

**Minutes**

PRESENT:

Ms. Betsy Bilodeau  
Ms. Nicole Burkel  
Peter Fischelis  
Mr. Michael Fitzgerald  
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 AND GREETING

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Finn at 6:40 p.m.

ORGANIZATION OF THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE

A. Seating of the Concord School Committee Members – CSC

A MOTION was made by Mr. Wedge and seconded by Mr. Fischelis to recognize Betsy Bilodeau, Peter Fischelis, Jan McGinn, Becky Shannon, and Jerry Wedge as members of the Concord School Committee. The MOTION was unanimously approved.

B. Election of Officers of the Concord School Committee – CSC

*Motion:* A MOTION was made by Mr. Wedge and seconded by Ms. Shannon for CSC to elect Jan McGinn as Chair of the Concord School Committee. The MOTION was unanimously approved.

*Motion:* A MOTION was made by Mr. Wedge and seconded by Ms. Bilodeau for CSC to elect Peter Fischelis as Vice Chair of the Concord School Committee. The MOTION was unanimously approved.

C. Seating of the Concord-Carlisle School Committee Members – CCSC

A MOTION was made by Ms. McGinn and seconded by Mr. Fischelis to recognize Betsy Bilodeau, Peter Fischelis, Jan McGinn, Becky Shannon, and Jerry Wedge as Concord members and Michael Fitzgerald and Nicole Burkel as Carlisle members of the Concord-Carlisle School Committee. The MOTION was unanimously approved.

D. Election of Officers of the Concord-Carlisle School Committee – CCSC

*Motion:* A MOTION was made by Ms. Bilodeau and seconded by Mr. Wedge for CCSC to elect Michael Fitzgerald as Chair of the Concord-Carlisle School Committee. The MOTION was unanimously approved.

*Motion:* A MOTION was made by Ms. Bilodeau and seconded by Ms. McGinn for CCSC to elect Mr. Wedge as Vice Chair of the Concord-Carlisle School Committee. The MOTION was unanimously approved.

E. Appointment of a School Committee Secretary – CSC/CCSC

*Motion:* A MOTION was made by Ms. McGinn and seconded by Mr. Wedge to appoint Laura O’Sullivan as School Committee Secretary. The MOTION was unanimously approved.

F. Appointment of a Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer – CCSC

*Motion:* A MOTION was made by Mr. Wedge and seconded by Mr. Fischelis for CCSC to appoint John Flaherty as Treasurer of the Concord-Carlisle Regional School District and Regina Erickson as Assistant Treasurer of the Region. The MOTION was unanimously approved.

G. Appointment of Committee Representatives – CSC/CCSC

1. EDCO Board of Directors

*Motion:* A MOTION was made by Mr. Wedge and seconded by Ms. McGinn for CCSC to appoint Brenda Finn as representative to the EDCO Board of Directors. The MOTION was unanimously approved.

*Motion:* A MOTION was made by Mr. Wedge and seconded by Mr. Fischelis for CCSC to appoint Betsy Bilodeau as Concord-Carlisle School Committee representative to the EDCO Board of Directors. The MOTION was unanimously approved.

2. Educational Collaborative of Greater Boston

*Motion:* A MOTION was made by Mr. Wedge and seconded by Ms. Shannon for CSC to appoint Betsy Bilodeau as Concord School Committee

representative to the Educational Collaborative of Greater Boston. The MOTION was unanimously approved. A MOTION was made by Mr. Wedge and seconded by Ms. Shannon for CCSC to appoint Jan McGinn as Concord-Carlisle School Committee representative to the Educational Collaborative of Greater Boston. The MOTION was unanimously approved.

3. Adult & Community Education Liaison

*Motion:* A MOTION was made by Ms. McGinn and seconded by Ms. Bilodeau to appoint Ms. Shannon as Concord-Carlisle representative to Adult & Community Education. The MOTION was unanimously approved.

4. CASE Collaborative

*Motion:* A MOTION was made by Mr. Wedge and seconded by Mr. Fischels for CCSC and CSC to appoint Jan McGinn as School Committee representative to the CASE Collaborative for both CSC and CCSC. The MOTION was unanimously approved.

5. Suburban Coalition

*Motion:* A MOTION was made by Mr. Wedge and seconded by Ms. Bilodeau to appoint Becky Shannon as School Committee representative to the Suburban Coalition for both CSC and CCSC. The MOTION was unanimously approved.

