

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 returned to Open Session and was called to order by Mr. Sinnott and Mr. Wedge at 6:45 p.m.

B. Public Hearing on School Choice

A MOTION was made by Ms. McGinn and seconded by Ms. Bilodeau for CCSC and a MOTION was made by Ms. Bilodeau and seconded by Ms. Shannon for CSC to open the public hearing regarding school choice. The MOTION was unanimously approved.

Dr. Finn stated the recommendation and reasons for not supporting school choice. There were no comments from the School Committee or from the audience.

A MOTION was made by Ms. Bilodeau and seconded by Ms. McGinn for CSC and a MOTION was made by Ms. McGinn and seconded by Mr. Fitzgerald for CCSC to close the hearing. The MOTION was unanimously approved.

C. Welcome to Manley Boyce, Transportation Manager

John Flaherty welcomed Manley Boyce as the new Transportation Manager. He has been working in the district for 13 years. Mr. Boyce thanked the School Committee and the district for purchasing good equipment. He stated he would like to find the best people to drive them.

D. Welcome to the Student Advisory Council

Leigh Davis stated the school held a lockdown recently. It went very well, although it was very evident it would happen that day. She also stated Madame Olsen has been out sick. There is a substitute in and the transition went well. She commented on the busing. The Concord buses have much fewer students on them than the Carlisle buses. The Carlisle buses are full.

E. Presentation to School Committee: Senior Project

Mark Angney, founder of the Senior Project, presented the highlights of the Senior Project. He stated this year, there are 29 students and he discussed several project topics. He stated the range of projects is spectacular. Students cannot choose to do something they would have been doing anyway. Each student has a mentor, they make a presentation to evaluators and there is a fair in May. He distributed a narrative of this year's projects. Mr. Wedge read a letter from Tom Schnitzer regarding Senior Project.

Ms. Shannon stated this is inspirational to students. It would be a shame to lose it. A student stated, kids can be passionate about something they want to do, show independence and make their own guidelines. He is not sure what he'll do next year, but he has a lot of possibilities.

F. Presentation to School Committee: Cameras at CCHS

James Catterton, Sudbury Road, stated he has written two warrant articles for Town Meeting. He stated the School Committee decided to put surveillance cameras at the high school last fall because of a number of thefts and acts of vandalism. There has been a long history of this. He also stated the library also has had cameras for 10 years due to inappropriate behavior. He pointed out the inadequacies in the camera policy.

The warrant articles are: 1. to place a moratorium on installing new equipment, and 2. for the removal of the 5 cameras at the high school. He raised a number of issues with regard to the policy and stated the policy doesn't address them, such as addressing who sees the tapes, how long is the recording saved, who reviews the policy, how is it paid for, what is the relationship with the police.

Ms. Shannon stated Mr. Catterton has made valid points. Ms. Bilodeau stated there was a sense of the School Committee of why it was being proposed, we were comfortable to address a specific problem. The question is, are we addressing the problem the correct way. Mr. Fitzgerald stated we have to provide a secure environment to students.

Dr. Finn stated there were 4-5 thefts per week. There have been 5 thefts total in three months, since the cameras were installed. Mr. Fitzgerald stated an alternative would be to add additional campus monitors. Dr. Finn also stated the follow-up on theft requires a large amount of administrative time, this time is now spent more on student learning.

Ms. Davis stated the cameras work better than the campus monitors. There are valuable items as well as ordinary items, pants and belts being stolen. The cameras get the job done.

Andy Laughlin, a student, stated when he was a freshman his cell phone was stolen. He shouldn't have had to learn that lesson at that age. He placed faith in his environment, cameras are a necessary precaution in maintaining faith in that environment.

III CORRESPONDENCE

Dr. Finn stated both pieces of correspondence are attached.

IV RECOGNITION

Dr. Finn recognized Jerry Moss as he was voted into the Swim Coach Hall of Fame (EMSCA). Dr. Finn also recognized Parsham Hajad as he was one of six students chosen to participate in the Earthwatch Institute 2006 Student Challenge Awards Program. Dr. Finn also recognized Denis Cleary as being selected to participate in the Pursuing Justice institute this summer at Pine Manor College,

V ACTION ITEMS

A. Vote on School Choice for the 2006-07 school year

A MOTION was made by Ms. Bilodeau and seconded by Mr. Sinnott for CSC and a MOTION was made by Mr. Fitzgerald and Ms. McGinn for CCSC not to participate in the School Choice provisions of the State Law for the school year 2006-07 for the reasons stated in Attachment A. The MOTION was voted and unanimously approved.

B. Vote to approve Shelter Management Plan with the Town of Concord – CCSC and CSC

A MOTION was made by Ms. Shannon and seconded by Ms. Bilodeau for CCSC and a MOTION was made by Mr. Sinnott and seconded by Ms. Shannon for CSC for CSC to participate in the Shelter Management Plan.

Ms. Shannon asked if a new generator would be provided for the high school. Mr. Flaherty stated there are currently 2 generators. The high school received a surplus generator from a police department project. It is currently in next year's capital budget. The plan will address this issue.

Ms. Burkel stated we are agreeing to be a part of the plan, we will get the specifics. Mr. Fitzgerald asked if Dave Anderson were included with the group working to see how the school would be utilized. Someone on the school end should be included in the discussions.

The MOTION was voted and unanimously approved.

C. First Reading: Policy – Public Solicitations in the Schools (KHA)

Dr. Finn stated this is a first reading. At the next meeting, we will approve this policy. Dr. Finn stated the PTG is trying to limit fund-raising activities and has discouraged candy sales specific to schools.

Ms. Rigby stated this also addresses flyer distribution, limits what goes home in the backpacks. Dr. Finn stated this will help with consistency.

