

JOINT SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Concord School Committee  
Concord-Carlisle School Committee  
Ripley Building  
Concord, MA  
September 11, 2007  
6:30 p.m.

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**Minutes**

PRESENT:

Mr. Peter Fischelis  
Mr. Michael Fitzgerald  
Mr. Fabian Fondriest  
Mr. Chad Koski (arrived 7 pm)  
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 of the Concord School Committee was called to order by Mr. Fischelis for CSC at 6:34 p.m.

Presentation by Jill Appel on Bruce Freeman Rail Trail

Ms. Appel discussed the future Bruce Freeman Trail and the portion between Old Marlboro Road and Powder Mill Road. This portion will potentially be an unpaved surface. She encouraged the School Committee to learn about this issue.

**III. CORRESPONDENCE**

Dr. Finn received correspondence from the Department of Education regarding the Coordinated Program Review. This will be covered later in the meeting.

Mr. Fischelis received correspondence from Ms. Lynch regarding the air quality studies going before the House of Representatives. She asked the School Committee to look at it.

**IV. RECOGNITIONS**

Dr. Finn stated representatives from the 99 Restaurant, Greg Babineau and Paul Terpko, were present to make a donation to CPS. Mr. Babineau stated as the restaurant was being renovated, a silent auction was held to auction off artwork and artifacts. The money raised was \$3050 and was donated to Concord Public Schools.

Dr. Finn thanked them on behalf of the citizens of Concord for their generous donation.

#### **VI. ACTION ITEMS**

A. Vote to approve gift from the 99 Restaurant

A MOTION was made by Ms. McGinn and seconded by Ms. Shannon for CSC to accept a donation to the Concord Public Schools in the amount of \$3050 and to thank Mr. Paul Terpko of the 99 Restaurant in West Concord.

#### **IV. RECOGNITIONS**

A. Thank you to staff

Dr. Finn stated what wonderful staff, support staff and IT people worked all summer. The schools look terrific. Peabody and Sanborn look fabulous and Willard was sparkling.

B. Thank you to staff and principals for serving on interview committees

Dr. Finn thanked principals and teachers for serving on interview committees. These began in April and ended just as school began.

C. Thank you to Susan Erickson

Dr. Finn recognized Ms. Erickson and stated she has been heroic in her leadership in the Thoreau Assabet River Project.

Mr. Wedge recognized Dave Anderson. He stated he's very impressed with the work he's done and we are very fortunate to have him.

#### **V. REPORTS AND ISSUES FOR DISCUSSION**

A. Opening of School

Dr. Finn stated the new teacher orientation was very successful and was led by Ms. Rigby and Ms. McCausland. Enrollment numbers are similar to last year. The official numbers will be available October 1. Mr. Fischelis stated NESDEC predicted a decline in numbers. This is not accurate according to current enrollments. There are a number of factors to contribute to enrollment.

Ms. McGinn asked about the first grade classes at Alcott. Ms. Rigby stated these are site-based decisions.

B. DOE Coordinated Program Review

Ms. Rigby stated the Coordinated Program Review occurs every six years. Three programs are reviewed. She stated that six years ago, 80 percent of special ed. was not in compliance, she thanked Jessica Murphy for getting it in compliance. Ms. Rigby stated she is confident we will be in compliance with the civil rights piece. She stated we will need more specific assistance with English Language Learners because it is such a small program in Concord. Mr. Flaherty also stated he anticipates facilities issues regarding special education.

C. Request to Update Booklet

Dr. Finn stated she received a proposal from a committee who wants to update the booklet and repackage it. The Concord Public Schools holds the copyright on it and the committee would like permission from the School Committee to do this.

A MOTION was made by Mr. Wedge and seconded by Ms. McGinn to allow the Black History Committee to update the pamphlet and publish it. The MOTION was unanimously approved.

