

Minutes

PRESENT:

Ms. Betsy Bilodeau
Ms. Nicole Burkel
Mr. Michael Fitzgerald
Ms. Jan McGinn
Ms. Rebecca Shannon
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 Mr. Sinnott and Mr. Wedge at 6:36 p.m.

VI REPORTS AND ISSUES FOR DISCUSSION

B. Budget: Discussions with Concord and Carlisle Town Committees re: override and free cash

Mr. Fitzgerald stated the Carlisle Finance Committee is taking a different approach to the budget. There is a lower assessment due to enrollment numbers. The money was then absorbed by the K-8 and town systems. Now an override of \$128K must be recommended to cover the shortfall. That is the issue being discussed tonight. The other issue being discussed is regarding where Concord is with relation to the levy limit. Dr. Finn stated the Concord Finance Committee will make a recommendation this Thursday.

Ms. Bilodeau stated in the past when budgets haven't matched, monthly meetings were held to prevent this. We haven't done that this year. The lines of communication need to stay open.

Mr. Sinnott stated we need to look to the Finance Committee, look to Tony Logalbo and take their advice. Dr. Finn stated Mr. Fitzgerald and Ms. Burkel have done a good job with articulating the school's needs. If that didn't happen, there could be a really big difference.

D. MSBA Needs Survey:

Dr. Finn stated the reports on school district buildings has been received. There have been no discrepancies on the report or comments. We have to respond by the end of the day tomorrow. Mr. Wedge stated he felt this report accurately described the views of the school. There were some typos to be updated.

Mr. Wedge stated this is the initial need study. The next step is to review the data, see if it fits on the list for reimbursement. They will hire engineers to survey buildings. He stated he feels comfortable the work we've done is adequate.

II READING OF THE MINUTES

A MOTION was made by Mr. Fitzgerald and seconded by Ms. Burkel for CCSC and a MOTION was made by Ms. McGinn and seconded by Ms. Shannon for CSC to approve the minutes from the Joint School Committee meeting held February 28, 2006. The MOTION was voted:

Aye: Bilodeau, Burkel, Fitzgerald, McGinn, Shannon, Wedge

Nay:

Abstain: Sinnott

A MOTION was made by Mr. Fitzgerald and seconded by Ms. Burkel for CCSC and a MOTION was made by Ms. Bilodeau and seconded by Ms. McGinn to approve the minutes from the Executive Session meeting held February 28, 2006. The MOTION was voted:

Aye: Bilodeau, Burkel, Fitzgerald, McGinn, Shannon, Wedge

Nay:

Abstain: Sinnott

VI REPORTS AND ISSUES FOR DISCUSSION

C. Warrant Articles

Mr. Flaherty asked if Town Meeting can vote whatever they want, with regard to Article 48, or do they need a coordinated article in Carlisle. Mr. Fitzgerald stated they are not having that debate in Carlisle. If it becomes a debate on whether to pull the cameras, then Carlisle will have that debate.

Ms. Bilodeau stated we need to prepare a response to this Article as to why we came to this decision. Mr. Fitzgerald stated the School Committee has the final decision as to whether the cameras or not the cameras are to be placed. The region is the final governing body as to what goes on at the high school.

It was decided Mr. Sinnott would respond to that Article and Mr. Dulong would make some comments. The School Committee will invite the petitioner to the 3/28 meeting. Mr. Dulong will be at that meeting as well.

A meeting was held with Court Booth regarding Article 50, televising School Committee meetings. He recommended the School Committee make a formal proposal to CCTV. If it moves forward in this direction, the petitioner will

remove the article. Charlie Blair stated this is what he has always wanted, it would be a plus for the town to have these meetings on tv. It is also helpful to get the agendas and up-to-date information online.

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 distributed draft letter be sent to CCTV. The MOTION was unanimously approved.

Mr. Sinnott will speak on Article 11. Ms. Bilodeau stated it would be an opportunity to remind people it is in the public good to educate our children. The schools service the young children in our country.

Ms. Shannon stated the public needs to be aware of the differences among the districts. Ms. Rigby stated the state publishes a report card on every school in the state every spring. Dr. Finn also stated the annual report also contains a lot of information and a data sheet was mailed to citizens.

Mr. Wedge asked where we are with special appropriations. Dr. Finn stated we can have that discussion with the Finance Committee. The amount if we request it would be slightly lower, we want to reserve that right.

