



B. Email from Mark McQuillan (EDCO): February 3-4, 2006 – School Committee Orientation

Dr. Finn received an email from Mark McQuillan regarding the upcoming School Committee orientation.

Dr. Finn received an email from Tim Blancke regarding the warrant articles.

Mr. Wedge received correspondence from Paul and Christine French regarding time spent on learning.

IV RECOGNITIONS

Dr. Finn recognized, on behalf of Mr. Unobskey, student James Avery at the Sanborn Middle School and the poetry café.

A. Alcott School

Dr. Finn recognized, on behalf of Ms. Young, the third grade teachers in presenting their Mayan unit. The unit culminated in a cultural event including a breakfast.

B. Willard School

Ms. Fernandes recognized music teacher, Charlyn Bethell, and the all school assembly put on by the 5<sup>th</sup> grade chorus celebrating Martin Luther King Day.

V ACTION ITEMS

A. Gift Acceptance – Donation from Lueders Environmental, Inc.

A MOTION was made by Mr. Sinnott and seconded by Ms. Shannon to accept a donation of \$50 to the School Department from Mr. Michael E. Lueders, President of Lueders Environmental, Inc. The MOTION was unanimously approved and Mr. Leuders was thanked for his donation. Mr. Sinnott noted we have received this gift for a number of years. The School Committee and children of Concord thank him.

B. Gift Acceptance – Grant awarded to Willard from Cambridge Savings Charitable Foundation

A MOTION was made by Mr. Sinnott and seconded by Ms. Bilodeau to accept a grant from the Cambridge Savings Charitable Foundation for \$1,450 to fund the expenses associated with *The Beanstalk*, the new Willard student literary magazine. The MOTION was unanimously approved and the Cambridge Savings Charitable Foundation was publicly thanked for its donation.

C. Vote to accept the Chapter 70 Minimum Funding Proposal

Dr. Finn stated a meeting is being held January 30 in Acton regarding the inequities of the Chapter 70 Funding Formula. Dr. Finn, Mr. Flaherty and Ms. Rigby will be in attendance. Copies of this proposal have been sent to Mark Russell Prior and to the Board of Selectmen.

Ms. Shannon stated she admires Acton/Boxborough for taking this initiative.

A MOTION was made by Ms. Bilodeau and seconded by Ms. Shannon that the Concord School Committee support the Chapter 70 Minimum Funding Proposal which would provide a minimum of \$2000 per student to each city and town in Massachusetts.

Mr. Wedge asked if it would be helpful to invite the legislators to a meeting to discuss this. Ms. Bilodeau stated the state backs out of support to build new schools. The legislators need to hear that over and over.

The MOTION was voted and unanimously approved.

Ms. Bilodeau stated unless we keep the pressure on legislators, the wealthiest towns who can support schools through property tax will be forced to, Acton/Boxborough says schools shouldn't be funded by property tax.

## VI REPORTS AND ISSUES FOR DISCUSSION

### A. The Beanstalk: Presentation by Willard students and staff

Dr. Finn stated she was pleased to see so many students. Ms. Fernandes introduced Robin Cicchetti, Genoveva Matteus, and Barb McGee as staff heading up the Beanstalk. The goal of The Beanstalk is to be completely produced by students. This issue had 100-120 students involved as writers or on staff. The first issue was distributed in December, a second issue has just been started and will be ready by March. A third issue will go out in June. An IMovie was played detailing the production of the magazine.

Dr. Finn thanked the staff and children for putting this together.

### B. Leadership for School Building Initiatives Presentation

Mr. Wedge stated the meeting was last night and the presentation was well received. Mr. Sinnott stated the tone was set and the committee did a very good job. The Board of Selectmen's questions were related to timeline and reimbursement. There was a warmer reception than last year and a very thoughtful discussion.

Ms. Bilodeau stated there are questions out there, one related to reimbursement. We need to point out that we'll pay more as taxpayers if we wait. There is also talk of space issues and redistricting kids from Willard. There is a misconception that the Alcott and Thoreau schools are under-utilized.

A discussion ensued regarding the presentation. The committee will be charged in order to present at Town Meeting. Ms. Bilodeau stated there is another part being done by Build Willard. The PAC raises funds for the vote campaign. They

are working on identifying people who will help to get the vote out. A fundraiser is being planned.

D. MSBA District Assessment & School Tours, conducted by Dr. Ron Fitzgerald on January 5 and 6, 2006

Dr. Fitzgerald collected data for MSBA. He was here for two days and there were three presentations. David Anderson attended the school tours. The feedback we received is that he is happy the principals were able to accompany him on the tours. He was impressed with the preparation on each school. A draft report will be ready in a few weeks. Mr. Wedge stated the findings will show how the state assesses us when we apply for a project. By doing this we've done all we can to get the state to see our needs.

Dr. Finn stated the principals did a great job and she thanked Mr. Anderson for setting aside two days to accompany Dr. Fitzgerald.

E. Early K Intervention for 2<sup>nd</sup> Semester

Ms. Rigby stated the goal of the Intervention program is to reduce the amount of students requiring Sped at the elementary school. This program provides support and intervention to students who could benefit from focused intervention in reading skills. The salary savings which are being used will benefit 10 students 3 times a week in the elementary schools. It is similar to the after school program at the middle school.

Mr. Sinnott asked if Sped will be avoided for these students. Ms. Rigby stated these students are on the cusp of needing Sped, they will be referred if progress isn't made.

Dr. Finn applauded Ms. Rigby and the teachers for taking this effort that will benefit children.

F. Pine Street Bridge – right of entry

Mr. Flaherty stated he received an email from the Concord Public Works identifying that the state did an inventory on bridges. They need access to the site in order to make the bridge repairs. When the bridge was closed, bus routes had to be changed and more routes added.

VIII SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

A. January 18, 2006, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Great Hall, State House: Initiative for Local Aid-Grassroots Advocacy to Support Increased Aid

This is an FYI.

B. January 30, 2006, 7 p.m., Acton-Boxboro, RJ Grey Junior High School: Chapter 70 Minimum Funding Proposal meeting

This is an FYI.

X ADJOURNMENT

A MOTION was made by Mr. Sinnott and seconded by Ms. Bilodeau to adjourn the Concord School Committee meeting at 7:50 p.m. The MOTION was unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura O'Sullivan  
APPROVED: 1/24/06