

JOINT SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Concord School Committee
Concord-Carlisle School Committee
Ripley Building
Concord, MA
March 11, 2008
6:30 p.m.

Minutes

PRESENT:

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

PRESENT FROM ADMINISTRATION:

Dr. Brenda Finn
Ms. Diana Rigby

ABSENT:

Mr. Peter Fischelis
Mr. John Flaherty

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 6:35 p.m.

II. READING OF THE MINUTES

A MOTION was made by Mr. Wedge and seconded by Mr. Fondriest for CCSC and a MOTION was made by Mr. Wedge and seconded by Ms. McGinn for CSC to approve the minutes from the Joint School Committee meeting held on November 27, 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 on December 11, 2007.

The MOTION was voted:

Aye: Fitzgerald, Fondriest, Koski, McGinn, Wedge

Nay:

Abstain: Shannon

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 to approve the minutes from the Joint School Committee meeting held on January 8, 2008.

The MOTION was voted:

Aye: Fitzgerald, Fondriest, McGinn, Shannon, Wedge

Nay:

Abstain: Koski

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 Mr. Wedge for CSC to approve the minutes from the Joint School Committee meeting held on January 22, 2008.

The MOTION was voted:

Aye: Fitzgerald, Koski, McGinn, Shannon, Wedge

Nay:

Abstain: Fondriest

A MOTION was made by Mr. Wedge and seconded by Mr. Koski for CCSC and a MOTION was made by Mr. Wedge and seconded by Ms. McGinn for CSC to approve the minutes from the Joint School Committee meeting held on February 26, 2008. The MOTION was unanimously approved.

III. CORRESPONDENCE

Ms. Shannon received correspondence regarding Challenge Day. One parent stated it was a wonderful success for their child. Another parent felt concerned that it was too open and personal. They would like the administration/School Committee to look more closely at practices of Challenge Day.

IV. RECOGNITIONS

A. Willard

Ms. Fernandes recognized the teachers and students who participate in the Willard Beanpod. She also recognized Laurie Penney for her work preparing for World Math Day.

B. Alcott

Ms. Young recognized Wade Hendricks for his work with the Festival Band.

C. Middle School

Mr. Unobskey recognized middle school staff Barbara Peskin, Kathy Forbes and Gene Warfel for their work on Activ-Boards and technology.

V. REPORTS AND ISSUES FOR DISCUSSION

B. Willard Podcast

Ms. Matheus presented the Willard Beanpod podcast. Ms. Magee stated how the students did it. Ms. Kramer showed an example of the Beanpod and introduced the children.

A. Hearing Loss Presentation

Ms. Murphy stated Carol Hauser works in the district with hearing impaired students. Ms. Hauser introduced the students, she stated they work on self-awareness and self advocacy.

Ms. Shannon asked if sign language were taught. Ms. Hauser stated no, this is an oral program.

C. Update on Willard Bidding Schedule

Mr. Wedge stated in January the prequalification proposals were submitted. The town has set up a subcommittee to review and narrowed the list to 88 contractors.

D. Report out of Focus Group Meetings for Supt. Search

Jim Hardy thanked Ms. McGinn for facilitating the meetings and the participants of the focus groups. There were 189 responses to the on-line survey. Mr. Hardy summarized the findings. He described the survey details, ranked the details, and summarized the Zoomerang survey results. Mr. Hardy stated he has served on search committees in the past for internal candidates. They go through the same gauntlet as external candidates. Mr. Fondriest suggested a goal of the next superintendent could be to groom a future candidate.

E. Connect-Ed demonstration and implementation

Mr. Warfel demonstrated the Connect-Ed software and stated it can notify people by telephone, email or both. We want to make sure we have the correct information for staff/students. He gave a demonstration on how to use it. Mr. Wedge asked when this software would be implemented. It is ready now to send a test message. Mr. Fondriest requested this software be used only in cases of emergency so as not to become intrusive.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

Ms. Shannon stated CCTV has asked the School Committee to consider holding trial meetings at the Town House. She thinks it is a reasonable compromise.

Mr. Fitzgerald stated the Carlisle Finance Committee is advising a \$251K over-ride in order to make the Regional budget. This is the only over-ride in Carlisle. Mr. Fitzgerald stated we need a back-up plan if this over-ride doesn't pass. We are 6 weeks away from a new fiscal year. There is still time to call a Special Town Meeting. Mr. Fitzgerald stated to cut \$250K from Carlisle's budget is an overall cut of \$800K from the regional budget.

Ms. McGinn asked how has Carlisle fixed other budget shortfalls. Mr. Fitzgerald stated the K-8 school has moved funds out long term capital plans. They have transferred out of free cash to close the gap. There will be budget reductions, they will lose aides, stipends and curriculum development.

Mr. Fitzgerald stated there will be new people on the committee, Fitzgerald and Shannon are coming off. Things need to be lined up for them.

Ms. Shannon asked why sign language wasn't being taught in school. She stated there is a group in the deaf community that feel sign language is a large part of

communication. Ms. Rigby stated if parents are interested, the program would be offered. Families are requesting an oral program.

Mr. Wedge stated Earth Hour is March 29 from 8-9 a.m. People are asked to turn off all non-essential equipment.

VIII. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

A. Annual Town Report 2007

This is included FYI.

B. April 4, 2008: EDCO/CASE Legislative Forum

Reminder

C. April 7, 2008: Suburban Coalition Annual Legislative Breakfast

Reminder

D. April 29, 2008: MASC Day on the Hill

Reminder

X. ADJOURNMENT

With a MOTION from Mr. Wedge for CCRSD seconded by Mr. Koski, and a MOTION from Mr. Fondriest seconded by Ms. McGinn for CPS, the meeting adjourned at 8:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura O'Sullivan

APPROVED: 4/8/08