Concord School District
Board of Education
Committee Minutes

School Board Committee: Instructional
Date: October 27, 2010
Committee Members Present: Eric Williams, Jennifer Patterson, Chris Casko, Clint Cogswell
Other Board Members Present: Kass Ardinger, Jack Dunn
Administration: Chris Rath, Rob Prohl
Staff: Teacher Barbara Jobin

Chairman Eric Williams called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. The committee discussed four agenda items:

Project Search
The first agenda item was a presentation by Barbara Jobin, who is the teacher for Project Search. Ms. Jobin explained that Project Search is based on a national model of community agencies partnering together to provide a year of intensive employment training and on-the-job internships to students and young adults with Developmental Disabilities, that will prepare students for part-time and full-time employment upon completion of the program. The organizations behind Project Search are Community Bridges (a Concord-area agency providing services to adults with developmental disabilities), Concord Hospital (serving as the location and internship provider for the program), and the Concord School District. Community Bridges provides on-site job coaches; Barbara Jobin is responsible for preparing the students for the world of work as well as establishing a business advisory council whose role is to identify part-time or full-time jobs for these students after completion of the program. The success of the program is directly tied to the number of students who become employed.

Ms. Jobin showed videos of students in their various internships at Concord Hospital and noted that she has seen tremendous growth in these students since the program started in late August. The students have completed tasks that they and their parents did not think were possible.

Ms. Jobin also explained that Project Search serves Concord and the surrounding communities, that the application process is competitive, and that prospective students and their families need to contact their school district special education director for
enrollment information if they have not graduated from high school, or Community Bridges if they are adult clients of that agency and have graduated from high school.

**ARRA Planning**
The second item on the agenda was a presentation by Superintendent Rath on post-ARRA (American Recovery and Restoration Act) planning. Dr. Rath explained the District’s two entitlement grants: Title I (approximately $1.3-$1.6 million per year), and IDEA (Individuals with Disabilities Education) (approximately $1 million per year), that the District has received for many years. With the passage of national stimulus legislation in 2009, the District received an additional two-year ARRA grant in Title I ($1.3 million) and IDEA ($1 million) to be expended during the 2009-2010 and 2010-2011 school years. Superintendent Rath reviewed the current expenses in the ARRA Title I and IDEA grants, and discussed her proposal for which expenses currently funded by ARRA should be placed in the 2011-2012 budget and which expenses would have to be cut. The committee discussed the impact of reducing Title I literacy staff, the value of an extended school year and summer literacy programs, and Title I requirements for set-aside required by NCLB (No Child Left Behind). The committee requested a future presentation by the reading specialists on the District’s literacy program.

The committee also discussed the value of the District’s ARRA grants, especially the funding of the DINI (District in Need of Improvement) coordinator and related activities of the District’s self-study. ARRA funding allowed the District to purchase instructional materials and equipment (SmartBoards) and to fund proposed increases in the special education budget for the past two years.

**Assistant Superintendent Vacancy**
The third agenda item was a review of the proposed job description for the Assistant Superintendent vacancy and proposed new organizational chart.

**Names for New Elementary Schools**
The fourth agenda item was a review of the process to select new names for the District’s new elementary schools.

The meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Eric Williams, *Chair*
Rob Prohl, *Recorder*