School Board Committee: Joint Finance/Instructional

Date: April 6, 2011

Committee Members present: Eric Williams, Chair of Instructional, Chris Casko, Clint Cogswell, Chair of Finance, Jennifer Patterson, Jack Dunn

Other Board members present: Kass Ardinger

Administration: Chris Rath, Rob Prohl, Michele Croteau, Gene Connolly, Steve Rothenberg

The first agenda item was a request from Superintendent Rath to have the Board request a waiver from the Department of Education for the following days of school attendance:

Eastman School – two “no school days” due to a City water main rupture that shut off water to the school on January 25 and January 26, 2011.

RMS – three emergency days: one day (December 20, 2010) for the funeral of a teacher, and two days, January 3 and January 4, 2011, for flooding due to a broken heating pipe.

The members of the Instructional committee voted 4–0 to accept the Superintendent’s recommendation to request DOE waiver of school attendance (motioned by Chris Casko, seconded by Clint Cogswell). Those voting: Mr. Cogswell, Mr. Casko, Eric Williams and Jennifer Patterson.

The second agenda item was a request to reallocate budgeted 2011-12 special education funds to create a CHS Director of Special Education. This position will be an administrative position affiliated with the CAA at the Assistant Principal index with a contract of 261 days. This position will replace the special education coordinator, which is a CEA teacher leader position with 25 extra days.

The members of the Instructional committee voted 4–0 to approve the administration’s request to reallocate budgeted 2011-12 special education funds to create a CHS Director of Special Education (motioned by Mr. Casko, seconded by Mr. Cogswell). Those voting: Mr. Cogswell, Mr. Casko, Mr. Williams and Ms. Patterson.

The next agenda item was a presentation by Superintendent Rath addressing the significant changes in State funding for the Concord Regional Technology Center (CRTC) anticipated to take effect with the beginning of fiscal year 2011-2012. A document was provided for the committee’s reference that explained the history of the
Center’s creation and operations to date. State funding for regional vocational centers traditionally included a transportation subsidy paid directly to the sending district and a tuition subsidy paid directly to the receiving district. The tuition subsidy was equal to 75% of the tuition rate per student. Concord is a receiving district for vocational students and as such received 25% of the tuition rate per student from each sending district and the balance of 75% of the tuition rate per student from the State.

One of the many funding cuts considered in the State’s next biennium budget is a significant decrease in the amount of tuition subsidy to receiving districts for vocational programs. The Governor’s proposal funds the State’s obligation at 60%. This equates to 45% of the full tuition fee per student (60% of 75%). Although contractual agreements between Concord and the sending districts call for the State’s funding shortfall to be made whole by the sending districts, it is impractical to consider that the sending schools could make up such a dramatic increase in cost given the timing of the State’s changes. The tuition for 2011–2012 is estimated at $4,300 per student. A sending district’s responsibility per student would increase from 25% or $1,075 to 55% or $2,365, more than double the amount anticipated in their budgets, which have already been approved for the 2011–2012 fiscal year.

CRTC Director Steve Rothenberg presented a proposal to use the Vocational Center Reserve fund in an effort to reduce the financial impact to the sending schools with the goal of getting as close to the original tuition rate as possible.

Mr. Casko expressed concern regarding programming for second-year students from Concord, as well as from the sending districts. He stated that he felt the State would be violating a contractual obligation to regional technology centers should the funding cuts be adopted. He additionally stated that Concord should consider pursuing legal action against the State should the proposed reduction in funding occur.

Superintendent Rath went on to explain the work that has occurred to date to address this funding crisis, and to determine which programs the Concord School District could/should continue to offer. Discussion ensued regarding this proposal and the possible use of Vocational Center Reserve funds to help offset program cost in the short term while a new operational model is determined for the Center.

The following staffing pattern and programs were proposed for fiscal year 2011–2012:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Current 2010-2011</th>
<th>Proposed for 2011-2012</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Auto Technology</td>
<td>5 sections (1.67 FTE)</td>
<td>3 sections (1.00 FTE)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Construction Technology</td>
<td>3 sections (1.00 FTE)</td>
<td>2 sections (.67 FTE)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cosmetology</td>
<td>3 sections (1.00 FTE)</td>
<td>3 sections (1.00 FTE)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Criminal Justice</td>
<td>3 sections (1.00 FTE)</td>
<td>1 section (.33 FTE)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Culinary Arts</td>
<td>3 sections (1.00 FTE)</td>
<td>3 sections (1.00 FTE)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exploring Teaching</td>
<td>3 sections (2.00 FTE)</td>
<td>3 sections (1.00 FTE)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Graphic Arts 2 sections (.67 FTE) 2 sections (.67 FTE)
Health Science 3 sections (1.00 FTE) 3 sections (1.00 FTE)
Info Technology 3 sections (1.00 FTE) 1 section (.33 FTE)

The joint committee voted 5–0 to approve the plan as proposed while continuing to evaluate other options and ways to develop other programs (motioned by Mr. Cogswell, seconded by Ms. Patterson).

The joint committee voted 5–0 on a roll call vote to move into non-public session at 6:40 p.m. for the purpose of discussing a personnel matter per RSA 91-A:3 II(a) (motioned by Ms. Patterson, seconded by Mr. Cogswell).

The joint committee voted 5–0 on a roll call vote to come out of non-public session at 6:50 p.m. per RSA 91-A:3 II(a) (motioned by Ms. Patterson, seconded by Mr. Cogswell).

The joint committee voted 4–0 to seal the minutes of the non-public session per RSA 91-A:3 II(a), as not doing so would defeat the purpose of the non-public session (motioned by Ms. Patterson, seconded by Mr. Casko; Mr. Cogswell was absent).

Respectfully submitted,

Eric Williams, Chair
Clint Cogswell, Chair
Rob Prohl, Recorder