

JOINT SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

Concord School Committee
Concord-Carlisle School Committee
Thoreau Elementary School
Concord, MA
August 24, 2006
4:00 PM

Minutes

PRESENT:

Ms. Betsy Bilodeau
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:

Mr. Peter Fischelis
Mr. Chad Koski

CALL TO ORDER AND GREETING

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Fitzgerald and Ms. McGinn at 4:25 p.m. A MOTION was made by Mr. Fitzgerald and seconded by Mr. Wedge for CCSC and a MOTION was made by Ms. McGinn and seconded by Ms. Bilodeau for CSC to move the meeting into Executive Session. The MOTION was unanimously approved by roll call.

The meeting returned to Open Session.

II READING OF THE MINUTES

A MOTION was made by Mr. Wedge and seconded by Ms. Bilodeau for CCSC and a MOTION was made by Mr. Wedge and seconded by Ms. McGinn for CSC to approve the minutes from the Joint School Committee meeting held June 27, 2006. The MOTION was unanimously approved.

IV RECOGNITION

Mr. Dulong introduced Barry Haley, the new Athletic Director at the high school. Mr. Haley is a coach, teacher and an athletic director. He comes highly regarded from Wakefield. Mr. Dulong described the search committee's process in selecting a new Athletic Director. Mr. Haley is very student centered. He believes interscholastic sports, teamwork and character building are all a part of education. Mr. Haley has been in education for 26 years and has been an Athletic Director for 16 years.

Mr. Haley thanked Mr. Dulong for the warm welcome. He stated Concord-Carlisle is a great community and he is looking forward to being a dynamic part of the program. He is looking forward to a great year.

Dr. Finn stated Mr. Haley is in an administrative level position. The position of Athletic Director has been made broader than the previous Athletic Coordinator position.

Dr. Finn recognized the losses of several CCHS students over the summer. Abdirauf Abdullahi was killed in June. Ben Sutherland died while working on a sailing vessel in July, and Adrian Martinez, Class of 02, suffered a heart complication and most recently died.

These are terrible losses the high school has suffered and there will be memorials in the coming year. Mr. Dulong stated administrators are meeting to develop a plan. Nothing is firm yet.

V REPORTS AND ISSUES FOR DISCUSSION

A. Review of CCHS Handbook updates

Mr. Dulong stated a summary was distributed. There were not a lot of changes this year. The major changes happened last year. Some tweaks were related to the video surveillance and a new category related to discipline around cheating was added. Mr. Dulong stated the English Department distributes a pamphlet on cheating. This makes clear what students often find muddy. It also explains when students can work together and when the work needs to be done independently.

Another new item in the handbook is who is and is not allowed in the Beady Center. Freshman and sophomores are not allowed. Mr. Dulong thanked the SAC for their help. They are very engaged.

B. Required Reporting of Incidents of Fire – Chapter 80 of the Acts of 2006

Dr. Finn stated the Principals must notify the fire marshall of any incidents of small fires. The statute was signed into law and went into effect this summer.

C. Proposed plan for playing fields

Mr. Fitzgerald stated at the July meeting Deckers Davidson presented the overall conceptual idea of the adding playing fields in Concord. Part of the money will come out of the CPA fund. The Board of Selectmen would like to see a vote of affirmation, that the School Committee agree with the concept so the Selectmen can make a recommendation to CPSW.

Ms. Bilodeau stated how will it go forward, will there be a subcommittee. Mr. Fischelis, Ms. McGinn, Mr. Fitzgerald and Ms. Bilodeau volunteered to join a subcommittee.

Mr. Fitzgerald asked if the School Committee would like to hold off on a vote until after the discussion about the high school is completed. He didn't realize the location of the fields was specific, would this interfere with a possible renovation of the high school.

Mr. Wedge stated there is no other use for that land, a renovation/rebuild decision does not change his vote on the playing fields. The other members of the School Committee concurred.

