten Entrance Age. The MOTION was unanimously approved.

VI REPORTS AND ISSUES FOR DISCUSSION

A. Ventilation at Alcott:

Mr. Anderson stated this will be discussed at the School Building Committee Wednesday, October 12. The architects will be looking at cupolas and ceiling fans and cooling 4B. Mr. Wedge asked if our maintenance staff would be installing the fans. Mr. Anderson stated no. Mr. Wedge stated the School Building Committee presented to the Selectmen who signed off on the cupolas and fans.

Ms. Shannon asked how much of the Thoreau Building was completed. Mr. Anderson stated it is at 80%. This is a critical time and it needs to be looked at.

Mr. Flaherty stated the building committee has been asked to determine the cost to prep for fan placement.

Ms. Bilodeau asked Mr. Anderson to report back to the School Committee after tomorrow’s meeting. The more information we have sooner, the better off we are.

B. Center for Parents and Teachers

Sally Quinn Reed, Director of the Center for Parents and Teachers, presented a packet of parenting programs. She stated they listen to the needs of the schools, last year they spent time with the issue of “cutting” as that was an issue in the

schools. This program is funded entirely by grants and has expanded into collaborations with other groups.

Mr. Wedge asked what kind of participation is there in the programs. Ms. Reed stated it depends on the topic, a topic of suicide last year had 400 attendees. Usually there are 30-50 parents in attendance.

Ms. Shannon stated she appreciates that the School Committee supports this.

C. CPS Transportation Status Report

Jo Pedato reported on the buses for Concord Public Schools. There are 20 buses with 22 routes. She stated the repair facility on site has worked out very well. There are mechanics there to keep the buses running. She stated the challenge as a manager is to have X number of bus routes and X number of available drivers. The challenge is getting it to work out.

Ms. Shannon asked if the METCO bus route had changed and how was it working. Ms. Pedato stated there were different drivers and there have been no complaints.

There is a shortage on staff, one new driver has been hired and she is looking to hire one more. Ms. McGinn asked how does a shortage get handled. Ms. Pedato stated she and the assistant manager will drive a route.

Mr. Wedge stated there is software to assist with bus routing. Have we looked into it? Mr. Flaherty stated we are starting to evaluate new software and have discussed the possibility of upgrading software. Mr. Wedge asked about the office. Mr. Flaherty stated the office needs to be replaced, that will be addressed.

D. Update on Committee in support of moving forward Willard Design Funds

Mr. Wedge stated we are fortunate to have a group of individuals to work on a leadership committee. Mr. Wedge and Janet Friedman will observe. The committee is looking at materials, studies and will chart a course to get to a yes vote. Ms. Bilodeau stated they have had many offers of help.

E. October 1 Enrollments for CPS

Dr. Finn updated the preliminary enrollment numbers. October 1 marks the official number for the Department of Education. Mr. Wedge asked about the Thoreau students in a grade $\frac{3}{4}$ classroom. Dr. Finn stated the students are co-taught. Their numbers are in the grade 3 or 4 totals. Ms. Bilodeau stated there are good class size numbers this year.

F. Quarterly Financial Report for CPS

Mr. Flaherty presented the 05 year end report. There is a modest surplus and is detailed by line item.

Ms. Shannon asked if there was the ability to put more money in the supplies category. That might help with heating and fuel costs. Mr. Flaherty stated that may help us, we are likely to look for a supplemental appropriation for the high school but not for CPS.

Ms. Bilodeau asked if the amount in legal bills signifies a trend. How will we look at this as an instruction for next year. Mr. Flaherty stated he has talked with legal about re-designing a package. Procedures took longer than anticipated, may go to more of a contingency basis.

VII OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Wedge stated the Building Committee is meeting tomorrow, there will be more information on Alcott and Thoreau after that meeting.

Ms. Bilodeau stated in the school newsletters there is no message from the School Committee. She stated she would write one.

VIII SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

A. October 26-28, MASC/MASS Annual Joint Conference 2005 @ Worcester Centrum Centre

This is in a couple of weeks.

B. November 10, 2005: MASBO School Construction Symposium @ Lantana Conference Center, Randolph

This information is enclosed, there may be presentations School Committee members are interested in. Mr. Flaherty will be attending.

C. October 13, 2005: Finance Committee Guideline Meeting Materials will be finalized.

X. ADJOURNMENT

With no other public business, a MOTION was made by Ms. Bilodeau and seconded by Ms. McGinn to adjourn the Concord School Committee meeting at 7:48. The MOTION was unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura O'Sullivan

APPROVED: 11/22/05