

Minutes

PRESENT:

Ms. Betsy Bilodeau
Ms. Nicole Burkel
Mr. Michael Fitzgerald
Ms. Jan McGinn
Ms. Rebecca Shannon
Mr. Patrick Sinnott

PRESENT FROM ADMINISTRATION:

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

ABSENT:

Mr. Jerry Wedge

I CALL TO ORDER AND GREETING

The meeting was called to open session by Mr. Sinnott and Ms. McGinn at 6:36 p.m.

A. Student Advisory Council

Eugene Han stated there are new Dell computers in the library at the high school. There is one place that still uses IMacs, the writing lab. He wanted to suggest new PC's for the writing lab as well. Mr. Sinnott asked how many computers are in the writing lab. The students stated about 30.

Hannah Braaten stated the back of the student parking lot is gravel and has holes and is dangerous. Mr. Flaherty stated it will be re-graded and smoothed.

Thomas Schnitzer stated the teachers appreciate the ActivBoards. There are other pieces of technology that are outdated, such as TV's and VCR/DVD players that don't work.

Mr. Fitzgerald asked the students for some positive feedback about the high school. Ms. Braaten stated things at the high school are going well. They are very fortunate. Mr. Schnitzer stated there are many great courses offered. Mr. Han stated he is always challenged and never bored with his teachers.

Ms. McGinn asked students feedback on the security cameras at the high school. Mr. Schnitzer stated he was indifferent, and there is the potential to solve the theft problem. Ms. Braaten agreed. Mr. Han stated he is uncomfortable but he can get used to it. It has good intentions.

Cathy Bilafer, Dugout Club, read a letter to the School Committee regarding the softball fence from the Dugout Club. They brought sections of the old fencing and the new fencing that is up for the softball season. Ms. Bilafer asked the School Committee how should the Dugout Club proceed this year. Mr. Sinnott stated the School Committee will deliberate on the policy. Ms. Bilodeau stated policy is developed as a subcommittee. They present the policy to the full committee and it will be deliberated. Mr. Sinnott stated, several years ago, a proposed policy was presented as a suggestion by the Dugout Club. The then superintendent never completed the policy and the School Committee never voted on it. We now have a new policy manual and the advertising policy will be discussed this evening. He regretted the School Committee had not taken action at that time before the construction of a fence that required a lot of elbow grease and pride.

V ACTION ITEMS

B. First Reading: Advertising on School District Policy

Ms. Bilodeau began the discussion with a history of the advertising policy. At the time this was not the focus due to issues of greater priority. The concern is how much advertising do we allow at the high school. The proposed policy was read. Ms. Bilodeau stated the last section refers to the Coca-Cola logo on the scoreboard. This policy gives the softball club the opportunity to keep the fence up and cover the logos when the field is not in use by that team.

Mr. Fitzgerald stated the overall goal is to limit the amount of advertising kids see. He stated the fence has had a significant financial benefit to the softball team and the Dugout Club has committed to the sponsors and accepted their pledges for a number of years into the future.

Mr. Sinnott suggested the softball fence could be grandfathered to stay up through the students' (who worked on the fence) career. He asked what the Dugout Club thought about covering the fence when it was not in use. Ms. Bilafer stated that would look worse.

Ms. Bilodeau stated we need to set a policy that is right for the district and then go back to work with the Dugout Club and talk to donors and sponsors. It is not unreasonable to show the sponsors only during a game. Ms. Burkel stated she didn't agree we should make more expense for the Dugout Club over a short-term issue.

Ms. Bilodeau stated we can do a first reading at a future meeting with a revision that includes district publications. We can also work with the Dugout Club to

come up with a solution to allow them a period of time to work toward the goal of the policy.

Mr. Sinnott stated the School Committee needs to give the Dugout Club clear guidance on where they stand for the 05/06 season. It was agreed that the Dugout Club would have three years within which to comply with the policy. Ms. Bilodeau will distribute a revised version at the next meeting.

