

Concord School Board
Joint City Council/School Board Committee
February 23, 2018

Committee members present: Clint Cogswell, *Chair*, Chuck Crush, Liza Poinier, Maureen Redmond-Scura

Other School Board members present: Nathan Fennessy

City Council Committee members present: Dan St. Hilaire, Jennifer Kretovic

City Administrators present: Tom Aspell, *City Manager*; LeBrun, *Deputy City Manager Finance*; Carlos Baia, *Deputy City Manager Development*

School District Administrators present: Superintendent Forsten, *Superintendent*; Jack Dunn, *Business Administrator*, Matt Cashman, *Director of Facilities*

Budget 2019

School District – Jack Dunn offered an update on the Board’s posted budget, which includes full-day kindergarten, a 5% set-aside for future projects, a \$.31 increase on the tax rate, and continuing negotiations. One of four collective bargaining agreements has been ratified.

City – Tom Aspell noted that the capital budget process has begun internally. The City Council will have a workshop on the budget on March 5, and Mr. Aspell will submit the budget on May 11. Clint Cogswell asked about big projects and neighborhood road-paving projects. The new community center will open in May 2018, with associated hiring. Negotiations are ongoing with the Fire Department and Police Department. Electricity costs are increasing 9%.

Rundlett Middle School

Matt Cashman provided an update on the variety of facility projects being considered for the middle school. This includes grade level configurations of 5-8 or 6-8, and building with or without a joint facility use with the Concord Family Y.

With regard to the demographic study, it was suggested that the administration connect with the City for more information as code and zoning rewrites are being conducted – demographics, densities and trends could be impacted by micro-apartments, for example. The City was also looking at housing changes and development. The Penacook Tannery project may impact City housing stock.

Road construction around Concord High School

Mr. Cashman was working with the City to represent the District in these conversations.

Superintendent Forsten planned to confer with District administrators and Mr. Aspell about Westbourne Street parking that had been temporary.

Negotiations

The District was planning to wrap up bargaining group agreements by March 19 so those would be part of the budget that would be passed on that date. This would certainly be impacted by remaining contract negotiations.

Elections

A complaint was received by the City regarding accessible voting machines; during the State voting there is a state-owned accessible voting machine, but there will likely not be an accessible voting machine available for District elections for 2018. The City is working with the state to see if the state machines could be used in 2019. The City and School Board would have to buy ten systems for a cost of about \$20,000. Mr. Aspell and Superintendent Forsten will work together on this process.

City Council priorities

The City Council priorities are determined every two years – balanced budget, community center, etc. These are posted online. Mr. Aspell stated that these would be revised at the City Council March meeting.

The turf field development (\$4 million) is scheduled for FY 2019.

Mr. Cogswell mentioned that if the District moved RMS from its current site that could become field space for the City.

NH Job Corps

Mr. Aspell described his tour of Job Corps in Manchester – this is a new facility and offers strong programming. Mr. Aspell and Superintendent Forsten will plan a tour of the facility with CHS Principal Tom Sica.

Concord Coach Association (Meryn Bagan)

Mr. Bagan noted that the Association had been developing its collection of Abbot-Downing coaches with an interest in the “City Stable” building, located on the edge of the CHS parking lot right off Warren Street.

The Board had started exploring whether to renovate the building for the preschool program. Those present discussed increased traffic and increased use of the parking lot on the weekend.

The Abbot-Downing Historical Society holds monthly meetings in the evening. School groups would be welcome to come during the day and would come by bus so that there would not be daily parking.

The meeting adjourned at 9:05 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Clint Cogswell, *Chair*
Terri Forsten, *Recorder*