

Minutes

PRESENT:

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

ABSENT:

Ms. Betsy Bilodeau
Mr. Chad Koski

I CALL TO ORDER AND GREETING

The meeting returned to Open Session and was called to order by Mr. Fitzgerald and Ms. McGinn at 6:45 p.m.

Dr. Finn held a moment of silence in honor of recent CCHS graduate, Abdirauf Abdullahi who was killed the past Sunday. Mr. Dulong stated he was a wonderful person and student. He was friends with everyone. He worked through adversity and had a purpose, goal and mission.

Mr. Fitzgerald asked Mr. Dulong if a recognition, celebration of this student's life was being planned. Mr. Dulong stated in the early fall, something would be held at school.

II READING OF THE MINUTES

Open Session

A MOTION was made by Mr. Wedge and seconded by Mr. Fischelis for CCSC and a MOTION was made by Mr. Wedge and seconded by Mr. Fischelis for CSC to approve the minutes from the Joint School Committee meeting held May 23, 2007. Changes were noted by the secretary and the MOTION was unanimously approved as amended.

III CORRESPONDENCE

Ms. McGinn received correspondence from Karen O'Toole. Her son took part in the China exchange and she stated what a wonderful experience it was for him.

Ms. McGinn received a memo from Gary Clayton. It was distributed to committee members.

Ms. McGinn sent a letter to the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail committee, stating the School Committee's interest in this project.

Mr. Fischelis stated he had questions from a parent regarding the posting of School Committee meeting minutes. He was told the minutes are posted when they are approved.

Mr. Fischelis stated he has attended meetings regarding the playing fields. He has stated the School Committee's interest in developing a plan.

Mr. Fischelis stated he met with high school teachers and informed them of the School Committee's summer workshop. They are interested in the topic around the high school building.

Mr. Fischelis informed the School Committee about the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail. He stated there is an RFP in progress. The meetings are open and an upcoming meeting will be in the form of a hearing.

IV RECOGNITIONS

A. Willard School

Ms. Fernandes recognized the Mental Health Team at Willard, Carl Torrice, Julee Vitello and Miriam Kornitzer. Julee Vitello will be leaving because the Behavior Specialist grant has ended.

B. Alcott School

Ms. Young recognized Polly Attwood and Laurel Reynolds, office staff at Alcott. They do an amazing job and the school would not function without them.

C. Middle School

Mr. Unobskey recognized the Special Ed team for their continued hard work developing the special ed. curriculum.

Dr. Finn recognized the principals for their unbelievable work during the school year. They show a tremendous work ethic, commitment to staff, the physical plant, and their fit within the community.

V REPORTS AND ISSUES FOR DISCUSSION

A. Review of Handbook updates

Ms. Rigby stated the DOE reviewed the handbooks and said they were out of date. They have been updated to include all the information the DOE requires. The high school handbooks will be available at the July meeting.

B. School Improvement Plans

High School

Mr. Dulong stated the SAC meets monthly, he is very grateful to Jennifer Hart, a member of the community without a child at the high school. She is a very active member. Mr. Dulong reviewed the past year's goals and gave an overview for the goals for the school year 2006-07.

Ms. Shannon stated she is pleased to see thinking around the professional development days in the calendar.

Mr. Fischelis asked about the availability of AP classes. Mr. Dulong stated there are more AP courses available now than have ever been offered. Student participation is very high. Mr. Fischelis asked if some time could be set aside on a future agenda related to AP classes.

Mr. Wedge stated last year's goal 4, related to a new building is still a priority and will need the support of SAC to advocate for this. Mr. Dulong stated there is support from SAC.

Middle School

Mr. Unobskey discussed the philosophy at the middle school. He reviewed the goals of 05-06 as it related to the philosophy. Ms. Shannon asked if the music program is being revised. Mr. Unobskey stated the orchestra has 60 students in it next year.

Mr. Unobskey gave an overview of the goals for the 2006-07 school year. Mr. Fischelis asked how bullying is handled. Mr. Unobskey stated they are seeing less, it is handled within the curriculum. They try to get kids to ask for help when they need it.

Willard School

Ms. Fernandes stated the Willard SAC had a great year. She reviewed the past year's and the upcoming year's goals. Ms. Shannon asked about math grouping. In the past, it was discouraged. Grouping is now occurring. Ms. Fernandes stated for selected unit, teachers do use grouping, it makes better use of their time. She stated students often prefer it as well.

Thoreau School

Mr. Colontuno reviewed last year's goals and discussed goals for school year 2006-07. Mr. Wedge asked about the opportunity Thoreau and Alcott had to bond, being next door to each other this year. Do they take anything away from

this experience? Ms. Young stated the students were able to do things like walk over to watch a play, something you couldn't do if the schools weren't next door.

Alcott School

Ms. Young reviewed this past year's goals and overviewed goals for the upcoming year. Ms. Shannon stated that one of Concord's strengths has always been the students' writing ability. She is glad to see things start so early. Mr. Wedge asked if there will be a new way to get in and out of the building next year. Ms. Young stated they will go back to the old way of one exit.

Dr. Finn thanked Ms. Rigby for working so closely with the K-8 system and principals. The schools parallel each other, principals and teachers appreciate that.

