

JOINT SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Concord School Committee
Concord-Carlisle School Committee
Ripley Building
Concord, MA
March 25, 2008
6:30 p.m.

Minutes

PRESENT:

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

PRESENT FROM ADMINISTRATION:

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

ABSENT:

Mr. Chad Koski
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 6:34 p.m.

A. Public Hearing on School Choice

Mr. Fitzgerald and Mr. Fischelis opened the public hearing. Mr. Fitzgerald read a statement regarding the districts position on School Choice. Hearing no public comment the Public Hearing was closed.

Mr. Fitzgerald welcomed Marree Budris and Ian Carr from the Student Advisory Council.

V. REPORTS AND ISSUES FOR DISCUSSION

B. Presentation on Autism

Ms. Murphy and Mr. Keene talked about the program. A student, JB, gave the presentation he presented at the Autism conference.

Ms. Shannon asked if the autism program was sufficient. Mr. Keene stated he visited Acton/Boxborough where they have a kitchen, washer/dryer units. Things to address the transition goals. Dr. Finn stated this was a priority goal at the summer workshops.

Ms. Murphy stated the program is housed in the H building which is in the middle of the school making it inclusive of the high school program.

Mr. Fitzgerald stated the Pathways has done a phenomenal job. We owe a great deal of thanks to the Pathways program.

Student Advisory Council

Ms. Budris stated there is a new moderator-elect. She stated the Japanese students are coming and students have made welcome banners. There is a concert Friday at Symphony Hall.

Ian Carr stated they have made a resolution to students/faculty and staff to shut computers off at night. He also stated March 11 was METCO day at the State House.

Mr. Fischelis asked how the dance was. Ms. Budris stated it was successful and raised some money.

II. READING OF THE MINUTES

A MOTION was made by Mr. Wedge and seconded by Ms. Shannon for CCSC and a MOTION was made by Ms. Shannon and seconded by Mr. Fondriest for CSC to approve the minutes from the Joint School Committee meeting held October 23, 2007. The MOTION was unanimously approved.

III. CORRESPONDENCE

Mr. Fitzgerald received correspondence from Mr. Monaghan regarding a transfer of funds from the Wells Hall Scholarship Fund.

IV. RECOGNITIONS

A. CCHS

Mr. Badalament recognized the Academic Bowl A Team. This was the first time the team has qualified in years.

Mr. Badalament recognized students, Kim Bovell, Andrei Joseph and Barbara Burgos on the METCO Day on the Hill. At a future meeting students will share their experiences.

V. REPORTS AND ISSUES FOR DISCUSSION

A. Presentation on CCHS Library 5-year plan

Ms. Cicchetti presented the 5-year plan for the high school library. She stated the number of students and classes using the library has increased. Mr. Fischelis asked if the cutbacks has affected the library. Ms. Cicchetti stated yes it has, they are still adequately providing the database and computer terminals. Mr. Wedge asked if the 5-year plan addresses space needs. Ms. Cichetti stated no it doesn't. There is no space for collaborative work. The ramps in the library do not meet code for wheelchairs but the school works around the issue.

C. Superintendent Search

Mr. Fitzgerald stated the School Committee has received one internal application from Assistant Superintendent Diana Rigby. An interview has been scheduled for

April 1 at 7:30 in the high school library. Mr. Fitzgerald asked if there was any comment from the school committee on the criteria. Ms. Shannon stated teachers would like to take the schools to a higher level. Mr. Fondriest stated we need to select a subset of questions. Mr. Fitzgerald stated he forwarded Mr. Hardy a few high priority questions. Mr. Wedge narrowed down the list to 7 primary areas. There is a question for each School Committee member. Mr. Fitzgerald stated the community members are diverse and have strong feelings about education. Mr. Koski stated there is different criteria for an internal candidate who has been here for a couple of years. Ms. Shannon stated it is different because we know this candidate personally.

School committee members are asked to write down their thoughts, questions, issues. This should be done before April 8 and that meeting will be a deliberation session. Mr. Wedge asked how much of this is to be done in open session. Mr. Fitzgerald stated we are bound by law to hold it all in open session. Will we have CCTV coverage for the interview. It was decided that yes there would be. This has to be finished by Town Meeting when Shannon and Fitzgerald go off the School Committee.

VI. ACTION ITEMS

A. Vote on School Choice for the 2008-09 School Year

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 not participate in School Choice for the school year 2008-09 for the following reasons:

1. The regional school district is in need of additional space at the high school to meet instructional and support needs due to a substantial increase in student enrollment over the past decade. Supporting school choice would add to the enrollment challenges at this time.
2. There is not equitable or adequate transportation system in place to allow all students to be able to attend a school in another district. Thus some students are denied the chance to participate.
3. Districts who have children leave to attend another school choice district are penalized financially because they have to pay some portion of the per pupil cost for those students. Districts losing students in this manner have fewer resources available to build up their own programs to retain or attract students.

The MOTION was unanimously approved.

B. Gift Acceptance – Donation from Intel Corp. to Thoreau School

A MOTION was made by Ms. Shannon and seconded by Mr. Wedge for CSC to accept a donation of \$240 to the Thoreau School from the Intel Corporation. The MOTION was unanimously approved.

C. Vote to approve transfer of funds on behalf of the Wells A. Hall Memorial Scholarship Fund

A MOTION was made by Mr. Wedge and seconded by Ms. Shannon to approve the transfer of funds currently held by the Regional School district on behalf of the Wells

A. Hall Memorial Scholarship Fund to the Concord-Carlisle Scholarship Fund. The MOTION was unanimously approved.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Fitzgerald asked what was the current status of the petition for extraordinary relief. Ms. Murphy stated a claim was submitted, 51 districts this year have submitted claims against a pool of \$5M. The distribution is set for the last week in April. We are looking for relief between \$150-200K range. Ms. Murphy stated the number of out of district students are going down, we are going in the right direction, keeping students in our program.

VIII. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

A. METCO Dessert and Discussion, March 26
Reminder.

B. Upcoming EDCO Events, Thursday March 27, Thursday May 1, 2008, School Committee Leadership Roundtable, Waltham, MA
Reminder

C. April 4, 2008: EDCO/CASE Legislative Forum
Reminder

IX. CITIZEN'S COMMENTS

Cynthia Thorne asked if the METCO meeting wee for parents and students. It is intended for adults only.

X. ADJOURNMENT

A MOTION was made from Mr. Wedge for CCRSD seconded by Ms. Shannon to adjourn the regional meeting and enter into Executive Session. The MOTION was approved by roll call vote. A MOTION was made from Mr. Fondriest seconded by Ms. Shannon for CPS, to adjourn the CSC meeting at 8:20 pm. The MOTION was unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura O'Sullivan
APPROVED: 4/8/08