

JOINT SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Concord School Committee  
Concord-Carlisle School Committee  
Ripley Building  
Concord, MA  
November 13, 2007  
6:30 p.m.

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**Minutes**

PRESENT:

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

PRESENT FROM ADMINISTRATION:

Mr. John Flaherty  
Ms. Diana Rigby

ABSENT:

Ms. Jan McGinn

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting of the Concord School Committee was called to order by Mr. Fitzgerald for CCSC and Mr. Fondriest for CSC at 6:42 p.m.

**II. READING OF THE MINUTES**

**III. CORRESPONDENCE**

**IV. RECOGNITIONS**

A. DOE Coordinated Program Review

Dr. Finn recognized Jessica Murphy, Diana Rigby and special education staff and teachers for collecting information and the presentation to the Department of Education.

B. Willard Special Town Meeting Effort

Dr. Finn recognized the Build Willard Committee members, the Willard Building Committee and the community in their efforts to support the children of Willard.

**VI. ACTION ITEMS**

A. Vote to approve permission to plan trip to China

Tracy Tsou, Mandarin teacher at CCHS, stated she would like to plan a trip to China in April 2008. She has helped Melissa Lang with their itinerary and this is the third year with that itinerary.

Mr. Fitzgerald stated this is a very expensive trip and he hoped everything would be done to minimize the cost. Ms. Tsou stated the trip is expensive and that half the expense is the airfare.

A MOTION was made by Mr. Wedge and seconded by Mr. Fondriest for CCSC to approve the request to plan a trip to China for April 2008. The MOTION was unanimously approved.

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

### **A. Results of November 5, 2008 Special Town Meeting: Willard**

Mr. Fischelis stated the vote for a new Willard passed overwhelmingly. He hopes everyone votes tomorrow to put the final plan to move forward with Willard.

### **B. Budget Discussion: CCRSD**

Mr. Fitzgerald stated this is the first time the committee has had a chance to look at the details behind the budget. We will not zero in on specific items tonight. Mr. Flaherty detailed the preliminary needs budget. Mr. Fitzgerald stated there was an \$850K increase in special education due to an increase of the caseloads in out of district placements. Mr. Flaherty stated he looked at the special education worksheet and the circuit breaker carryover to detail the special education budget for the current budget year and the projected budget year of 08-09. It is possible to replenish.

Dr. Finn stated there was a similar situation with special education a few years ago. There was a total freeze on supplies put on the budget. Mr. Badalament will answer questions about a supplies/materials freeze. Mr. Badalament stated he has met with department chairs and they believe a 50% freeze on supplies and materials is not insurmountable. Mr. Fitzgerald asked if they could get through the school year. Ms. Shannon asked what would happen next year.

Mr. Fitzgerald stated he doesn't see how this can continue, how do we deal with being hit with 11 unanticipated cases. Dr. Finn stated school committees need to unite with other school committees to meet at the state level. Ms. Rigby stated these were students who were in regular education until they got to high school. Other towns are experiencing the same issues.

Mr. Fitzgerald stated in Carlisle new development has stopped, the Finance Committee is taking a "hold the line" approach to the budget. They are putting forth a level funded budget and understand there will be an over-ride and we will work towards that.

Mr. Fitzgerald asked about the Adult and Community Education piece. Mr. Wedge stated it was a great report, seeing the group made money last year, and our current budget restraints, he suggests not budgeting an amount but hold a line item in our budget. Mr. Fischelis stated this program is self-sustaining, there is no immediate need to put money into it. Ms. Shannon stated the cuts to administrative positions, the tightening of the ACE budget has hurt their program but she doesn't think that

was what the task force found. Mr. Fischelis stated this year will be tough, next year won't be any better.

Mr. Fitzgerald stated this is a tight budget this year, there is no flexibility.

Dr. Finn stated we will need to vote on the budget in December.

C. First Reading:

- Home or Hospital Education Services – File IHBF
- School Year and School Day, Early Release of High School Seniors – File IC/ID

Dr. Finn stated the policies are preliminary readings for the School Committee to review. At the next joint meeting they will be voted on.

D. Naming of Fields on Regional Land

Ms. Shannon stated the policy committee met and decided to defer to the town policy on this issue. Mr. Fitzgerald stated this is different than the advertising policy, if this is to be named after an individual who has had a significant impact. Mr. Fischelis stated he would report back to the fields group that the School Committee is open to the possibility of naming fields.

E. Preliminary Discussion regarding proposed baseball field abutting Alcott.

Mr. Fondriest stated the baseball group would like to build a baseball field, and he has asked to get Sharon Young's input to see if it is consistent for use as school purposes. Would it enhance or detract from the school. She sees no issue with it and thinks it would be great. Dr. Finn wanted to make sure there was the same shared understanding with Ms. Young and to clarify the discussion.

**VI. ACTION ITEMS**

B. Vote to approve student to continue at CCHS for 07-08

Mr. Fitzgerald stated this motion is to allow a student who moved junior year to continue at CCHS this year.

A MOTION was made by Ms. Shannon and seconded by Mr. Fondriest for CCHS to approve a student to continue at CCHS for the 2007-08 school year. The MOTION was unanimously approved.

**VII. OLD BUSINESS**

Ms. Rigby attended a METCO forum on November 5 regarding a Supreme Court ruling.

Ms. Shannon stated there was a great article in the Boston Globe and a CCHS student and teacher were interviewed.

Mr. Wedge recognized the staff at the middle school for putting up with the parents on "Shadow a Student Day".

**VIII. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

A. December 1, 2007: Town Meeting Coordination Meeting at Town House, 8:30 am

FYI

B. January 22, 2008: Legislative update from Senator Susan Fargo and Rep. Cory Atkins

FYI. Ms. Shannon asked if it would be helpful to come up with questions for this meeting. Dr. Finn stated it would be helpful if Sen. Fargo and Rep. Atkins had the questions ahead of time.

Mr. Fondriest stated the Concord Ed. Fund meeting is on November 17.

**IX. CITIZENS' COMMENTS**

Alden Perkins asked about the full-day kindergarten, was it starting this year. It is being brought up at the next CSC meeting during the budget discussion.

Joe Wheeler stated the School Committee recognizes the ACE is its responsibility and it is needed in the community. He feels like it is getting a low priority.

Phebe Ham stated she wished to clarify the ACE budget. It is run on a shoestring, the program is important to many people and she doesn't want the administrators and staff taxed too heavily.

**X. ADJOURNMENT**

A MOTION was made by Mr. Wedge and seconded by Mr. Koski 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 8:45 p.m. The MOTION was unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura O'Sullivan

APPROVED: 12/11/07