B. CCHS Accomplishments of the year

Mr. Dulong discussed the student achievements by subject matter. One charge of the high school was to increase the number of clubs available to students. Other items added were a METCO tutoring program. This program is a mentor program for freshman/senior METCO students.

Mr. Fischelis stated the athletic program is very successful. Is it necessary to make cuts. He would like see students supported and have them participate. Mr. Dulong stated that the problem often is in finding competition for additional teams. He stated there are sports which are cut free. Wrestling, track and field, cross country, and swimming are sports which can hold more students.

Ms. Shannon stated these accomplishments are the product of a community that supports children and education.

C. MSBA Hearing

Dr. Finn stated the information that was gathered was distributed to School Committee members. The hearings were held over the space of a week. The work related to guidelines will be put into a revised document. Dr. Finn stated questions related to guidelines and a draft letter will be sent in by the Friday deadline.

Dr. Finn stated the Build Willard Committee had been named: Phil Benincasa, Chris Whelan, Brenda Finn, Jerry Wedge, Dave Anderson, Pat Fernandes, Scott Bates, Ted Hanselman, Andy Berman, Pat Nelson, Frank Cannon and Richard Keleher.

Mr. Wedge asked if this was reviewed by MSBA. No, this is a tentative appointment, they need to appoint it.

D. Superintendent's Evaluation

Mr. Fitzgerald stated an annual responsibility of the School Committee is to evaluate the superintendent. He read a portion of the evaluation. Dr. Finn thanked him and stated she was glad to see the School Committee realizes this is a team. She stated it is an honor to work with the School Committee, John Flaherty, Diana Rigby and the 5 principals.

Mr. Fitzgerald stated the recommendation to increase the Superintendent's salary 5 percent and to make adjustments to the 403(b), provide the Superintendent with a computer and other minor additions.

A MOTION was made by Mr. Wedge and seconded by Ms. Shannon for CCSC and a MOTION was made by Mr. Fischelis and seconded by Ms. Shannon for CSC to provide the chairs of the School Committee with the authority to finalize a three-year contract with the Superintendent. The MOTION was unanimously approved.

VI ACTION ITEMS

A. Vote to accept responsibility and control of the new Thoreau School for school purposes

A MOTION was made by Mr. Fischelis and seconded by Mr. Wedge for CSC to accept responsibility and control of the new Thoreau School for school purposes. The MOTION was unanimously approved.

B. Vote to approve bid award – CCHS Door and Hardware Replacement Project
A MOTION was made by Mr. Wedge and seconded by Mr. Fischelis for CCSC to award the contract for the Concord-Carlisle High School Door and Hardware Replacement project to New England School Services of 98 Hicks Avenue, Medford, Massachusetts in the amount of \$149,200.

Mr. Fitzgerald asked if this was in line with what was expected. Mr. Flaherty stated it is within the budget. This company is very competitive and they win a lot of bids. They do high quality work.

The MOTION was voted and unanimously approved.

C. Final Reading and Approval: Student Health Services Policies

A MOTION was made by Mr. Wedge and seconded by Mr. Fischelis for CCSC and a MOTION was made by Mr. Wedge and seconded by Mr. Fischelis for CSC to approve the Student Health Services Policies (JLC, JLCA, JLCB, JLCC, JLCD, and JLCCA) as outlined in Attachment C. The MOTION was unanimously approved.

D. Final Reading and Approval: MASC Policies

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

to approve the MASC policies IHBEA and KBBA. The MOTION was unanimously approved.

G. Vote to approve K-5 Parent/Student Handbook 06-07

A MOTION was made by Mr. Wedge and seconded by Mr. Fischelis for CSC to approve the K-5 Parent/Student Handbook for 2006-07. The MOTION was unanimously approved.

H. Vote to approve CMS Parent/Student Handbook 06-07

A MOTION was made by Mr. Wedge and seconded by Mr. Fischelis for CSC to approve the CMS Parent/Student Handbook for 2006-07. The MOTION was unanimously approved.

I. Vote to approve permission to plan exchange trip to France

Mr. Dulong stated the French class would like to plan an exchange trip for a group of students to go to France for 2 weeks, February vacation and the following week. There will be the reverse, with French students coming here in April. This was successful last year, the trips typically take place every two years. The cost is much lower than an excursion because the student is staying with a family. It is mainly transportation and some shared cultural outings.

A MOTION was made by Mr. Wedge and seconded by Mr. Fischelis for CCSC to approve the request to plan an exchange trip to France. The MOTION was unanimously approved.

VII OLD BUSINESS

Ms. McGinn stated on September 9 at the Elks Lodge, there is a parade. School Committee may march.

Mr. Wedge stated the Strawberry Hill Committee has been appointed and they have had one meeting.

X ADJOURNMENT

Hearing no other business, a MOTION was made by Mr. Wedge and seconded by Mr. Fischelis for CCSC and a MOTION was made by Mr. Wedge and seconded by Mr. Fischelis for CSC to adjourn the Joint School Committee meeting at 9:40 p.m. The MOTION was unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura O'Sullivan
APPROVED: 8/24/06