

JOINT SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Concord School Committee  
Concord-Carlisle School Committee  
Ripley Building  
Concord, MA  
November 27, 2007  
6:30 p.m.

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**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:

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

**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 6:37 p.m. Mr. Fitzgerald welcomed Ian Carr and Marree Budris of the Student Advisory Council. Mr. Carr gave a recap of the high school from the student senate. Ms. Budris stated the student senate has passed a course reflection survey. Mr. Carr also stated the bathroom repairs are being addressed and there have been fewer thefts at the high school.

Mr. Wedge asked what the senate would do with the information from the survey. Mr. Carr stated it would be compiled and distributed over the website.

**II. READING OF THE MINUTES**

**III. CORRESPONDENCE**

Mr. Fischelis received an email from the neighbors on Bristers Hill asking about red flags up on their property. Mr. Fischelis stated the Athletic Director has been laying down the new cross country trail and was not clear on the property line. The trail will stay on the existing trail as much as possible. Ms. McGinn stated she walked back by the fields this weekend and it is spectacular.

Mr. Fitzgerald received correspondence from NEASC stating they are pleased with the improvements made on capital projects and listed 12 items still to be corrected. Dr. Finn stated this is on the December agenda.

Mr. Fischelis stated he has received emails regarding the Kindergarten issue. The School Committee will hear from the administration regarding a plan for some kind of full day kindergarten. At this time, they are still in a planning and discovery stage. A public hearing is being planned for January, we can then hear the plan the administration is putting forth and a vote will be taken whether or not to move forward. Ms. Shannon stated the concern of some parents is to have input before the administration makes plans. Dr. Finn stated people can send correspondence and make comments at CSC meetings. Mr. Fischelis stated in 2001-02, a Kindergarten committee did research on full-day kindergarten and it was recommended but not implemented. An early intervention was established full-day and those kids have been better prepared for first grade. Ms. Shannon stated there are people who feel full-day kindergarten is not right for their child. Mr. Wedge stated it would be helpful if people knew the process. Ms. Rigby stated the committee is working with principals and the kindergarten team to develop a program and present in January. There is a lot of expertise on the kindergarten staff and she is confident that they will develop a program almost all parents will be pleased with.

#### **IV. RECOGNITIONS**

##### **A. Concord Presenters**

Dr. Finn recognized Sue Howard, Kathy Bowen, Genoveva Mattheus and Barbara Peskin for being recognized at the state level at the MassCUE's State Technology Conference.

##### **B. 2Volunteers**

Dr. Finn recognized Kathy Dwyer, David Holdorf, Barbara Howland, Geeta Krishna and Kate McCandless for supporting the community service program at the high school.

##### **C. New Willard**

Dr. Finn expressed heartfelt gratitude to the citizens of Concord for their support of construction of a new Willard at Town Meeting and the special election.

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

##### **A. 2Volunteer Community Service at CCHS**

David Holdorf from 2 Volunteers recognized Kathy Dwyer, Barbara Howland, Geeta Krishna and Kate McCandless in helping with the community program. This program connects students to agencies for their graduation requirement. This program creates a culture of service and should remain a vital part of the graduation experience. A community service fair was held so students could talk with agencies, there are 110 agencies with opportunities. Mr. Fondriest asked if there was a process for students to reflect after the community service. The form of reflection is a critical part of the process and is required for the application of the presidential award.

##### **B. Information Technology Report**

Mr. Warfel listed information and technology projects for this year, including work done over the summer. He demonstrated things the high school audio visual students are doing with technology.

## **VI. ACTION ITEMS**

### **A. Vote Final Reading and Approval**

File IHBF – Home or Hospital Education Services

File IC/ID – School Year and School Day, Early Release of High School Seniors

Dr. Finn stated these were presented at the last meeting for a first reading.

A MOTION was made by Mr. Wedge and seconded by Ms. McGinn for CCSC and a MOTION was made by Mr. Wedge and seconded by Ms. McGinn for CSC to approve policies File IHBF - Home or Hospital Education Services and File IC/ID – School Year and School Day Early Release of High School Seniors. The MOTION was unanimously approved.

