

JOINT SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Concord School Committee
Concord-Carlisle School Committee
Ripley Building
Concord, MA
January 23, 2007
6:30 p.m.

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 returned to Open Session and was called to order by Mr. Fitzgerald for CCSC and Ms. McGinn for CSC at 6:44 p.m.

Mr. Fitzgerald welcomed the Student Advisory Council. Leigh Davis reported students were in the middle of mid-terms. She stated the biggest item was related to the incident at Lincoln-Sudbury. She asked if there is a program if something like this were to happen at CCHS.

Mr. Dulong stated the issue is how to deal with students on a daily basis so we don't have to worry about this. It is very important that students feel safe. There are meetings planned with the dual county principals next week to discuss this incident. He added four CCHS counselors were there on Friday and Monday. One was there all weekend.

Ms. Davis stated this year there are no classes after mid-terms. Students appreciate this.

II. READING OF THE MINUTES

A MOTION was made by Mr. Wedge and seconded by Ms. Shannon for CCSC and a MOTION was made by Ms. Bilodeau and seconded by Mr. Wedge for CSC to approve the minutes from the Joint School Committee meeting held on November 14, 2006. Corrections were noted by the secretary and the MOTION was unanimously approved.

A MOTION was made by Mr. Wedge and seconded by Ms. Bilodeau for CCSC and a MOTION was made by Ms. Bilodeau and seconded by Ms. Shannon for CSC to approve the minutes from the Joint School Committee meeting held on December 12, 2006. The MOTION was unanimously approved.

A MOTION was made by Mr. Wedge and seconded by Ms. Bilodeau for CCSC and a MOTION was made by Ms. Bilodeau and seconded by Mr. Wedge to approve the minutes from the Joint School Committee meeting held on January 2, 2007. The MOTION was unanimously approved.

III. CORRESPONDENCE

A. Correspondence on Natural Resources violation on CCRSD land

Dr. Finn stated the correspondence relating to this issue was attached.

B. Massachusetts Department of Revenue Excess and Deficiency approval letter for Concord-Carlisle Regional School District

Mr. Flaherty stated this letter certifies the Excess and Deficiency account.

C. MA Department of Education on EPIMS

Kelly McCausland volunteered to participate in EPIMS. She described the pilot program and recognized the work of Beth Duddy in Human Resources, Carolyn Cullinane and Jill Tracey. This will be helpful to look at trends and get information into one area.

D. Application for DPH Licensure Approval of Emergency Influenza Specialty Care Unit (ISCU)

Dr. Finn stated the application is attached. There is a follow-up meeting at Emerson Hospital on January 30. The facility has not been determined yet, Sanborn was the original site, but the high school is also being looked.

IV. RECOGNITIONS

A. Acknowledgment of receipt of retirement letter from Art Dulong

Dr. Finn recognized Art Dulong who has tendered his letter of retirement. She read a commendation of Mr. Dulong and thanked him for his years of service.

Mr. Dulong recognized the Pathways staff for being asked to participate in a conference in Seattle. He stated J.B. Finnerty has also been asked to participate in a conference in AZ.

Mr. Dulong stated this afternoon he received a letter and a donation for \$20,000 from a parent. It will be presented for acceptance at a later meeting.

VI. ACTION ITEMS

B. Vote to approve permission to plan trip to London and Edinburgh Festival, Scotland (CCHS)

George Kendall described the application process for the trip. He asked the School Committee to consider a 14-day, all-inclusive trip. Ms. McGinn asked how the selection process would work. Mr. Kendall stated there would be auditions, and they would perform an established show. Mr. Wedge asked if there would be scholarships available. Mr. Kendall stated he would hope to get help from wherever he could. He hopes to follow the infrastructure of the band/chorus trip to Japan.

A MOTION was made by Ms. Bilodeau and seconded by Mr. Fischelis for CCSC to approve the request to plan a trip to London and Scotland in August 2008. The MOTION was unanimously approved.

V. REPORTS AND ISSUES FOR DISCUSSION

A. Senior Project

Mark Angney distributed the list of senior student projects from the previous years. He stated for the Senior Project, there are 16 mentors for 40 students. This year, there is a waiting list. Mr. Fitzgerald asked what is the student response to senior project. Mr. Angney stated students remember this as the best course they took in high school. Mr. Wedge stated he attended the presentation last year and it was wonderful. Mr. Angney presented a video of seniors discussing their projects and the process.

