

JOINT SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Concord School Committee
Concord-Carlisle School Committee
Ripley Building
Concord, MA
February 26, 2008
6:30 PM

Minutes

PRESENT:

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

PRESENT FROM ADMINISTRATION:

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

ABSENT:

Ms. Rebecca Shannon

I. CALL TO ORDER

Citizens' Comments - None

II. READING OF THE MINUTES

No minutes to be read

III. CORRESPONDENCE

Peter Fischelis received a letter from Tim Blancke regarding Metrics and the Performance Report, and how the report might be modified to meet expressed needs.

IV. RECOGNITIONS

A. CCHS:

- Peter Badalament recognized the CCRSD CPR audit group for their hard work in getting the District through a rigorous review: Brenda Finn, Diana Rigby, Jessica Murphy, Tom Keane, Karen Bushey, Kay Chambers, Neil Lynch and the entire special education department. The DOE was very impressed by CCHS staffs' responsiveness.
- June Patton, Cricket McCaffrey-Clark, Barbara Peskin and Diana Rigby attended the Promethean Conference in Sarasota, FL. Over 300 participants attended the seminar and the CCHS presentation was one of the best attended and the work was very well received. It was clear that our teachers were undoubtedly leaders. The president of Promethean expressed his desire to hold its annual conference in the Concord area.

Brenda Finn spoke about the School Committee's role in supporting professional development and its impact on our teachers.

- B. Middle School: Arthur Unobskey recognized Kevin Shancady, Anna Anderson, Bob Seely, and Isaac Brody for leading students through a great pre-vacation musical performance.

V. REPORTS AND ISSUES FOR DISCUSSION

- A. Peter Badalament and Cricket McCaffrey reported on the Time & Learning issue at CCHS. School Committee proposal generated thoughtful discussion at the CCHS Time & Learning meetings.
A discussion took place regarding the various changes in schedules. Various schedules were presented on seven and eight block schedules. The pros and cons were discussed. Challenges noted include the NEASC requirement for an advisory block. NEASC expects that a class beyond homeroom activity is enacted to provide guidance to students. If portfolio assessment is included in the advisory block it may possibly count towards the 990 hour requirement. Some disadvantages noted included inequity in lengths of some classes particularly "C" block in the seven-period schedule. The discussion included deficiencies and challenges of the existing facility to support broad scheduling changes due to limited lab and classroom availability. Also the conflict with athletic schedules and an extended day were discussed along with some transportation impacts for nearby athletic events.
- B. Coffeehouse Project Update: Brenda informed the School Committee that Andrew Bunyard has resigned from his 20-hour a week position with the Town. This vacancy will result in setbacks for the schedule.
- D. A discussion of the NEASC letter and implications of MSBA yet to be determined recommendation and actions took place.
A recommendation was made to ask NEASC what other high schools in similar positions are doing.

VI. ACTION ITEMS

- A. Vote to surplus computers
Fifty (50) Apple G4 iMacs that are six years old are being surplus and will be donated to the Family Donation Program. The MOTION was passed by all present.
- B. Gift Acceptance – Donation from artists (CCHS)
Vote to accept a \$500 donation to the Japan Initiative was unanimously approved.

SCHOOL COMMITTEE FORUM ON SUPERINTENDENT SEARCH

A number of upcoming meetings are set up to get input as to what people think are important qualities for a superintendent. A discussion of events to date took place in regard to the search. CSC Chair Peter Fischelis expressed his belief that

many of the process issues have been vetted and the School Committee is comfortable that they are going down the right path by conducting an internal search.

The search process has been sent to the CONCORD JOURNAL, PTG and numerous forums. Correspondence has been sent to the GLOBE and MOSQUITO, the town website, the town's blog, the SpedPac blog and to families. A Community Forum and a Parent Forum will be held next week at Thoreau School. There have been events held in homes that have been well attended by interested parents.

CTA and CCTA forums will be held by Jim Hardy of the Massachusetts Association of School Committees (MASC). Mr. Hardy will also meet with Carlisle's and Concord's FinCom, the Administrative Team, Chiefs Willette and Wetherbee, the METCO coordinator and the student senate at CCHS. There is also an online survey on the district's homepage.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

VIII. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

- A. CPS & CCRSD Budge Hearing: February 27, 2008 @ Alcott School
- B. March 12 Chairs Meeting rescheduled to March 5 (MASC Focus Group)
- C. EDCO/CASE Legislative Forum: April 4, 2008, 8:45-11:00 AM, Weston Town Hall

IX. CITIZENS' COMMENTS

Resident Alden Perkins spoke about the online survey. It was explained that a majority vote of the School Committees is the determining factor in who is hired. It was communicated that the School Committee hires the superintendent and that the superintendent leads the process of hiring principals in cooperation with school site teams. It was also relayed to Ms. Perkins that the School Committee is responsible for resolving labor contracts and that the School Committee uses a labor attorney to assist them in settling contracts.

Resident Adelaide Walton expressed METCO concerns. She has worked with METCO for 27 years. Brenda's successor should keep in mind that Boston students and their families are an integral part of our K12 system and that METCO should continue. METCO will benefit from a leader who acknowledges METCO's values.

Elementary school parent Susan Ryan wants reconsideration of internal search; would favor a broader search.

Resident Gretchen Nelson stated that the School Committee actions in terms of the search have been good but business practices would indicate that a

comparison to a broader spectrum of applicants would be beneficial. Ms. Nelson thanked the School Committee for their good work on the search.

The School Committee expressed to the attendees that the input from the forums will be very important in identifying the skills needed for a successor superintendent.

X. ADJOURNMENT

A MOTION to adjourn for each district was made and passed.

Respectfully submitted,

John Flaherty

APPROVED: 3/11/08