Tom Croteau opened the Finance Committee meeting with an overview of the agenda, focusing on the Fresh Fruits and Vegetables Program (FFVP) in the elementary schools.

Jack Dunn reviewed the history and eligibility requirements of the FFVP in Concord, notification for this year, and calculation of the cost to provide the program at District cost to two schools which are not eligible.

The Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program provides children in participating schools with a variety of free fresh fruits and vegetables throughout the school year. It is an effective and creative way of introducing fresh fruits and vegetables as healthy snack options. The FFVP encourages schools to develop partnerships at the state and local level for support in implementing and operating the program.

Mr. Dunn provided an overview of the District’s participation in the program in each school over the past five years. The range of associated costs has been $7,700 to $23,000; this range is variable because of the difference in the number of days per week (3 to 5 days per week); the grant program offers $65/student per year.

Committee members and administration discussed the details of the program. Three of five Concord elementary schools qualify for support for the coming year. Beaver Meadow School and Christa McAuliffe School did not qualify for FFVP for the coming year.

A range of projected costs was presented for the Committee’s consideration to support the FFVP at CMS and BMS. For three days it would be $12,000; for four days it would be $18,000; and for five days it would be $24,000, for each school.

Committee members discussed whether District funding should continue for what had been a fully-funded grant program and is now substantially reduced. There was a question of whether the Board would continue to provide funding when grant funding dissipates. They discussed whether the Board would be willing to provide funding if the funding changes next year and only two schools receive federally-funded FFVP. They asked whether funding could be shared across the District, but that would not be
acceptable per federal guidelines. The Board has worked to provide equitable programming in Concord’s five elementary schools. Several members of the Committee expressed interest in providing funding to support this program so that it would be available in all the elementary schools.

Mr. Crush made a motion to recommend to the Board that five days of FFVP be provided, for $48,000, for the coming year. The Committee discussed this motion. Mr. Croteau said that he would like this program to be revisited every year as part of the budget process.

The Committee voted 4-0 to recommend to the Board that five days per week of FFVP be provided, for $48,000, for the coming year (motioned by Chuck Crush, seconded by Pam Wicks).

The Committee voted 4-0 to adjourn (moved by Mr. Richards, seconded by Mr. Crush).

The meeting adjourned at 6:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tom Croteau, Chair
Terri Forsten, Recorder