Concord Board of Education Committee Minutes

School Board Committee: Joint Facilities and Finance
Date: August 6, 2008
Committee Members Present: Betty Hoadley, Bill Glahn, Jennifer Patterson, Chris Casko, Martin Honigberg
Administrators: Michele Croteau, Matt Cashman

As Chair of the Capital Facilities, Mr. Honigberg assigned members to the committee to establish a quorum. The committee comprised Chris Casko, Bill Glahn, Betty Hoadley, and Jennifer Patterson.

The meeting was called to order at 5:40 p.m.

Agenda:
1. Gift – Beaver Meadow Playground Project
2. Condition of 48 Thorndike Street Property
3. Any Other Business

Gift – Beaver Meadow Playground Project
Beaver Meadow Principal Roger Brooks and Beaver Meadow Playground Committee Co-Chair Karen Knowles presented the following information and addressed subsequent questions from Board members:

- The process the Playground Committee undertook to create the vision for the playground
- The design and conceptual layout as currently developed
- The Committee’s goal that the playground be not only ADA compliant but also “barrier-free”
- The Committee’s goal that space be developed as a “natural” playground
- Concurrent use by classes, and plans for supervision
- Annual maintenance, which is estimated between $5,000–$7,000 (consistent with the existing budget)

Matt Cashman indicated that the District’s liability carrier had already reviewed the plans and the site from a safety perspective. Matt will continue to obtain its feedback as the project
progresses. Of special interest will be the liability carrier’s input with respect to appropriate signage, construction of slide(s), and gradient levels to mitigate fall hazards.

Ms. Croteau thanked the presenters and other Playground Committee members for their extensive work toward this project and explained that the reason for their coming to the Joint Facilities / Finance Committee was twofold: first, to provide an opportunity for Board members to see the extent of the work to date and the goals of the Playground Committee, and second, to present them with a recommendation that the Committee recommend to the full Board acceptance of a gift valued up to $150,000 in a combination of cash, product and services from the Beaver Meadow Playground Committee toward this project.

Ms. Croteau reviewed Board Policy #831, Acceptance of Gifts.

Mr. Honigberg asked about the status of other playgrounds in the District. It was noted that the most recent enhancement was a project in the vicinity of $40,000 at Eastman. That project was developed with the intent that the items be movable.

The Committee members indicated that they were impressed with the thoroughness of the Playground Committee’s work, and thanked the Committee’s members for their dedication to the project.

The Committee voted 5–0 to recommend to the full Board that it accept up to $150,000 as a gift from the Beaver Meadow Playground Committee for the purpose of funding the Beaver Meadow playground project as presented on the conceptual design.

There was additional conversation on appropriate recognition of project donors. The Playground Committee was asked to develop a proposed Recognition Plan to be presented for review at the next Finance Committee meeting.

**Condition of 48 Thorndike Street Property**

Matt Cashman discussed concerns about the current condition of the property located at 48 Thorndike Street. His recommendation is that the property be demolished as soon as possible, as it does not appear to be structurally sound. The anticipated cost is $32,850. The property is currently roped off, but there are concerns that this will not prevent adults or children from wandering onto the property. The following questions were raised: what is the acreage, and can the property be used to expend the play area for Rumford School?

Michele addressed the financing for the demolition, noting that this is an unbudgeted expense. Her recommendation is to use the building contingency account from the general fund budget. If in the future the District is unable to accommodate other critical projects
within the budget, Michele will bring this issue back for further review. At this time, no action is requested of the Committee. There was consensus among the Committee members in their agreement that Administration proceed with the demolition of the property to be funded by the General Fund budget as presented.

The meeting adjourned at 6:30 pm

Betty Hoadley, Committee Chair (Finance)
Martin Honigberg, Committee Chair (Capital Facilities)
Michele Croteau, Recorder