

JOINT SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Concord School Committee
Concord-Carlisle School Committee
Ripley Building
Concord, MA
April 10, 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

PRESENT FROM ADMINISTRATION:

Dr. Brenda Finn, Superintendent
Mr. John Flaherty
Ms. Diana Rigby

ABSENT:

Mr. Jerry Wedge

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 6:50 p.m.

B. Presentation by Nancy Burnham representing Brister's Hill Road regarding Playing Field Issue

Nancy Burnham gave an alternative plan to the playing fields. A Powerpoint presentation was distributed for the "Concord Field and Trees Plan."

C. Welcome to Peter Badalament, newly appointed principal of CCHS

Dr. Finn welcomed Peter Badalament. He has been offered and has accepted the position of principal of CCHS. He was formerly the principal of Hanover and Bellingham High Schools. Mr. Badalament stated he is pleased to be here. He is honored and humbled and looks forward to working with the CCHS community.

II. READING OF THE MINUTES

A MOTION was made by Ms. Bilodeau and seconded by Mr. Fischelis for CCSC and a MOTION was made by Mr. Fischelis and seconded by Ms. Bilodeau for CSC to accept the minutes from the Joint School Committee meeting held February 27, 2007. The MOTION was unanimously approved.

A MOTION was made by Mr. Fischelis and seconded by Ms. Bilodeau for CCSC and a MOTION was made by Ms. Shannon and seconded by Mr. Fischelis for CSC to

accept the minutes from the Joint School Committee meeting held March 13, 2007. The MOTION was unanimously approved.

III. CORRESPONDENCE

A. Letter from Virginia McIntyre

Dr. Finn stated this letter was distributed in the School Committee packet.

B. Letter from NEASC Deputy Director Janet Allison

Dr. Finn received correspondence and stated it is a review of the two year progress report.

C. Letter from Mark Masterson

Dr. Finn received correspondence from Maynard's superintendent regarding regionalization. She will look into this issue.

D. Letter from C. Booth re: Global Warming Symposium

Dr. Finn received correspondence from Court Booth thanking the group for the success of the Global Warming event.

IV. RECOGNITIONS

A. Thank you to Betsy Bilodeau for her six years service as a school committee member

Mr. Fitzgerald recognized Betsy Bilodeau as this is her last meeting. She has been a member of the School Committee for the past six years and has taken on several challenges within this committee. She should be honored for her work.

Mr. Fitzgerald stated Fabian Fondriest will be taking her place.

B. CCHS: Thank you to the Principal Search Committee

Dr. Finn stated the process began in January. She stated Kelly McCausland coordinated the search committee. Dr. Finn recognized the members of the committee and recognized Ms. McCausland for leading the process. She developed and kept to timelines, attended to details, and developed a brochure. Dr. Finn thanked Ms. McCausland for her professionalism and her work.

Ms. Shannon stated there was a wonderful dynamic on this committee. The high school staff should feel good about the choice and the process.

V. REPORTS AND ISSUES FOR DISCUSSION

A. Fields Committee Update

Mr. Fischelis stated the committee is in the homestretch of the field project. There was a vote of 54-1 in favor of the project from all boards. The Zoning Board of Appeals gave its unanimous support of the project. The last open meeting was at the Hunt Gym and it will now go to Town Meeting in the hope that voters will approve it. This will add great value to the sports programs in town.

Mr. Fischelis stated assuming approval, a construction fence will be set up in the beginning of June. Clearing will begin later in June, site cleared over the summer, field installation in the fall and they will be ready for spring.

Ms. Bilodeau thanked Mr. Fischelis for his hard work.

B. METCO Report

Ms. Rigby stated the METCO group was taking a team approach. She publicly recognized Norma Dinnall for her 30 years in the METCO program in the town of Concord. She will retire in June. Ms. Rigby stated the METCO program is funded by Department of Education. Concord receives \$517,299 in METCO funding. This funds tutors, bus monitors, teachers, breakfast at the middle school, attendance to METCO conferences, training, teacher salaries, after-school program, orientation coordinator and secretaries.