Ms. Bilodeau stated we need to get the ball rolling with the fields.

VI ACTION ITEMS

A. Vote to approve the Contract between Concord School Committee/Concord-Carlisle School Committee and Concord-Carlisle Support Staff Association/MTA Bus Drivers Unit

A MOTION was made by Ms. Shannon 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 Contract between Concord School Committee/Concord-Carlisle School Committee and Concord-Carlisle Support Staff Association/MTA Bus Drivers Unit. The MOTION was unanimously approved and Ms. McClausland, Ms. Shannon, Mr. Manley Boyce, and Mr. Flaherty were thanked for their hard work.

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 authorize Dr. Finn to sign a MOA on Sped transportation envelope on behalf of the School Committee. The MOTION was unanimously approved.

B. Vote to approve High School Student Handbook

A MOTION was made by Mr. Wedge and seconded by Ms. Shannon to approve the High School Handbook. The MOTION was unanimously approved.

C. Vote to authorize the Director of Adult and Community Education to engage the services of IES Language Foundation

A MOTION was made by Ms. Bilodeau and seconded by Ms. Shannon for CCSC to authorize the Director of Adult and Community Education to engage the services of IES Language Foundation (New England) for the period 2006-07 with a second year renewal option for 2007-08.

Mr. Wedge asked what this was about. Mr. Booth stated that the volume of students could exceed the available teachers. We need to go to outside vendors to get language teachers.

The MOTION was voted and unanimously approved.

D. Vote to approve driver education contract at CCHS

A MOTION was made by Ms. Bilodeau and seconded by Mr. Wedge to authorize the Director of Adult and Community Education to engage the services of A & A Auto School, 6 Union Avenue, Framingham, MA for the period September 2006 through June 2007, with a second year renewal option for 2007-08. The MOTION was unanimously approved.

E. Vote to support the concept of the addition of three playing fields on the high school parcel

A MOTION was made by Ms. Bilodeau and seconded by Mr. Wedge to support the concept of the addition of three playing fields on the high school parcel as shown on the handout.

Mr. Wedge reiterated that the town will handle all neighborhood issues. Ms. Bilodeau stated we should have a liaison with Decker's group.

The MOTION was voted and unanimously approved.

VII OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Fitzgerald stated the issue of television coverage has come up again. He is wondering how will we proceed. He stated the school budget is not responsible for funding coverage and human resources on cable TV.

Ms. Shannon asked if we would consider holding meetings at the Town House. The meeting can be shown live there.

Mr. Fitzgerald stated when meetings are held in Carlisle, there is a room wired for TV and ready for use.

Dr. Finn stated she spoke with Principals regarding the televising of meetings. She asked them to be aware and to plan presentations of activities going on in their schools. That is the school's responsibility and we welcome that.

Mr. Fitzgerald asked if the town had considered an operating budget for CCTV coverage.

Mr. Fitzgerald asked Mr. Flaherty if the additional Chapter 70 money would be voted into the stabilization fund in September. Mr. Flaherty stated the DOE ruling related to money above the 5% in E & D funds. It makes sense to put it in a stabilization fund.

Mr. Wedge asked about opening day festivities. Dr. Finn stated things will be done differently this year, there will be opening day at the high school, Peabody and Thoreau schools. New teachers will have an orientation and Chairs of School Committee will address new teachers that morning.

VIII SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

A. Emerson Hospital Meeting: Planning for pandemic flu evacuation site (August 2, 2006)

Dr. Finn stated this is an item of community interest between the DOE, Emerson Hospital and the DOH. If the community had a need to find an evacuation site in the event of a pandemic flu. The notes and minutes from that meeting were distributed. There is a follow-up meeting on September 13 at Emerson from 8-10 a.m.

The meeting was suspended at 6:30 p.m. Following a tour of the Thoreau School, the School Committee moved into a workshop.

APPROVED: 9/26/06