

# Highlights from the School Committee Meeting – attended by Sharon Carroll

## CPS Meeting January 12, 2010

### Race to the Top Grant

- The federal Race to The Top grant is a competitive \$4.35 billion education reform program enacted as part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. Massachusetts is eligible to be awarded up to \$250 million of additional federal funding. At least half of the grant award will go to districts (using the Title 1 formula) that sign a Memorandum of Understanding and commit to implement the initiatives outlined in the State's proposal.
- Our district goals related to implementing a new teacher supervision and evaluation system seem to match up with some of the state's grant requirements and participating in the grant could provide additional money to fund professional development in this area
- It was noted that professional development budgets have been cut over the past few years and the administration would like to find ways to put funding back in. If the grant were awarded it could mean \$14,000 - \$18,000 for CPS and about \$5,000-\$6,000 for CCRSD.
- It was further noted that opting in now would not prevent the district from opting out at a later point to the extent the requirements do not match up with our district goals. But, districts must sign up now in order to participate.
- Signatures from the School Committees, Superintendent and the Teachers' Unions are necessary to apply for this grant. Both Teachers' Unions are going to sign off and the CPS school committee approved and signed off
- More discussion will occur regarding this grant and the initiatives at the next school committee meeting.

### Willard School Natural Gas and Electric Consumption

- John Flaherty, Deputy superintendent for Finance and Operations reported that Willard energy costs have come in about 30% lower than those at the new Alcott and Thoreau buildings.
- It was also noted that despite the fact that the new Alcott and Thoreau buildings are 50% larger than the old buildings, they too have seen a significant reduction in energy costs.
- The town is still looking into the possibility of a solar panel project at Willard as well.

### Thoreau School Principal Search

- The position was posted in December and have received a number of highly qualified candidates – some of whom are sitting principals with experience
- The Thoreau community is invited to be involved in the hiring process through the use of open forums. Final candidates will meet with members of the Thoreau community at the open forums for a meet and greet and informal question and answer period.

February 5<sup>th</sup> is the next Superintendent's Tea at Sanborn Middle School at 2:45pm.