Concord School Board
City and Community Relations Committee
Meeting with Concord City Officials
June 14, 2019

Committee members present: Liza Poinier, Chair, Danielle Smith, Pam Wicks
Committee member absent: Barb Higgins
Other Board members present: Tom Croteau, Jim Richards, Jennifer Patterson
City officials present: Mayor Jim Bouley, City Manager Tom Aspell, City Councilors Jennifer Kretovic, Fred Keach, Marc Coen
Administration: Superintendent Forsten, Superintendent, Jack Dunn, Business Administrator

Mayor Bouley called the meeting to order at 7:30 a.m. The following agenda items were discussed.

City budget status
The city budget for the upcoming year was still being reviewed. A copy of the Fiscal Year 2020 Budget Transmittal Letter was offered to Committee members. This document outlined current fiscal year highlights, and fiscal year highlights for the proposed 2020 budget. There was a review of intended paving projects around the city.

Rundlett Middle School
Superintendent Forsten said that the demographics study was completed; it predicted that the elementary schools will see a slight increased enrollment in the coming decade while the middle and high schools will continue to see declines. The Capital Facilities Committee will be recommending to the full Board at its July meeting that a new middle school be built rather than renovate the current facility. Options for location, including the current location, were discussed. Grade levels at the middle school were also discussed; there was consideration for maintaining a 6-8 middle school or possibly moving grade 5 up from the elementary schools. Given some of the challenges with students who have experienced or who are experiencing trauma, given some students’ needs for smaller, more individualized learning spaces, the elementary schools would benefit from the additional space made available if the fifth grade joined the middle school. There are many models for five through eight middle schools in the state.

Stable building
Merwyn Bagan and his group continued to be interested in renovating the stable building that is in the midst of the high school parking lot. They would like to use this building to develop a museum for their Concord Coach collection. City Manager Tom Aspell and Superintendent Terri Forsten planned to meet with Mr. Bagan to review his proposal.
Memorial Field

Mayor Bouley noted that school athletic teams are the main users of the fields at Memorial Field. The annual operating costs for the fields is $120,000 annually. As the city has been feeling pressure to create a turf field to bring a variety of revenue, it was suggested that the District should own and maintain Memorial Field. The District has resisted this transfer for several years, given the upgrades needed to the fields and the bleachers, as well as the annual operating costs. The District will research whether and how other communities share their city fields with school athletic teams, and how associated costs are shared.

Stefanie Breton, City Public Information Officer

Ms. Breton visited a recent Board committee meeting and shared how she might be able to support the District’s work to improve its communications. Mayor Bouley stated that he would expect that city employees would be able to support and work with school employees. However, the city would not want employees working with elected officials. That makes sense to all present.

Other item

Councilor Fred Keach commented on the public perception of safety and communications from the District given recent events around the teacher who was arrested in April 2019. He advised the Board to work on these areas. Committee members assured him that the Board was in the midst of reviewing, revising and developing policies, procedures and training to support the atmosphere of safety and trust in the schools.

The meeting adjourned at 8:47 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Liza Poinier, Chair
Terri Forsten, Recorder