School Board Committee: Finance Committee

Date: January 27, 2010

Committee Members Present: Clint Cogswell, Chair, Laura Bonk, Jack Dunn for Bill Glahn, Kevin Fleming

Other Board Members Present: Kass Ardinger, Chris Casko, Jennifer Patterson, Eric Williams

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

The meeting was called to order at 5:35 pm.

Finance Committee Chair Clint Cogswell called the meeting to order and explained that the meeting was the first of many scheduled meetings to discuss and fine-tune the 2010-2011 Superintendent’s proposed budget. Mr. Cogswell then turned the meeting over to Superintendent Chris Rath, who distributed the Budget Review Process agenda hand-out and reviewed the evening’s agenda, which consisted of autism program details, ARRA funding of special education, Expendable Trust Funds, the bus replacement plan, and budget freeze.

Superintendent Rath reviewed the future meeting agendas contained in the schedule, reminding the committee that Concord High School (CHS) course enrollment would not be complete until mid-February. She then recommended that one of the February dates with no agenda scheduled be used to discuss CHS staffing, which will be affected by class enrollment.

Mr. Cogswell requested that the budget freeze be the first item discussed to ensure that the budget freeze would be addressed that evening. A discussion ensued regarding the freezing of the budget. Superintendent Rath stated that she had met with District administrators who understand the need for the freeze and will make it work. The only issues raised by the administrators were costs related to the compliance of new fire safety rules issued this year by the State, and the cost of paper for the District, which is ordered on an as-needed basis.

Mr. Cogswell called for a motion for the Finance Committee to recommend the freezing of the 2009-2010 budget to the full Board with a few exceptions such as fire safety compliance and the ordering of paper.

The Board voted unanimously 4-0 to recommend the freezing of the 2009-2010 Budget to the full Board with a few exceptions such as fire safety compliance and the ordering of paper (motioned by Jack Dunn, seconded by Laura Bonk).
Chair Clint Cogswell then turned the meeting over to Assistant Superintendent Rob Prohl for his presentation on autism and ARRA funding for special education and the effect of these on the District, the current 2009-2010 budget, the 2010-1011 budget and future budgets.

Business Administrator Michele Croteau distributed a revised Expendable Trusts Activity report, which reflected a change in the title of the Health and Dental Medical Reserve to the Risk Management Fund. Ms. Croteau explained that the change was due to research into the wording of the original vote. It was found that during a Special meeting of the Concord Board of Education on March 20, 1996, the Board voted to create the trust fund under the name “Risk Management Fund.”

The meeting then was turned over to Director of Facilities and Planning Matt Cashman, who then explained the bus replacement plan. A short discussion then ensued regarding the bus replacement schedule.

The meeting adjourned at 6:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Clint Cogswell, Chair
Michele M. Croteau, Recorder

MMR/srr