

JOINT SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Concord School Committee
Concord-Carlisle School Committee
Carlisle School Library
Carlisle, MA
October 24, 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 7:50 and called into Open Session by Mr. Fitzgerald and Ms. McGinn.

Mr. Fitzgerald welcomed the Student Advisory Council and asked them to introduce themselves. Mr. Fitzgerald stated the students would attend five meetings and bring issues from the students at the high school. Hannah Braaten stated the new fire doors look nice and work better. Pami Anderson stated this is the first year students can't sit in the hallways during a free block, there isn't a place where upper class students can go except the cafeteria. Ms. Braaten stated the cafeteria is loud and crowded, the library is crowded as well. This is more noticeable this year. Mr. Dulong stated due to fire and health rules, students are not permitted to sit in the halls during classes.

Leigh Davis stated the buses to Carlisle are still very crowded. Dr. Finn and Mr. Flaherty will look into it.

Ms. Davis stated teachers have begun to assign tests on different days and that is working out great. She also stated she has used the Naviance software in the guidance office and it is very helpful.

II. READING OF THE MINUTES

A. Open Session

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 on September 12, 2006. The MOTION was unanimously approved.

III. CORRESPONDENCE

Dr. Finn attached a piece of correspondence Art Dulong had received regarding night soccer games from The Concord Carlisle Youth Soccer Club.

Ms. Shannon received a telephone call from someone in Seattle moving to Massachusetts. They looked at Concord and were shocked at the condition of the high school. They are concerned about security and the number of entrances into the building.

Ms. McGinn received correspondence from Melissa Lang, thanking host families in the exchange event with the Sunshine Middle School.

IV. RECOGNITIONS

Mr. Dulong recognized Andrea Gillis and the “water games” class. It is coming off beautifully.

Mr. Dulong recognized Tom Curtin, David Nurenberg and Al Dentino for a cultural exchange.

Mr. Dulong recognized Eric Pohl and Vicky Moscovitz.

Mr. Dulong recognized Deb Smith for the choral concert.

Mr. Dulong recognized Patrick Serr as the first CCHS student to win the National Scholastic Art Portfolio Award.

Mr. Dulong recognized John Hehn, Norma Dinnall and Kim Bovellev for the Achievement Gap, tutoring and mentoring for students.

Mr. Dulong recognized Parents Association and Sally Quinn Reed.

Mr. Dulong recognized Rachel Siff for the weekend program for Pathways students and mentors.

Mr. Dulong recognized Jason Mantel for playing the viola in the Boston Symphony Orchestra last weekend.

Mr. Dulong recognized Tom Sullivan who was voted into the Lexington Hall of Fame as Division 2 coach of the year for basketball.

V. REPORTS AND ISSUES FOR DISCUSSION

A. Information Technology Status Report

Gene Warfel updated the School Committee on progress made on information and technology in both districts. He shared the goals for 2006-07 and what was completed summer 06-07. He also updated the School Committee on new equipment for CPS and CCHS. He discussed the technology replacement cycle and a summary of ACTIVboards for 2006. Mr. Warfel discussed the school year tasks for 2006-07.

Dr. Finn stated the leadership team under Mr. Warfel has made tremendous progress and growth. She also thanked the Concord Ed. Grant for the substantial grants.

Mr. Fitzgerald asked if students without computers at home are able to complete work. Mr. Warfel stated there are many opportunities for students to use computers between the library and writing labs. Mr. Dulong stated there is a computer lending program with computers available to students who need them.

B. CPS FY08 Budget Discussion

Dr. Finn stated this is a very preliminary budget. We identified needs by October 12 and highlighted needs. Mr. Flaherty reviewed the budget numbers for CPS and numbers for each program area. He stated the current increase in the budget is 5.34%.

C. CCRSD FY08 Budget Discussion

Dr. Finn talked about enrollment increases from 1996 through the present. We have seen a modest increase in course offerings. There is an increase of class sections due to the enrollment increases. Needs were identified, Mr. Flaherty stated the preliminary budget increase is 6.15% above the initial FY07 School Committee adopted budget of \$19,189,282. Ms. Bilodeau stated she is glad to see space issues being addressed, we need to make an immediate address of this issue.

Mr. Wedge asked if the facility subcommittee should sit with Mr. Dulong and Mr. Anderson about modular classrooms.

Dr. Finn stated Mr. Flaherty and Mr. Dulong have been working on the Statement of Interest draft. This will be at our next Joint School Committee meeting for approval.

Dr. Finn commended Mr. Flaherty and Mr. Dulong for their work on this.

Mr. Flaherty distributed a draft list of warrant articles to the School Committee. The official list will need to be submitted by January 2. Mr. Wedge stated a preliminary list can be submitted prior to then.

D. Willard Building Committee Progress

Mr. Wedge stated an RFP has been drafted for a project manager. There are several proposals to review before a December 1 selection. There is also an RFP for designer services to be finalized. This selection will be made in January. The committee is working on the ed specs. Mr. Wedge stated the septic system at Willard may need to be addressed sooner in order to accommodate the building schedule.

Ms. Bilodeau asked if anything in the ed specs would look at the guidelines for the gym. It would be good to have a conversation regarding this. Mr. Wedge stated Thoreau and Alcott have a cafeteria, gym and auditorium. The new guidelines call for a larger gym and a cafetorium and no auditorium.

E. Fields Project Update

Mr. Fischelis stated a meeting was held with the playing field's group and the Brister's Hill neighbors. Concerns were heard. A presentation was done to CPA, the committee is working on an agreement with the schools and town, a lease/use agreement.

F. Updated Timeline for School Facilities

Dr. Finn stated in February 2006 a draft timeline was drawn up. We need to revisit this and update it. Ms. Bilodeau stated the facility subcommittee is working on this. The septic system at Willard is being addressed. The statement of interest changes the timeline. The new timeline will look different depending on what we hear back from MSBA when the high school's statement of interest is submitted.

VIII. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

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

This is a reminder.

IX. CITIZEN'S COMMENTS

David Wilson, of the audience, stated he has daughters at Willard and the high school. He asked about the security at the high school. He didn't hear anything in the budget, but is there any review of issues. He also stated there isn't an auditorium at Willard now and he doesn't think the community will support a new school without an auditorium. He thinks a 6K sq. ft. gym is too large. Dr. Finn stated the high school is working closely with safety officers. They recognize the high school has security challenges. There are a large number of doors and it is difficult to secure them. Mr. Dulong stated the challenge also is the cultural expectations at the high school. There are ongoing meetings which reach the same conclusion, we can't lock all the doors. In order to get to some classes, you need to go outside and go in another door. Gym classes are also held outside. We will continue to find a solution to a difficult problem.

Mr. Wedge stated the School Committee liked the ed spec of the Alcott model in terms of serving educational needs.

X. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, 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 Ms. Bilodeau for CSC to adjourn the Joint School Committee meeting at 10:10 p.m.

10/24/06

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Respectfully submitted,

Laura O'Sullivan

APPROVED: 11/24/06