A MOTION was made by Ms. Bilodeau and seconded by Ms. McGinn that the high school girls softball team fence be permitted to exhibit sponsorships for the next three seasons and then will be expected to come into compliance with the policy. The MOTION was unanimously approved.

III CORRESPONDENCE

Dr. Finn received correspondence from Katherine Craven/MSBA regarding the Authority's Needs Survey. This survey will be conducted, administration is beginning to compile information in binders for each school.

Dr. Finn stated Court Booth would like to recognize a group of volunteers from Village University and Lucy Saxenian for her many years of volunteer service.

Ms. McGinn recognized Mr. Dulong and his letter to parents. There was a discussion on the town web regarding the letter. It generated a positive buzz.

There was a letter in the Concord Journal in support of security cameras at the high school and there was another letter not in support of the security cameras.

IV RECOGNITIONS

Mr. Dulong recognized two students for winning the NCTE Achievement Award in Writing, Sophie Buonomo and Chris Ting. Mr. Dulong stated this is the 3rd year in a row CCHS students have won this award. He read the certificate. He stated the English department also gets recognition for their excellence by NCTE.

V ACTION ITEMS

A. Final Reading and Approval: Use of Cameras for Safety and Security
Dr. Finn read the proposed policy.

There was a discussion on the last sentence of the policy. Dr. Finn stated the last sentence is appropriate. It is a sensitive issue.

A MOTION was made to approve the proposed policy, Use of Cameras for Safety and Security, as amended. The MOTION was unanimously approved.

E. Vote to approve Draft Warrant Article List

Mr. Flaherty stated the articles are shown with the amounts as XXX. This list is to show the number of articles we would like to have considered.

Ms. Bilodeau asked if a supplemental appropriation would be anticipated for CPS. Mr. Flaherty stated he does not, it is difficult to see how everything plays out. Ms. Bilodeau asked if the FinCom were aware of the energy costs. Mr. Flaherty stated they are aware of the situation.

A MOTION was made by Mr. Fitzgerald and seconded by Ms. McGinn for CCSC and a MOTION was made by Mr. Sinnott and seconded by Ms. Bilodeau for CSC to approve the warrant articles as presented. The MOTION was unanimously approved.

F. Vote to accept donation from CCHS Girls Soccer Program

A MOTION was made by Ms. McGinn and seconded by Mr. Fitzgerald for CCSC to accept a contribution of the Concord-Carlisle High School Girls Soccer Program of \$500 to aid with the relief efforts related to Hurricane Katrina. The MOTION was unanimously approved and Ms. Slocum, Girls Varsity Soccer Coach, was thanked for the donation.

G. Request permission for Junior State to plan a trip to the Winter JSA Conference

Johanna Glazer presented the material to the School Committee regarding the conference. Dr. Finn stated Ms. Glazer has done a wonderful job and is very committed to her students and this group.

A MOTION was made by Mr. Fitzgerald and seconded by Ms. Bilodeau for CCSC to approve the request of Johanna Glazer to plan a trip to the Winter JSA Conference. The MOTION was unanimously approved.

H. Vote to declare microscopes at CCHS as surplus and vote to accept microscopes for use at CMS

A MOTION was made by Ms. Bilodeau and seconded by Ms. McGinn for CCSC to declare the microscopes at CCHS as surplus and the Concord School Committee vote to accept the microscopes to be used at the Concord Middle School. The MOTION was unanimously approved.

A MOTION was made by Mr. Sinnott and seconded by Ms. Bilodeau for CSC to accept the donation of microscopes to be used at Concord Middle School. The MOTION was unanimously approved.

I. Vote to support H.R. 551, Student Privacy and Protection Act, co-sponsored by Congressman Marty Meehan

A MOTION was made by Ms. Shannon and seconded by Ms. Bilodeau for CCSC to support H.R. 551, Student Privacy and Protection Act, co-sponsored by Congressman Marty Meehan. The MOTION was unanimously approved.

J. Vote to approve Thoreau fourth grade teachers' participation in WGBH research project

A MOTION was made by Mr. Sinnott and seconded by Ms. Bilodeau for CSC to approve two fourth grade classrooms at Thoreau to participate in the WGBH-TV research project for the new science show, FETCH. The MOTION was unanimously approved.

