Concord School District
Finance Committee Meeting Minutes
FY 2009-2010 Budget Work Session

School Board Committee: Finance Committee
Date: February 18, 2009
Committee Members Present: Laura Bonk, Chair, Chris Casko, Jack Dunn
Other Board Members Present: Kass Ardinger, Megan DeVorsey, Jennifer Patterson, Eric Williams
Administrators: Chris Rath, Rob Prohl, Michele Croteau, Matt Cashman

The meeting was called to order at 5:36 p.m.

Laura Bonk opened the Budget Work Session and reviewed the schedule for the upcoming sessions, budget posting and public hearings then turned the meeting over to Superintendent Chris Rath to present the list of topics that had been postponed for discussion from the February 16th Budget Work Session, as well as questions that were requested to be added to the discussion list.

The question why additional Special Education Assistants were needed was addressed with the explanation that the number of students with Individual Education Plans (IEPs) dictates the number of special education assistants. Many of the different areas of special education and the implementation of duties and responsibilities of educational assistants regarding these areas were discussed.

The next item on the list to be discussed was the proposal of the .5 FTE kindergarten teacher to be restored to BMS. Superintendent Rath recommended that this position be restored, but stated that it could be cut, if needed. It was also noted that if the enrollment increased and it was found that the .5 FTE kindergarten teacher was then needed, the Board could reconsider restoring the position in the fall using contingency funds.

Kass Ardinger moved that the .5 FTE kindergarten teacher be eliminated at this time with the understanding to add the position in the fall if needed. Jack Dunn seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous to remove the position from the budget at this time.

The proposed addition of a cosmetology teacher in Vocational Education was reviewed and will remain as budgeted.

Next, the pros and cons on the removal a .6 FTE music teacher position from the budget were debated. Kass Ardinger moved to eliminate the .6 FTE music teacher from the
budget. The motion was seconded by Jack Dunn. The vote was 2 yes and 5 no. The position was not removed from the budget.

The elimination of the CHS Facility Manager was discussed. Matt Cashman explained the rationale behind the position cut and the plan that will be put in place. The plan includes an existing custodian to receive a stipend to become the Head Custodian with an existing employee from the Maintenance Department to be permanently assigned to the high school facility. The savings were stated to be $51,000 if the plan is implemented.

The inquiry regarding the increase in the Administration Salaries was addressed by Superintendent Rath stating that the cause was due to the transfer of positions from the teacher salary line to the administration salary line. The reorganization of 2 teaching positions to become 2 assistant principals at the elementary level, and the change of the Technology Director from a teaching level position to an administrator level position were shown to be the causes of the large increase.

Superintendent Rath explained that the district is applying for a second grant to cover some of the costs of the Diploma Academy. There will be tuition revenue from students attending from other school districts.

The RMS Athletic Facilitator position, which had previously been approved by the Instructional Committee, was the next item to be discussed. A suggestion was made to postpone the implementation of the position until an established co-curricular philosophy was developed for RMS and for the position. Kass Ardinger motioned to not include the position in the budget, but to reconsider the position if and when full discussion on the co-curricular philosophy at RMS takes place. Jack Dunn seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous not to include the RMS Athletic Facilitator position in the budget at this time.

The addition of a RMS Cross Country Ski Coaching position to replace the RMS Cross Country Ski Club Advisor and include Cross Country Skiing as a new sport was brought up for discussion and vote. Eric Williams motioned to add the RMS Cross Country Ski Coaching position and include Cross Country Skiing as a sport at RMS. Megan DeVorsey seconded the motion. The vote was 2 yes and 5 no. The RMS Cross Country Ski Coaching position was not added.

Megan DeVorsey then motioned that the RMS Cross Country Ski Club Advisor receive an advisor stipend of $891. Jennifer Patterson seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous to add an advisor stipend of $891 for the RMS Cross Country Ski Club Advisor.

Laura Bonk observed that there were 2 intramural basketball positions at CHS that had been eliminated due to lack of gym space, not number of students, and posed the question whether these positions could be added to the intramural soccer program for those students who were unable to make the varsity teams. Superintendent Rath replied that she would have to look into the matter.

The total co-curricular budget was reviewed, showing the co-curricular positions, supplies, rentals, equipment, repairs, dues and fees portion $848,834 with the co-
curricular transportation portion $119,518; thus making the total co-curricular budget $968,352. A recommendation was made to look into how other districts manage their co-curricular programs.

The use of Smart Boards and LCD projectors in the district was discussed. Superintendent Rath noted that not all the teachers who requested a Smart Board were receiving one. Only the teachers who have taken classes on Smart Board use and are participating in the program will receive the Smart Boards. Superintendent Rath then mentioned that all but one teacher who asked for an LCD projector will receive one.

Laura Bonk made a motion to purchase 13 additional Smart Boards contingent on teacher training and participation in the program and the purchase of 2 additional LCD projectors. Megan DeVorsey seconded the motion. The vote was 3 yes and 4 no. The additional Smart Boards and LCD projectors were not added.

The Board then moved to the topic of video cameras on buses, discussing their advantages and disadvantages. The Board felt that it needed more information. Jack Dunn made a motion to remove the bus video cameras from the budget. Megan DeVorsey seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous to remove the bus video cameras from the budget.

The proposed bus replacements were brought to the table. The Bus Replacement Schedule was discussed as to whether the buses should be kept longer, thus changing the schedule, or whether to leave the schedule as is. Megan DeVorsey motioned to keep the current bus schedule with no changes. Chris Casko seconded the motion. The vote was 6 yes and 1 no. The current bus replacement schedule will not be changed.

Class sizes were discussed and shown to be affected by not only enrollment but choice of subjects and electives.

Laura Bonk reminded the Board that the Public Hearing Notice and budget in the form of the MS-26 will be posted on Friday, February 20, 2009.

The meeting adjourned at 7:53pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura Bonk, Chair
Michele M. Croteau, Recorder

MMR/srr