The meeting was called to order at 5:30 pm.

Chair Laura Bonk opened the meeting with an update regarding the City of Concord 2009/2010 Budget Proposal and the impact that this budget may have on the School District and its 2009/2010 Budget. A handout of the City’s May 19, 2009 PowerPoint presentation and May 15, 2009 Transmittal Letter were given to the Board for reference. Ms. Bonk noted that one area of concern to her was that the children’s librarian position may be cut from the City budget as well as a decrease in library hours. Ms. Bonk suggested that the Board look into the possibility of opening some of the District school libraries on Saturday mornings and see if there is any available federal funding through Title I.

Superintendent Rath stated that such a program is being funded by Title I at Rundlett Middle School this school year.

Board President Kassandra Ardinger stated that she had read in Tom Aspell’s transmittal letter the City was proposing to charge the District for the operating and capital cost of the athletic fields that the schools use. She cautioned the Board that these charges could have a major impact on the 2009/2010 District Budget.

Laura Bonk asked for an update on the special Joint City/School Board Financial Committee. It was mentioned that no recent meetings have been held due to the City’s budget process and as yet no future meeting date has been set. Ms. Bonk mentioned that as Chair of the Finance Committee, she would like to be included in attending the special Joint City/School Board Financial Committee meetings.

Ms. Bonk asked Superintendent Chris Rath for an update on the federal stimulus funds. Superintendent Rath reported that the federal and state authorities release more rules and clarifications every day, so that it is necessary to keep up with daily reports. Title I was used as an example of changes. Previously, Title I was reported to be funded over two (2) years with 50% of the funding the first year and 50% the second year. Now Title I is set to be funded at 85% the first year and 15% the second year unless the District applies for a waiver. Superintendent Rath also stated that the Board should be aware that there may be some restrictions on spending on items other than Special Education.
Business Administrator Michele Croteau reported that she was pleased to announce that the District has been awarded 100% funding from the Qualified School Construction Program Bond (QSCB) for the RMS HVAC system project. The District was one of eight (8) applicants with only four (4) awards to be made. Ms. Croteau reminded the Board that the QSCB is part of the federal stimulus package and requires that the District comply with the requirements of the Davis Bacon Act. The use of prevailing wage rates for building contracts is estimated to cost the District an additional 15% on this project which adds $480,000 to the original RMS HVAC Project cost of $3,200,000 thus increasing the cost to $3,680,000. The bond will be for 15 years at 0% interest rate on the $3,680,000 should the Board decide to proceed at the Special Board Meeting which will follow this meeting. Ms. Croteau reminded the Board that the State Building Aid program, if continued, will reimburse the District for this project at 43% of the principle per year.

Board Member Clint Cogswell noted that there would be substantial savings on interest payments for the District over the life of the bond.

Board President Ardinger also announced that the grant for the Diploma Academy had been approved and advised the Board and administrators to begin to plan for the time when the Diploma Academy will no longer be state funded.

Business Administrator Michele Croteau distributed two (2) handouts regarding budget items, separation pay and substitute pay and reviewed the variables affecting each and explained causes for the differences in actual and estimated cost each year.

Assistant Superintendent Rob Prohl informed the Board that he and Michele Croteau have completed a review of the District’s tuition rates for special education per the request of a sending district’s CFO. The CFO was questioning the paraprofessional rate for the 08/09 school year. Mr. Prohl stated that the benefit percentages had not been reviewed since the former Director of Operations and Finance had updated the rates a few years ago. All rates were reviewed now and the only rate that needed to be changed was the rate for educational assistants from $26.00/hr to $23.00/hr. Mr. Prohl stated that adjusted invoices were being issued and that the benefit percentages and rates for the 09/10 school year would be carefully reviewed this summer.

Business Administrator Michele Croteau gave an update on the Munis Software training schedule and handed out the April 2009 through September 2009 schedule calendar to the Board. Ms. Croteau noted that the general ledger and financial portion of the software is scheduled to go live on July 1, 2009 and payroll is scheduled to go live on October 1, 2009.

The meeting adjourned at 6:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura Bonk, Chair
Michele M. Croteau, Recorder

MMR/srr