It was stated if School Committee members had comments, to send them to Dr. Finn.

D. First Reading: Policy – CORI Revision

Kelly McClausland stated this is a first reading. She stated the CORI law was instituted in 2002. This new policy integrates additional pieces with new definitive language. It also added a frequently asked questions piece.

Ms. Bilodeau stated this requires administration to accommodate the changes.

E. Gift Acceptance – Donated Books

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. McGinn for CSC to accept the donation of two books, Concord in the Days of Strawberries and Streetcars and Clothiers of the Assabet from Ms. Renee Garrelick of 45 Kenney Lane, Concord, MA. The MOTION was voted and unanimously approved and Ms. Garrelick was thanked for her donation.

F. Vote to (re)vote acceptance of Alcott School with MSBA with approved language

A MOTION was made by Mr. Sinnott and seconded by Ms. Bilodeau for CSC to accept responsibility and control of the new Alcott School for school purposes. The MOTION was unanimously approved.

G. Vote to identify and donate 1998 elementary math materials as surplus

Ms. Rigby stated a request has been received from the Mercedes Benz International School for surplus math materials to be donated. A MOTION was made by Mr. Sinnott and seconded by Ms. Bilodeau for CSC to identify the 1998 math materials, Investigations, as surplus and donate the materials to the Mercedes Benz International School in India at no cost to the district. The MOTION was unanimously approved.

VI REPORTS AND ISSUES FOR DISCUSSION

A. Teen Buddy Program

Ms. Rigby stated a CEF grant enabled the Teen Buddy Program to be funded. There are 60 students involved in the program, 30 elementary students and 30 high school students. The high school students are trained in leadership by Outward Bound. Many buddies look into education as a career choice. All

students involved love the program, there is a connection outside of school as well. The attendance is very high as well.

There is a limited number of spots, when the program began there was a mad rush to join. Ms. Rigby was thanked for her support, without it the program wouldn't have gotten off the ground.

Ms. Bilodeau asked if the program was in place next year. Ms. Rigby stated a grant had been applied for through the Community Chest.

B. International Issues and Service Learning

Samantha Fox-Morrow began teaching this class in the fall semester. She introduced students to current events and international issues. The students voted on which topic to address as a project and charitable fundraiser. This year's topic was Cambodia. A slide show was presented. Fundraising efforts include t-shirt sales, handbags made by vocational students, and a bake sale. Student awareness was done through posters in the school, facts about Cambodia over the morning announcements. There was also a petition sent to Senator Kennedy to support increased aid to Cambodia. A dinner auction was also planned with all proceeds going to the foundation. A spaghetti dinner with entertainment by the orchestra, chorus and jazz band was in addition to the auction. The entire dinner auction raised over \$8,000. The School Committee stated it was a great program and commended the students on a great job.

C. Drafts of fact sheets for CPS and CCRSD

Mr. Flaherty stated this is a compilation and there are more pieces to be edited. He stated this is a copy, the finished product will be a cleaner copy. Mr. Sinnott stated he is happy with the communities at a glance. Ms. McGinn asked if Westford could be added and to take off Walpole and Westwood. She asked if the state rank could be added.

D. Bleacher Installation at CCHS

Mr. Flaherty stated he received a letter from Kate Carr regarding the outdoor bleachers and the proposed new field. The date of completion of the bleacher installation is September 1. The project will go over the summer. The indoor bleachers will be completed by May 31.

E. Budget: Finance Committee FY07 Budget Recommendations CCSC

Dr. Finn stated the levy limit changes may make changes in the reduction list. What will be prioritized. Mr. Flaherty walked through the cuts to get to the levy limit budget for the Regional budget. Ms. Burkel stated she feels strongly about the co-curricular line item. We need to figure out a way not to have that on the reduction list. Ms. Burkel stated the Chapter 70 number is different in Concord than it is in Carlisle. What would happen with it? Mr. Flaherty stated it would probably be used for restoration and the rest would go to E & D.

CSC

Mr. Flaherty reviewed the Concord revisions to get to the levy limit. There was a discussion regarding the use of free cash.

F. Cell Tower Proposal

Mr. Flaherty stated the bid opening was April 6. He asked if the School Committee had any thoughts on the next step. Ms. Bilodeau stated the School Committee needs to understand the placement issues before they can answer the question of a potential location.

Mr. Wedge asked what the town/school share was. Mr. Flaherty stated it was a 50/50 split. It was agreed to discuss the cell tower with School Committee first before having a discussion with Chris Whalen.

VII OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Wedge stated Thoreau School is near completion. Would the School Committee be interested in a tour. He will organize one.

VIII SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORTA. Upcoming CPS retirements

Dr. Finn stated a list was included in the School Committee packet.

B. April 2, 2006: Grand Opening Celebration – Concord Carlisle Swim and Fitness Center, 498 Walden Street

This is a reminder.

C. The China Exchange Initiative: Superintendent's participation and coverage of April 11th school committee meeting

Dr. Finn will not be here for that meeting.

IX CITIZENS' COMMENTS

A member of the audience asked if Town Meeting can instruct the high school to remove the cameras. The Town Meeting can "express a wish". He also stated the students who presented the Cambodia project also work with the Alliance project in Lowell. They coordinated an action group to make a difference in the community.

A member of the audience asked how accurate the proposed drawings of the high school are, is it possible to place the cell tower where it will not have to be moved in a couple of years.

X ADJOURNMENT

A MOTION was made by Mr. Fitzgerald and seconded by Ms. Shannon for CCSC to adjourn the Joint School Committee meeting. A MOTION was made by

Mr. Sinnott and seconded by Ms. Bilodeau for CSC to enter into Executive Session. The MOTION was approved by roll call.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura O'Sullivan

APPROVED: 4/11/06