

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

### CPS Meeting May 11, 2010

#### Seating of the CPS School Committee Members

The members of the CPS School Committee were seated. Pam Gannon was elected Chairperson and Maureen Spada was elected Vice Chairperson. Members of the CCRSD School Committee will be seated at the May 25 Joint School Committee Meeting.

#### Chairs Report

There will be a new Open Meeting Law that becomes effective 7/1/2010. Notable changes in the law include:

- oversight and enforcement of Open Meeting Law will now fall under the jurisdiction of the Attorney General's Office
- use of email is addressed – it is OK for distribution of materials to be discussed in public meetings but not for deliberation
- all documents discussed in a public meeting need to be made available to the public
- when adjourning to Executive Session, the reason for adjourning needs to be stated and each member's vote needs to be recorded.
- the Superintendent evaluation process will change in order to comply with Open Meeting law. Discussion of professional competence will need to be discussed in open session. However, any comments related to reputation, character, visible condition or mental health can not be discussed in open session as it would violate public records law. The Attorney General's office still to provide more specific guidelines.
- **the June 8th School Committee meeting will be changed to a joint meeting (and will be held at the CCHS library)** so that members of both the CPS and the CCRSD school committees can evaluate the performance of the Superintendent in open meeting.

#### MSBA Project Funding of Thoreau School

The District is expecting to receive \$6.3 million in MSBA project funding for the Thoreau building project.

#### Willard Earth Care Club Presentation

Members of the Willard Earth Care Club were in attendance and presented the ongoing initiatives in place at Willard to promote their efforts to "reduce, re-use and recycle." Their video presentation showed the placement of paper and plastic recycling bins in every classroom, litter-free lunches and how they have contracted with the Farm at Walden Woods to pick up compost material from Willard.

#### Thoreau Iditarod Project

Two fifth grade students from the Thoreau School presented their Iditarod projects that were created using the digital story telling technology provided in their classroom. Each student was tasked with researching a danger that Alaskan Iditarod Sled Racers may have overcome. The two dangers presented at the meeting were "How to survive and avalanche" and "How to Survive a Moose attack." These and other digital projects can be found on [Mrs. Hoyt's classroom page](#) on the Thoreau School website.

#### Discussion of enrollment numbers

It was noted that the enrollment numbers at Willard School have increased dramatically this year and are currently at 430 students. Thoreau enrollment is at 435 students and Alcott is at 403 students. Pat Fernandes, principal of Willard School, commented that the increase in enrollment could partially be attributed to the new building, but also noted anecdotal evidence that the demographics of the Willard neighborhoods are shifting as houses are selling well. The question of class sizes came up. The district assigns the number of faculty positions at each school based upon the contractual 19:1 student to teacher ratio. It is the school Principal's discretion as to how to assign

those positions across grade-levels. Where class sizes are larger than the average of 18-19 students, schools assist with additional resources from the tutoring staff.

**Citizen's Comments Agenda Item**

The School Committee Chair, Pam Gannon brought up the suggestion of removing the Citizen's Comments agenda item at the beginning of each meeting as it is rarely utilized. There is still a time for comments at the end of the meeting. The decision was made that it can be left to the Chair's discretion whether it appears on the agenda at the beginning of the meeting. The Citizen Comment time will remain on the agenda at the end of the meeting. Any citizens who feel they wish to comment at the beginning of the meeting are asked to contact the School Committee Chair in advance so those comments can be accommodated.

**Bullying Act enacted in Massachusetts**

Diana Rigby announced that a new bullying bill was signed into law. The district will work to develop district and school plans as well as additional professional development programs related to this new law. The focus of the district, in partnership with law enforcement, is on prevention and intervention. Faculty training related to this new law and the district goals and plans will occur at the beginning of the 2010-2011 school year.

**Other Items to note:**

Retiree Reception to be held at Willard School on 5/27/2010 at 4p.m. The CCHS retirement party is on 5/20/2010.

Search for the replacement of Manley Boyce, retiring Director of Transportation, is underway.

Carlisle Special Election to vote on the Feasibility Study for CCHS is set for 5/17/2010.

Concord Special Election to vote on the Feasibility Study for CCHS is set for 6/8/2010.