

SCHOOL BOARD REGULAR MEETING

MARCH 8, 2010

During Citizen's Forum an overview of the proposed outfitting of a media center at the McConnell Center was presented. This included the possibility of linking to a studio at the high school sometime in the future. A parent expressed his opinion on the board's budget constraints and encouraged parents to organize and request the City Council override the tax cap.

After board discussion, several items were denied from the consent agenda (job share, leave to teach abroad).

As part of the Superintendent's report, principals reported on events in individual schools.

Student representative reported on a busing survey distributed by the student council. 420 students reported that if buses were cut they would have to find another way to school. 278 students claimed to have no one in the family that could transport them to school.

The board discussed the McConnell Center proposal. There was concern about the possibility of the city charging rent or cost of facilities (answer was no). They questioned whether state aid had been confirmed (it had). The proposal was passed.

The board approved changes in their by-laws:

1. Added School Board matters of interest to the agenda
2. Increased time for Citizens Forum from 3 to 5 minutes
3. Approved standing committees
4. Deleted the need for an annual report

Two committee reports were given:

1. Curriculum which heard a presentation on reading at the high school

2. A committee had been formed to investigate our relationship with the sending districts (specifically Barrington) to determine whether it would be advantageous for both districts to continue their association. Both sides agreed that it was mutually beneficial and should continue.

The Kindergarten pick up and drop off policy was examined. The board will get parent input on whether or not students should leave their bus if no adult is there to pick them up.

It is time to examine the Safe Streets list for potential changes. Parents who might be affected will be sent a letter. It was tabled until the next meeting to give parents time to provide their input.

An update on grants was given by Mrs. Jean Briggs-Badger. The state denied us a Title IV grant for safe and drug free schools due to their own budgetary restraints.

Graduation date for DHS will be June 16th at the UNH gym.

Early release days for professional development (6) were approved.

Superintendent O'Connor gave the following data to the board:

1. The School Board budget must be given to the City Council by March 15th
2. Last year's budget was \$44,283,221
3. The only new money that can be added is \$180,900
4. The final submission to the council can only be \$44,464,121
5. The board still needed to cut another \$200,000

The superintendent proposed the following:

1. Administrative restructuring at the DMS --- \$10,000
2. Additional CTC cut --- \$35,000
3. Reduction in repairs --- \$12,000
4. Reduction of class size teachers --- \$150,000 (these have been federally funded in the past and there is a good chance they will be again.)

The superintendent pointed out that there is nothing new in this budget. They will have met their funding obligations but there is no new personnel being added. There is also nothing in the budget for raises for teachers/staff.

It was noted in the board discussion that school booster clubs support athletics to the tune of \$200,000 and music parents to the tune of \$30,000.

The proposed budget was passed unanimously.