

JOINT SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Concord School Committee
Concord-Carlisle School Committee
Ripley Building
Concord, MA
October 10, 2006
6:30 p.m.

Minutes

PRESENT:

Ms. Betsy Bilodeau
Mr. Peter Fischelis
Mr. Michael Fitzgerald
Ms. Jan McGinn
Mr. Chad Koski
Ms. Rebecca Shannon
Mr. Jerry Wedge

PRESENT FROM ADMINISTRATION:

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

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was reconvened at 6:40 and called into Open Session by Mr. Fitzgerald and Ms. McGinn.

V. REPORTS AND ISSUES FOR DISCUSSION

A. Brister's Hill Project

Mr. Colantuono introduced the Brister's Hill Project and Sue Erickson who lead the presentation. Ms. Erickson stated the Walden Woods project began in 1990. Teachers at Thoreau School wanted students to connect to the Brister's Hill path because of its importance in Henry David Thoreau's life. Ms. Erickson displayed posters that students created through their research and students presented different aspects of the project and a video clip was shown.

II. READING OF THE MINUTES

A. Open Session

A MOTION was made by Mr. Wedge and seconded by Ms. Bilodeau for CCSC and a MOTION was made by Ms. Bilodeau and seconded by Mr. Wedge for CSC to approve the minutes from the Joint School Committee meeting held on September 26, 2006. The MOTION was voted and unanimously approved.

B. Executive Session

A MOTION was made by Mr. Wedge and seconded by Ms. Bilodeau for CCSC and a MOTION was made by Mr. Fischelis and seconded by Mr. Wedge for CSC to

approve the Executive Session Minutes from September 26, 2006. The MOTION was voted and unanimously approved.

III. CORRESPONDENCE

A. Letter from the Department of Environmental Protection regarding new Massachusetts Mercury Management Act

Dr. Finn attached copies sent to facilities managers and science teachers. Mr. Wedge asked if the School Committee could have a copy of the list of items in question.

Ms. Shannon received correspondence from the League of Women Voters regarding a debate with the two state senate candidates. They would like any questions regarding education the School Committee might like to put forward. The debate is being held on October 29, 2006 at 3:00 p.m. at the Thoreau School.

IV. RECOGNITIONS

Dr. Finn stated Sharon Young would like to recognize staff, students and parents for the playground's huge success. She thanked all who participated.

Dr. Finn stated Pat Fernandes would like to recognize Bev Lucas, Carl Sweeney, Ben Demesa and Zeb Serra for their hard work over the summer.

Dr. Finn recognized the citizens of Concord and Carlisle and Dave Anderson for the work done over the summer on the indoor and outdoor bleachers.

John Flaherty recognized Jim Bozak and Steve Wall, presidents, for serving as lead negotiators for the Building Service Workers Unions for a number of years.

V. REPORTS AND ISSUES FOR DISCUSSION

B. Transportation Status Report

Manley Boyce stated the district has 26 drivers and we need 2 more. The transportation department makes 132 trips daily as well as sports trips, 8 after school programs, and middle school daytime trips. He thanked the School Committee for the contract which was signed by the drivers. There is a higher morale.

Ms. McGinn asked if the 5 extra minutes of elementary school in the a.m. was causing a problem. Mr. Boyce stated traffic makes it a little bit tougher but it is getting worked out.

The Carlisle bus over crowding is also still being looked at.

Dr. Finn thanked Mr. Boyce in his first year as the transportation manager.

D. Building Service Workers proposed New Contract

Mr. Fitzgerald asked if there was any discussion over this topic before a vote.

C. Facilities Status Report

Dave Anderson presented an overview of the projects completed and ongoing over the summer. He gave highlights of projects at Sanborn, Peabody, Ripley and Alcott. Mr. Wedge stated the Alcott items were paid by the Alcott bond company.

Ms. Shannon stated she was very impressed with the amount of work that is going on in the buildings.

Mr. Fischelis stated it makes a big difference in the look and feel of the schools. The community should be pleased we are maintaining the buildings.

Dr. Finn thanked the building service workers and custodial staff.

E. Update on Willard Design Progress

Mr. Wedge stated there are regular meetings now, the Board of Selectmen have clarified the committee's charter. The committee is optimistic to meet the 9/09 opening of school timeline. Mr. Fischelis asked who filled the open spot. Jim Terry was appointed last week.

Mr. Fitzgerald stated that there is concern over potential conflicts with Willard and the High School. He wished to point out that progress with Willard does not take away from the high school plans. The high school is following the process according to the MSBA guideline and will move at a different timeline. Mr. Wedge stated the School Committee decided to follow the MSBA process for the high school and the voters decided to move along with Willard during the moratorium.

Ms. Bilodeau stated the subcommittee needs to clarify a best case scenario timeline for the community. This is something the School Committee needs to be educated on and we need to be able to educate the public.

VI. ACTION ITEMS

A. Vote to ratify Building Service Workers' Contracts

A MOTION was made by Ms. Bilodeau and seconded by Mr. Wedge for CCSC and a MOTION was made by Ms. Bilodeau and seconded by Ms. Shannon for CSC to approve the Building Service Workers' Contract. The MOTION was unanimously approved and thanks was given to the negotiating team, Kelly McCausland, Becky Shannon, John Flaherty and the Building Service Workers.

B. Motion to increase the FY07 Operating Budget

A MOTION was made by Ms. Bilodeau and seconded by Mr. Wedge to adopt an increased total budget for the Concord-Carlisle Regional School District of \$19,486,466, and to reserve \$297,184 from the FY07 operating budget for FY08 operating budget needs.

Mr. Wedge asked if a crisis comes up and we need money, do we want to commit this money instead of keeping it for an emergency. Mr. Flaherty stated the existing E & D funds are substantial and immediately available.

The MOTION was voted and unanimously approved.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

Ms. Shannon stated a recent Finance Committee meeting showed a chart of CPA funds. The finance committee also hired a company to conduct a survey of the town services. It stated 59% of the participants of citizens did not have children in the school system, 77% thought enough or not quite enough was spent at the high school level, and 70% at CPS thought enough or not quite enough was spent on the schools.

VIII. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

A. Summer Academic Success Program 2006

Attached. Dr. Finn thanked Court Booth for the program report.

B. October exchanges within districts:

Dr. Finn stated 2 exchanges are going on in October, both are visiting Concord.

C. November 8-11, 2006: MASC/MASS Annual Joint Conference 2006 @ Four Points Sheraton Hyannis

Dr. Finn stated a delegate needs to be named by November 1. The October 24 agenda will be the last chance to get it on an agenda. Mr. Fischelis agreed to be the delegate.

A MOTION was made by Ms. Shannon and seconded by Mr. Wedge for CCSC and a MOTION was made by Ms. Shannon and seconded by Ms. Bilodeau for CSC to appoint Peter Fischelis as delegate to the MASC/MASS conference. The MOTION was unanimously approved.

IX. CITIZEN'S COMMENTS

X. ADJOURNMENT

With no other business, a MOTION was made by Mr. Wedge and seconded by Ms. Bilodeau for CCSC and a MOTION was made by Ms. Bilodeau and seconded by Mr. Wedge for CSC to adjourn the School Committee meeting at 8:00. The MOTION was unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura O'Sullivan

APPROVED: 11/14/06