Concord School District
Board of Education
Committee Minutes

School Board Committee: Joint City / School Board

Date: July 16, 2010

Committee Members Present: Chris Casko, Jack Dunn

Other Board Member(s) Present: Kass Ardinge

City Council Members Present: Mayor Jim Bouley, Alan Bennett, Fred Keach, Mike Tardiff

District Administration: Superintendent Chris Rath, Matt Cashman, Michele Croteau

City Administration: Tom Aspell, Ed Roberge, Carlos Bia, Brian LeBrun

Other: Nik Coates

Chairman Chris Casko called the meeting to order at 7:30 a.m. The committee discussed the Safe Routes to Schools program; school facilities; City projects; HB 1497 (Charter Commission); traffic at the new school on the Kimball block.

Safe Routes to Schools

Nik Coates gave a presentation on the Safe Routes to Schools program, a collaborative effort of the City of Concord, Concord School District and Merrimack Valley School District addressing safety concerns for students walking to school. Mr. Coates reviewed the history and objectives of the program. Several years ago an accident occurred which heightened the need for more awareness regarding safety concerns and the need for changes to the infrastructure. The program provides for a strong educational component for students regarding safety, fostering communication among the various stakeholders to coordinate improvement efforts, and community outreach. The program’s goal is to identify routes for students, define maps, provide comprehensive training for students and promote the health benefits of walking. Incentives for participation can be supported by the program.

Mr. Coates noted the need to determine who will take the lead role on the project. The desired outcome is a master plan including walking routes, capital projects for infrastructure changes, and a plan for the educational components. Mr. Coates could spearhead this, with the grant funding his time.

Currently the application is on hold pending decisions by the various groups involved to determine how to proceed. Given the impact of the school consolidation project, the
suggestion was made to scale back the funding request from the original amount of $93,000 to only the amount needed to fund the development of a master plan.

School facilities
The City expressed interest in Dame school. No interest was expressed in the other school facilities.

City projects
There was discussion regarding $100,000 scheduled among the City’s project planning for a study of Memorial Field in 2012. Further research needs to be done to determine if the investment should be in Memorial Field or in a location on the other side of the river.

HB 1497
The status of the Charter Commission was reviewed. Legislation for the creation of the Commission passed. The November ballot will include the election of members for the creation of the Commission. The filing period for candidates is the same as for the general election.

Traffic at the new school on the Kimball block
A request was made for the District to provide more information to the City Councilors regarding the proposed traffic patterns incorporated in the Kimball site design.

The meeting adjourned at 9:34 a.m.