

Concord School Board
Joint City Council/School Board Committee
October 16, 2020

Date: October 16, 2020

Committee members present: Liza Poinier, *Chair*; Danielle Smith, Tom Croteau

Committee member absent: David Parker

Other Board member present: Jim Richards

City Council members present: Jennifer Kretovic, Nathan Fennessy, Fred Keach, Jim Bouley, *Mayor*

City administrators present: Tom Aspell, *City Manager*; Brian Lebrun, *Deputy City Manager*

District administrators present: Kathleen Murphy, Superintendent; Jack Dunn, Business Administrator; Matt Cashman, Director of Facilities and Planning

The agenda included discussions regarding the use of schools for Election 2020; Memorial Field bleachers; the Stable Building, CSD anti-racism work; Columbus Day/Indigenous Peoples Day; City/School budgets.

Superintendent Murphy presented an overview of things happening in the District. The Board originally voted to open the school year fully remote, but reconvened several weeks later in August and decided on a hybrid learning model. IT platforms like *Seesaw* had been rolled out with good success. Transportation was running smoothly, and the Athletics Program has conducted practices and games without any issues. The CRTC program had been running before the start of school with all safety Covid-19 protocols routinely followed. Overall, the District was off to a good start.

Use of schools for elections

Mayor Jim Bouley thanked the District for use of Abbot-Downing School for this year's election, in Ward 7. Broken Ground School was also to be used. Mayor Bouley expressed his appreciation and hopes that in future years, the schools could continue to be used for elections.

Memorial Field bleachers

The bleachers are in need of a complete renovation. City Manager Tom Aspell said the City was planning for this work in 2024, which would include new LED lighting, new bleachers, football and baseball field renovations as well as track resurfacing. All work was budgeted at \$3 million. The City expressed the desire for the District to share this cost. Mr. Dunn, Mr. Cashman and Mr. Lebrun would collaborate on developing a plan to share costs in the 21-22 budget.

Stable building

On October 5, the School Board voted to transfer the building to the City for use as a museum for the Abbot-Downing Historical Society. City Council would consider approval of the transfer in October. Milestone Construction would be hired to renovate the Stable building. District representative Matt Cashman would work with the City and Milestone Construction through the construction process.

CSD anti-racism work

Superintendent Murphy described the various meetings held over the summer to work with groups on anti-racism. Recently, all administrators participated in anti-racism training provided by the group *NH Listens*. She expressed her interest in involving members of the community and City government in upcoming training and discussions.

Columbus Day/Indigenous Peoples Day

Liza Poinier presented that the School Board had voted unanimously to adopt, within the District, the name change from Columbus Day to Indigenous Peoples Day. She recognized the Board's two student representatives for their initiative and influence to create this change.

Budget

The District will be finalizing its budget on October 28. Mr. Dunn discussed the impacts of Covid-19 on the current fiscal year budget, and displayed information about items that will impact the FY22 budget. These include an increase in contributions to New Hampshire Retirement System of about \$1.3 million; an estimated 5% increase in health insurance rates resulting in an estimated \$450,000 increase; and a decrease in enrollment of about 130 students that could result in a reduction of revenue of about \$550,000 just in base adequacy. He also mentioned that the District was cognizant of the current economic environment for both residential and commercial property owners, as well as the budgets for the city, county and state.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Matt Cashman, *Recorder*