

CONCORD SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Ripley Building
Concord, MA 01742
October 14, 2008

Present: Peter Fischelis, CSC, Chair, CCSC
Jan McGinn, CSC; CCSC, Vice-Chair
Pamela Gannon, CSC; CCSC
Jerry Wedge, CSC, CCSC, Chair

Present From Administration: Diana Rigby, Superintendent of Schools, CPS & CCRSD
John Flaherty, Deputy Superintendent of Schools, CPS & CCRSD
Kathy Codianne, Director of Teaching and Learning, CPS & CCRSD

I. CALL TO ORDER

The session was called to order by Mr. Fischelis for CSC at 6:30 p.m.

A. Citizens' Comments

None

II. READING OF THE MINUTES

None

III. CORRESPONDENCE

None

IV. RECOGNITIONS

A. Ms. Sharon Young, Principal, Alcott recognized Ms. Carroll Willa, Math Specialist for her presentation to parents on the math program.

B. Mr. Rob Colantuono, Principal, Thoreau recognized Ms. Karen Pettyjohn, Ms. Susan Erickson, Mr. Tom Hourihan and Ms. Sue Howard for their work on the visit to Nanae, Japan.

C. Ms. Pat Fernandes, Principal, Willard recognized Ms. Arlene Gluck, Ms. Kathy Madfis, Ms. Jane Spalding and Ms. Jen Shea for their wonderful work with the transition to full day kindergarten.

D. Mr. Arthur Unobskey, Principal, Concord Middle School recognized Mr. Gavin Sykes-McLaughlin and Ms. Sharon Moss for their work with students on election activities and holding a mock presidential election.

V. REPORTS & ISSUES FOR DISCUSSION

A. Presentation of Middle School Student Leadership. The middle school has an active student leaders program. Two (2) student leaders presented the finalists for school mascots. The students chose two (2) mascots from a list of six (6) mascots and the student leaders presented their ideas to the faculty. The finalists are The Cougars and The Storm. Mr. Gavin Sykes-McLaughlin, Social Studies Teacher, talked about the mock presidential election which will be held on November 3rd. The Social Studies teachers have been very involved and are using the new ActiVote technology.

B. Presentation on Nanae Exchange. Mr. Tom Curtin, retired Guidance Counselor, CCHS presented a video on the summer of 2008 trip to Nanae, Japan. The next trip is scheduled for April of 2009 and the band is scheduled to go in 2010. Mr. Curtin also introduced two visitors from Nanae. Ms. Diana Rigby thanked Mr. Tom Curtin and all the teachers for cultivating the relationship with Nanae. The students have been very excited to have the opportunity to participate in the activities.

C. Alcott Pavilion – Ms. Sharon Young, Principal, Alcott and Ms. Amy Simon and Ms. Laura Davidian, Co-Presidents of the PTG presented the Shade Pavilion Project. The funds for the project have been raised over the past few years by the Alcott PTG. They plan to build the structure in the spring of 2009.

D. 2008 MCAS Presentation – Ms. Kathy Codianne and Principals. An overview of the 2008 MCAS was presented by Ms. Codianne, Director of Teaching and Learning. The goal is to have 85% of the students able to master the grade level standards.

E. New District Website – Mr. Gene Warfel, Director of Information Technology. Mr. Warfel presented the new district website which was designed by Mr. Brian Mahony, Art Teacher, CCHS and students in his digital arts class. In addition Ms. Nan Harbison, Website Master, refined many aspects of the site. All the K-8 school sites are done with a technology called Rapid Web Designer (RWD) which works in conjunction with FirstClass our email collaborative platform.

F. Recreational space at the new Willard – Friends of Concord Children, Inc. Ms. Jane Cullinane, President, Friends of Concord Children, Inc. is requesting that the School Committee support an application to the Community Preservation Committee for a grant to create a regulation size basketball court, a brick ball wall with hard surface and hopscotch like Alcott and Thoreau. The School Committee expressed concerns that any delay in the current construction timeline would delay the move-in date. The Committee said the Friends of Concord Children, Inc. would be welcome to come back to present the application again once Willard is built.

G. October 1 Enrollment Report. Compared to the previous year, there are nine (9) more students at CCHS, 30 more students at CPS and 25 more students at the Middle School.

H. Preliminary Budget FY10 Planning. The key escalation/cost drivers for the Concord Public Schools are the steps, lanes and scales that are contractually driven by the Collective Bargaining Agreement with the Concord Teachers' Association. Also built into the budget is an additional .5 teaching staff at the Concord Middle School in response to the enrollment increase and an additional custodian for the new Willard school. A 2.5% increase in supplies and materials and two (2) school buses are being added.

VI. ACTION ITEMS

A. Vote regarding Alexan Development's attendance area. A motion was made by Ms. Jan McGinn and seconded by Ms. Pam Gannon to recommend that the Concord School Committee add the Alexan Development to the Willard attendance district. The motion was unanimously approved.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

A. Question 1. A motion was made by Mr. Peter Fischelis and seconded by Ms. Pam Gannon for the Concord School Committee to submit a letter to the Concord Journal opposing Question 1 and urging the citizens of Concord to vote No on Question 1. The motion was unanimously approved.

VIII. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

A. Concord Finance Committee Dates: November 6, 2008 – Response to tentative FY10 Guidelines.

B. November 7, 2008 – Superintendent's afternoon tea at Ripley Conference Room 1, 3:30-5:00 PM.

C. November 19-22, 2008 – MASC/MASS Joint Conference at The Resort & Conference Center at Hyannis.

IX. CITIZENS' COMMENTS

Carole Cushing, 83 Anson Road. Ms. Cushing stated that the Alcott area has Emerson Playground and the Thoreau area has Rideout Field. Willard has Willard and doesn't have much recreational area. Ms. Cushing would like more space for neighborhood use.

Denis Murphy, 30 Anson Road. Mr. Murphy would like to see more equality between the elementary schools.

Bonnie Gallagher, 251 Plainfield Road. Ms. Gallagher suggested putting grills on the windows so that the side of the building could be used as a ball wall.

Judy LaRocca, 60 Oak Road. Ms. LaRocca suggested that Willard be used as a community playground.

Jane Cullinane, 58 Anson Road. Ms. Cullinane has concerns that Special Education students will not have enough space for recess and lunch time.

X. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made from Ms. Pam Gannon, with a second from Ms. Jan McGinn. The motion was unanimously approved and the meeting adjourned at 9:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sally W. Ferguson
Approved: 10/28/08

Abbreviations:

CSC	Concord School Committee
CCSC	Concord-Carlisle Regional District School Committee
CPS	Concord Public Schools
CCRS	Concord-Carlisle Regional School District
MASC	Massachusetts Association of School Committees
M.A.S.S.	Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents