Chairperson Jim Richards called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m.

Business Administrator Jack Dunn explained that the purpose of the meeting was to review the settlement agreement recommended by the New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission (PUC) regarding the Concord Stream closure.

Mr. Dunn reviewed the process the administration had used to negotiate contracts with Concord Steam over the years. Rundlett Middle School is under contract with Concord Steam until November, 2019. The administration entered into contracts with Concord Steam for Abbot-Downing and Christa McAuliffe Schools in 2012, which are due to expire in October, 2017. The contract was never given to PUC, and Abbot-Downing and Christa McAuliffe Schools’ agreed-upon rates were never approved by the PUC in writing. The administration was not aware of this until March, when the Concord High School contract was taken for PUC review. Because the ADS and CMS contracts were never approved, and because there were questions at the PUC hearings about whether the District would obtain the “$3.08” rate, the administration was recommending involvement in the settlement agreement currently before the PUC and due to be decided by the end of October, 2016.

The administration informed the PUC that the District would seek to be included in the settlement agreement with the caveat of Board approval for that action. The PUC has endorsed the District’s right to those rates, as the District paid close to $200,000 up front for the steam lines to the new schools.

Nathan Fennessy reviewed what Mr. Dunn had outlined, to gain and provide clarity for others. The PUC never ratified the contracts regarding ADS and CMS, but is interested in moving the settlement agreement forward at this time, to support the remaining Concord Steam customers. Mr. Fennessy asked Mr. Dunn what the District would be gaining and what the District would be giving up if the Board approved the
settlement agreement. Mr. Dunn replied that not being part of the settlement would mean the District did not have intervenor status and would not have a voice in the final rate-setting. The District being part of the settlement would give the District the ability to pursue Concord Steam for breach of contract on the Rundlett Middle School contract, but this would be meaningless if Concord Steam closes, and if Concord Steam were to stay open, the District would likely be the only ratepayer.

The Negotiations Committee voted 4-0 to recommend to the full Board that it approve the Concord Steam settlement agreement proposed by the Public Utilities Commission (motioned by Jennifer Patterson, seconded by Mr. Fennessy).

Mr. Fennessy asked if those present could call a Board meeting to act on the recommendation if the meeting had not been posted. Mr. Dunn noted that having the Committee recommendation to the full Board, and the likelihood of the Board’s positive vote, would be sufficient notice to the PUC at this time.

The Negotiations Committee voted 4-0 to adjourn (motioned by Mr. Fennessy, seconded by Ms. Patterson).

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Richards, Chair
Terri Forsten, Recorder