

JOINT SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Concord School Committee  
Concord-Carlisle School Committee  
Ripley Building  
Concord, MA  
November 14, 2006  
6:30 p.m.

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**Minutes**

PRESENT:

Ms. Betsy Bilodeau  
Mr. Peter Fischelis  
Mr. Michael Fitzgerald  
Mr. Chad Koski  
Ms. Jan McGinn  
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 called into Open Session by Mr. Fitzgerald and Ms. Bilodeau at 6:38 p.m.

**VI. ACTION ITEMS**

E. Vote to approve permission for Middle School trip to China

Melissa Lang distributed the itinerary, dates and number of students involved. Mr. Unobskey stated he would answer any questions about the trip. Mr. Wedge asked if the enrollment would be increased. Mr. Unobskey stated 12 students attended last year, next year enrollment will be about 14 people. Mr. Wedge asked if this was still a lottery process. Yes, it is.

**II. READING OF THE MINUTES**

A. Open Session

A MOTION was made by Ms. Bilodeau and seconded by Mr. Wedge for CCSC and a MOTION was made by Mr. Wedge and seconded by Ms. Bilodeau for CSC to approve the minutes from the Joint School Committee meeting held on October 10, 2006. The MOTION was unanimously approved.

B. Executive Session

A MOTION was made by Ms. Bilodeau and seconded by Mr. Wedge for CCSC and a MOTION was made by Mr. Wedge and seconded by Ms. Bilodeau for CSC to approve the minutes from the Executive Session held on October 24, 2006. The

MOTION was unanimously approved.

### **III. CORRESPONDENCE**

Mr. Fitzgerald received correspondence from the Concord Carlisle Teacher's Association to begin negotiations for the new contract.

### **IV. RECOGNITIONS**

Dr. Finn stated Sharon Young wished to recognize Martha Darsney, teacher at Alcott, for her work in two schools teaching math.

### **V. REPORTS AND ISSUES FOR DISCUSSION**

#### **B. Vote to approve CCHS Statement of Interest to MSBA**

Mr. Flaherty stated a final draft will be ready for the November 28 meeting. There are minor tweaks to be completed.

Dr. Finn stated we can approve it tonight, but we are making some changes still.

Mr. Wedge stated he is happy to approve it tonight. Ms. Bilodeau stated if we are still getting feedback, it is better to wait and submit our best work. Ms. Bilodeau stated it is a fine piece of work.

Dr. Finn thanked Mr. Flaherty and Mr. Dulong for their work on that, they did a great job.

Mr. Fischelis stated he was at the conference and Katherine Craven commented on our statements of interest and stated they were excellent. She recognized the two buildings were in rough shape. Tours will happen soon and notification will be by fall.

#### **C. NESDEC Enrollment Projections**

Dr. Finn included the enrollment projections for review, trends can be seen in CPS and high school.

Mr. Wedge stated 9-12 are shown of Concord students. We don't have the Carlisle information side by side. Mr. Flaherty stated this is a separate task for the Fincom to get assessment ratios.

#### **D. CPS Transportation Study**

Manley Boyce described different scenarios for elementary school buses at opening and closing. For each scenario, the buses are at capacity. Mr. Flaherty stated the fleet would need to be increased 21 buses, plus drivers and the replacement schedule would also increase. Mr. Wedge asked why we are looking at this. Ms. Bilodeau stated this is a continuation of the mandate of number of school hours which we were not meeting last year. Part of the Concord Teacher Association negotiations is if we change the hours at one school, how are the other schools affected. The

complications and coordination involved is huge. This is information for the School Committee.

A. Fields Proposal Presentation to School Committee

Chris Whelan distributed the PowerPoint presentation on the playing fields and aerial photographs. He referred to the two plans, the original plan voted by the School Committee and the I plan which separates fields from neighbors by 400 feet and does not touch the bus facility. The I plan could encroach on the conceptual parking lot of the new high school.

Mr. Wedge distributed a third scheme which gives a buffer to neighbors, moves buses to better location and accommodates three fields.

Bill Phelan spoke on behalf of the neighbors. They wished the fields not be built there at all. They alleged this is part of Walden Woods. Lights will be on until 9:30, the neighborhood will be impacted.

Betsy Reed stated the value of the woods is not being considered. This is a beautiful piece of land.

Patty Hecht displayed aerial views of Brister's Hill.

Ms. Bilodeau stated there has always been a shortage of playing fields. The reasons have been well documented. At the high school, we have seen the need for fields. Concord and Carlisle share a number of sports. There is no better place to build the fields than at the schools which is where most community events happen. We are cognizant that we have neighbors, and we need to be good neighbors. We can work around the parking issue. It is doable and the right thing to do. Mr. Fischelis echoed Ms. Bilodeau and stated the field group has looked at numerous alternatives. He is intrigued with the new idea Mr. Wedge developed. It also solves some bus issues.

Ms. McGinn stated Mr. Wedge has done a great service to try to think of other options. The high school demands exceed the supply. She asked if there were comments on the new documents.

Mr. Wedge stated he lives on the other side of the high school. He thinks fields are a great amenity to the neighborhood.

Ms. Shannon stated she is grateful to Walden Woods and grateful to Concord to put so much land in conservation. The land we are talking about belongs to the regional district and needs to be utilized to benefit schools and community. She likes the new plan where buses are moved toward Route 2.

Mr. Koski is excused from discussions because of a conflict of interest.

Mr. Fitzgerald stated there are 92 acres of school land, at times the needs may not

coincide with what neighbors want. His concern is moving onto a future building site but the Wedge plan and I plan are working toward that but they still need work.

