

JOINT SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Concord School Committee
Concord-Carlisle School Committee
Ripley Building
Concord, MA
May 8, 2007
6:30 p.m.

Minutes

PRESENT:

Mr. Peter Fischelis
Mr. Fabian Fondriest
Mr. Michael Fitzgerald
Mr. Chad Koski
Mr. Jerry Wedge

PRESENT FROM ADMINISTRATION:

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

ABSENT:

Ms. Jan McGinn
Ms. Rebecca Shannon

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Finn at 6:40 p.m. Dr. Finn welcomed Fabian Fondriest to his first School Committee meeting. Dr. Finn stated at the first annual meeting the officers and committee representatives must be elected.

Organization of Committee

A. Seating of the Concord School Committee Members – CSC

A MOTION was made by Mr. Fischelis and seconded by Mr. Wedge for CSC to recognize Peter Fischelis, Jan McGinn, Fabian Fondriest, Becky Shannon, and Jerry Wedge as members of the Concord School Committee. The MOTION was unanimously approved.

B. Election of Officers of the Concord School Committee – CSC

A MOTION was made by Mr. Wedge and seconded by Mr. Fondriest to elect Peter Fischelis as Chair of the Concord School Committee. The MOTION was unanimously approved.

A MOTION was made by Mr. Wedge and seconded by Mr. Fischelis to elect Fabian Fondriest as Vice Chair of the Concord School Committee. The MOTION was unanimously approved.

C. Seating of the Concord-Carlisle School Committee Members – CCSC

A MOTION was made by Mr. Fischelis and seconded by Mr. Wedge to recognize Peter Fischelis, Jan McGinn, Fabian Fondriest, Becky Shannon, and Jerry Wedge as Concord members and Michael Fitzgerald and Chad Koski as Carlisle members of the Concord-Carlisle School Committee. The MOTION was unanimously approved.

D. Election of Officers of the Concord-Carlisle School Committee – CCSC

A MOTION was made by Mr. Wedge and seconded by Mr. Fischelis to elect Michael Fitzgerald as Chair of the Concord-Carlisle School Committee. The MOTION was unanimously approved.

A MOTION was made by Mr. Koski and seconded by Mr. Fondriest to elect Jerry Wedge as Vice Chair of the Concord-Carlisle School Committee. The MOTION was unanimously approved.

E. Appointment of School Committee Recording Secretary – CCSC/CSC

A MOTION was made by Mr. Wedge and seconded by Mr. Fondriest to appoint Laura O’Sullivan as School Committee Recording Secretary. The MOTION was unanimously approved.

F. Appointment of a Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer

A MOTION was made by Mr. Wedge and seconded by Mr. Fondriest to appoint John Flaherty as Treasurer of the Concord-Carlisle Regional School District and Regina Erickson as Assistant Treasurer of the Region. The MOTION was unanimously approved.

The appointments of committee members were suspended until the next meeting.

II. READING OF THE MINUTES

III. CORRESPONDENCE

Dr. Finn stated the Senior Project Fair is being held Wednesday, May 16.

IV. RECOGNITIONS

Mr. Dulong recognized Barbara Goodman, a sped teacher at the high school. On April 25, she was the emcee at a Stand for Children rally.

Mr. Dulong recognized Brian Miller and staff who put together Challenge Days.

Mr. Dulong recognized Eric Lynch and Stan Simone for starting a March through Concord in memory of Abdirauf Abdullah. They plan to make this an annual march for peace and justice.

Mr. Wedge stated a name was omitted at Town Meeting and he recognized Earl Corey for 25 years of service at Concord Public Schools.

V. REPORTS AND ISSUES FOR DISCUSSION

A. Experience of Exchange Students 2006-07

Mr. Dulong stated the community's support of bringing foreign students into our school. He stated they have had a positive experience here and are bright engaging students. Camilla Manca and Jo Scocco both gave descriptions of their year in Concord.

Mr. Fitzgerald asked what their best experiences were this year. Camilla stated she really enjoyed the fencing team. Jo stated she learned a lot about herself and she will not be scared to come back to the US for college.

Mr. Fitzgerald stated he would like the School Committee to hear from CCHS students who have spent the year abroad.

B. Results of Concord Town Meeting

Mr. Fitzgerald stated the budget passed in both communities. The debt exclusion vote also passed in both communities.

Dr. Finn stated it was a good year in terms of budgets. The School Committee is very grateful to the members of the community for their continued support.

