

**Concord School District**  
Annual School Board Retreat  
January 12, 2019  
8:00 a.m. – 2:15 p.m.

**School Board members:** Jennifer Patterson, Tom Croteau, Jim Richards, Pam Wicks, Chuck Crush, Liza Poinier, Danielle Smith, Nancy Kane

**District Administrators:** Terri Forsten, Donna Palley, Jack Dunn, Larry Prince, Matt Cashman

Agenda

- A. Concord by the numbers
- B. Developing Boardsmanship
- C. Committees, goal setting
- D. Break and MBS tour
- E. The future middle school
- F. Social media & Board members

A. The morning began with a quick review of the District's vision and mission. Donna Palley led a process of considering the District by the numbers:

- Total number of students, preschool – Grade 12 4,459
- Total number of District employees 1,235
- Number of students with educational disabilities 739
- Number of students enrolled in 21C after school programs 1,064
- Number of languages spoken by District students 44
- Number of District technology devices 6,500
- Number of students enrolled in Performing Arts 945
- Number of homeless students 76
- Number of students enrolled in Advanced Placement classes 635
- Percent of students eligible for free and reduced-price meals 38%
- Number of students enrolled in Athletics 1,434
- Total District budget \$89,000,306
- Total square footage of facilities 1,098,561

- Total number of acres owned by District

B. After reviewing several policies, Board members discussed the importance and highlights of each. Policy #110 School Board Member Ethics, Policy #150 School Board Electronic Communication and Policy #134 Non-Public Sessions were discussed.

The one-page document from NHSBA, *Role of a School Board Member*, was read and discussed.

Board members filled out the School Board Self-Assessment Tool, looking at the Board's work in the areas of Policy, Strategic Planning, Relationship with the Superintendent, Communication with the Public and Effective Board meetings. The most consistently high ratings fell into the areas of Policy and Effective Board meetings. The Executive Committee may review this assessment tool further and consider how to develop the Board's work in these areas.

C. Following an overview of each committee by its Chairperson, Board members discussed the work of each committee, highlighted success from the past year and discussed focus areas for the coming year. These ideas will be discussed further at each of the next committee meetings; goals will be created at the committee level and recommended to the Board at a follow-up meeting.

**Capital Facilities Committee** – this committee would like to see the District develop long- and short-term maintenance goals in a revised facilities plan. This committee will also be at the forefront of the middle school facility development and will be looking at ways to influence the political conversation to reinforce the need for state building aid.

**City and Community Relations Committee** – this committee will look at the District website to improve navigation, and review work in social media and television. Board members discussed how to improve ready access to School Board meetings on the website. The Committee would like to host a legislative breakfast this year and consider how to advocate for building aid.

**Communications & Policy Committee** – this committee will continue its work to update, review and revise current policies and to stay up-to-date on newly-introduced legislation that will influence policies. This committee would like information on interpreting contract language, as grievances may come to this committee.

**Finance Committee** – this committee manages the reserve and trust funds and must be well aware of costs related to running the District: tax rate and creating options (80% attributable to personnel costs). The committee is interested in making good choices, prioritizing, gaining state building aid, and the need to consider bonding needs to support a middle school project and to support older facilities (more roofing projects).

**Instructional Committee** – This committee enjoys the curriculum and instruction-connected conversations as it examines 21<sup>st</sup> century learning – hands-on, project-based learning. This committee would like to consider the middle school grade range decision (grades 5-8 or 6-8). For the coming year, the committee will focus on computer science and social studies, personalized learning, social-emotional learning (SEL), behavior task

force and career pathways. The committee will consider ways to create opportunities for Board members to visit classrooms during the coming year.

**Negotiations Committee** – this committee has just completed a fairly challenging year with several new CBAs in hand. The committee will continue to consider long-term liabilities in negotiations. The committee is interested in gaining and maintaining a competitive edge as new employees are recruited. Four contracts will need to be negotiated by June 30, 2019.

**Executive Committee** – this committee meets monthly to create the agenda for the monthly meetings, and also considers significant issues as they arise in the District. This committee has some interest in being present at community events and connecting with other organizations in the community.

D. School Board members toured Mill Brook School.

E. As a conversation about middle school property options began, Ms. Patterson made the motion to move into non-public session at 12:46 p.m. under RSA 91-A:3 II (d) that states: “Consideration of the acquisition, sale, or lease of real or personal property which, if discussed in public, would likely benefit a party or parties whose interests are adverse to those of the general community.”

**The Board voted 9-0 by roll call to move into non-public session at 12:46 p.m. under RSA 91-A:3 II (d) (motioned by Ms. Patterson, seconded by Tom Croteau) to discuss a property matter.**

Ms. Patterson made the motion to come out of non-public session at 1:52 p.m.

**The Board came out of non-public session at 1:52 p.m. and by roll call voted 9-0 to seal the minutes under RSA 91-A:3 II (d) – property matter (motioned by Ms. Patterson, seconded by Chuck Crush).**

F. The Board reviewed Policy #434 Social Media – Staff, and had a quick conversation about using social media as a Board member.

The retreat adjourned at 2:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Richards, *Secretary*

Terri Forsten, *Recorder*