Concord Board of Education Committee Minutes

Joint Facilities and Finance

School Board Committee: Joint Facilities and Finance

Date: November 19, 2008

Committee Members Present: Betty Hoadley, Laura Bonk, Bill Glahn, Chris Casko, Martin Honigberg, Megan DeVorsey

Other Board Members Present: Kass Ardinger, Jennifer Patterson

Administrators: Matt Cashman, Rob Prohl

Board members-elect: Eric Williams, Jack Dunn, Kevin Fleming

Others: Dan Cecil, Harriman Architects and Engineers

The meeting was called to order at 5:35 p.m.

Agenda:

1. Financial analysis of consolidation of Conant and Kimball for renovations proposed in the feasibility study.
2. Financial analysis of options involving the renovations and new construction of Conant, Rumford, Kimball and Walker Schools, bringing these facilities up to code.

Facilities Chair Martin Honigberg turned the meeting over to Matt Cashman and Dan Cecil, who reviewed their analysis of three options for the Committee to consider. During the presentation, everyone present was given the opportunity ask questions, and Mr. Cecil and Mr. Cashman answered questions from Committee members, other Board members, Board members-elect, and members of the public.

Option #1  Maintaining the status quo by doing no upgrades at Kimball, Walker, Conant or Rumford except for the minimal work required to keep them open.

Option #2  Renovating the four schools individually, bringing them up to ADA and Life Safety Code, as well as adding educational programming to these schools, for a true “apples to apples” comparison. This option keeps all four schools in operation, brings each up to ADA and Life Safety code, reconfigures each
somewhat to have a capacity of approximately 500, and provides educational programming improvements.

Option #3  Consolidating Kimball with Walker, and Conant with Rumford. Walker and Rumford would go off-line after consolidation but be retained by the School District. The costs would reflect minor upkeep and maintenance, should the need ever arise to re-open the schools. This option is the consolidation option the Task Force had been studying.

Mr. Cashman and Mr. Cecil reviewed the assumptions and their analysis for the three options. The educational upgrades, building system and code upgrades, number of classrooms (based on 500 students) were identical for Options #2 and #3, so an “apples to apples” comparison could be made. Their analysis also looked at costs for operations and maintenance of the options over time, savings realized over time, and factored a 20-year fixed-principal bond payments for Options #2 and #3. Their analysis also identified a cost per student for Options #2 and #3. Based on Mr. Cashman’s and Mr. Cecil’s analysis, Option #3 is significantly cheaper than Option #2. Savings from Option #3 over Option #2 will allow Walker and Rumford Schools to be maintained (heat, maintenance, fire alarms) for possible uses in the future. The committee members spoke of the advantages of Option #3 and discussed whether it would ever be feasible to renovate Walker and Rumford to bring them up to current standards as schools, should we have a future population boom. Mr. Cashman and Mr. Cecil indicated that it would be cheaper to add on to Conant school to realize additional capacity than to renovate Rumford and Walker. Laura Bonk pointed out that Beaver Meadow already has excess capacity.

The committee also discussed the educational benefits of the “Four-Cluster Plan” (eight elementary schools would go to five schools at four campuses with consolidation on both sides of the river. The full consolidation, in addition to the Option #3 changes, would include closing Eastman and Dame and building a new K-2 school on the Broken Ground site. The question was asked whether there was time to develop the same level of analysis on the East Side to meet the deadline for establishing eligibility to receive state building aid in the next biennium. Mr. Cashman and Mr. Cecil will look into this, although they expressed concern whether a thorough analysis could be completed given that short timeline. The committee requested that Mr. Cecil and Mr. Cashman investigate whether the East Side could be included in the DOE planning.

Megan DeVorse made a motion that the Finance and Facility Committees recommend to the full Board the Four-Cluster Plan. The motion was seconded by Bill Glahn.

The Committee voted 5–1 (nay vote, Laura Bonk) to recommend to the full Board that it adopt the “Four-Cluster Plan.”
Ms. DeVorsey made a motion that the Finance and Facility Committees recommend to the full Board that it proceed with Option #3 (consolidation of Kimball/Walker Schools and Rumford/Conant Schools, with the eventual closing of Walker and Rumford) and authorize the administration to file the necessary paperwork with DOE to be eligible for building aid in the next biennium. The motion was seconded by Mr. Glahn.

The Committee voted 6–0 to recommend to the full Board that it proceed with Option #3 (consolidation of Kimball/Walker Schools and Rumford/Conant Schools, with the eventual closing of Walker and Rumford) and authorize the administration to file the necessary paperwork with DOE to be eligible for building aid in the next biennium.

Chairperson Honigberg reiterated that if the Board approves this recommendation at its December 1 meeting, it does not mean that the Board has approved a specific construction project.

A motion to adjourn was made by Mrs. Hoadley and seconded by Mr. Glahn.

The Committee voted 6–0 to adjourn.

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Betty Hoadley, Committee Chair (Finance)
Martin Honigberg, Committee Chair (Capital Facilities)
Rob Prohl, Recorder