Concord School District Committee Minutes

School Board Committee: Instructional

Date: May 19, 2008

Time: 5:30 p.m.

Committee Members Present: Kass Ardinger, Chair, Chris Casko, Jenny Patterson, Martin Honigberg

Other Board Members Present: Laura Bonk

Administrators: Chris Rath, Rob Prohl, Gene Connolly, Adam Osborne, Steve Rothenberg

Staff Members: Matt Fisk, Jane Cogswell

1. AYP Reports
Superintendent Chris Rath reviewed the recent (Fall 07) test results from the state required testing to determine which Concord schools have failed to make Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP). Superintendent Rath reviewed the other components of the state’s accountability system, this year’s required scores in reading and math in order to make AYP, the performance of our students in the various subgroups and our schools that did not make AYP for two consecutive years, and the sanctions which now are applied to those schools. The sanctions include writing a two year school improvement plan, offering school choice and providing transportation with Title I funds.

2. Civics Book Proposal
Concord High School assistant principal Steve Rothenberg and Concord High School teacher Matt Fisk presented their request to purchase 190 textbooks at $67.95 per book for the new civics course at Concord High School.

The Committee voted 4-0 to recommend to the full Board to authorize the expenditure of up to $14,250 from the Instructional Trust to purchase high school civics textbooks with the condition that a Braille textbook, if needed, will be available for any visually impaired students.

3. Extended Learning Opportunities
Assistant Superintendent Rob Prohl reviewed a draft of the School Board policy authorizing extended learning opportunities at the high school. The Committee made minor changes to the proposed draft.

The Committee voted 4-0 to recommend and present the Extended Learning Opportunities Policy as amended to the full Board for a first reading.
4. Report on the Diploma Academy
Assistant Principal Steve Rothenberg and Diploma Academy Coordinator Jane Cogswell updated the Committee on the Diploma Academy. The Diploma Academy has been funded for the initial 1 ½ years by a competitive state grant to prevent school dropouts. The program’s primary focus is on 16 to 18 year olds at risk of dropping out. The Diploma Academy consists of several components: TAP or Technology Application Program – integrated credit bearing coursework combining core academic curriculum with a Career and Technology (CRVC) course; JAG (Jobs for America’s Graduates), afternoon core high school classes, Plato Credit Recovery Courses (an on-line course of instruction) and GED. Most of the course offerings are scheduled in the late afternoon, and students earn credits either for a Concord High School diploma or an Adult Diploma through our Community Education program. The Diploma Academy draws students from both Concord and from other regional districts.

Rob Prohl, Recorder
Kass Ardinger, Chair