

Minutes

PRESENT: Ms. Rebecca Shannon, Chair
Ms. Betsy Bilodeau
Ms. Jan McGinn
Mr. Jerry Wedge

PRESENT FROM ADMINISTRATION: Dr. Brenda Finn, Superintendent
Mr. John Flaherty
Ms. Diana Rigby

ABSENT: Mr. Patrick Sinnott

I CALL TO ORDER AND GREETING

The CSC meeting was called to order by Ms. Shannon at 5:35 p.m.

Ms. Shannon thanked the local cable station for filming the meeting.

REPORTS AND ISSUES FOR DISCUSSION

A. Willard Feasibility Study Report

Mr. Wedge introduced the presentation given by OMR. Marty Kretsch gave a synopsis of the final report in which the following criteria for Willard was evaluated: site, septic, sun, winds, vegetation and views from the abutters. Two options were the final result of the process. Option 1 would keep Willard in place while building a new facility. The second option, option 9, would place the new structure over the existing building.

Ms. Shannon asked the School Committee and audience for comments and questions.

Mr. Kelleher, of Powder Mill Road, stated he was concerned the design fees were not adequate for the next phase. He was concerned the warrant article amount was not sufficient. Mr. Wedge stated the School Committee would be discussing the amount of the request next.

David Wilson, of Raymond Road, stated the scale lines of the first draft are more realistic in terms of the proximity to the closest house. He asked that the first draft be used for clarity. Mr. Kretsch stated the final report has the correct lines.

A MOTION was made by Mr. Wedge and seconded by Ms. McCann for CSC to accept the feasibility study as prepared by The Office of Michael Rosenfeld, Inc. The MOTION was unanimously approved.

Revote Willard Design Fund Amount

Mr. Flaherty distributed information to capture scenarios of a Willard design fund amount. Mr. Wedge stated we voted on an amount of \$1.4M to ask for at Town Meeting. After meeting with Tony Logalbo, he stated we might not want to ask for that much. Mr. Wedge discussed logistical stopping points in the design fund process in which to ask for funds at this point. We could stop at 75%, and get most of the document done. We could stop at the end of design development and that would be a clean break. If we ask at a subsequent Town Meeting, it would postpone the start of construction and we risk escalating costs.

Ms. Shannon asked how this would affect Alcott as a possible swing space school. She asked Mr. Terry to comment on the ramification of starting this process in the fall. Mr. Terry stated that going through the winter did cause problems and delays.

Ms. Bilodeau stated she sees the benefit of not going forward with 100% of the drawings. There still isn't enough time to have the building completed for beginning of school year 2008-09. We also need to look at the building now and see how long Willard can stand without a major capital expenditure.

After discussion, it was decided in any scenario, the building will be ready for the 09/10 school year. We can do 35%, and go back and think about what the building needs to keep it going.

A MOTION was made by Mr. Wedge and seconded by Ms. Bilodeau to revise the design fund request amount under Article 24 from \$1.4M to \$1M with the intention of completing schematic design, design development and a detailed cost estimate. The MOTION was unanimously approved.

Dr. Finn stated the facilities planning committee captured the ideas we had. We have not identified needs of Ripley. We need to get that on the radar screen.

I CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Fitzgerald called the CCSC meeting to order at 7:00.

II READING OF THE MINUTES

A. Open Session

A MOTION was made by Ms. McGinn and seconded by Mr. Wedge to approve the minutes from the CSC meeting held on March 8, 2005. The MOTION was unanimously approved.

B. Executive Session

A MOTION was made by Mr. Wedge and seconded by Ms. McGinn to approve the Executive Session minutes from the meeting held March 8, 2005. The MOTION was unanimously approved.

III CORRESPONDENCE

Ms. Shannon received correspondence from Melissa Lang regarding the trip to China. She has pictures and would like to present a report to the School Committee.

IV RECOGNITIONS

A. Willard School

Dr. Finn recognized Pat Fernandes for being a presenter at ASCD workshop in Orlando. Ms. Fernandes stated the topic was on student achievement in math at Willard. She introduced a number of ways they are looking to improve achievement in that area, 60 minutes of math instruction per day, partnerships with parent groups, chess club, family math nights, grouping and math masters.

Dr. Finn recognized the teachers working on the mid-cycle special ed. Special review, Jessica Murphy, Sue Palmer, and Barbara Miller.

V ACTION ITEMS

Vote to approve plaque on flag pole at the new Thoreau School

Ms. Shannon stated Paul Whiting has been named Concord's Honored Citizen. The Thoreau PTG has voted to place a plaque with his name on the flagpole of the new school. A MOTION was made by Ms. Bilodeau and seconded by Mr. Wedge to approve the placement of a plaque bearing the name of Mr. Paul Whiting on the flag pole at the new Thoreau School. The MOTION was unanimously approved.

VI REPORTS AND ISSUES FOR DISCUSSION

A. Willard Feasibility Study Report (OMR)

Ms. Shannon stated we need to vote on which site to choose. Option 1 would build the new school next to the old one. Option 2 would build the new school on top of the old one and require Alcott as a swing school.

Ms. Bilodeau thought about which option makes best sense for the town. What is the best to recommend to the town in terms of long-term consequences, safety, design, cost and parking. The largest concern of option 1 is, is the design too constrained? Can the architects build a

beautiful building there? There is a concern with abutters, we need to look at that, but in the end the neighbors will be happy. Ms. Bilodeau stated we should attempt to do this on Willard ground while Willard students are in place.

Ms. McGinn stated she chooses option 1 because it allows for more green space, creates more green buffers.

Mr. Wedge stated he looked at option 1 and 9 are equal in terms of educational values for the students. They are equal in terms of safety. Option 1 opens up a huge park for the community/neighborhood. Also, if it doesn't pass next year, it makes it prudent to go with option 1.

Ms. Shannon thanked the subcommittee for the enormous amount of work, it has come together nicely.

A MOTION was made by Mr. Wedge and seconded by Ms. McGinn for CSC to move ahead with Option 1 as defined in the feasibility study. The MOTION was unanimously approved.

B. Article 32 on Concord Town Warrant – Land Acquisition-Burke Land on Old Bedford Road

Mr. Wedge stated Article 32 is related to acquiring the Burke Land. The concern is that the land be kept as open as possible. He has drafted a letter to the town asking to work with them on this matter. He would like to be authorized to send this letter.

A MOTION was made by Ms. Bilodeau and seconded by Ms. McGinn for CSC to authorize Mr. Wedge to send the prepared letter to Margaret Briggs on the Board of Selectmen and to support Article 32 as a committee. The MOTION was unanimously approved.

IX. CITIZENS' COMMENTS

David Wilson, Raymond Road, stated he is an abutter of Willard School and is disappointed in the vote. He is in favor of Option 9, he would only support Option 1 if it were the only option.

Alice Lencioni, Plain Field Road, stated Willard loses an acre, Alcott and Thoreau both gained an acre. She didn't see enough detail and can't see how much green space we would gain. She would have liked to have seen more detail.

X. ADJOURNMENT

CSC adjourned and the Joint School Committee meeting followed.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura O'Sullivan
APPROVED: 5/10/05