Concord School District  
Finance Committee Meeting Minutes  
FY 2009-2010 Budget Overview Presentation

School Board Committee: Finance Committee  
Date: January 21, 2009  
Committee Members Present: Laura Bonk, Chair, Chris Casko, Clint Cogswell, Jack Dunn

Other Board Members Present: Kass Ardinger, Megan DeVorsey, Kevin Fleming, Jennifer Patterson, Eric Williams

Administrators: Chris Rath, Rob Prohl, Michele Croteau, Larry Prince, Matt Cashman

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 pm.

Laura Bonk explained that the purpose of the meeting was to give an overview of the 2009-2010 Superintendent’s Proposed Budget and that the budget will be discussed in more depth and detail at future meetings. She also stated that a FY09/10 Budget Binder with reports and materials will be distributed at the end of the meeting.

Superintendent Rath reviewed the vision and mission of the Concord School District and the budget preparation timeline that concludes with a Special Board meeting to approve the 2009-2010 budget on March 11.

The administrators informed the committee that they had met the goal of keeping the 2009-2010 operational budget to an increase of no greater than 2% of the 2008-2009 operational budget, presenting a budget with an increase of 1.94% (excluding principal, interest and all transfers). There were two areas designated as priorities: technology and special education.

The budget presentation included information about continued regular replacement plans for furniture, buses, computers and telephone systems, staff additions, reductions and personnel changes based on enrollments and the class size policy. More detail about personnel changes will be given at the next work session. Board members asked questions about estimates of costs for potential settlements, the relationship of the bonding for construction to this budget proposal, the amount of money in the trust funds, the impact of the energy conservation program recently completed and the transfer of the debt differential to the facilities trust.

Projected funding was discussed, including grants and additional state aid. Ms. Ardinger asked if the District was proposing to use the additional State Adequate Education Aid to
reduce taxes or support the cost of programs. Superintendent Rath responded that the state funding was not used for programs and will be used toward relieving tax increases.

The committee reviewed all budgeted funds, the projected revenue and tax rate history. From 2001 to 2008 the county tax rate has been climbing with a most recent increase of 13.46%; the municipal tax rate increased 4.43% and the school district tax rate had a 2.48% increase. With the general fund operations budget proposed increase at under 2% and with the assessed valuation projected increase of 0%, the projected tax rate for 2009-2010 is an increase of 1.26%, which is 14 cents per $1,000 increase, making the tax rate $11.29.

The next steps in the budget process were explained with the goal of adopting a budget to post by February 18. Budget materials will be posted on the district web site and placed in the library. Board members were asked to review section 5 of the binder and the budget narrative.

The meeting adjourned at 6:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura Bonk, Chair
Michele M. Croteau, Recorder

MMR/srr