Arielle Spivey, student, spoke about her years in Concord through the METCO program. She is a very involved student, she stated she remembers beginning at the Alcott school and feeling very welcomed to Concord.

Sheila Morrison is a counselor at the Sanborn and Peabody Middle School. She discussed the close knit community that has been developed for the students.

Kim Bovel is a METCO tutor at the high school. Mr. Dulong stated she is much more than a tutor. She has befriended students and gets the work done. She acts as a middleman between the student's school life and their parents. She sends home bi-weekly reports from teachers for the families.

Susan Ryan, Family/Friend coordinator, stated ways Concord families engage with METCO students and families. Events are scheduled throughout the year. She stated the goal of Family/Friends council is to give families a feeling of welcome. She requested Concord try to get in as many kids as possible off the waiting list.

C. Technology Update

Gene Warfel updated the School Committee as to the laptop loaning program. The technology department has refurbished old G3's. There are 49 laptops loaned out. The parts have been paid for by a grant from the Concord Ed. Fund. Mr. Warfel also gave the committee an update on technology. He discussed plans for the new building. Other areas to look at are teacher websites, the music department, and adding students to email lists to make class conferences.

Mr. Fischelis asked if there were enough laptops. Mr. Warfel stated there are two extra.

D. MSBA Visit to Willard School, March 26, 2007

Dr. Finn stated this is the list of participants at the site visit.

E. First Reading: Revision in Field Trips policy language

Ms. Bilodeau stated this is a first reading. Another layer of checking the costs of trips has been added. Trips which exceed the cost of \$100 need to go to the superintendent for approval. This addresses the concerns of the high cost of field trips. This will be brought back for approval at our next meeting.

F. Results of March 27 Town of Concord vote

Dr. Finn stated this is included for review.

G. ACE Report to Regional School Committee: School Committee questions

Mr. Saltonstall stated there are three pieces of data for the committee related to the fee comparisons. The first is the enrollment breakdown, there are 4,000 enrollees annually. Of this, 1,000 are students, 3,000 are adults; 50% are Concord residents, 15% are Carlisle, 35% are outside residents. He broke down the number of students per class, as well as how other towns have set the program up. The conclusions the Adult and Community Ed. have drawn are that expenses have been cut to the bone, we will raise revenue rather than cut costs any more, we need to get a broader input on the mission for the program, and the ACE remain a part of the school department.

Mr. Fischelis asked if it were possible to look at how other communities hold similar programs.

Mr. Fitzgerald stated it seems to be more of a management problem than a funding problem.

Ms. Bilodeau stated it is not astounding to increase the course fees especially after looking at the cost of courses in other towns. A private citizen has brought an article forward for Town Meeting. It is the School Committee's hope that there would be a strong comment from Adult and Community Ed. that the School Committee is working on issues with them.

VI. ACTION ITEMS

A. Vote Debt Authorization

A MOTION was made by Mr. Fischelis and seconded by Ms. Shannon for CCSC to authorize the Regional Treasurer to borrow \$1,245,000, or any other sum, of debt authorized by the Concord-Carlisle Regional School Committee for the purposes of financing replacement of the transportation building, the human resource and financial management system, the repair and renovation to heating systems, cafeteria renovations, science lab improvements, fire alarm detection system(s), lighting, and space constraints, including costs incidental and related hereto, thereby and hereby authorized, under and pursuant to Chapter 71, Section 16 (d), of the General Laws and the District Agreement, as amended, the incurring of debt on the full faith and credit of the District by the issuance and sale at one time or from time to time of bonds or notes in an aggregate principal amount of \$1,245,000, in addition to sums previously appropriated for said purpose.

Mr. Fitzgerald asked if this was jumping the gun. Mr. Flaherty stated this is authorization for the Treasurer to borrow funds, both Town Meeting approvals are still needed.

The MOTION was voted and unanimously approved.