D. Community discussion regarding use of schools for emergency shelter space

Dr. Finn stated Chief Willett suggested we enter into a discussion with new schools. We should equip the schools in case we need to use them. Mr. Wedge stated we need a draft of using the school facility. This is an on-going discussion. Mr. Fitzgerald asked where the discussions are with Emerson Hospital. Dr. Finn stated there have been a number of discussions with Emerson Hospital. One point of concern is if a school were used as an ISCU as directed by the Commission of Health and Department of Education, would the building be available for a school when students were able to go back. This will need to be resolved. Dr. Finn stated she will attend the next meeting to try to work towards a solution.

E. First Reading: Draft Charge for Adult and Community Education Task Force

Mr. Fitzgerald stated Ms. Shannon has worked through a first draft, he asked School Committee members to look at it, and wait for Ms. Shannon to be here for a discussion. There will be a second reading at the next meeting.

VI. ACTION ITEMS

A. Vote to approve staff requests to enroll students

A MOTION was made by Mr. Wedge and seconded by Mr. Fondriest for CCSC and a MOTION was made by Mr. Wedge and seconded by Mr. Fondriest for CSC to approve the request of Jonathan Smith, Beth Murphy, Ray Pavlik, and Matthew Goldberg to enroll their children in the Concord Public Schools and that tuition be waived.

The MOTION was unanimously approved.

B. Final Reading & Approval: Revision in Field Trips policy

This will be tabled until the next meeting.

C. Vote to accept three exchange students at CCHS for the 2007-08 school year

Mr. Dulong stated there are three exchange students pending for next year. They have secured homes, will arrive the last week of August.

Mr. Fitzgerald asked where do these students fall in enrollment? Mr. Dulong stated they are categorized as "other".

A MOTION was made by Mr. Wedge and seconded by Mr. Fondriest for CCSC to approve the request for three foreign exchange students to attend CCHS in September 2007. The MOTION was unanimously approved.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

Fields Update

Mr. Fischelis stated the original vote failed by 20 votes at Town Meeting. It was recalled and passed. The CPC funding also passed. The full amount of funding has been approved. The opponents have submitted a petition and are requesting a special Town Meeting. Mr. Fischelis stated the vote was for funding, not whether or not the project should go forward. The School Committee has voted three times to go forward with the project. The fields group hopes to have this wrapped up by June 1 so construction can start when school ends and throughout the summer.

Mr. Fischelis stated a scoreboard has been offered by an entity in town. Mr. Fitzgerald stated this discussion happened last year with regard to advertising on sports fields. He would like to put this on the agenda for a full committee discussion.

VIII. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

A. May 22, 2007: Joint School Committee meeting at Carlisle School Library as planned

Meeting will be kept in Carlisle.

B. Retirement Reception for Arthur Dulong: May 23, 2007 2:30 – 4 p.m. at CCHS Library

Upcoming reception.

C. Retiree Reception: May 31, 2007, 3:40 p.m. Location TBD

FYI

D. School employees with 25 or more years of service

Distributed as FYI

E. Retirees

Distributed as FYI

IX. CITIZENS' COMMENTS

Sue Curtain read a letter regarding her thoughts about early release days and the teacher contract.

Tom Curtain stated he supports tax increases to afford great schools. He stated for teachers to work without a contract is demoralizing, if teachers hold on to a position, it is probably right.

Katherine Roberts stated she is speaking on behalf of parents. She is concerned the parents haven't had a voice and they should be part of the conversation.

Mitchell Eckel stated he heard a rumor the School Committee doesn't settle quickly.

Mr. Fischelis stated the School Committee is in negotiations and they are not prepared to discuss the matter.

Suzanne Rutstein asked the School Committee to look at the school day. Change the elementary day to 8:30-2:30. If kids got there earlier, more could be accomplished.

Roseanne Swain is a music teacher at Thoreau. She suggested of the 38 ½ day Tuesdays, make 8 full days and allow the specialists to meet with students they normally miss on half days.

Mr. Fischelis stated there are many people working very hard to get the contract settled and this issue behind us. This is not a referendum on teachers. Teachers are valued incredibly. The issue we are wrestling with is not simple. In trying to work out a settlement, it requires everybody to give a little bit.

X. ADJOURNMENT

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. Fondriest for CSC to adjourn the Joint School Committee at 10:10 p.m. The MOTION was unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura O'Sullivan
APPROVED: 7/24/07