

Concord School District
Board of Education
Regular monthly meeting
February 4, 2019

Board members present: Nancy Kane, Tom Croteau, Chuck Crush, Jennifer Patterson, Liza Poinier, Danielle Smith, Jim Richards, Pam Wicks; Helen Massah (student representative)

Administrators: *Superintendent* Terri Forsten, *Business Administrator* Jack Dunn, *Director of Human Resources* Larry Prince

Agenda Item 1. Call to Order

Board President Jennifer Patterson called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Agenda Item 2. Approval of Agenda

Larry Prince suggested the addition of a personnel section to the agenda.

The Board voted 8-0 to approve the agenda with the addition of a personnel section after Item no. 5 (motioned by Jim Richards, seconded by Chuck Crush).

Agenda Item 3. Public Comment– agenda items only

There was no public comment.

Agenda Item 4. Approval of Board Minutes

Ms. Patterson reviewed the minutes of the organizational Board meeting on January 7, the regular Board meeting on January 7, and the Board Retreat on January 12.

The Board voted 8–0 to approve the minutes of the organizational Board meeting on January 7, the regular Board meeting on January 7, and the Board Retreat on January 12 (moved by Nancy Kane, seconded by Tom Croteau).

Agenda Item 5. Recognitions

Superintendent Forsten recognized crossing guard Rose Baker, who has directed traffic and student crossings for over 19 years at Concord High School and Rundlett Middle School, for over 2,000 students daily. Board members thanked Ms. Baker for her service.

CHS English Teacher Heidi Crumrine, NH Teacher of the Year in 2018, made a presentation about her work during that time. She visited “Google for Education” in California where she learned about presentation and storytelling; Space Camp in Huntsville, AL where she experienced simulated lower-earth orbit and became a “vulnerable learner”; Berlin, where she learned about Germany’s approach to education; US DOE in Washington, where she met with Secretary of Education DeVos in a conversation about PACE; among many other activities. She remarked that she learned “how to use her voice” including how to empower other teachers to do the same and writing extensively throughout the year and since; how to ask for what she needs or wants as a teacher; and recognizing her strong pride in being a teacher in CSD. Her lasting questions include “How can we ensure we are “doing equity?”; “How are we ensuring equitable access to education for all children in Concord?”; and “How can we ensure that we have culturally competent teachers as our student population changes?”

Student Board representative Helen Massah provided notes on CHS:

- Varsity Club members recently volunteered at Woodside School, playing with and reading to preschoolers.
- The CHS Model UN team specializes and learns about a specific country and then represents that country at larger conferences to simulate a United Nations conference. These students work hard to learn about their country’s economic, health and social issues. With this knowledge they develop solutions, and materials or help they will need or ask for during the conference to support the country they represent.
- NH Institute of Civics Education at UNH Law recently hosted an event called “Lights, Camera, Civics” at UNH Law, attended by approximately 100 people. Attorney Dina Chaitowitz, Colby-Sawyer College Humanities Professor Pat Anderson and CHS student representative Julia Peabody facilitated. The movie *To Kill a Mockingbird* was screened, followed by a discussion including the questions “How does place and time influence how justice is carried out?” “How does personal opinion affect legal decisions in the movie?”
- On January 12, a select group of students attended the All-State Chamber festival, with three students earning top scores in the state. The music department inducted 25 new members into Tri-M Music Honor Society, to join 40 current CHS students. The Jazz All-State Festival will be held on February 7–9, in which CHS student and electric bass player Lucas Tomas will participate.
- Through dual enrollment and AP classes, students not only experience a whole new level of learning, but can also earn college credits at the same time as high school credits.
- Athletic team records include girls’ varsity basketball 4-9, boys’ varsity basketball 5-3, girls’ varsity hockey 12-1, boys’ varsity hockey 10-2, and wrestling, undefeated. Wrestling will host its last home match against its rival Timberlane on February 6.

Superintendent Forsten noted that CRTC has published its newest brochure on the theme “be prepared to stand out,” including statistics about students and its 11 program options.

The District held a professional day on January 28, which included over 60 offerings focusing on social/emotional learning. Many teachers provided positive comments about the organization and content of the day’s program.

The Board will host its annual “Legislative Breakfast” on February 22. The administration will present District perspectives and offer feedback on how legislation under consideration will impact the community.

Agenda Item 6. Personnel

Larry Prince presented one staff nomination.

Jamie Duca, Music Teacher, Christa McAuliffe School, \$8,738, B-3, prorated 83 days, 40%, one year only. Jamie replaces Ashley Grover Desmarais (40% of B-4 prorated 83 days = \$9,193) – resignation. Budgeted at \$10,712

The Board voted 8–0 to confirm the nomination (moved by Mr. Croteau, seconded by Liza Poinier).

Agenda Item 7. Communications and Policy Committee

Ms. Patterson noted that the Committee met on January 16 in a non-public session on a grievance.

She noted that although the Committee had not met to review policies in January, several policies primarily related to student matters were up for a second reading and vote:

Policy #517 Manifest Educational Hardship

Policy #517.5 Change of School or Assignment – Best Interests

Policy #520 Safe Schools

Policy #529 Homeless Students

Policy #536 Corporal Punishment

Policy #543 Student Discipline and Due Process

Policy #544 Weapons on School Property

There was no further discussion of these policies.

The Board voted 8–0 to adopt Policy #517 Manifest Educational Hardship; Policy #517.5 Change of School or Assignment – Best Interests; Policy #520 Safe Schools; Policy #529 Homeless Students; Policy #536 Corporal Punishment; Policy #543 Student Discipline and Due Process; Policy #544 Weapons on School Property (moved by Mr. Crush, seconded by Mr. Croteau).

Agenda Item 8. Instructional Committee

Pam Wicks presented the report of the meeting on January 12, during which CHS staff discussed competency-based education (CBE) at the high school. The discussion included the history of CBE, measurable standards, effective grading and how competencies have changed what the report cards look like. She noted that these are important conversations to have in the community and with parents and expressed interest in having college admissions counselors participate in a parent forum.

Agenda Item 9. Proposed calendar of meetings

Superintendent Forsten discussed the proposed Board calendars for February and March, highlighting the Legislative Breakfast on February 22 at RMS.

Agenda Item 10. Public comment

Betty Hoadley spoke about the class size policy, again up for review at the February 6 committee meeting. She noted that class size is not the single determinant for student achievement: these include socioeconomic background, ESL population, school size, atmosphere and condition of the school, parental interest and involvement, teacher training and skill, unique personal challenges for students (IEP, physical handicap), health, nutrition and readiness to learn, teaching and methodology and personal access to IT, among others. No one certain feature determines student achievement. She noted that as a teacher, the most important factor is to continually modify priorities. Ms. Hoadley noted that of 91 classrooms in the K-5 range, 23% are at the 1, 2, 3 mark on the chart which she has provided the Board via email; 65 are mid-point. 80% are at midpoint or below. 3% rank in the two highest ranges, 6 and 7. There are 0 classes beyond the upper limit of the class size guidelines. She noted that the last revision date of the policy is irrelevant as its age does not make it invalid. She strongly noted that this policy has stood the test of time.

Agenda Item 11. Adjournment

The Board voted 8-0 to adjourn (motioned by Ms. Kane, seconded by Mr. Crush).

The Board adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Richards, *Secretary*