School Board Committee: Instructional

Date: May 18, 2009

Committee Members Present: Clint Cogswell, Chairperson, Chris Casko, Kevin Fleming, Jennifer Patterson

Other Board Members Present: Laura Bonk

Administration: Chris Rath, Rob Prohl, Gene Connelly

Other: Donna Palley – CHS Special Education Coordinator

Mr. Cogswell called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

Superintendent Rath reviewed the agenda for the meeting:

1. District Improvement Plans
2. CHS Special Education/reading proposal
3. Proposal to reallocate FTE resources at Concord High School
4. Proposal for stimulus funding

Superintendent Rath reviewed the improvement plans the district is required to file with DOE based on our status as a District In Need of Improvement (this includes specific schools plans). In addition, the District needs to submit plans for stimulus funding in Title I, special education, and technology in addition to the regular Title I grant and special education grant. It is the administration’s goal that all the plans have a common framework that focuses on meeting the needs of all students, with special attention to our subgroups that didn’t make AYP on recent NECAP testing.

Superintendent Rath reviewed the NECAP testing for our special education students and identified a number of possible reasons why special education students are continuing to struggle to meet state proficiency standards in reading and math. She stated that the challenge is to create one system in which all resources are deployed in a more systematic and coordinated way to meet the instructional needs of all students.

Superintendent Rath explained RTI – Response to Intervention and its three tiers of instruction. An essential component of all three tiers is ongoing progress monitoring that is used to evaluate specific interventions.
Mr. Connelly and Ms. Palley reviewed their proposal to use a part-time CHS Special Education teacher vacancy differently, by scheduling special education students who continue to struggle with literacy into small reading classes. Ms. Palley explained that all these students have reading as one of their IEP goals. Mr. Connelly explained that with an eight-period day, special education students have two periods a day to receive special education services without impacting their ability to take regular education courses. The committee gave its approval for this change. No vote was necessary, as this is an existing vacancy in the 09-10 budget.

Superintendent Rath proposed the following reallocation of CHS FTEs: .1 FTE PE to math; .2 Art to science, which will allow Tom Crumrine to increase his responsibilities as Assessment Coordinator to 60%; and increase .67 FTE Cosmetology teacher to full time. The committee gave its approval for the math and art reallocation. No vote was necessary, as these positions are included in the 09-10 budget.

The proposal to increase the Cosmetology teacher to full-time is designed to add a section for high school seniors who would receive only one year of the two-year program. There is strong interest among seniors to take this course, as it will allow them to decide if they want to enter this field of work after graduation. In addition, students will earn credit hours that can be transferred into postsecondary cosmetology certification programs.

A motion was made by Chris Casko with a second by Clint Cogswell to increase the Cosmetology position from .67 FTE to 1.0 FTE contingent on using federal Carl Perkins funds and sufficient student enrollment. The committee voted 4-0 in favor of this motion.

The committee requested that the Superintendent provide it with the 2009-2010 first semester teaching course loads at Concord High School.

Rath explained her proposal to use stimulus funds to hire a staff person as a K-12 RTI Facilitator, who would spend two years leading our efforts to implement the RTI. The committee gave the superintendent approval to develop this proposal.

The meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Clint Cogswell, Chair
Rob Prohl, Recorder