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Fitzgerald and Ms. McGinn at 6:52 p.m.

II READING OF THE MINUTES

Open Session

A MOTION was made by Ms. Bilodeau and seconded by Mr. Wedge to approve the minutes from the CSC meeting held February 14, 2006. The MOTION was unanimously approved.

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 Mr. Wedge for CSC to accept the minutes from the Joint School Committee meeting held April 11, 2006. Ms. Burkel stated she was not at the meeting and abstained the vote. A change was made to page 2 and 4. The MOTION was voted:

Aye: Bilodeau, Fitzgerald, McGinn, Shannon, Wedge

Nay:

Abstain: Burkel

Executive Session

A comment was made regarding the Executive Session minutes of 4/11/06. The minutes were pulled.

### III CORRESPONDENCE

Dr. Finn received correspondence from Court Booth regarding Adult and Community Education and CCTV. The memo was distributed.

Dr. Finn received correspondence from neighbors of the Thoreau School regarding the outdoor lights. The letter was distributed.

Ms. Shannon received correspondence from Representative Meehan regarding an invitation to a seminar in Washington, DC on May 25.

Ms. Bilodeau stated she would like to schedule a calendar of end of the year events for School Committee members to attend.

Ms. McGinn stated she has received a lot of correspondence from the elementary school parent community regarding the issue of time spent on learning.

### IV RECOGNITION

Mr. Unobskey recognized the teachers and students who took the China and Washington trip. Dr. Finn asked if a presentation would be made to the School Committee. Mr. Unobskey stated he would get it on a future agenda.

Ms. Fernandes recognized kindergarten teachers and support staff on the Kindergarten registration held April 26 and 28.

Ms. Young recognized kindergarten teachers and support staff on the Kindergarten registration.

Dr. Finn recognized the school committee members and staff who worked behind the scenes involved in Town Meeting, Build Willard, and the School Building initiatives.

Ms. Burkel recognized Mr. Flaherty and his work on the flier. It was superbly done. Mr. Flaherty also thanked Eileen Comeau.

Mr. Wedge recognized the newest member of the School Committee, Peter Fischelis.

### V ACTION ITEMS

#### A. Vote to approve staff requests to enroll students

A MOTION was made by Ms. Bilodeau and seconded by Mr. Wedge for CSC to approve the requests of Ms. Blumer Beattie, Mr. Beckwith, Mr. Dalicandro, and Mr. Kirshtein's request to enroll their children in the Concord Public Schools and that tuition be waived. The MOTION was unanimously approved.

A MOTION was made by Mr. Wedge and seconded by Ms. Shannon for CCSC to approve Ms. Trotta's request to enroll her child in the Concord-Carlisle High School and that tuition be waived. The MOTION was unanimously approved.

B. Concord Ed Fund Grant Awards

A MOTION was made by Ms. Bilodeau and seconded by Ms. Shannon for CSC and a MOTION was made by Ms. Bilodeau and seconded by Ms. Burkel for CCSC to accept the Concord Ed Fund Grants. The MOTION was unanimously approved.

Dr. Finn stated she was very grateful for the continuing support to the schools. Ms. McGinn stated the grants are usually distributed in April, this year the committee worked longer to raise more money to accept more grants.

Ms. Bilodeau asked if it were possible to ask Carlisle to fund the Concord Ed Fund. Ms. McGinn stated they do make a donation to the Concord Ed Fund, they also fund teams, as well as make additional donations. Mr. Fitzgerald asked if it were possible to ask both Ed funds to sponsor a huge fundraising event.

C. Vote to accept three exchange students @ CCHS for the 2006-07 school year

A MOTION was made by Ms. Bilodeau and seconded by Ms. Shannon to approve the request for three foreign exchange students to attend CCHS in September 2006. The MOTION was unanimously approved.

Mr. Fischelis asked if CCHS students attend school as exchange students. There are students in China, Ecuador and France.

D. Thoreau request to surplus furniture

A MOTION was made by Mr. Wedge and seconded by Ms. Shannon to approve the donation of surplus furniture from the Old Thoreau School.

Dr. Finn stated this is a great idea, we are still having discussions about allowing the community to come in and take some furniture.

The MOTION was unanimously approved. MOTION 2 will be voted at the next meeting.

