School Board Committee: Finance Committee
Date: February 9, 2009
Committee Members Present: Laura Bonk, Chair, Chris Casko, Clint Cogswell, Jack Dunn
Other Board Members Present: Kass Ardinger, Kevin Fleming, Jennifer Patterson, Eric Williams
Administrators: Chris Rath, Rob Prohl, Michele Croteau
Special Education Coordinators: Bruce Blau, Barbara Hemingway, Christopher Lewis, Donna Palley, Nancy Pender, Anne Wilkinson
Others: Dan Habib

From 4:30 to 5:30 p.m., the Board screened the documentary Including Samuel by Dan Habib, in preparation for review of the Special Services Budget.

The meeting was called to order at 5:58 p.m.
Laura Bonk opened the Budget Work Session then turned the meeting over to Assistant Superintendent Rob Prohl for a presentation of the Special Services Budget.
Assistant Superintendent Prohl introduced the Special Education coordinators who were all in attendance and then proceeded to the PowerPoint presentation on the Special Services Budget for 2009-2010. Mr. Prohl explained that the Special Services Budget included Special Education costs as well as other related services required for students due to their respective Individual Education Plans (IEP) and disabilities.

Assistant Superintendent Prohl reviewed two charts regarding the General Fund Budget with the Special Education Budget part being 16%. The first chart showed a comparison between the 2008-2009 budget as of 1/15/09 and the 2009-2010 Superintendent’s Recommended Budget. The second was a pie chart showing the use of funds in the 2009-2010 Superintendent’s Recommended Budget.

The major Special Education accomplishments were discussed by Mr. Prohl such as meeting the needs of 95% of all special education students in regular education settings and attracting and retaining special education staff. An explanation of Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) was then given and the effect that ASD has not only on the student, but on the special education cost to the District. Mr. Prohl then showed that the proposed...
increases in staffing were directly related to the increase in the enrollment number of ASD and other Special Education students.

The next presentation topic focused on contract costs associated with specialized consultants. The contracted professional service providers are experts in the various areas of special needs children such as ASD, vision, hearing, behavioral, physical and emotional. These consultants supply specialized support, education and training to staff who deal with these students as well as providing many services directly to the special education students.

A history of out-of-district student placement was presented by charts showing what has been budgeted and expended yearly since 2003-2004, what has been projected for the completion of 2008-2009 and what costs have been projected in the 2009-2010 budget. Mr. Prohl stated that the District provides as many services as possible to prevent an out-of-district placement but there are times that a placement is unavoidable, such as one ordered by the court.

Assistant Superintendent Prohl went on to discuss the technology that is presently being used in the District’s Special Education Programs, the technology that is being proposed and the different ways technology helps students learn and better communicate with staff.

The increase in enrollment and the proposed increase of .93 FTE ELL tutor at the high school due to the resettlement of refugees were discussed. Mr. Prohl pointed out that Concord has been designated as a refugee receiving community; therefore more refugees for the coming school year have been anticipated.

Assistant Superintendent Prohl concluded his presentation by listing challenges facing the District with the final desired goal of reducing the number of students identified as requiring special education in order to benefit from education.

The meeting adjourned at 7:38 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura Bonk, Chair
Michele M. Croteau, Recorder

MMR/srr