B. Youth Risk Behavior Survey

Kathy Bowen presented the report and discussed the guiding good choices program. Mr. Unobskey detailed the areas as it related to middle school students and their participation in certain areas. He stated parents are able to talk about these issues more now than they were four years ago. Mr. Fitzgerald asked if any changes with the trends were noticed in the data over time. Mr. Unobskey stated nothing has been significantly eliminated.

Ms. Shannon stated there is a spike in the behaviors in the 8th grade, then a dip, and then a spike again. This appears in the aggregate as well. Mr. Wedge stated in terms of self injury numbers, is it possible to identify students. Mr. Unobskey stated there is a protocol in place; that if students experiment we can interrupt it, it will be helpful.

Mr. Dulong reviewed the graphs relating to high school students. He identified evidence of trends decreasing.

Ms. Bowen thanked the staff, Emerson Hospital and the School Committee for their support.

C. SPED Financial Update

Ms. Rigby presented the report which was distributed. We have kept track of Circuit Breaker increases or decreases. A copy of an article highlighting concerns was attached.

D. Quarterly Financial Report

Mr. Flaherty detailed the major expenditures by program area. He stated there are no surprises.

E. Fields Proposal Presentation

Chris Whelan distributed a report and stated the details of the plan for the fields for the high school.

Mr. Dulong stated it is his responsibility to look out for the welfare of students. This is an opportunity to expand health and fitness classes. All-weather fields provide more opportunities for health and fitness classes to be held outside later in the season. Mr. Dulong stated he was in favor of the skateboard park and CC Pools. He stated it is critical to have people on the high school campus all the time. It is important to the long term health of CCHS.

Barry Haley stated the coaches are in support of the field project. This will positively impact the interscholastic and community programs.

Mr. Wedge asked if anything we do here will preclude future plans. Mr. Whalen stated this new plan does not preclude future plans. Mr. Wedge stated the future high school committee will need to address the bus situation.

Ms. Bilodeau stated a June 15 start date could interfere with finals. Mr. Whalen stated nothing would be done that would distract students. Ms. Bilodeau stated there are a lot of unknowns. She reminded the School Committee to look at the whole thing as a whole entity: the building, bus depot, flow, parking, and fields.

Mr. Fischelis stated the group has spent a lot of time and done an excellent job. He thanked the Fields Group.

Mr. Whelan thanked Mr. Fischelis for his help on the committee. He congratulated Mr. Dulong on his retirement and welcomed Barry Haley as the new Athletic Director.

VI. ACTION ITEMS

A. Vote to approve CCHS School Calendar 2007-08

Ms. Bilodeau stated we are back to the original calendar. We will continue discussion for the following year, but will vote the calendar for 07-08. The high school calendar will be the same as K-8.

A MOTION was made by Mr. Wedge and seconded by Ms. Bilodeau for CCSC to approve the School Calendar for 2007-08 as presented. The MOTION was unanimously approved.

C. Approve Fields Proposal

A MOTION was made by Ms. Bilodeau and seconded by Mr. Fischelis for CCSC to approve the Fields Proposal as shown to us tonight and to authorize the School

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Committee to enter into a Municipal Agreement with the Town of Concord for use of land for development of fields.

The MOTION was voted:

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

Nay:

Abstain: Koski

VIII. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

A. Annual Town Report

Dr. Finn stated this is a good summary of the work done over the past year.

B. MSBA Confirmation of Willard Status as "4" on Needs Survey

Dr. Finn stated she received a letter from Enrique Zuniga of MSBA. He confirmed that Willard is listed as a "4" on the Survey. Dr. Finn will check to see that the website was updated.

IX. CITIZENS' COMMENTS

X. ADJOURNMENT

A MOTION was made by Mr. Wedge and seconded by Ms. Bilodeau for CCSC and a MOTION was made by Ms. Bilodeau and seconded by Mr. Wedge for CSC to adjourn the Joint School Committee at 9:45 p.m. The MOTION was unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura O'Sullivan

APPROVED: 1/2/07