Mr. Whelan stated he is going to CPA next week. On November 21, they will ask for significant funding, before CPA will make that commitment they will want to know the other two boards are supportive.

A MOTION was made by Ms. Bilodeau and seconded by Mr. Fischelis for CCSC that the Concord-Carlisle Regional School Committee support the concept to develop three fields (two turf and one grass) behind the high school with an inter-municipal agreement to be agreed upon between the town and school system.

A discussion ensued regarding additional language and the MOTION was amended by Ms. Bilodeau and seconded by Mr. Fischelis to include, "with consideration of buffer from Brister's Hill neighbors, potential building site, transportation issues and Route 2". The MOTION was voted:

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

Nay:

Abstain: Koski

Patty Hecht thanked Mr. Wedge for trying to keep the buffer in consideration. This is still a strong impact on the neighborhood, seven days a week.

Nancy Burnham questioned the term "educational" can be used when talking about the fields. The budgets are squeezed for education, yet we spend X on fields. It is deceptive. Mr. Fitzgerald stated that while the athletic programs are considered an integral part of education, the school district is not contributing money to be spent on fields. All money is coming from outside sources.

Kathy Cowlich spoke to the fact this piece of land is a wildlife corridor. This should be taken into consideration.

Mr. Whelan stated leaders of various sports groups have looked at the Wedge plan and think it looks good.

## **VI. ACTION ITEMS**

### **C. Vote to pave student parking lot**

A MOTION was made by Mr. Wedge and seconded by Ms. Shannon to award the contract for the paving of the rear of the student parking lot at the Concord-Carlisle High School to Machado and Son Landscaping & Paving Co. Inc. of Lowell, MA in the amount of \$21,200.00

Mr. Wedge asked when the work would be done. Mr. Flaherty stated before the winter. Paving is seasonal but if we can get the goods it will be done before winter.

The MOTION was unanimously approved.

D. Vote to establish School Committee membership of negotiating team for CCTA Contract

Mr. Fitzgerald proposed himself, Mr. Fischelis and Ms. McGinn as the School Committee members to the negotiating team. A community member also needs to become a member as well as an elected official not from our board.

A MOTION was made by Mr. Wedge and seconded by Mr. Fischelis to establish a negotiating team made up of CCRSD members Michael Fitzgerald, Peter Fischelis and Jan McGinn. The MOTION was voted:

Aye: Bilodeau, Fischelis, Fitzgerald, Koski, McGinn, Wedge

Nay: Shannon

Abstain:

F. Vote to accept donation for the STEP Program at CCHS

A MOTION was made by Mr. Wedge and seconded by Ms. Shannon for CCSC to accept a donation of \$1,650 to the STEP Program from the Network for Women's Lives. The MOTION was unanimously approved and the Network for Women's Lives was thanked for the generous donation.

**VIII. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

A. November 13: Carlisle Finance Committee Meeting @ Carlisle Town Hall 7 p.m.  
Postponed

D. November 18: "Emergency Shelter" drill  
FYI

E. December 4: Human Rights Council Breakfast, 7:30 a.m. at First Parish Church  
FYI

**X. ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business, a MOTION was made by Mr. Koski and seconded by Ms. Bilodeau for CCSC to adjourn the Regional School Committee meeting at 8:50 p.m.

**V. REPORTS AND ISSUES FOR DISCUSSION**

E. CPS FY08 Draft Budget review and discussion

Mr. Flaherty distributed the draft budget. He discussed drivers and identified needs. He also addressed program areas.

Dr. Finn stated the regional budget will be reviewed on 11/28. Both will be approved at the December 12 meeting.

Mr. Flaherty reviewed the capital plan for CPS. Mr. Fichelis asked about the roof issues at Willard. Mr. Flaherty stated he initially planned on using other money to do roof and heating repairs. There could be a major failure, he has been working out a

contract with Rapid Repairs.

G. Willard Update: Discussion of RFP of Project Manager RFP Ratings

Mr. Wedge stated there was a meeting to review 14 proposals and come up with a list of candidates to interview. The deadline for architects is 12/14. Mr. Wedge stated it is a good committee with a lot of energy and a good balance of expertise. He stated if we start in February, we would be in a building for September 09.

Ms. Bilodeau asked if the committee made any decision regarding asking for the construction fund vote based on an estimate or a special town meeting next fall. Mr. Wedge stated the committee is hesitant to ask voters for approval this spring, we would have to submit warrant articles without an architect. Ms. Bilodeau stated we need to start to talk this way. We have three weeks to decide whether to bring to public. We can use a place holder on the warrant and tell the town we are moving in spring or fall, done with the approval of the board of selectmen. Mr. Wedge stated we talk at the coordination meeting 12/1.

Mr. Fischelis asked if we can do a “not to exceed X” vote elsewhere. Ms. Bilodeau asked if MSBA looked at approval from committees. Mr. Fischelis stated he got a strong indication from MSBA that community showing commitment is huge. The more you can be ready to go, the better off we are to avoid a special Town Meeting. Ms. Bilodeau stated she doesn’t think one way or the other is wrong, we need to have Board of Selectmen commitment if we want to go in the fall.

**VIII. SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT**

C. November 18: CEF Spelling Bee

Representing the School Committee will be Ms. Bilodeau, Ms. Shannon and Ms. McGinn. Mr. Wedge will fill in for Ms. McGinn if she needs it.

**X. ADJOURNMENT**

With no other business, a MOTION was made by Mr. Wedge and seconded by Mr. Fischelis to adjourn the Concord School Committee meeting at 9:44 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura O’Sullivan  
APPROVED: 1/23/07