Concord School District
Finance Committee Meeting Minutes
FY 2009-2010

School Board Committee: Finance Committee
Date: April 27, 2009
Committee Members Present: Laura Bonk, Chair, Chris Casko, Jack Dunn
Other Board Members Present: Kass Ardinger, Kevin Fleming, Jennifer Patterson,
Administrators: Chris Rath, Michele Croteau, Matt Cashman
CHS Administrators: Gene Connolly, Steve Rothenberg

The meeting was called to order at 5:35 pm.

Laura Bonk opened the meeting by reviewing the agenda, then turned the meeting over to Business Administrator Michele Croteau.

Ms. Croteau began discussing the CRTC new Cosmetology Program and noted that Principal Gene Connolly and Assistant Principal and Director of CRTC Steve Rothenberg were in attendance to answer any questions that the Board had on the new program. The Committee was then referred to a hand-out regarding proposed use of the Capital Reserve Funds for CRTC, which totaled $142,990, out of the $176,000 available in the fund. The second page to the hand-out was a project budget for the Cosmetology Program from Banwell Architects totaling $184,853 which is to be paid with State funds. In this section, there are two (2) line item amounts that were decreased after moving $3,000 from the markerboards/tackboards line and $2,562 from the locker line as they will be paid for by the CRTC Capital Reserve Fund.

A question was asked about how the CRTC Capital Reserve Funds were obtained. Ms. Croteau explained that the funds came from the $600 fee per student charged as a differential fee for capital.

A motion was made from Chair Laura Bonk to recommend the Board approve using up to $143,000 from the CRTC Capital Reserve Fund as proposed and was seconded by Chris Casko. The vote was unanimous in favor.

Business Administrator Michele Croteau referred to the Financial Statement hand-out for the month ending March 31, 2009. Ms. Croteau explained the Financial Statement Narrative and how the Narrative should be used in conjunction with the five (5) accompanying reports. She then went on to explain that the possible year-end balance is estimated to be in the range of $1,577,700 to $2,141,800 based on revenues, appropriations and adjustments to prior year encumbrances. Ms Croteau reminded the Committee that $1,200,000 has been committed to reduce the tax rate as part of the 2009 – 2010 budget process.
The meeting was then turned over to Superintendent Chris Rath to give an update on the Stimulus Package funding. The Stabilization Fund is to be divided into two (2) sections; 81.8% for education and 18.2% to be used for modernization aid at the governor’s discretion. From the Special Education Fund, the District will be receiving $634,116 per year for two (2) years. The rules are likely to be the same as the IDEA rules and will only be able to be used on new items. Title I, which is much more restrictive than the other funds, will be allocating to the District $680,000 per year for two (2) years. Superintendent Rath stated that some technology money will be coming, but no guidelines have been given to date. A request has been made for funding for three (3) pieces of Food Service equipment. This funding is not based on a formula, but the requests will be evaluated and then awarded to chosen applicants.

The Qualified School Construction Bond Program (QSCB) was discussed and explained by Business Administrator Michele Croteau. Ms. Croteau noted that Ed Murdough from the NH Department of Education has placed a deadline of May 12th to submit applications. If this deadline is firm, the committee may start looking toward the next year’s funding. However, if Mr. Murdough will allow the District more time, there will be a very tight voting and application timeline. A notice for a Public Hearing must be posted in the newspaper seven (7) days before the hearing and the hearing must be fifteen (15) days prior to the Board vote. Director of Facilities and Planning Matt Cashman said that he would call Mr. Murdough the next day, April 28th, and will inform the board of his decision.

A discussion ensued on the pros and cons of the QSCB Program. A suggestion was made to only submit for the RMS HVAC system to see if the program was cost effective, as it was noted that there is a stipulation that prevailing wages must be adhered to in the construction project. Mr. Cashman noted that this topic will be discussed at the Wednesday, April 29 Facilities Committee meeting.

Laura Bonk suggested that the discussion be resumed at Wednesday’s Facilities Committee meeting and that Mr. Cashman should have a decision from Mr. Murdough by Wednesday evening. Ms. Bonk noted that the meeting was running late and suggested postponing the final agenda topic, which was not a pressing matter, to the next Finance Committee meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 7:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura Bonk, Chair
Michele M. Croteau, Recorder

MMR/srr