

JOINT SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

Concord School Committee
Concord-Carlisle School

Committee

Ripley Building
Concord, MA
May 10, 2005
7:00 PM

Minutes

PRESENT:

Ms. Rebecca Shannon
Ms. Betsy Bilodeau
Mr. Michael Fitzgerald
Ms. Jan McGinn
Mr. Patrick Sinnott
Mr. Jerry Wedge

PRESENT FROM ADMINISTRATION:

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

ABSENT:

I CALL TO ORDER AND GREETING

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Finn for CCSC and CSC at 7:06 p.m.

A. Seating of the Concord School Committee Members – CSC

A motion will need to be made by a School Committee member to:
A MOTION was made by Mr. Sinnott and seconded by Ms. McGinn to recognize Betsy Bilodeau, Jan McGinn, Becky Shannon, Patrick Sinnott, and Jerry Wedge as members of the Concord School Committee. The MOTION was unanimously approved.

B. Election of Officers of the Concord School Committee – CSC

Nominations will be accepted and voted on for Chair of the Concord School Committee.

Motion: A MOTION was made by Ms. Bilodeau and seconded by Mr. Sinnott for CSC to elect Jerry Wedge as Chair of the Concord School Committee. The MOTION was unanimously approved.

Nominations will be accepted and voted on for Vice Chair of the Concord School Committee.

Motion: A MOTION was made by Ms. Bilodeau and seconded by Mr. Sinnott for CSC to elect Jan McGinn as Vice Chair of the Concord School Committee. The MOTION was unanimously approved.

C. Seating of the Concord-Carlisle School Committee Members – CCSC

A motion will need to be made by the Concord School Committee Chair to:

A MOTION was made by Ms. Bilodeau and seconded by Ms. McGinn to recognize Betsy Bilodeau, Jan McGinn, Becky Shannon, Patrick Sinnott, and Jerry Wedge as Concord members and Michael Fitzgerald and Nicole Burkel as Carlisle members of the Concord-Carlisle School Committee. The MOTION was unanimously approved.

D. Election of Officers of the Concord-Carlisle School Committee – CCSC

Nominations will be accepted and voted on for Chair of the Concord-Carlisle School Committee.

Motion: A MOTION was made by Ms. Bilodeau and seconded by Mr. Fitzgerald for CCSC to elect Pat Sinnott as Chair of the Concord-Carlisle School Committee. The MOTION was unanimously approved.

Nominations will be accepted and voted on for Vice Chair of the Concord-Carlisle School Committee. The newly appointed Chair will request nominations for Vice Chair.

Motion: A MOTION was made by Ms. Bilodeau and seconded by Mr. Wedge for CCSC to elect Mr. Fitzgerald as Vice Chair of the Concord-Carlisle School Committee. The MOTION was unanimously approved.

E. Appointment of a School Committee Secretary – CSC/CCSC

Motion: A MOTION was made by Ms. Bilodeau and seconded by Mr. Wedge to appoint Laura O'Sullivan as School Committee Secretary. The MOTION was unanimously approved.

F. Appointment of a Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer – CCSC

Motion: A MOTION was made by Ms. Bilodeau and seconded by Mr. Fitzgerald for CCSC to appoint John Flaherty as Treasurer of the Concord-Carlisle Regional School District and Regina Erickson as Assistant Treasurer of the Region. The MOTION was unanimously approved.

G. Appointment of Committee Representatives – CSC/CCSC

1. EDCO Board of Directors

Motion: A MOTION was made by Mr. Wedge and seconded by Ms. McGinn for CCSC to appoint Brenda Finn as representative to the EDCO Board of Directors. The MOTION was unanimously approved.

Motion: A MOTION was made by Mr. Wedge and seconded by Mr. Fitzgerald for CCSC to appoint Betsy Bilodeau as Concord-Carlisle School Committee representative to the EDCO Board of Directors. The MOTION was unanimously approved.

2. Educational Collaborative of Greater Boston

Motion: A MOTION was made by Ms. Shannon and seconded by Mr. Sinnott for CSC to appoint Betsy Bilodeau as Concord School Committee representative to the Educational Collaborative of Greater Boston. The MOTION was unanimously approved. A MOTION was made by Ms. Shannon and seconded by Mr. Fitzgerald for CCSC to appoint Jan McGinn as Concord-Carlisle School Committee representative to the Educational Collaborative of Greater Boston. The MOTION was unanimously approved.

