

## **School Committee Update**

**Following the meetings of February 12 and 26, 2013**

### **School Budgets**

The School Committees reviewed and provided input on the presentations for the CPS and CCRSD budgets and other school-related articles in preparation for the Public Hearing and Town Meeting.

School-related Articles for the 2013 Concord Town Meeting are:

- Article 7 Concord Public School Budget
- Article 8 Concord Public School Renovations
- Article 9 Concord Public Schools – Supplemental Appropriation for Current Year
- Article 10 Concord-Carlisle Regional High School Budget
- Article 11 Concord-Carlisle Regional School District – Supplemental Assessment for Current Year
- Article 13 Concord Public Schools – Use of Capital Needs Stabilization Fund for Transportation infrastructure

The FY14 CPS budget contains an increase of 4.65% for a total of \$31,140,538. The FY14 CCRSD operating budget increase is 1.21% for a total of \$23,934,508. The 2013-2014 budgets meet the guidelines set by the Concord Finance Committee and, for the 7th year in a row, the school budgets are within the levy limit and will not require a Proposition 2 ½ override.

The Supplemental Appropriation and Supplemental Assessment articles are placeholders to cover unanticipated FY13 transportation expenses. These articles will only be moved if these expenses cannot be met in the current year's budgets. The allocation from the CPS Capital Stabilization Fund would be used to develop transportation infrastructure.

The Concord Town Manager's budget includes \$795,000 for CPS capital projects. The specific use of the funds will depend on whether the Town votes to approve funding for a new bus depot (Article 13). If the Town votes for a new bus depot, the funds will be used for transportation infrastructure expenses, and for capital renovations and improvements at Sanborn, Peabody, Alcott, and Thoreau. If the Town votes down the bus depot, the funds will be used for capital renovations and improvements at Sanborn, Peabody, Alcott and Thoreau.

### **CCHS Building Project**

Site work is underway at CCHS. In two weeks heavy earthwork will begin and bids for structural steel and concrete will be received. In March, the Building Committee will review the 90% construction design estimates. Mr. Salemy presented an overview of the current committed costs and contingencies for the project. The project is maintaining completion dates within the Project Funding Agreement schedule and expects students to move in April 2015. Please visit the CCHS Building web site for updated information at [www.cchsbuilding.org](http://www.cchsbuilding.org).

### **Why Can't The Bus Depot Be On The CCHS Campus?**

Ms. Spada and Mr. Salemy presented a detailed analysis of the high school site that included descriptions of groundwater conservancy districts, topography and wetlands, impermeable

surfaces, green campus goals, current and future land use, athletic facilities, adjacent residences, and other associated risks. They described the requirements for MA-CHPS (Collaborative for High Performing Schools) certification and the potential impact on project funding if that certification fails. The goal of the CCHS Building Committee is to achieve the Verified Leader Designation from MA-CHPS, a recognition of the highest level for green campus elements and design. To date only nine schools in Massachusetts have received this designation. Ms. Spada discussed the potential use of the former Town landfill for a bus depot. Slides from the presentation are at [www.concordpublicschools.net/schoolcommittee/pdfs/2013-02-26-presentation.pdf](http://www.concordpublicschools.net/schoolcommittee/pdfs/2013-02-26-presentation.pdf)

### **Thoreau School Evaluation Report**

Meg Anderson, Educational Consultant, presented the Evaluation Report on the Thoreau School Culture in the areas of Collaboration, Decision-Making and Communication. Ms. Anderson evaluated strengths and challenges in each of the three areas, and provided recommendations for the school community to move forward. For the evaluation, 100% of fulltime faculty and support staff were interviewed, 54% of special education tutors and instructional assistants were interviewed, 37 parents volunteered to be interviewed or provide information, and 34% of families responded to a survey. Ms. Anderson recognized the cooperation and honesty of the Thoreau community. The full report is available at [www.concordpublicschools.net/schoolcommittee/attachments/2013-02-12-AT.pdf](http://www.concordpublicschools.net/schoolcommittee/attachments/2013-02-12-AT.pdf)

### **CCHS Recreation Facilities Project**

John Boynton and Russ Dion gave a presentation on preliminary steps for a project to improve the outdoor recreational facilities at CCHS. The improvements would include renovation of 2 baseball and 2 softball fields, renovation of the football stadium with a turf field, construction of 6 tennis courts and 2 basketball courts, construction of an outdoor amphitheater, and other improvements to access and amenities. The project would be a private-public partnership. They requested the authorization of the Regional School Committee to proceed with design and planning of the CCHS Recreation Facilities Project. The School Committee will vote on this at the next Joint Meeting.

### **Presentations**

Students from CCHS Weather Services and Jeff Yuhas, CCHS Science Department, reflected on their experiences at the Annual Meeting of the American Meteorological Society in Austin, TX. The students described their collaborative research projects: they presented three posters on their projects at the conference. CCHS was the only high school represented.

Teachers and students from Willard presented their projects from the 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Ancient China unit. Students showed and described their work on maps, history, archaeology, poetry, painting and calligraphy in China.

### **Other Business**

The Regional School Committee voted to approve a geological trip to the Grand Canyon, Bryce, and Zion for summer 2013 and approved planning for a trip to Japan in 2014. The Committee also voted to appoint CCHS student Tessa Dibble and a CCTA to-be-determined teacher

representative to the Building Committee and voted to appoint School Committee member Phil Benincasa to the Concord Carlisle TV Board.

The Regional School Committee voted to approve funding for CDW Consultants to cover fees and other associated costs for management of the regulatory process with the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection for the former landfill on the regional school property (below the student parking lot). The Committee acknowledged that remediation of the landfill is not a financial obligation of the CCHS Building Committee.

Mr. Flaherty provided an update on transportation. The districts have successfully transitioned all buses and fueling to the Acton facility. The Acton fuel tanks will be used in combination with the large tanks at the Billerica facility so additional expenditures can be minimized. The Feasibility Study on the Town landfill site should be back sometime in March.

For more information, please go to the School Committee page on the district web site, [www.concordpublicschools.net/school-committee](http://www.concordpublicschools.net/school-committee). All School Committee meetings are recorded and rebroadcast on CCTV and are available as video-on-demand ([www.concordtv.org](http://www.concordtv.org)).