

Concord School Board
Special Meeting
June 14, 2017

Board members present: Clint Cogswell, Alana Kimball, Pam Wicks, Maureen Redmond-Scura, Tom Croteau, Jennifer Patterson, Jim Richards, Nathan Fennessy

Board member absent: Barb Higgins

Others: Terri Forsten, *Superintendent*, Jack Dunn, *Business Administrator*

Public Hearing

Clint Cogswell opened the Public Hearing on the 2017 budget and turned the meeting over to Business Administrator Jack Dunn, who reviewed the agenda, highlighting changes in budget revenue and expenditure amounts over projections. Mr. Dunn outlined areas where revenue may be falling short of projections and where expenses are higher than anticipated.

Mr. Dunn reviewed the costs associated with Food Service – revenue and expenses. There are four fewer days with students this year; this will impact food service revenue. It is anticipated that there may be between \$75,000 - \$100,000 in outstanding student debt; this amount is similar to prior years.

Mr. Cogswell asked if there were any public comments. There were none. He requested a motion to close the public hearing.

The Board voted 8-0 to close the public session at 5:45 p.m. (motioned by Jennifer Patterson, seconded by Tom Croteau).

Jim Richards left the meeting to attend the Recognition Ceremony for eighth graders at Rundlett Middle School.

Special Board Meeting

Mr. Cogswell opened the Special Board meeting at 5:46 p.m.

Business Administrator Jack Dunn reviewed several areas of the budget where expenses have been challenging this year: cost of steam this past winter, special education out-of-district costs, homeless transportation and healthcare.

Another impact on the budget are outstanding invoices for Food Service. The business office is doing its best with automated phone calls, letters in the mail, and personal phone calls to inform parents when their child's account is in arrears. There was a

conversation around what is being done in the schools and at the Central Office to be sure that parents know when they qualify for free or reduced-price meals. Board members asked about reassessing the Food Service Program, looking at staffing and meal prices. Mr. Dunn assured the Board that this is done regularly as part of an effective business model. While the number of meals purchased may be variable in some schools, this is all relative to enrollment. Board members discussed whether the length of time that students must wait in cafeteria lines may impact lunch participation.

The Board voted 7-0 to transfer up to \$25,000 from the General Fund to the Food Service line in the budget (motioned by Ms. Patterson, seconded by Mr. Croteau).

Mr. Dunn explained that there was an error in the minutes of the May 1, 2017 School Board meeting, in which the cost of the lease for new copiers was noted to be \$19,000-\$23,000 per year, but should read \$19,000-\$23,000 per *month*.

The Board voted 7-0 to amend the May meeting minutes to reflect the change noted above (moved by Mr. Croteau, seconded by Nathan Fennesy).

Mr. Dunn moved on to the third topic, the conversation that occurred at the Capital Facilities Committee meeting on June 7 regarding exploring the idea of creating a joint-use facility agreement with the Concord Family YMCA (“YMCA”).

Brett St. Clair, Board Chair, and Jim Doremus, Executive Director, from the YMCA were present to answer questions from the Board. They were asked whether the YMCA would be leaving its downtown facility. Mr. St. Clair said that he anticipated that the YMCA would maintain its current facility while exploring a new facility that would be youth- and family-focused. The YMCA is interested in considering how to maintain the downtown facility and expand to a new facility that would be part of the new middle school facility, supporting the spirit of a “full-service” community school.

Ms. Patterson asked about the Christian affiliation of the YMCA and how that might impact a public school partnership. Mr. St. Clair provided some history to the Christian component of the YMCA. He shared that like the “men’s” component of the YMCA, the Christian component is part of its history; currently there are members of both genders, all religious affiliations and diverse backgrounds.

Mr. Croteau shared that he has heard from people in the community who are wondering why a new middle school facility is needed. He said that it would be important for the Board to continue its conversations publicly and invite input as it moves forward.

Ms. Patterson supported the idea of exploring the opportunity to develop a joint-use facility with the YMCA. Mr. Fennesy agreed that exploring this option for the school community would be valuable. Mr. Cogswell offered assurance that the Board is not making a commitment now but will explore this as an interesting option for the community.

Mr. Cogswell asked if there were any further questions, and asked for a motion.

The Board voted 7-0 to authorize the administration to explore the option of a joint-use partnership with the Concord Family YMCA and to provide up to \$12,000 to support the associated increased costs for architects to create another design option that incorporates the YMCA (motioned by Ms. Patterson, seconded by Mr. Croteau).

Mr. Cogswell addressed the need to create a press release to engage the members of the community with this idea, and the Board's intent to explore this option for the middle school. Superintendent Forsten and Mr. Dunn will create a press release for the community.

Mr. Cogswell asked for a motion to adjourn.

The Board voted 7-0 to adjourn (motioned by Maureen Redmond-Scura, seconded by Pam Wicks).

The meeting adjourned at 6:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tom Croteau, *Secretary*

Terri Forsten, *Recorder*