

**School Committee Meeting, November 24, 2009**  
**Notes taken by Cheryl Kirkpatrick**

**Recognitions**

- Golf team wins MIAA State Golf Sportsmanship Award
- CCHS received sportsmanship award from MIAA
- Boys Soccer team won the state championship
- Aaron Joncas & Alison Furey presented to the METCO Parent Council on college readiness and persistence. METCO parent council and new METCO director seem to be coordinating very well

**Reports & Issues for Discussion**

- A. Joint committee voted to approve the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Ecuador Exchange sponsored by Eric Pohl, language teacher at the High School
- B. Moodle in the high school classroom – June Patton & Cricket McCaffrey:
- Moodle is a free framework to organize online learning. Teachers involved believe it will be a big tool for learning in the future and that is one of the reasons the schools should be introducing it to students. They decided to put the contents for their courses into similar formats to try to help the kids get used to it. Teachers described it as exciting and energizing for them.
  - Teachers developed these courses largely with a grant for the Concord Ed Fund
  - When asked what the difference is between this and a website, teachers respond that this is more interactive. Teachers also feel like they have more control over what students are seeing. Teachers can also monitor what students are doing.
  - Teachers congratulated for their hard work. Encouraged to keep thinking of ways of spreading these skills.
- C. Dawn Melanson presented the auditor's report
- The audit is positive – there are no main issues.
  - According to the auditor, the school district's budget has built up their unused funds
  - When comparing the budget verses the actual spending – they raised more money than they said they would. They also under-spent what they thought they would.
  - This shows very good fiscal responsibility – they had a tight budget and they stayed very close to it.
  - Management issues – Need to establish an internal audit function. An actuarial report is needed for post-retirement benefits (actuary has been hired). Need to revise receipt turnover forms.
- D. NESDEC 2009 enrollment projections
- NESDEC (New England School Development Council) projected 1231 students, but actually 1245 are enrolled. So, they readjusted their projections. P. Fischelis remarks about the inaccuracies of the projections and whether anything can be done to get more accurate projections. The S.C. uses projections like this for many decisions. P. Fischelis asks, "What use is this?"
  - MSDA is the projection that the district will use to determine how big to make the projected new HS.
- E. FY11 Budget

- Concord budget is planned at a 0% increase while still maintaining strong staffing. A big part of this was savings in out-of-district special ed. costs over the past few years.
- Difference between what the SC has proposed and what the Fin Com will support is approximately \$62,000. Supt. Rigby suggested that perhaps retiring teachers would not be replaced and that would make up the difference.

#### **Action Items**

- C. Vote to accept monetary gift to replace band's shipping crates

#### **Old Business**

- A. CCHS Facilities Master Plan – there is a website [cchsmasterplan.org](http://cchsmasterplan.org). Open meetings are held in the CCHS library. Lots of community members and staff offered their thoughts. Next open meeting is December 9<sup>th</sup>.
- B. Willard statement of interest. Not a lot of change. They re-did the projected enrollment. New England School Development Council
- C. School committee asked to support a plan with the department of energy resources to install solar paneling at Willard.
  - Lots of positive comments about this opportunity

#### **VIII. Superintendent's Report**

- A. Supt Rigby gave a brief on her recent trip to the MASS/MASC Conference
- B. November 17<sup>th</sup> a session was held and video-taped on H1N1 – not a big turnout, but can be watched on public access.
  - Supt. Rigby is hopeful that there will be a town-wise flu clinic for all students under 18 on December 5<sup>th</sup>. More info to come soon – it will depend on vaccine availability.
  - High School has seen decline in incidents of illness among students and staff.
  - Elementary schools have not experienced the same declines
- C. December 11, 2009: Superintendent/School Committee afternoon tea @ Thoreau Library, 3:30-5:00 PM
- D. December 5, 2009 – Town Coordination Meeting