3. Adult & Community Education Liaison

Motion: A MOTION was made by Ms. Shannon and seconded by Ms. Bilodeau to appoint Michael Fitzgerald as Concord-Carlisle representative to Adult & Community Education. The MOTION was unanimously approved.

4. CASE Collaborative

Motion: A MOTION was made by Mr. Sinnott and seconded by Ms. Bilodeau for CSC (and a MOTION was made by Mr. Fitzgerald and seconded by Ms. Bilodeau) to appoint Jan McGinn as School Committee representative to the CASE Collaborative for CSC. The MOTION was unanimously approved.

5. Suburban Coalition

Motion: A MOTION was made by Ms. Bilodeau and seconded by Ms. McGinn for CSC and a MOTION was made by Ms. Bilodeau and seconded by Ms. McGinn for CCSC to appoint Becky Shannon as School Committee representative to the Suburban Coalition for both CSC and CCSC. The MOTION was unanimously approved.

II READING OF THE MINUTES

A MOTION was made by Ms. Bilodeau and seconded by Ms. Shannon for CSC to approve the minutes from the Concord School Committee meeting held April 12, 2005. Changes were given to the secretary and the MOTION was voted:

Aye: Bilodeau, McGinn, Shannon, Wedge

No:

Abstain: Sinnott

A MOTION was made by Mr. Fitzgerald and seconded by Ms. McGinn for CCSC and a MOTION was made by Ms. Bilodeau and seconded by Ms. Shannon for CSC to approve the minutes from the Joint School Committee meeting held April 12, 2005. Ms. Bilodeau had changes to page 3. The Secretary noted the changes and the MOTION was voted:

Aye: Bilodeau, Fitzgerald, McGinn, Shannon, Wedge

No:

Abstain: Sinnott

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 approve the minutes from the Joint School Committee meeting held April 25, 2005. Mr. Wedge had a change to page 1. The MOTION was voted:

Aye: Bilodeau, Fitzgerald, McGinn, Shannon, Wedge

No:

Abstain: Sinnott

III CORRESPONDENCE

Ms. Bilodeau received correspondence from Lynn Paradise. Enclosed was a music compilation disc which was a Concord Ed. Fund grant project for this past year.

Mr. Fitzgerald stated the Carlisle Town Meeting will be held May 23.

Mr. Sinnott stated the School Committee has been invited to participate in a parade on September 10, 2005.

IV RECOGNITIONS

Ms. Bilodeau recognized Will Cavanaugh, a 9th grader, who spent many of his community service hours working on the Build Willard video.

A. CCHS

Mr. Dulong recognized the Junior State organization in their participation in a conference. Two students were elected to the high office. He also

recognized Joanna Glazer who has been the advisor for a number of years.

B. Middle School

Mr. Unobskey recognized the 8th grade class and staff for their participation in a trip to Washington. He thanked the teachers for their extra effort.

C. Willard, Thoreau, Alcott Schools

The Language Arts Specialists were recognized at all three elementary schools.

V ACTION ITEMS

A. Vote to approve staff requests to enroll students

A MOTION was made by Ms. Bilodeau and seconded by Mr. Sinnott for CSC that Ms. Justine Hebert, fourth grade teacher at Alcott School, be authorized to enroll her son in the Concord Public Schools and that tuition be waived.

Mr. Sinnott asked if the School Committee could be given a report stating how many students are children of teachers, as well as what towns they come from. It would be good to have a handle on these details.

Mr. Fitzgerald stated this is not a regional issue, but the student will progress through the system through grade 12.

The MOTION was unanimously approved.

A MOTION was made by Ms. Bilodeau and seconded by Mr. Sinnott that Beth Murphy, physical education teacher at Thoreau School, be authorized to enroll her daughter in the Concord Public Schools and that tuition be waived. The MOTION was unanimously approved.

A MOTION was made by Ms. Bilodeau and seconded by Mr. Sinnott for CSC that Mr. Earl Corey, fifth grade teacher at Alcott School, be authorized to enroll his twin boys in the Concord Public Schools and that tuition be waived. The MOTION was unanimously approved.

B. Vote to accept proposal to increase cost for school lunches

Bonnie Hardy stated there has not been a request made since 1999. The department would like to add more fruit to the salad bar. They would also like to move toward whole wheat hot dog and hamburger rolls.