VI REPORTS AND ISSUES FOR DISCUSSION

A. Writing Across the Curriculum

Mr. Unobskey stated at the middle school, anything that connects the curriculum is powerful. We are trying to connect the emotional with the intellectual. A common thread is around writing.

Sarah Oelkers stated the program that has been developed agreed on what is good writing. This is carried throughout the curriculum. Students write for voice rather than solely prepare for MCAS.

Ms. Shannon stated Ms. Oelkers has done a phenomenal job as leader of this initiative.

Ms. Oelkers played an I Movie.

Mr. Fischelis stated it is great to see this kind of writing. He stated it would be great to get a follow-up to see how the program evolves.

Ms. Shannon stated one of Concord's biggest strengths is its writing program.

#### B. Food Service Status Report

Bonnie Hardy presented changes made to food services. Ms. Shannon asked if this made the food services program more expensive. Ms. Hardy stated she uses local farmers and the pricing stays competitive. She stated participation is up.

Ms. Davis stated she thought a salad bar would go over very well at the high school. Ms. Hardy stated she is hesitant as to how to do it.

Dr. Finn stated Ms. Hardy has been very responsive to parents and suggestions.

#### C. Quarterly financial reporting

Mr. Flaherty stated these numbers for CPS are as of 3/31. He reported the departments and their budgeted versus actual expenditures. Mr. Wedge asked if the SPED was encumbered. Mr. Flaherty stated the salaries have been done in the beginning. We will remain within the budget.

Mr. Flaherty reported the CCHS program areas as of 3/31.

Mr. Fitzgerald asked if there was anything related to the custodial service. Mr. Flaherty stated the salaries have been expended except for over-time. We have been able to save 10% by locking in a rate on natural gas. We are locked in until March and have a window to go with a longer term contract. Contracts usually run 2 years, can go as long as 3 years.

#### D. Cell Tower Proposal Report

Mr. Flaherty stated three bidders presented proposals. At the conclusion, it was determined it would cost approximately \$100K to relocate. Ms. McGinn stated while this was a process we had to go through, the amount of money doesn't make it feasible.

Mr. Fitzgerald asked if the School Committee needed to take action. Mr. Flaherty will get back to the bidders. Mr. Wedge asked what will happen if we don't take action. Ms. Bilodeau stated anyone who owns land can go through the appeals process. Ms. McGinn stated we need to be vigilant with the zoning board so as not to interfere with future plans of the high school.

A MOTION was made by Ms. Bilodeau and seconded by Ms. Shannon for the CCSC to not move with the RFP as shown on cell towers. The MOTON was unanimously approved.

## VII OLD BUSINESS

Ms. Bilodeau stated the Board of Selectmen and Blue Ribbon Committee is looking for a School Committee person. Mr. Wedge stated he would do it. She stated the building committee for Willard School requires a School Committee member to be on it. There are four members who are willing continue to serve. The Board of Selectmen is talking about seven people on the committee. The message from the School Committee is that the educational piece did not have enough say. The educational focus needs to be in this building plan.

Ms. Bilodeau asked that a letter be drafted to Chris Whelan regarding concerns around this. She would like to see school and administration represented. Dr. Finn stated she would like to see this school built with operating costs in mind, energy efficiency. Mr. Wedge stated all new town buildings need to have silver certificate, cost savings down the road.

Ms. Bilodeau stated there was documentation the state rating from MSBA Willard was a 4, the published rating was a 3. Have we made any progress. Dr. Finn stated she is aware of that, we will address it this week.

## VIII SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

### A. Retiree Reception:

This is attached. There is also a list of employees with over 25 years of service. These employees will be thanked for a lifetime of professional service.

At next meeting, dates will be discussed for summer workshops.

Dr. Finn thanked Ms. Burkel for her service. She will continue to serve on Carlisle's School Committee.

We will need to decide who is going to which retirement parties.

## IX CITIZENS' COMMENTS

A member of the audience stated half of the comments were inaudible in the room without microphones.

Ms. Rigby distributed a pamphlet regarding a dedication ceremony at Brister's Hill on May 15.

## X ADJOURNMENT

A MOTION was made by Ms. Burkel and seconded by Ms. Bilodeau for CCSC and a MOTION was made by Mr. Wedge and seconded by Ms. Bilodeau for CSC to adjourn the Joint School Committee meeting at 9:05 p.m. and enter into Executive Session. The MOTION was unanimously approved by roll call.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura O'Sullivan  
APPROVED: 5/23/06