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

School Board Committee: Finance Committee  
Date: April 6, 2009

Committee Members Present: Laura Bonk, Chair, Chris Casko, Clint Cogswell, Jack Dunn  
Other Board Members Present: Kass Ardinger, Megan DeVorsey, Kevin Fleming, Jennifer Patterson, Eric Williams  
Administrators: Chris Rath, Rob Prohl, Michele Croteau, Matt Cashman, Larry Prince

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m.

Chair Laura Bonk opened the meeting and turned it over to Board President Kass Ardinger, who provided an overview of the meeting held on March 23, 2009 between the City’s FPAC and the School Board’s Finance Committee. The intent of the meeting was to facilitate discussions between the two groups regarding current economic conditions, the status of the State’s budget, and the impact anticipated on the City’s and School Board’s budgets for fiscal year 2009 - 2010. Both committees agreed to continue to meet to investigate how to best work together to address the mutual challenges regarding both long- and short-term planning.

Superintendent Chris Rath reviewed a Powerpoint presentation in which she shared information regarding the FY 2009 – 2010 budget most recently adopted by the School Board, what data was and what was not available regarding stimulus funds that may become available to the School District and what might be the next steps to take. Information regarding Stimulus funding is continually changing. Some information can be found on the web site NHRecovery.org.

Much discussion ensued after the presentation. Key points included concern over the conflicting need to adequately plan for future capital projects by retaining the projected $800,000 for capital in the budget versus the concern over the current economic climate and the opportunity to reduce the budget by cutting $800,000. There were questions about the impact these actions would have on bonding projects in the future. It was pointed out that the Board’s decisions will need to be contingent on the actions taken by the State. As the State’s budget may still go through several renditions, it becomes difficult for the Board to select a specific course of action. Instead, the Board must remain flexible to assess the steps necessary as the State gets closer to finalizing its budget. Ultimately, there may be ramifications to the School if the State cuts funding for items such as Building Aid and Catastrophic Aid.
The Board was in unanimous support of the following two action items;

- Direct Administration to freeze spending on the current 2008 – 2009 budget,
- Pursue conversations with the City officials regarding the Board’s willingness to reduce the 2009 – 2010 budget by $800,000 to allow the City room to increase its budget.

Meeting adjourned 6:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura Bonk, Chair
Michele M. Croteau, Recorder