Dr. Finn supported this request and stated we expect the food services department to be self-supporting. A request has not been made in 5

years, also nutritional content of meals prepared has been improved, and there has also been an increase in labor costs.

A MOTION was made by Ms. Bilodeau and seconded by Mr. Sinnott for CSC to accept the request for school lunches to be increased from \$1.50 to \$2.00

Mr. Sinnott asked if multi-day passes, meal-plan ideas had been looked at. Ms. Hardy stated there is a cashless system, but a meal-plan system has not been looked at.

The MOTION was voted and unanimously approved.

C. Final Reading and Approval: Director of Finance and Operations
Position Description

Dr. Finn stated this is the second reading. Ms. Bilodeau stated she doesn't see a piece talking about the time spent on capital expenditures of the buildings. Do we want to add language regarding the 5 year plan?

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. Shannon for CSC to accept and adopt the position description for the Director of Finance and Operations as amended by Ms. Bilodeau. The MOTION was voted and unanimously approved.

VI REPORTS AND ISSUES FOR DISCUSSION

A. Implementation of Elective Programs at Concord Middle School

Mr. Unobskey stated the elective programs at CMS are not designed to be ultra-structured but are challenging. The expectation is that students will develop resourcefulness, empathy and gain confidence. The after-school programs allow students to develop relationship with teachers. Activities offered to 8th grade students are pottery, woodworking, theater arts and chorus/band.

Ms. Bilodeau stated it's wonderful the electives kids have. It is very positive. She commended Mr. Unobskey for his efforts.

B. China Exchange

Mr. Unobskey stated the Melissa Lang engaged the 7th graders in a study of China. This year, 9 middle school students visited from China. We will start sending out students over next year. When the students return, the unit will be China.

Ms. Lang stated she has been to China and felt strongly about exposing students to this culture. The plan is to prepare students in the fall to visit China in the spring.

Mr. Unobskey stated more specific information will be presented in the fall.

Ms. Shannon asked how much this trip would cost students. Mr. Unobskey stated the cost would be about \$2,500. This will allow for some financial aid. Ms. McGinn stated she hopes this trip will be financially accessible to more than affluent students. Mr. Unobskey stated this will not be needs blind.

Dr. Finn applauded Ms. Lang and Mr. Unobskey for taking this initiative and being so forward thinking.

C. Projected increased enrollment numbers at CCHS

Mr. Dulong stated there are projections. They try to get the numbers right, every year are off by 10-40 students in their projections. Enrollment for 2005-06 looks to be 1276 students.

Mr. Fitzgerald asked about the space issue with regard to additional students. Mr. Dulong stated there are 5 open classrooms during the course of the week. Some departments spill over into a different building. The space constraints will be an issue during advanced placement exams and MCAS tests.

Mr. Fitzgerald stated the maximum number in the feasibility study was 1350, is that realistic. Mr. Dulong stated we have to wait until October 1 to get the official numbers. In every projection, we have not had over 1350 students to date.

Ms. Shannon asked which classes had close to a 30 student limit. Mr. Dulong stated Latin, Spanish and Statistics.

Ms. McGinn asked have we ever considered a contingency budget. Dr. Finn stated it has been talked about for FY07. Ms. Bilodeau stated we used to do it for the elementary school and haven't had to at the high school. She asked to look at where students come from and try to establish a trend.

D. Superintendent's Evaluation

Dr. Finn distributed a packet which gives an indication of the data and timeline. A draft should be pulled together by May 24.

VII OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Fitzgerald stated he has been invited to a retirement dinner. Ms. Bilodeau stated a list of events should be emailed to all School Committee members so there are attendees at everything.

Mr. Wedge stated the schedule of Thoreau meetings is always the day after School Committee.

A discussion followed regarding advertising on the baseball field fence. Mr. Sinnott suggested this item be placed on a subsequent agenda.

VIII SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Legislative Bulletin

FYI

MASC Academy for School Leadership/Charting the Course: May 20-21

FYI

Superintendent Letter

Attached FYI

IX CITIZENS COMMENTS

X ADJOURNMENT

With no other business, a MOTION was made by Mr. Fitzgerald and seconded by Ms. Shannon for CCSC and a MOTION was made by Mr. Sinnott and seconded by Ms. Shannon for CSC to adjourn the Joint School Committee meeting at 9:00. The MOTION was unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura O'Sullivan

APPROVED: 5/24/05