VI REPORTS AND ISSUES FOR DISCUSSION

A. MCAS Presentation

Mr. Dulong stated students do very well on the MCAS. They come to CCHS very well prepared. He presented the information which was distributed and described the school's actions. He discussed meeting the Adequate Yearly Progress goal. The adequate yearly progress must be met as a school and for all disaggregated groups.

A member of the audience asked who were the excluded students. There were two students not in school at the time of the exam, they were in the hospital.

A member of the audience asked if perfect scores were tracked. No, they are not.

Dr. Finn thanked Ms. Rigby for compiling the report.

B. CCHS Capital identified Needs for Facility Improvement Plan

Mr. Flaherty distributed the report and stated the colors capture the various areas. The transportation item will need to be addressed. The building and trailer is unacceptable.

Mr. Sinnott looked at items and stated the less we can invest in the next five years, we better paint ourselves to invest in the big project. Mr. Fitzgerald stated we have a responsibility to provide a safe environment for students.

Ms. Bilodeau stated when we look at capital plans, there have been many years when investments into buildings have not been done. In looking forward, after a building is 10 years old, a yearly maintenance plan needs to be developed.

Mr. Sinnott stated there is an opportunity at the December 3 coordination meeting to discuss this. He suggested using the \$1.5M number and bring in the science number, see what happens.

Ms. Bilodeau suggested bringing in science lab, lighting, and fire alarm detection.

Mr. Fitzgerald asked if Mr. Flaherty could look into 7-year bonds. Mr. Flaherty stated he can do state house notes and would check with Tony Logalbo.

C. Presentation of Preliminary FY07 CCRSD Budget

Mr. Flaherty discussed line items to possibly be reduced to get to levy limit if the over-ride were to fail. Mr. Fitzgerald stated we will do our best to go out and advocate for the budget.

Dr. Finn stated the School Committee will see these budgets again in December. This is an opportunity to see and review them.

CPS Capital Plan

Mr. Flaherty stated there are different versions with major renovations to Willard. Other projects which exclude Willard total about \$780-800K.

Ms. Bilodeau stated we are not sure if last year's estimate is still good. What if the bids come in much higher? Mr. Flaherty stated that would change the scope of the project. Dr. Finn stated if Willard doesn't pass, we need to replace that roof. Ms. Bilodeau stated we need to go for the right solution and hope it passes. If not then we go for a new roof.

D. Presentation of Preliminary FY07 CPS Budget

Mr. Flaherty presented the reduction list for CPS if an over-ride doesn't pass. Ms. McGinn stated changes in enrollment would dictate changes due to attrition. Mr. Flaherty stated a total of 5.5 FTE's would be reduced at the middle school. Ms. Shannon stated we would lose library aids and specialists.

E. Citizens group support of school building projects

Ms. McGinn stated a group has been put together to address Willard's needs. They will advocate for Willard and all buildings. This is currently a group of Concord people and will expand to Carlisle as well. They currently meet once a week and we will see a presentation in January.

VIII SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

A. Memorandum from DOE: preliminary discussion of the Board of Education's FY07 Budget Request

Attached.

B. Fields Group

Dr. Finn stated she received an email regarding a meeting on November 30 at 2 p.m. to discuss the use of fields, Ms. Bilodeau and Ms. McGinn will attend.

Dr. Finn stated an Executive Session needs to be scheduled. Possible dates are 11/29 from 3-5 or 11/30 from 4-6. Please get back to Dr. Finn.

Dr. Finn stated the MASC Academy for School Leadership is being held December 10 from 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.

X ADJOURNMENT

A MOTION was made by Ms. Bilodeau and seconded by Mr. Fitzgerald for CCSC and a MOTION was made by Ms. Bilodeau and seconded by Ms. Shannon for CSC to adjourn the Joint School Committee meeting at 9:20 p.m. The MOTION was unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura O'Sullivan

APPROVED: 1/24/06