### **B. Vote to accept donation of shredder to CCRSD**

A MOTION was made by Mr. Wedge and seconded by Mr. Fondriest for CCSC to accept the donation of the Shredmaster shredder and publicly thank Woodman & Eaton, PC for the donation. The MOTION was unanimously approved.

### **C. Donation of a piano**

A MOTION was made by Mr. Wedge and seconded by Ms. McGinn for CCSC to accept the donation of an upright piano from Sarah Newton. The MOTION was unanimously approved.

### **D. Vote to accept donation from CCHS Class of 1957**

A MOTION was made by Mr. Wedge and seconded by Ms. McGinn for CCSC to accept a donation of \$3,000, from the CCHS class of 1957, to purchase science equipment for the high school's physics classes, and to publicly thank Mr. David Palmuccia, class representative. The MOTION was unanimously approved.

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

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

The agenda was distributed for this meeting.

### **B. Questions for January 22, 2007 SC meeting with Senator Susan Fargo and Representative Cory Atkins**

Please get questions in ahead of time for this meeting.

## **X. ADJOURNMENT**

A MOTION was made by Mr. Wedge and seconded by Ms. McGinn to adjourn the CCSC meeting at 8:12 pm. The MOTION was unanimously approved.

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

### **C. Willard School**

Mr. Wedge stated the building committee is meeting December 5 to come up with a timeline. Drawings will go out in February, bids will be due in April, we will begin mid-April with a move in date of September 09. MSBA discussions are in the early round of projects, we should hear something by Thursday about getting some reimbursement. He looks forward to monthly construction reports.

### **D. CPS MCAS Presentation**

Ms. Rigby described the detailed report of CPS MCAS English and Language Arts and Math scores, and intervention actions.

### **E. CPS Preliminary Budget Discussion**

Mr. Flaherty described the detailed preliminary needs budget. The biggest increase is fixed costs due to the liability insurance at Thoreau and Alcott. The total increase this year is 2.96% which is within the levy limit guideline. This also includes money for the kindergarten initiative. The budget reflects full-time kindergarten and the (slight reduction) offset in transportation.

Ms. McGinn asked if we seeing decreases in utility costs due to the newer, more efficient buildings? Mr. Flaherty stated yes and also due to using the municipal lighting plant.

Mr. Fischelis stated another reduction can be attributed to retaining more students in the system. Ms. Rigby stated we have been able to reduce the number in out of district placements to reduce the budget significantly. Dr. Finn stated, five years ago, Ms. Rigby identified a goal to build this program in district for keeping children in local schools. She had stated you would not see the benefit for 4-5 years and we are starting to see the benefit of this effort.

## **VII. OLD BUSINESS**

Mr. Wedge stated the Board of Selectmen has disbanded the Alcott and Thoreau School Building Committees.

Mr. Fischelis stated there is an EDCO meeting tomorrow morning. Ms. McGinn and Mr. Fondriest will attend.

Mr. Fischelis has been receiving emails from “the rail trail for everyone”. It was decided the School Committee would refrain from commenting on issues regarding the rail trail.

## **IX. CITIZENS' COMMENTS**

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Carolyn Wilkins and Jennifer Johnson thanked the School Committee for clarifying the process regarding full-day kindergarten. They stated they are part of the Family Network, a group of 100 families, who is not in favor of full-day kindergarten.

Fred Martin stated he is shocked the School Committee has made a plan without having talked to parents. He stated there are conflicting studies regarding full-day kindergarten. He stated the average Concord kid doesn't need to stretch the curriculum.

Mr. Fischelis stated we need to submit a budget in advance. We can pull items out of the budget but we cannot add them in later. The School Committee has not had a formal discussion on this topic yet.

Mr. McGinn stated she hopes the tenor is talking and listening. There has been no attempt to conceal this information in the budget. There has been a desire to put this on people's radar.

Sharon McGregor asked if it were possible for the plan to have options or alternatives.

Alden Perkins asked clarification of the policies voted.

**X. ADJOURNMENT**

A MOTION was made by Mr. Wedge and seconded by Ms. Shannon for CSC to adjourn the Joint School Committee meeting at 9:42 p.m. The MOTION was unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura O'Sullivan

APPROVED: 3/11/08