B. Vote to appoint Betsy Bilodeau to SC-CTA Negotiating Team

A MOTION was made by Ms. Shannon and seconded by Mr. Fischelis to appoint Betsy Bilodeau to negotiate on behalf of the SC-CTA Negotiating Team through August 1, 2007. The MOTION was voted:

Aye: Fischelis, Fitzgerald, Koski, McGinn, Shannon

Nay:

Abstain: Bilodeau

C. Vote to approve bid award – CCHS Modular Building

A MOTION was made by Ms. Bilodeau and seconded by Ms. Shannon for CCSC to award Williams Scotsmen of 48 Dick Tracy Drive, Pelham, New Hampshire a contract in the amount of \$202,247 for Section A (Office & Site Work, and One Office Modular) which is funded under the FY07 funded debt exclusion for the Concord-Carlisle Regional School District. The MOTION was voted:

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

Nay:

Abstain:

The MOTION was unanimously approved.

A MOTION was made by Ms. Bilodeau and seconded by Mr. Koski for CCSC to award Williams Scotsmen of 48 Dick Tracy Drive, Pelham, New Hampshire, contingent on the availability of funding, a contract for Section B in the amount of \$163,635 (One Doublewide Classroom Modular). The MOTION was voted:

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

Nay:

Abstain:

The MOTION was unanimously approved.

D. Vote to accept Concord Education Fund Grants for 2007-08

A MOTION was made by Ms. Bilodeau and seconded by Ms. Shannon for CCSC and a MOTION was made by Ms. Bilodeau and seconded by Ms. Shannon for CSC to accept the Concord Education Fund Grant Awards in the amount of \$121,965 with gratitude.

Dr. Finn stated the total amount of grant awards over the past four years is \$752,000.

The MOTION was unanimously approved.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

Dr. Finn stated Town Meeting articles need to be assigned to members. This will be taken up on Monday before the meeting.

A MOTION was made by Ms. Shannon and seconded by Mr. Fischelis for CCSC that the Region take no action on Article 5. The MOTION was unanimously approved.

A MOTION was made by Mr. Fischelis and seconded by Ms. Shannon for CCSC and a MOTION was made by Mr. Fischelis and seconded by Ms. Shannon for CSC to take no action on Article 6. The MOTION was unanimously approved.

VIII. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

A. April 11, 2007: Pre-town meeting workshop, Town House 3:30 p.m.
FYI

B. April 23, 2007: School Committee meeting prior to the start of Town Meeting Meeting at 6:30 p.m.

C. Town Meeting: April 23, 24, 25, 30, May 1 at CCHS
FYI

D. May 1, 2007: MASC Day on the Hill
FYI

E. Patriot's Day Parade: SC participation with gathering at Alcott School
Dr. Finn stated the streets will be blocked by 8:30 a.m.

IX. CITIZENS' COMMENTS

Walter Burg, of the audience, asked for a copy of the ACE report.

Nancy Burnham stated the 2 turf fields plus the third field were to take up 8 acres, why do the 2 fields now still need 8 acres.

Ms. Burnham asked about the tree planting process. Mr. Fischelis stated Mr. Anderson has walked the property line and delineated the trees to be cut. Ms. Burnham stated this project is in contradiction to what students are being taught, that deforestation is bad. Mr. Fischelis stated the planting of trees to replace the ones cut also teaches responsibility for the environment.

Phebe Hamm stated she has been to the Advisory Committee meetings for ACE. She encourages a public hearing be scheduled in June and a second hearing in November.

Mitchell Eckel stated he is appalled at an 18 month length of time for negotiating a teacher contract.

Genoveva Matthews asked if there were regulations about having a non-School Committee member on the negotiating team.

X. ADJOURNMENT

A MOTION was made by Ms. Bilodeau and seconded by Ms. Shannon for CCSC and a MOTION was made by Mr. Fischelis and seconded by Ms. Shannon for CSC to adjourn the Joint School Committee at 10:10 p.m. The MOTION was unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura O'Sullivan
APPROVED: 6/12/07