School Board Committee: Instructional

Date: October 14, 2008

Committee Members Present: Kass Ardinger, Chair, Chris Casko, Martin Honigberg, Jennifer Patterson

Other Board Members Present: Betty Hoadley

Administration: Chris Rath, Rob Prohl, Gene Connolly, George Rogers, Steve Mello, Steve Rothenberg

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m.

Rundlett Middle School Athletics

The first issue on the agenda was RMS Athletics. Director of Physical Education and Sport, Steve Mello, reviewed his status report detailing each sport, number of participants, staff and staff stipend[s], travel expenses, schedule for both home and away games and a brief history. The committee discussed the history and evolution of athletic teams, noting the roles of the City’s Parks and Recreation athletic programs and competitive private options like AAU. In addition, the committee discussed School Board Policy #690.1, Athletic Philosophy and Guidelines, the differences between intramurals and interscholastic athletic teams and the current issue of coaches being paid as intramural coaches when the sport has evolved to an interscholastic sport. (Stipends for coaches of interscholastic sports are higher than coaches of intramural sports teams.)

The committee confirmed that School Board Policy #690.1 continues to be the philosophy of this committee and requested that the administration provide the following information to the committee:

1. Prepare a chart showing original RMS athletic teams, changes made, current teams. Include all costs. Include the proposal for the RMS Athletic Facilitator
2. Identify ways to minimize travel
3. Coordinate with the city so all students are able to play [no cuts]

Concord Regional Technology Center

The second issue was a report by Steve Rothenberg concerning his vision for the Concord Regional Technology Center. Mr. Rothenberg explained that the vision for CRTC is part of the larger framework of our high school Career and Technology Education programs (CTE).

Mr. Rothenberg explained the pathways approach – identifying an 8th and 9th grader’s interest in a particular career and then plotting a pathway through high school exploratory and capstone courses as well as other learning opportunities (e.g. Diploma Academy and Community Education courses) that are embedded with CTE skills and
content. Two-year vocational courses would continue to be the norm, but a focus of identifying a pathway to these vocational courses would be established. Mr. Rothenberg believes that this approach will empower more students during their 9th and 10th grade years at Concord High School to become invested in their learning/education.

The committee asked what happens to a student who starts down one pathway but later decides to focus on a different direction or new pathway. Superintendent Rath and other committee members stated that flexibility is needed, and that it should be remembered that this is one dimension of the high school’s mission, as opportunities need to be provided for all students to explore their interests and passions. In addition, it was noted that it is important to explore expanded capstone courses/experiences where students need to apply their skills and competencies.

No votes were taken, but Mr. Rothenberg indicated he would return with specific proposals for new programs in Digital Communications and Cosmetology.

The committee adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

Kass Ardinger, Chair
Robert B. Prohl, Recorder

lj 10/28/08