

JOINT SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Concord School Committee
Concord-Carlisle School Committee
Carlisle School Library
Carlisle, MA
October 23, 2007
6:30 p.m.

Minutes

PRESENT:

Mr. Peter Fischelis
Mr. Michael Fitzgerald
Mr. Fabian Fondriest
Mr. Chad Koski
Ms. Jan McGinn
Ms. Rebecca Shannon
Mr. Jerry Wedge

PRESENT FROM ADMINISTRATION:

Mr. John Flaherty
Ms. Diana Rigby

ABSENT:

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the Concord School Committee was called to order by Mr. Fitzgerald for CCSC and Mr. Fischelis for CSC at 6:35 p.m.

Mr. Fitzgerald welcomed the Student Advisory Council members present, Maree Budris and Ian Carr. He asked to hear what the School Committee can do better at the high school.

Mr. Carr stated the students are thankful for the email system that is up and running. Students would like to see more METCO representatives on the Student Senate. He stated Freshman Orientation was an extensive event but it was too long. The students would also like to propose an honor code to deter theft at school.

Ms. Shannon suggested the students speak to other students. She doesn't think students would prefer to have cameras all over the school. Mr. Fischelis stated he values the student input.

II. READING OF THE MINUTES

A MOTION was made by Mr. Wedge and seconded by Ms. Shannon to approve the minutes from the Concord School Committee meeting held October 9, 2007. The MOTION was unanimously approved.

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

approve the minutes from the Joint School Committee meeting held September 11, 2007. The MOTION was unanimously approved.

A MOTION was made by Mr. Wedge and seconded by Ms. Shannon for CCSC and a MOTION was made by Mr. Wedge and seconded by Ms. Shannon for CSC to approve the minutes from the Joint School Committee meeting held September 25, 2007. The MOTION was voted:

Aye: Fischelis, Fitzgerald, Fondriest, Koski, Shannon, Wedge

Nay:

Abstain: McGinn

III. CORRESPONDENCE

Dr. Finn received correspondence from the Town of Concord regarding Special Town Meeting Motions and Presentations.

Dr. Finn received correspondence from Kathleen Craven at MSBA and regarding the status to date on the MSBA process.

Dr. Finn received correspondence from Lincoln Public Schools regarding a METCO advisory committee meeting being held November 5 at 8:15.

IV. RECOGNITIONS

A. Mr. Fitzgerald thanked the Adult and Community Education Task Force for the extensive amount of work that was done. This took a lot of time and Ms. Shannon did an exemplary job.

VI. ACTION ITEMS

E. Gift Acceptance – Ruettgers Family Charitable Foundation to CCHS Lecture Enrichment Series Fund

Ms. McGinn stated Ruettgers family made a sizable donation. Last year lectures were presented. The lectures for the current year include: Iceland, Ghana and a variety of other topics. Ms. McGinn stated the Ruettgers are pillars of the Carlisle and Concord-Carlisle community and we are grateful for the work they have done.

A MOTION was made by Mr. Fondriest and seconded by Ms. McGinn for CCSC to accept an amount of \$25,000 for the CCHS Lecture Enrichment Series Fund from the Ruettgers Family Charitable Foundation and to publicly thank Michael and Maureen Ruettgers. The MOTION was unanimously approved.

V. REPORTS AND ISSUES FOR DISCUSSION

A. Adoption of Chapter 32B, Section 18

Mr. Logalbo stated this is related to health insurance to retirees. Group insurance is provided to retirees, this looks at how claims are covered.

VI. ACTION ITEMS

A. Vote to adopt Chapter 32B, Section 18

A MOTION was made by Ms. Shannon and seconded by Ms. McGinn to adopt Chapter 32B, Section 18.

The MOTION was unanimously approved.

V. REPORTS AND ISSUES FOR DISCUSSION

B. Transportation Status Report

Manley Boyce reported four new drivers had been hired. There is also a waiting list of seven people. He detailed the number of routes and the length of the average bus run. He stated the buses are following the “anti-idling policy”.

Dr. Finn stated there had been a huge turnaround in the transportation department and that Mr. Boyce is responsible for this positive change. She thanked Mr. Flaherty for hiring Mr. Boyce.

C. Human Resources: New Initiatives and Status Report

Ms. McCausland reviewed the annual staffing report. Mr. Fischelis stated it is helpful to compare to other districts. Mr. Fitzgerald asked how the hiring was this year. Ms. McCausland stated the areas of shortage were in foreign language, special education, sciences and administration. Mr. Fischelis asked about the diversity in hiring. Ms. McCausland stated they make a lot of effort with Affirmative Action but it is a significant challenge.

Ms. McCausland also described three new initiatives, the employee handbook, the new substitute teacher/tutor procedures and the Wellness at Work pilot.

Dr. Finn stated the Human Resources department has been responsive to evolving needs and Ms. McCausland has led the efforts.

D. Capital Projects Update

Mr. Anderson gave a detailed report of completed capital projects at Ripley, Sanborn, Peabody and CCHS. He also reported on projects currently in process.

Mr. Fitzgerald commended Mr. Anderson for the work being done. Mr. Flaherty stated Mr. Anderson is a great addition. The level of building maintenance has improved.

E. Annual Report 2006-07 from Concord-Carlisle Adult and Community Education

Mr. Booth gave the history of Adult and Community Education. Ms. Turner detailed the goals for the upcoming year. Ms. Shannon stated the director job description changed to say 190 days over a 12 month period. Mr. Fischelis stated most people who participated in Adult and Community Education programs were unaware of the issues.

VI. ACTION ITEMS

B. Vote to approve ACE Advisory Committee Members

A MOTION was made by Mr. Wedge and seconded by Ms. Shannon for CCSC to appoint Susan Frey, Gaylord Brynolfson and Deborah Stoessel to the Adult and Community Education Advisory Committee for a three-year term. The MOTION was unanimously approved.

