

CONCORD SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Ripley Building
Concord, MA 01742
February 9, 2010

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

Present From Administration: Diana Rigby, Superintendent of Schools, CPS & CCRSD
John Flaherty, Deputy Superintendent of Finance & Operations, CPS & CCRSD

I. CALL TO ORDER

The session was called to order by Mr. Fondriest for CSC at 6:35 PM.

A. Citizens' Comments

None

II. READING OF THE MINUTES

None

III. CORRESPONDENCE

None

IV. RECOGNITIONS

A. Willard: Rachael Morris for organizing Half-Way Day. Ms. Rigby on behalf of Ms. Fernandes, Principal, would like to recognize Ms. Morris, Grade 1 Teacher, for her efforts in organizing the Half-Way Day and collecting student donations for Half-Way Day and donations to the Open Table. Ms. Fernandes appreciates Ms. Morris' efforts in this community service project.

Kristin Saunders for Valentine-making effort. Ms. Rigby on behalf of Ms. Fernandes, Principal, would like to recognize Ms. Saunders, Art Teacher, for her efforts in the annual community service project. The valentines are made for Emerson Hospital and Minute Man Arc for Human Services.

B. Alcott: Laura Driscoll for her leadership with the implementation of RTI. Ms. Young recognized Ms. Driscoll, Psychologist, for her facilitation and leadership with the implementation of RTI (Response To Intervention). Ms. Driscoll shared articles with the faculty and helped with scheduling for next year.

C. Thoreau: Secretaries Maria Schofield and Donna Macone. Ms. Rigby on behalf of Mr. Colantuono, Principal, would like to recognize Ms. Schofield and Ms. Macone who keep track of 430 children and their families. They take good care of over 60 staff members. They have demanding jobs and they do it with a smile on their faces and in a polite and cooperative manner.

D. Middle School: Ms. Rigby on behalf of Ms. Beattie, Principal, would like to recognize Ms. Austin, Social Studies Teacher and Ms. Newhall, Social Studies Teacher, for "Hats for Haiti" campaign which raised \$1,718 that was donated to UNICEF. Ms. Beattie would like to recognize Mr. Shattuck, Applied Technology Teacher, for the Future City Competition in which CMS Students placed fifth in the competition. Ms. Anderson, Strings Instructor, and Mr. Seeley, Music Teacher, for work their continued hard work with band and orchestra demonstrated in the spectacular January concerts.

V. REPORTS & ISSUES FOR DISCUSSION

A. Fourth and Fifth grade science program at Alcott – Diane Kablik, Carol Birdsall and Martha Regan. Ms. Kablik, K-5 Science Coordinator gave a presentation on the Science Program that the fourth and fifth grade students are learning. Fourth graders have participated in a local citizen's science program called Head Starting

Blandings and other Turtle Species. The program takes the students from the River to the Sea. The Fifth Grade students learn about environmental science and learn about different types of water habitats, eco systems and the critical role water plays in the environment.

B. Alcott Outdoor Classroom – Alcott Dads Dave Fischer and John Boynton. A brief presentation was given by Mr. Fischer and Ms. Joanna Boynton (representing John Boynton) on the Outdoor Classroom at Alcott. The purpose of this classroom is to provide a place for teachers to take their students for outdoor learning. The Alcott PTG plans to fund this project. The structure will be built in the spring of 2010.

C. FY11 Budget Presentation:

February 10 - League of Women Voters (LOWV). Due to the impending snowstorm the LOWV Presentation was cancelled.

February 24 - Budget Hearings. The theme this year is Supporting 21st Century Learning: Student Learning, Technology and Facilities.

VI. ACTION ITEMS

A. Gift Acceptance – Donation from Lueders Environmental, Inc. A motion was made by Mr. Wedge seconded by Ms. McGinn that the Concord School Committee vote to accept the \$50 donation and publicly thank Mr. Michael Lueders. The motion was unanimously approved.

B. Gift Acceptance – Contribution from anonymous donor. A motion was made by Mr. Wedge seconded by Ms. Gannon that the Concord School Committee vote to accept the very generous gift of \$1,000. The motion was unanimously approved.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

A. Draft Employee Survey 2009-2010. The draft employee survey has been drafted and all employee groups are being asked to review and make recommendations by March 1, 2010. The survey will be distributed by March 15, 2010 on Survey Monkey.

B. Thoreau Principal Search. Ms. Rigby thanked Ms. Codianne, Director of Teaching and Learning and Ms. McCausland, Director of Human Resources for leading the search. Ms. Rigby thanked parents Mrs. Duggan, Mr. Bailey and Mrs. Donovan; teachers Wendy Marotta, Susan Erickson, Sue Howard, Merrie Najimy; Staff Member Maria Schofield and Administrative Team Members Jessica Murphy and Sharon Young. Ms. Rigby stated that out of the six (6) candidates there are two (2) semi finalists one (1) from Acton and one (1) from Lowell. Ms. Rigby will be conducting a site visit to Acton to observe Christine Price and a site visit to Lowell to observe Kelly Clough on February 11, 2010.

VIII. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

A. Wellness Committee. The Wellness Committee was developed after the Nutrition Coalition gave a presentation at a PTG Meeting. At the Wellness Committee meeting on February 9, 2010 there were representatives from every school site, a representative from the Nutrition Coalition was invited along with a high school student who was unable to attend. The services of a school lunch consultant, Amy Coulter were engaged. Ms. Coulter had done a prior assessment of the school lunch program and suggested that we eliminate trans fats, preservatives, MSG, and pesticides. On the positive side we have one of the highest participation rates for school lunch in the area; we provide more produce than most school lunch programs and we have a good variety. The Wellness Committee will meet once a month from now until June.

C. March 5, 2010 – Superintendent/School Committee afternoon tea @ Peabody Library, 2:45 – 4:00 PM.

D. Mr. Fischelis stated that he attended a Fields Group Meeting regarding a temporary sign at Ripley. They are also looking at some rentals during the summer on the turf fields for camps to generate money. The third field will not be available in the spring due to the earth underneath becoming very compacted from the construction. They are hoping it will be available in the fall.

E. Mr. Fondriest had a few suggestions on how to change the school committee meeting process. Mr. Fondriest suggested starting earlier and combine the two meetings CPS followed by CCSC, this would free up a night during the month. Mr. Fondriest suggested keeping presentations to ten (10) minutes. Mr. Wedge stated that

sometimes people need more than ten (10) minutes to do a presentation. Ms. Gannon stated that getting to the meetings earlier could be a challenge especially if there is executive session meeting going on before the regular session, it could double the time which could be difficult. Mr. Fischelis said he would rather keep the meetings shorter rather than having them go until 11:00 PM. Mr. Fondriest asked people to think about it and get back to him with thoughts on the subject.

IX. CITIZENS' COMMENTS

None

X. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Mr. Fischelis and seconded by Ms. McGinn to adjourn CSC. The motion was unanimously approved and the CSC meeting adjourned at 7:50 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
LOWV	League of Women Voters
RTI	Response To Intervention
UNICEF	The United Nations Children's Fund