Concord School District
Board of Education
Instructional Committee Meeting

Date: May 16, 2018

Committee members present: Maureen Redmond-Scura, Chair; Clint Cogswell, Liza Poinier, Pam Wicks, Jim Richards, Chuck Crush

Other Board members present: Jennifer Patterson, Tom Croteau

District staff present: Superintendent Terri Forsten; Assistant Superintendent Donna Palley; Student Services Director Robert Belmont; Beaver Meadow Teacher Patty Fahey; Christa McAuliffe Teacher Rebecca Taylor

Committee Chair Maureen Redmond-Scura called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. The agenda included a presentation by fifth grade students from Beaver Meadow and Christa McAuliffe Schools on their research and writing regarding the question of 5th graders attending middle school, a review of historical enrollment for Advanced Placement courses at Concord High School, and a review of proposals for behavior and autism services.

Fifth grade: elementary or middle school?

Fifth grade students from BMS and CMS Emily Pollack, Lila Doherty, Magnus Watkins, Rowan Arndt, Lillian Clark, Damon Corbett, Frances Lesser and Delia Mullins, and their teachers, Patricia Fahey and Rebecca Taylor, participated in the meeting. As part of their PACE writing assessment this spring, students in these two classes researched and then wrote argument pieces about the question of location for 5th grades in Concord. They surveyed classmates, reviewed design plans for a new middle school and completed research on the topic. These students presented results from their recent research and excerpts from their writing pieces, noting strong points for both sides of this argument.

The students responded to questions from Committee members. Ms. Redmond-Scura asked whether any of the fifth graders had siblings at the middle school and whether that had informed their opinion. Some students thought it made them want to attend middle school because they know more about the school, and their siblings like it there.

Tom Croteau noted his appreciation for these various facts and opinions and said that the Board itself research this topic in the future. He also indicated that he would not forget the importance of having students come and share their thinking with the Board.

Advanced Placement enrollment

Ms. Palley provided a brief overview of the Advanced Placement (AP) program, noting:
• AP courses were created by the College Board to offer college-level curricula and examinations to high school students.

• American colleges and universities may grant placement and course credit to students who obtain high scores on the examinations.

• The AP curriculum for each of the various subjects is created for the College Board by a panel of experts and college-level educators in that field of study.

• CHS has offered Advanced Placement courses for many years. Currently, 13 courses are offered within the science, social studies, language arts, math and music departments.

Ms. Palley provided ten years of enrollment data for AP courses at CHS. During the 2009-2010 school year, 395 students participated in AP courses. This year, 532 students took AP courses, and 635 are registered for next year. AP Statistics, Biology, Environmental Science, Physics and Psychology are among the most popular courses.

Behavior and autism services contract

Superintendent Forsten noted that the Board had previously issued a Request for Proposal (RFP) for behavior and autism services in Concord schools. Five proposals were received, with one providing only a single focus area from the several in the proposal. The other four proposals were reviewed by Superintendent Forsten, Robert Belmont and Ms. Palley. Superintendent Forsten recommended that the Committee move into non-public session to discuss the proposals.

The Committee voted 4-0 by roll call vote to move into non-public session, citing Chapter 91-A:3.II(c) (motioned by Ms. Redmond-Scura, seconded by Clint Cogswell) to discuss “Matters which, if discussed in public, would likely affect adversely the reputation of any person, other than a member of the public body itself ...”

Ms. Redmond-Scura moved to come out of non-public session at 6:44 p.m.

The Committee voted 4-0 by roll call vote to come out of non-public session (motioned by Ms. Redmond-Scura, seconded by Pam Weeks).

The Committee voted 4-0 by roll call vote to seal the minutes under Chapter 91-A:3.II(c) “Matters which, if discussed in public, would likely affect adversely the reputation of any person, other than a member of the public body itself ...” (motioned by Ms. Redmond-Scura, seconded by Ms. Weeks).

The committee adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Maureen Redmond-Scura, Chair
Donna Palley, Recorder