Concord School District  
Board of Education  
Committee Minutes

School Board Committee: Instructional  
Date: January 4, 2010

Committee Members Present: Clint Cogswell, Chris Casko, Kevin Fleming, Jennifer Patterson  
Other Board Member(s) Present: Eric Williams, Jack Dunn, Kass Ardinger  
Administration: Superintendent Chris Rath, Rob Prohl, Larry Prince, Michele Croteau

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m.

The question for the Instructional Committee was whether the District should participate with the NH Department of Education plan to submit a state-wide proposal under a new federal educational initiative called “Race To The Top.”

Superintendent Rath explained that Race to the Top is an initiative from President Obama that is part of the new federal stimulus spending – American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). Rath briefly identified the other new grants that the District has received under ARRA.

Race to the Top has four areas of focus: effective teachers and leaders, data systems to support instruction, State standards and assessments, and struggling schools (comprised of the lowest 15% of schools in the State; Concord is not part of this group). States that are awarded these new federal grants will be required to ensure that any school districts that apply for funding agree to meet all of the federal guidelines stated in these four focus areas.

Superintendent Rath explained that the Commissioner of Education requested that the State’s Superintendents draft sections of the DOE’s Race to the Top proposal. Based on input from the Superintendents, DOE will write the final proposal that will be submitted to the USDOE later this month. Superintendent Rath shared the proposal she had written for the DOE that focused on mentoring new teachers. She also informed the committee that the teachers association, CEA, has also been informed of this proposal and has indicated support. If the State receives Race to the Top funding from USDOE, school districts would have to submit their own proposals to DOE. These grants would be competitive and school district would need to agree to all the requirements.

The Committee voted 4–0 to conceptually endorse the State’s submission for federal funding for Race to the Top (motioned by Ms. Patterson, seconded by Mr. Casko).

The meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Clint Cogswell, Chair  
Rob Prohl, Recorder