D. Willard Design Process and Timeline

Mr. Wedge stated the Willard project is very exciting, it is going to be a great teaching building. The committee is complete with design development and the estimate is in. The architects have submitted plans to the town planning office to get on the docket for the planning board for early October. The Board of Selectmen have called a Special Town Meeting for November 5. We need to get a warrant article to them. Mr. Wedge also stated in regards to MSBA, there are communities who are retracting their Statements of Interest, so the list is getting smaller. He said it the job of the Build Willard Committee and the School Committee to educate the community on the project before Town Meeting.

Mr. Fischelis stated Willard is a 50 year building that is way past its useful life. We have to spend money to repair it if we don't go forward. He stated the Board of Selectmen met last night to call a Special Town Meeting and he was disappointed it was not a unanimous decision by the Selectmen.

Ms. McGinn asked the life of a building design. Mr. Wedge stated until codes change. He stated the committee is working backwards. The move in date is September 2009. Working back that begins construction in April 2008. Mr. Wedge stated with a 10% escalation in inflation costs to delay the project, Thoreau School would have cost 60% more. It makes the most economical sense to move now.

E. Adult and Community Education

Dr. Finn stated the task force has been working for a number of months. The report will be finished September 20. It will be available on the website. The public hearing is September 25 at 7:30 at the Town House. Mr. Wedge stated this has been a tremendous amount of work. He wanted to be sure we were doing what was requested at Town Meeting. Ms. Shannon stated we have covered everything. The roles and responsibilities are attached. There was a change made in the School Committee and the Advisory Committee roles. Mr. Wedge thanked Ms. Shannon and Mr. Fitzgerald for working on this.

F. Natural Gas Contract

Mr. Flaherty stated we have locked in for the next 12 months at a favorable rate. The actual costs take in other facts into consideration which are outside our control.

## **VI. ACTION ITEMS**

### **B. Vote to approve surplus of CCHS Library furniture**

A MOTION was made by Mr. Fondriest and seconded by Ms. McGinn for CCSC to declare the items listed in Attachment B surplus to the needs of the school system and to authorize the appropriate sale, transfer or disposal of same.

The MOTION was unanimously approved.

### **C. Vote to approve Driver Education Contract**

A MOTION was made by Ms. Shannon and seconded by Mr. Fischelis for CCSC to authorize the Director of Adult and Community Education to engage the services of Christo Driving School, 153 Lakeshore Drive, Marlboro, MA for the period of September 2007 through June 2008, with a second year renewable option for 2008-09.

Ms. Shannon asked if there was a crash course component. Mr. Christo stated there isn't. That is farmed out to Sandy Stevens, it is a very good course called Skid Street.

The MOTION was voted and unanimously approved.

## **VII. OLD BUSINESS**

Dr. Finn stated she didn't put the School Committee goals on the agenda. We will vote the annual goals at the September 25 meeting so they can be distributed to principals.

Mr. Fischelis stated the teacher contracts are available for public view.

## **VIII. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

A. September 18 – MSBA Senior Study Team Visit to CCHS

FYI

B. September 19 – NEASC Team, at CCHS

FYI

C. Concord Finance Committee Dates: FYI

9/20, 10/11, 11/1

D. Set date for Policy Subcommittee meeting

Dr. Finn stated there are issues the policy subcommittee need to look over. Mr. Fischelis asked if the policy subcommittee could look at the scoreboard issue. Ms. McGinn stated we don't have a policy on that but thought the School Committee should take it up at the next meeting.

Dr. Finn asked how to schedule the School Committee meeting around the Public Hearing. It was decided to meet at the Town House at 6 pm and to break for the public hearing and then resume the meeting.

9/11/07

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**IX. CITIZENS' COMMENTS**

Ginny Lamere, stated she is the parent of a freshmen and he took part in the full-day orientation offered to freshmen and it put him very much at ease. She commended the high school for making positive changes.

**X. ADJOURNMENT**

A MOTION was made by Mr. Koski and seconded by Mr. Fischelis for CCSC and a MOTION was made by Ms. Shannon and seconded by Mr. Fondriest for CSC to adjourn the Joint School Committee meeting at 8:32 p.m. The MOTION was unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura O'Sullivan

APPROVED: 10/23/07