V. REPORTS AND ISSUES FOR DISCUSSION

F. MCAS Presentation

Mr. Badalament stated the requirements for MCAS are changing. This is the last class that needed to get a 220 or better to pass. He reviewed the details in the distributed report. Mr. Wedge asked if students wait a year to retest in terms of AYP. There is a retest given in November and March. Mr. Badalament detailed the achievement gap and stated there is improvement in math among African-American students. He stated the class of 2010 will have to pass Biology, Chemistry or Physics.

F. Superintendent's Evaluation

Mr. Fitzgerald stated it is the annual responsibility of the School Committee to give an evaluation of the superintendent. He read the evaluation. Mr. Fischelis stated Dr. Finn is a strong leader who surrounds herself with strong people. She has assembled a wonderful team.

Dr. Finn stated it is never about one person. She thanked the school committee, the human resources department, faculty, principals, and the facilities, transportation, food services departments.

VI. ACTION ITEMS

G. Vote to approve salary increase for 2007-08

A MOTION was made by Mr. Fischelis and seconded by Mr. Wedge for CCSC and a MOTION was made by Ms. McGinn and seconded by Mr. Wedge for CSC to approve the 2007-08 salary increase. The MOTION was unanimously approved.

V. REPORTS AND ISSUES FOR DISCUSSION

H. Review of Field Trip Guidelines

This item was tabled.

I. Preliminary discussion regarding CPS full-day kindergarten options

Ms. Rigby stated a committee researched full-day Kindergarten and performed a 2-year survey. The recommendation was not implemented. The idea was then revisited and an intervention program has been in effect for 30 students and has been successful for the past two years. The kindergarten teachers are seeking a grant that would possibly assist in the funding of full-day kindergarten. They are seeking support from the School Committee in pursuing the full-day kindergarten option.

Ms. McGinn asked if we will be able to sustain this program once we take it on. Mr. Flaherty stated it fits within the levy limit budget.

J. Budget Transfer from Instructional Supplies and Materials to Special Education; Revote Regional Budget

Mr. Flaherty determined the lists of supplies and materials at the high school. We need to make up the difference somewhere. Ms. McGinn stated if we built the budget because we need books, we still need books. Mr. Fondriest stated if we do a contingency plan, then this becomes the plan. Mr. Koski asked if there was a history of doing this. Mr. Flaherty stated a total freeze was imposed once. That set the state for pre-buying.

Dr. Finn suggested tabling this until the next regional meeting. Mr. Fitzgerald asked for a complete analysis of the problem itself. Ms. McGinn asked to include a report on E&D.

VII. ACTION ITEMS

C. Vote to appoint Superintendent to CASE Collaborative Board of Directors.

A MOTION was made by Mr. Fischelis and seconded by Mr. Wedge for CCSC and a MOTION was made by Ms. McGinn and seconded by Mr. Wedge for CSC to appoint Superintendent Brenda Finn to the CASE Board of Directors. The MOTION was unanimously approved.

D. Gift Acceptance – John Deere tractor

A MOTION was made by Ms. McGinn and seconded by Mr. Wedge for CSC to accept with appreciation the donation of a John Deere tractor and publicly thank Ms. Patricia Cornwell, CEI Enterprises, 464 Common Street #317, Belmont, MA.. The MOTION was unanimously approved.

E. Vote to accept ACE Task Force Report; Discharge Task Force

A MOTION was made by Ms. Shannon and seconded by Mr. Wedge for CCSC to accept the ACE Task Force Report and discharge the Task Force. The MOTION was unanimously approved.

G. Vote to approve Budget Transfer and revote Regional Budget.

A MOTION was made by Mr. Wedge and seconded by Ms. McGinn to increase the FY2008 operating budget from \$20,365,127 to \$20,444,935 to reflect the addition of a net increase of \$79,808 dollars in state aid, specifically a \$94,405 increase in Chapter 70, a decrease of \$8,458 in Regional Transportation Reimbursement, a decrease of \$6,139 in Charter Tuition Reimbursements, and further that the net increase of \$79,800 be placed in the special education Non Public Tuitions account (1-201-22061) and available for FY2008 expenditure. The MOTION was unanimously approved.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Fischelis said that along with the school administration, Peggy Briggs and Chris Whelan met with the MSBA. MSBA complimented the school administration for the detailed work that had been done in presenting the Thoreau and Willard projects. They

wished that all school systems were as prepared and that Concord was a standard to measure other communities by. They reiterated that the MSBA policy was not to reward or penalize any school district that had built schools during the moratorium period, and that there would be no risk in proceeding with Willard. MSBA stated that they are moving swiftly to roll out the list of the first set of schools to receive go-aheads. Mr. Fischelis hoped that this statement from MSBA would assure the Selectmen and the public that going forward with Willard would not penalize the town.

Mr. Fischelis stated that Phase 1 of the fields project has been completed. Phase II would involve the road and utilities and that the berm between the highway and the fields would be built up to reduce the visual and noise impact of Route 2.

IX. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

- A. Ms. Finn suggested the need to schedule a future School Committee Workshop to discuss facilities, policy on advertisements on school grounds, full day kindergarten, and updating the calendar.
- B. The administration will be responding to the Finance Committee FY09 Guidelines on November 1, 2007.

X. Citizens' Comments
None.

ADJOURNMENT

With a MOTION from Ms. McGinn for CCRSD seconded by Mr. Wedge, and a MOTION from Ms. McGinn seconded by Ms. Shannon for CPS, the meeting adjourned at 10:15pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura O'Sullivan
Becky Shannon

APPROVED: 3/25/08