Concord Board of Education Committee Minutes  
Joint City Council/School Board Committee

Date: January 16, 2009

School Board Members: Chris Casko, Chair, Kevin Fleming, Eric Williams, Jack Dunn, Kass Ardinger

School Administrators: Chris Rath, Michele Croteau

City representatives: Mayor Jim Bouley, Tom Aspell, Jim Howard

Introduction of New School Board Members
Jack Dunn, Kevin Fleming and Eric Williams introduced themselves as newly-elected members of the School Board. Also newly-elected, but not in attendance, is Clint Cogswell.

Legislative Breakfast
The group was reminded that a breakfast meeting is scheduled for 7:30 a.m. on Monday, January 26, 2009.

Tom Aspell spoke briefly about a meeting the City held with the delegation during which they spoke about bills that could impact Concord. He indicated that the City will continue to extend an invitation to the delegation to meet with City Council every other month.

Proposed Topics
Proposed topics for future meetings of the Joint City / School Board Committee are as follows:

- A recommendation from and public position of this committee on the proposed modifications of the Concord School District Charter

- Evaluation of the possibility of holding School Board elections on a day other than the day for state and federal elections. Concord is the only school district in the state that holds its elections on the same day as state and federal positions. The City has 13 elected positions every 2 years on the ballot.

- Joint Facilities Use policy

- Memorial Field:
  - Long-term plan for field maintenance, use, upgrade and expansion
  - Plans for the parking lot ($1 million repair / expansion project)
Review unemployment and foreclosure rates in Concord for a better understanding of how these trends may affect budgeting and the fiscal health of both the City and School District. Both entities are on a July 1 to June 30 fiscal year. The City is facing decreasing revenues this year, which have impacted the tax rate. For instance, building permits are down significantly. It was noted that current conditions are the most difficult for City planning since the recession of the 1990s. Several sources of information regarding economic climate include the New England Economic Project and economy.com.

“Big picture” look at Concord in relation to the national economy:
- Reviewed the City’s and School District’s responses to the request for projects for the Economic Stimulus Package. These include:
  - Waste / water projects
  - Fisherville Road and Manchester Street repair projects
  - Rundlett HVAC project
- COMF Lease – new agreement
- Long-term space needs of the City
  - Demand for community centers
  - Use of Kimball gym as a way to address community demand for accessibility to gyms for city residents
- Surplus school building capacity and long-terms plans for use, decommissioning or sale for private interests
- Periodic development updates, including a review of building permits issued and actual / projected growth

Web Site
Chris Rath shared with the committee that the School District is transitioning to a new web site, concordnhschools.net. It will take some time to fully implement this new site and content is somewhat limited at this time, but the District is making progress. The City is also looking into modifying its web site.

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 a.m.

Chris Casko, Chair
Michele Croteau, recorder

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