**Concord Board of Education Committee Minutes**  
**School Board Work Session**

**School Board Committee:** School Board Work Session  
**Date:** February 11, 2009  
**School Board members present:** Megan DeVorsey, Kass Ardinger, Jennifer Patterson, Chris Casko, Jack Dunn, Eric Williams and Kevin Fleming  
**School Board members not present:** Laura Bonk and Clint Cogswell  
**Administration:** Chris Rath, Matt Cashman, Michele Croteau, Rob Prohl  
**Others:** Ed Barnwell, Susan Noyes, Deb McNeish

The meeting was called to order at 5:37 p.m.

**Agenda:** Master Plan/Consolidation

Board President Kass Ardinger opened the meeting for discussion of the Master Plan. Ms. Ardinger asked where Board members stood regarding the Master Plan and noted the importance for the group to reach consensus. President Ardinger discussed the history of what previous boards and previous studies had done. She reported that the Request For Proposals for Conant School was pulled from the last school board meeting, due to the lack of consensus at the last capital facilities meeting held on January 26th 2009. Ms. Ardinger handed the discussion to Superintendent Rath. Dr. Rath led the Board in an exercise to determine to what extent the group had consensus. The initial results indicated that 2 members had no support of the plan, 1 had reasonable support and 4 had most support.

Board members asked questions about the current state of the elementary schools on ADA requirements, energy updates, building repairs that are scheduled, fire code issues and life safety issues.

Jen Patterson voiced her support for the consolidation noting the importance of equity and asked for financial data so that the Board would know how much it can afford. Chris Casko pointed out that he is very concerned with the declining enrollments, not just in terms of equity, but in terms of cost to the district to operate some of these schools.

Ms. Ardinger gave a brief history of the master plan that began 7 - 8 years ago. She explained that the plan involved combining the Walker school with Kimball, the Rumford School with Conant and combining Dame and Eastman as a new school at the Broken Ground site. Megan DeVorsey suggested hosting community wide meetings in the future. After an extended discussion, a second “straw vote” was taken. There were 5 votes under (5) full support, 1 vote under (3) moderate support, and 1 vote under (1) no support.
Dr. Fleming mentioned that he was appalled in the start of the 2008 year to see the conditions at Eastman. He noted that the water that accumulates in the basement, due to how the building was built, is totally unacceptable. He remarked that these schools should have adequate electrical and computer hook ups so that electricity could be run in the ceiling, and that there should be adequate outlets, so electrical circuits would not feed off of one electrical jack.

Megan DeVorsey said she is concerned that there is only a part time nurse at Rumford School. We have needs at the other schools, and in an emergency, a nurse would have to travel, wasting precious nursing aid time.

Dr. Rath reviewed the bond schedule indicating it was the administration’s hope to be able to show a bond schedule that would hold expenses and tax rate stable over time.

Other issues discussed were:

- Crafting an RFP for all three projects for review by the board
- Public forum PTO meetings, public interaction.
- Prioritizing projects/implementation plan

Superintendent Rath asked the board to discuss next steps:

- Neighborhood meetings
- Administration to craft an RFP for all three schools (ideally three schools).
- The RFP should include all areas of:
  - ADA issues, education specifications, implementation plans, build new or renovate, environmental issues.

Matt Cashman
Recorder

TMC/jmm