A MOTION was made by Mr. Fitzgerald and seconded by Ms. Bilodeau to adjourn the Regional School Committee meeting at 7:30 p.m. The MOTION was unanimously approved.

III CORRESPONDENCE

A. Letter from MSBA to Tony Logalbo

Dr. Finn stated this correspondence was FYI.

B. Letter from NESDEC regarding student enrollments

There was a discussion at our last meeting, and it was discussed at the Board of Selectmen's meeting, which factors were used in the forecast.

C. Memo from CCTV regarding a tour

CCTV has invited educators from March 27 through May 7 to tour the studio.

Mr. Wedge received correspondence from Laura Lee regarding time spent on learning.

IV RECOGNITION

A. Thoreau School

Mr. Colantuono recognized Bob Lemaire and the fifth grade play. He also recognized Brad Bennett with the Thoreau Poetry Club.

Willard School

Ms. Fernandes recognized Matt MacDougall and the kindergarten gymnastics show.

B. Middle School

Mr. Unobskey recognized Kathleen Bernklow, Linda Penniston Laura Regis and the cast of Witness.

C. Alcott School

Ms. Young recognized the special education staff and their hard work with students.

V ACTION ITEMSA. Gift Acceptance: Donation by the Concord Youth Theater to CMS

A MOTION was made by Mr. Sinnott and seconded by Ms. McGinn for CSC to accept a \$2000 donation from the Concord Youth Theater to the Concord Middle School. The MOTION was unanimously approved and the Concord Youth Theater was thanked for its donation.

VI REPORTS AND ISSUES FOR DISCUSSIONA. Integrated Pre-School Discussion

Jessica Murphy, director of Special Ed, stated how proud she is of the integrated preschool program. The program has been running for five years. It currently has 21 preschoolers, 50% of whom have disabilities. She stated it is an excellent program and is cost effective to the district. An I-movie was shown and an overview of the integrated preschool was distributed in a packet.

Ms. Shannon asked if there were any data on the success of the program. Some of the OT students do better in Kindergarten than typical students. There are more boys than girls, this is typical. Most learning disabilities are language delays.

The program needs to be expanded. There is only one available spot for next year. They are working on expanding the program.

C. Warrant Articles:

Article 37: The petitioner would move this at Town Meeting. School Committee has 20 reasons why Alcott needs to be razed to make fields and parking. Ms. Bilodeau stated we need to assign someone to prepare a comment to review at the next CPS meeting. There is no need to take a position at this time. Mr. Wedge will work with Sharon Young and write something.

VII OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Wedge stated the Thoreau Building Committee is meeting Wednesday. The date of substantial completion is very close. The move in date is September. Ms. Bilodeau asked how the budget was. Fred Wersan had proposed AC at Thoreau. Mr. Wedge stated the budget was very tight.

VIII SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORTA. April 10, 2006: Suburban Coalition Annual Legislative Breakfast, The Great Hall-The State House, Beacon Hill

Attached

B. April 17, 2006: Patriot's Day parade 8 a.m. Formation at Everett and Stow Streets

Attached

Ms. Bilodeau asked about the fields issue. Dr. Finn stated she had a meeting with Kate Carr. They will take a look at the fields issue in place of bleachers. Ms. Carr is aware of what's possible. We could accommodate a 65 yard field. A presentation will be made at the March 28 meeting.

IX CITIZENS' COMMENTS

Charlie Blair urged the School Committee to make sure we get the funding we deserve from the state. There is \$40M in possible funding from SBAB. We need to be on top of this. He would hate to see us go down this road. Mr. Wedge stated we are doing our due diligence as best as we can. We have been meeting since last August. We are doing all we can to put ourselves in front of SBA, that is our priority. Ms. Shannon stated the Finance Committee reports speaks to that issue, what delays can cost us.

Ms. Shapiro stated the Honored Citizen Award Ceremony will be Sunday, March 19 at the Townhouse at 1:30 p.m.

Mr. Sinnott thanked David Stevens for filming the meeting.

X ADJOURNMENT

A MOTION was made by Mr. Sinnott and seconded by Ms. Bilodeau for CSC to adjourn the CSC meeting. The MOTION was unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura O'Sullivan
APPROVED: 4/11/06