

CONCORD SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Ripley Building
Concord, MA 01742
January 12, 2010

- Present:** Fabian Fondriest, CSC, Chair; CCSC
Pamela Gannon, CSC; Vice-Chair, CCSC
Jerry Wedge, CSC; CCSC
- Present From Administration:** Diana Rigby, Superintendent of Schools, CPS & CCRSD
John Flaherty, Deputy Superintendent of Finance & Operations, CPS & CCRSD
- Absent:** Jan McGinn, CSC; CCSC, Chair
Peter Fischelis, CSC, CCSC

I. CALL TO ORDER

The session was called to order by Mr. Fondriest for CSC at 6:37 PM.

A. Citizens' Comments. Ms. Barbie Ennis, 29 Wilder Drive, Bedford, MA asked to speak on her daughter's behalf who was employed by a contract vendor in the Special Education Department. Ms. Ennis feels her daughter was wrongfully terminated in December of 2009 by the vendor and wanted to talk about the issue at the meeting. Mr. Fondriest said it wasn't the forum to discuss personnel or vendor matters. The program can be discussed but not personnel or vendor matters. The proper channel would be through the Special Education Director. A member of the audience (they did not identify themselves) asked if the school committee was in charge of disciplining the superintendent if something was done incorrectly. Mr. Fondriest stated that the superintendent reports to the school committee and complaints should be sent to the school committee. Ms. Ennis asked what the next step should be and Mr. Fondriest stated the next step would be for Ms. Ennis to contact the Special Education Director.

Ms. Karen Venti, 33 Dana Road, Concord, MA stated that she had a couple of questions regarding policy. She wanted to know the policy when someone does something wrong or is assumed to have done something wrong. How is that matter handled? Ms. Rigby stated that the school committee doesn't handle employee or contract vendor matters. Ms. Venti should contact the direct supervisor of the program. Ms. Venti said the information she gets always changes and what happened was unwarranted. Mr. Fondriest stated that the school committee isn't the proper forum to discuss this matter and that Ms. Venti should contact the Special Education Director. Ms. Ennis and Ms. Venti asked who the superintendent reports to and who should they complain to. Ms. Rigby stated that she reports to the school committee and they should send their complaints to the school committee.

II. READING OF THE MINUTES

None

III. CORRESPONDENCE

A. Ms. Rigby stated that every year the MASC prepares a report that has a compilation of information about district salaries and benefits. The report is available in the superintendent's office and is also available on line.

IV. RECOGNITIONS

A. Willard: Charlyn Bethell & 5th grade chorus. Ms. Rigby, on behalf of Ms. Fernandes, Principal, recognized Ms. Bethell, Music Teacher, for her efforts for preparing the Willard 5th grade chorus for their performance at the Martin Luther King Celebration sponsored by the Concord-Carlisle Human Rights Council on January 14, 2010 at Sanborn. Ms. Fernandes would also like to recognize Dave Anderson, Facilities Manager, for his tremendous commitment to the Willard School Committee and the punch list which had hundreds of items and is slowly dwindling.

B. Alcott: Ms. Rigby on behalf of Ms. Young, Principal, would like to recognize Polly Attwood, Administrative Secretary, for the bulletin board that shows where Bronson the Owl travelled this past summer with students and staff. Ms. Young would also like to recognize Adam Gregor, Grade 4 teacher and 4th grade students for organizing the school wide Where in the World is Bronson?

C. Thoreau: Cafeteria Staff, Playground supervisors. Mr. Colantuono, Principal, recognized the cafeteria staff, Kellie Byrne, Carol Horan and Julie Beyer. Mr. Colantuono stated that they prepare 350 meals on any given day and always serve lunch with a smile. The other group Mr. Colantuono recognized was the playground supervisors, Betsy Wilson, Betsy Wood, Linda Palmer, Janice Crain and Cindy Theriault. Their job is to keep everyone safe on the playground and they do a great job.

D. Middle School Dan Rivenburgh and Kevin Shancady. Ms. Rigby on behalf of Ms. Beattie, Principal, would like to recognize Mr. Shancady, Music Teacher, for his work with students directing the fall drama production of the Miracle Worker and Mr. Rivenburgh, Music Teacher, for his participation in the fall choir concert with the middle school, high school and Carlisle Middle School.

V. REPORTS & ISSUES FOR DISCUSSION

A. Bee-Bots Presentation – Johanna Ellis, Rob Colantuono & Thoreau students. Mr. Colantuono introduced Ms. Ellis, Kindergarten Teacher, and one student, Claire, who gave a brief presentation of the Bee-Bots. The kindergarten students can program them and it helps with their sequencing, estimation, word rhyming and problem solving. They are fun and engaging for the students.

B. Massachusetts Race to the Top Proposal & MOU. Ms. Rigby stated that we have an opportunity to participate in the \$4.35 billion education reform program, Race to the Top (RTTT). Massachusetts is eligible for \$250 million for education reform. CPS receives \$90,295 in Title 1 monies and the potential RTTT grant is \$13,500-\$18,000.

VI. ACTION ITEMS

A. Vote to approve Race to the Top MOU. A motion was made by Mr. Wedge seconded by Ms. Gannon that the Concord School Committee accepts the Race to the TOP MOU. The motion was unanimously approved.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

A. New Willard gas consumption. Mr. Flaherty stated that the natural gas and electrical consumption at Willard is 30% lower than Alcott and Thoreau. Willard was sited to maximize the natural lighting that comes into the school, which sets it up for a potential solar array MOU for a grant with the Town of Concord and the Concord Municipal Light Plant.

B. Thoreau Principal Search. Ms. Rigby stated that the position was posted in the Boston Globe on December 13, 2009. It was also posted in Education Week and all of the professional principal associations, Craig's List and the district web site. The posting closed January 11, 2010. Over 30 applications were received. The quality of the pool is excellent and many candidates are current sitting principals. The interviews will be held on January 26 and 27, 2010. The interview committee consists of 12 people; five (5) Thoreau educators, four (4) administrators, the administrative secretary and two (2) parents. There will be a finalist forum and the Thoreau Community and School Committee members will be invited and they will meet the finalists. Ms. Rigby will present a candidate at the beginning of March.

VIII. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

A. Annual Town Report. Ms. Rigby thanked the administrative team for their input and the Mr. Fondriest for his letter. A photo of Willard was submitted for consideration for the cover of the Town Report.

B. 17th Annual Martin Luther King Celebration @ Sanborn, sponsored by Concord-Carlisle Human Rights Council. Ms. Rigby thanked Polly Attwood, member of the Concord-Carlisle Human Rights Council, from Alcott for sponsoring the Annual Martin Luther King Celebration to be held at Sanborn on Thursday, January 14, 2010 at 7:00 PM.

C. H1N1 Vaccination Clinic, Concord Board of Health. Concord Board of Health is holding the H1N1 Vaccination Clinic on January 12, 2010.

D. February 5, 2010 – Superintendent/School Committee afternoon tea @ Sanborn Library, 2:45 – 4:00 PM.

IX. CITIZENS' COMMENTS

None

X. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Ms. Gannon and seconded by Mr. Wedge to adjourn CSC. The motion was unanimously approved and the CSC meeting adjourned at 7:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Sally W. Ferguson
Approved: 02/23/2010

Abbreviations:

CSC	Concord School Committee
CCSC	Concord-Carlisle Regional District School Committee
CPS	Concord Public Schools
CCRSD	Concord-Carlisle Regional School District
CCHS	Concord-Carlisle Regional High School
MASC	The Massachusetts Association of School Committees
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding