

Concord School District
Board of Education
Regular monthly meeting
February 5, 2018

Board members: Clint Cogswell, Tom Croteau, Chuck Crush, Nathan Fennessy, Jennifer Patterson, Liza Poinier, Maureen Redmond-Scura, Jim Richards, Pam Wicks; student representatives Logan Stevens and Helen Massah

Administrators: *Superintendent* Terri Forsten, *Assistant Superintendent* Donna Palley, *Business Administrator* Jack Dunn, *Director of Facilities* Matt Cashman

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

The Board voted 9-0 to approve the agenda (motioned by Clint Cogswell, seconded by Tom Croteau).

Agenda Item 3. Presentation by Broken Ground School

Ms. Patterson introduced BGS Principal Susan Lauze, who brought a number of students to present an excerpt of their upcoming show *Peter Pan*, to be staged on February 16, 17 and 18. The directors are teachers Rachel Hamilton, Christina Moore and Phillip Hoefs.

A number of BGS and CHS students also presented a successful and energetic afterschool program called *Bigs and Littles*, in which 26 elementary and 26 high school partners have fun, develop strong relationships and promote positive attitudes toward school. Teacher Lindsay Elefante and guidance counselor Christina Rousseau developed this program with the help of a Concord Trust grant. CHS teacher Kaileen Chilauskas has supported this program at the high school level. The Board thanked these students for their energy and enthusiasm.

Principal Lauze also spoke about this year's school-wide theme, "bucket filling," in which students imagine and visualize carrying an invisible bucket and try to fill it with kind words and actions. Teacher Liz Finney, student council advisor, and members of the student council spoke to the Board about attending leadership conferences and their efforts to teach lessons in every class about how everyone can be a leader. They created surveys about what kinds of changes or additions they would like to see at BGS. The students used the gathered data to recognize faculty, change some of the upcoming spirit

week activities, create a community service project, and create “bucket filler” awards for those who stand out in their contributions.

Agenda Item 4. Public Comment– agenda items only

There was no public comment.

Agenda Item 5. Approval of Board Minutes

Ms. Patterson reviewed the minutes of the regular Board meeting on January 2.

The Board voted 9–0 to approve the minutes of the regular monthly meeting on January 5 with minor corrections (moved by Maureen Redmond-Scura, seconded by Nathan Fennessy).

Ms. Patterson reviewed the Board Retreat on January 20, during which the mission and vision were discussed, as well as an evaluation of the Board’s work and its focus for the upcoming year. They discussed the work of each committee, and discussed how the cost of full-day kindergarten would be considered as part of the budget process.

Mr. Croteau reviewed the opening budget presentation at the January 31 Budget Work Session. He reviewed budget goals and noted that the cost of full-day kindergarten (FDK) was included in budget considerations. Overall enrollment was anticipated to decline slightly, and staffing reflected classroom needs. Salaries and benefits constitute approximately 77.34% of the budget. Costs for special education out-of-district placements decreased in this budget. The total proposed budget for the general fund expenditures was anticipated to be \$81,791,950, an increase of \$1.787 million, or 2.23%.

Mr. Croteau noted that the schedule of work sessions had been established.

Mr. Croteau noted that the tax rate increase (both local and state tax) was anticipated to be \$.31 or 1.99%; on a home assessed at \$250,000, the proposed budget would add \$78 (local and state value combined).

Ms. Patterson noted that minutes, videos and presentations for each of the eight meetings would be posted on the District website. The next meeting was scheduled for February 7, for a discussion of salaries and benefits. Two hearings were scheduled for March 7 and March 12. It is anticipated that the Board will vote on the budget on March 19.

The Board voted 9–0 to approve the minutes of the January 31 meeting (moved by Ms. Redmond-Scura, seconded by Mr. Fennessy).

Agenda Item 6. Recognitions

Student Board representative Logan Stevens and Helen Massah noted a recent visit by the Governor and Concord native and retired basketball star Matt Bonner. They recognized both girls’ and boys’ recent sports accomplishments. They discussed recently-

implemented “maker spaces” and how they are used. A video was shown in which a student had developed a mechanical hand. Mr. Stevens talked about an upcoming play, *Nora’s Lost*, about dementia. Ms. Massah talked about the winter carnival and other upcoming events.

Ms. Redmond-Scura recognized the District’s strong arts programs.

Superintendent Forsten added a news segment to the monthly meeting, beginning with the search for a new Rundlett Middle School Principal. Superintendent Forsten and Assistant Superintendent Donna Palley will oversee the search process and the selection committee, which will include Board member Jim Richards. There are currently 7 or 8 outside candidates, and interviews will begin soon. Superintendent Forsten presented several upcoming New Hampshire School Boards Association webinars and conferences, including one related to the “Right to Know” law.

Agenda Item 7. Personnel

Superintendent Forsten presented two teacher nominations.

Gail Beaudoin, Criminal Justice Teacher, Concord Regional Technical Center, \$26,580, 67% at M-14, 90 days. Gail replaces Ellen Arcieri (67% of M-14 = \$26,580) – resignation. Budgeted at \$26,580

Fiona Quirk, Occupational Therapist, Concord High School, \$6,953, 20% at M-11, prorated 91 days. Ms. Quirk will work one additional day per week at CHS to finish out the year. This is a temporary, not a new, position.

The Board voted 8–0 (with one abstention, Chuck Crush) to approve the teacher hires, as presented (moved by Ms. Redmond-Scura, seconded by Mr. Croteau).

Agenda Item 8. Capital Facilities

Chairman Jim Richards noted that the committee met on January 8 and heard several updates including the monitoring of heat in District buildings during this cold weather. A portion of a \$1,000,000 bond was used to tear down the condemned CRTC childcare building; but monies were reprioritized from renewing the CRTC preschool, to investing in roofs next summer: a roof at BGS in the 3rd grade wing that would cost approximately \$250,000, and the CHS roof that would cost approximately \$685,000. The Committee decided to refer the funding reprioritization from the CRTC childcare facility to the Broken Ground and Concord High School roofs to the Finance Committee. The Committee also discussed plans for the repair of the CHS gym floor, and possible grant monies to improve energy efficiency.

Agenda Item 9. Communications and Policy Committee

Chairperson Nathan Fennessy noted that the committee met on January 10, at which School Board Clerk Roger Phillips presented a draft resolution on campaign finance. The committee requested additional information and will reconsider this at a later meeting. Several policies were before the Board for a first reading:

Policy #124 School Board Standing Committees – the Committee considered a name change of the Joint City Council/School Board Committee to the City and Community Relations Committee. Several modifications were added.

Policy #432/#537 Child Abuse or Neglect – the suggestion was for the policy to be consistent on reporting regulations, from 24 to 48 hours; and to make other language consistent with District practices.

Policy #414 Sexual Harassment – the Committee determined that the NHSBA policy was more up to date; but this policy would apply only to faculty and not students. Policy #521, which applies to students, would be reviewed at a future meeting.

Mr. Crush asked whether a peer-to-peer structure could be established as an initial reporting point. Superintendent Forsten noted that designated, trained Title IX reporters would be established. Mr. Crush asked if the policy would be rolled out for faculty, as well as employee support. Superintendent Forsten said an initial step would be a discussion in the Administrative Council.

Policy #422 Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (new) – this NHSBA sample policy would replace the current Policy #422.1

Policy #422.1 Health Insurance (recommended for deletion) – last updated in 1984

Policy #422.3 Tax Sheltered Annuity Program Benefits (recommended for deletion) – this policy, last updated in 1984, is already in contracts.

Policy # 422.4 Worker's Compensation (recommended for deletion) – last updated in 1966. The Committee will look at a different policy related to employee protection.

These policies will come before the Board for second readings and votes.

Agenda Item 10. Negotiations Committee

Mr. Fennessy reported that the Committee met on January 17 to discuss contract negotiations and would meet again in February.

Agenda Item 11. Instructional Committee

Maureen Redmond-Scura presented the report of the meeting on January 24 and highlighted the *Bedrock* presentation made by Laurie Hart and Stacey Lazzar. They presented work in the District that has been funded by the Safe Schools, Healthy Students grant. Through this grant, 300 childcare and preschool providers have attended

workshops; over 300 families have been served at the District's four family centers; over 500 children have been screened with over 90 home visits and 41 referrals to community agencies. Substance abuse and mental health clinicians are also placed in the schools.

Also at that meeting, Superintendent Forsten presented the student services enrollment report, which indicated a continuing, anticipated drop in overall enrollment. Just over 700 students receive special education services, or about 15%, which is a number that is consistent throughout the state. Several areas of focus include social and emotional behavioral challenges, successful inclusion programs, transitions from out-of-district placements to in-district programs, use of technology to support student learning, and additional special education training for educational assistants. Federal and state funds in this area continue to be limited. There is an increase of 60 ELL students, from 300 in 2013 to 360 now. There is also a drop in federal or state funding to support these students.

Ms. Wicks acknowledged the strong work that the Family Center programs do to build communities.

Agenda Item 12. Proposed calendar of meetings

Superintendent Forsten discussed the proposed Board calendars for February and March, highlighting the budget work session dates and times. She mentioned the two public hearing sessions on the budget, and the Board vote on the 2018-19 budget on March 19. She asked if several meeting dates could be adjusted, to ensure full attendance. Mr. Cogswell mentioned that another full Board meeting might be required if there were a contract to review and ratify.

Agenda Item 13. Public comment

There was no public comment.

Agenda Item 15. Adjournment

The Board voted 9-0 to adjourn (motioned by Mr. Richards, seconded by Mr. Cogswell).

The meeting was adjourned at 8:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Maureen Redmond-Scura, *Secretary*

Matt Cashman, *Recorder*