Concord Board of Education
Finance Committee Minutes

School Board Committee: Finance Committee
Date: May 6, 2013

Committee Members present: Barbara Higgins Acting Chair, Nick Metalious, Oliver Spencer, Tom Croteau
Other Board Member(s) present: Kass Ardinger, Jennifer Patterson, Tara Reardon
Administration: Superintendent Chris Rath, Business Administrator Jack Dunn, Director of Human Resources Larry Prince, Director of Facilities and Planning Matt Cashman

Acting Committee Chair Barbara Higgins called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m. Ms. Higgins explained that the purpose of the meeting was to review proposals for an After School Program at Abbot-Downing School for the 2013-2014 school year.

Business Administrator Jack Dunn then displayed a comparison of the two proposals for the After School program. He explained that he had spoken with both Chris Emond from the Concord Boys and Girls Club and Jim Doremus from the YMCA.

Concord Boys and Girls Club (CBGC) - www.concordkids.org
The CBGC After School Program hours of operation are 2:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. They offer a sliding fee scale with no cap on financial aid. They assist families in applying for state assistance; the staff to child ratio is 1:15; however, they strive for 1:12. All staff are certified. Programming includes snack, academic enrichment, art, leadership development, and technology and life-skills programs engaging kids in activities promoting a healthy, active lifestyle and more. The CBGC provides coverage for early release and snow days.

The fee for registration is $10 and tuition is $5 - $60 per student per week. Billing is applied only on weeks a child is in attendance. There is a sibling discount of $10 and a vacation week surcharge of $40. The tuition is based on household income and, as noted above, the CBGC does not cap the level of financial aid, which is based on need.

The CBGC proposed paying a building use fee for the 2013-2014 school year of $10,000 or $1,000 per month.

YMCA - www.concordymca.org
The YMCA After School Program hours of operation are 2:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. They offer a sliding fee scale and estimate that 57% of enrolled children receive assistance. They assist families in applying for state assistance; the staff to child ratio is 1:15 and 1:10 on field trips. All staff are certified. Programming includes the Kydstop Program, which is made up of six components: CATCH Kids Club, healthy snacks, enrichment
activities, homework club, choice time and clean up. The YMCA provides coverage for early release and snow days.

The fee for registration is $40 per family and tuition is $70 per student per week. Parents are responsible for payment whether or not their child attends. If there is an extended period during which a child is unable to attend, the YMCA will work with the family to find a reasonable solution. There is a sibling discount of $10. The tuition is based on the eligibility for the sliding fee scale, multiple child/sibling discount, and/or state assistance through the Child Care Development Fund. Offer is limited for part-time enrollment.

The proposed building use fee for 2013-2014 is $12,500 plus $10 per week for each child enrolled.

Mr. Dunn explained that it is the recommendation of the administration to allow the Concord YMCA to utilize the Abbot-Downing School for its After School program during the 2013-2014 school year.

Tara Reardon noted that the two programs are quite evenly matched and asked why the administration was recommending the YMCA in this case. Mr. Dunn explained that the first consideration was that the Concord Boys and Girls Club already utilize Eastman School and Christa McAuliffe School, so allowing the YMCA to utilize the Abbot-Downing School provides a choice of afterschool programming. Another factor in the recommendation is the increased building revenue the YMCA will bring with it.

Kass Ardinger noted that not providing exclusivity to the Concord Boys and Girls Club is good for the community. Barbara Higgins agreed that giving parents choices for after school care is a good opportunity for the community. Tom Croteau noted that both programs appear to have a healthy balance in their programs. Oliver Spencer asked if the homework club employs teachers from Concord School District, to which Chris Rath stated that although she is unsure whether district teachers are employed, all information regarding staff is contained in the YMCA After School Care manual.

The Committee voted 4-0 (motioned by Nick Metalious, seconded by Mr. Spencer) to recommend that the full Board accept the administration’s recommendation to allow the YMCA to use Abbot-Downing School for after school care during the 2013-2014 school year.

Mr. Dunn next explained to the Committee that Deerfield School District would like to discuss the existing tuition agreement into which both districts entered in 2004.

Ms. Ardinger stated that the districts are going into the tenth year of the contract with Deerfield and that Deerfield has indicated a desire to renegotiate the terms of the contract. To that end, Ms. Ardinger suggested that the members of the Executive Committee initiate negotiations with Deerfield School District. Once the two teams have met and explored the possibility of new contract terms, all information will be parlayed back to the full Board, which will have final approval over any new contract. Superintendent Rath explained that interpretation of the contract will be required during the negotiation process. Ms. Ardinger added that the contract issues will be
discussed with the district’s attorney, John Teague, who will interpret the contract terms. Attorney Teague has worked with the district on this contract in the past and, therefore, understands its terms.

The Finance Committee voted 4-0 (motioned by Nick Metalious, seconded by Mr. Spencer) that the Executive Committee should negotiate with the Deerfield School District and report back to the full Board.

The Committee voted 4-0 (motioned by Mr. Metalious, seconded by Mr. Spencer) to adjourn.

The meeting adjourned at 6:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Higgins, Acting Chair
Jack Dunn, Recorder

Following the Finance Committee meeting Jennifer Patterson motioned that the Board enter into Non-Public Session per RSA 91-A: 3, II(c), “… matters which, if discussed in public, would likely affect adversely the reputation of any person, other than a member of the body or agency itself, unless such person requests an open meeting.” Ms. Higgins seconded the motion. Ms. Ardinger called for a roll call vote to enter Non-Public Session.

The Board voted 7–0 by roll call (motioned by Ms. Patterson, seconded by Barbara Higgins) to adjourn into a Non-Public Session.

The meeting went into Non-Public Session at 6:20 p.m.