

# Concord-O-Gram



## *Preparing All Students for Success*

*The Newsletter of  
School Board  
Meeting Notables  
Volume XXIV Issue 386  
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The Concord Board of School Trustees met on October 16, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. in Regular Session at Concord High School.

The following business was then conducted after the Pledge of Allegiance:

### **Student Council Report:**

Members of the High School Student Council provided the Board with a number of the activities in which they are involved. Chairpersons of the Life Skills, Elementary, Community Service, Spirit, Anti-bulling, and Recognition committees gave a brief synopsis of the work they are doing. The Class committees work with their class peers to emphasize the word for that group. Freshman class word is "Inspire;" Sophomores – "Action;" Juniors – "Service;" and Seniors – "Character." Some of the activities sponsored by the Student Council are the current food drive, special parties planned for the Life Skills students, and organizing convocations for upcoming events. The High

School Student Council will host a leadership workshop on October 17 which will involve the Junior High School student council.

**Concord Community Schools Communication:** Technology Integration Specialists Matt Jerlecki and Kendra Divine gave the Board a brief summary of their plan which correlates with the strategic plan under social media programs. They are working to improve use of communication to stakeholders, and used the example of school messenger calls. Their aim is to make the technical aspects of the websites to be easy for stakeholders to use and receive the information, with a goal to blend all corporation websites for easier accessibility. The timeline they have established has been accelerated to move forward to be prepared for the digital age learning.

**NWEA Update:** Mr. Wagner shared a brief overview of what NWEA measures and how the information is reported.

NWEA is an adaptive test which can predict students' probability of passing ISTEP, SAT, and ACT. As a formative assessment tool the results provide teachers with a baseline. Mr. Wagner walked the Board through several examples of test results to assist them with future reports for understanding. Area schools are also using NWEA which will provide a consistent evaluation tool for students if they transfer from school to school.

### **Concord Community Schools Police Department**

**Update:** School Safety Week is October 16 through 20. The Concord Community Schools Police Department will hold an open house on Thursday, October 19. The first session at 5:30 p.m. will be geared to elementary parents and students. The 7:00 p.m. segment will be for secondary parents and students. Information on the department's function will be provided, and they will answer questions from the community members present.

Mr. Tahara shared with the Board that a chief of police will be named in the near future, as there is no point person to whom inquiries, information can be dispersed. A third officer will be added in 2018 to provide a balance of one officer for every 2,000 students enrolled. A drug-sniffing dog may also be added to the department. The Concord Police Department has a web page that can be accessed by community members.

**Financial Report:** Mrs. Smith provided the September financial information for the Board to review. Revenue expenditures are currently at 75% of the budget amounts, which is the expectation at this time of year. The funds are on target for the expenses incurred. The Capital Projects Fund is still showing effect of the circuit breaker tax caps, but sufficient capital is available for the remainder of the year. The public is appreciated for approving the referendum fund which provides a number of expenditures the corporation could not make otherwise. The Bus Replacement fund will show the purchase of the new buses once they arrive.

#### **Concord High School**

**Improvement Report:** Mr. Dettinger welcomed the Board and staff. They are excited to have the opportunity to report to the Board and share their goals and information.

The overall school attitudes form the basis of the

student attitudes, which is reflected in the mission statement to challenge and equip all students beyond high school. The theme "where we go one, we go all!" creates the atmosphere and climate where expectations are high for all students.

The demographics of the High school are approximately where they have been the past several years with a diverse student body, with an interurban feel to the overall population. The socio-economic status has also remained constant with little change.

Goals established for the past school year included achieving a one percent growth in the graduation rate which the Class of 2017 nearly met with 89.8% of the class qualifying. An increase of parental involvement was targeted with increased school messenger announcements and social media. The fall and winter conferences saw an increase of three percent attending. The introduction of dual credit courses will provide the opportunity for graduates to achieve a minimum of three college credits through the Early College program. By June 2019, the goal is thirty-five percent of graduates to have a minimum of three college credits when they leave the High School. Disciplinary referrals are a target goal. By June 2018, the goal is to decrease the number of referrals by three percent. At this time,

referrals are actually down more than half from one year ago.

The attendance rate for the student body has remained at a constant 93% which the administration is working to improve. The overall school grade from the Department of Education increased from a C in 2015-2016 to a B for the 2016-2017 school year. Mr. Dettinger provided the ISTEP scores which they will be working hard to improve the percentages passing both the English and Math.

With the NWEA baseline data that has been collected, they are looking forward to the use of the materials to test on a more consistent basis. The ISTEP scores in math and English are on the radar to be improve during the 2017-2018 school year. The Math scores are to increase from 17.8% to 25% pass rate, with English to increase from 54.5% to 60%. Strategies to achieve these goals are the close reading, math study of sequencing, curriculum design, and instructional practices. Use of NWEA data will monitor the progress of each student. Freshmen will have English and Algebra all three trimesters, unless they are enrolled in high ability classes. Literacy strategies will be emphasized school wide with professional development.

The graduation rate should be at least ninety percent of the class, if not higher. Implementation of the credit recovery program with APEX lab classes, the Work Ethic Certificate

Program and the JAG program will be key to the increase. An inaugural career fair will introduce students to a number of career paths to pursue after high school graduation.

The introduction of the Jobs for Graduates (JAG) Program will encourage students to pursue the path to graduation as they learn the basic fundamentals that create successful employment beyond the school structure.

Mr. Dettinger thanked the Board for their time and support of the High School staff. He is appreciative of the team that is committed to move forward by full implementation and utilization of the five tenets of the Corporation's Strategic Plan.

The Board accepted a donation in the amount of \$20.00 from Angie Butler for the South Side Elementary Anne's Kits for Kids. A donation in the amount of \$500.00 was received from The Home Depot towards the purchase of Drill-impact Driver Combos for the High School.

The Board approved the employments of Teri Derby, Administrative Assistant to Director of Building Services, Maintenance, Grounds; Sheyla Carrasquillo Rivera, Ox Bow Elementary Instructional Paraprofessional; Ernesto Chin, Intermediate school STRIVE Paraprofessional; Sarah Thompson, South Side Elementary Speech Pathologist; David Crabb, Junior High Instructional

Paraprofessional; Kendra Quick, Corporation Regular Bus Driver.

The Board approved the transfer of Cathy Stouder to Transportation Receptionist from East Side Elementary English as Second Language Paraprofessional; Durell Ellis, West Side Elementary Building Services Custodian from High School Building Services; Cynthia Jay, West Side Elementary Interim Assistant Principal.

The Board accepted a resignation from Taira Sotebeer, Ox Bow Elementary Special Education Paraprofessional.

The Board approved the employment of Carmen Alvarez, East Side Elementary Adult English as Second Language Program Site Coordinator; Maribel Espinoza, James Foster, West Side Elementary Adult English as Second Language Program Paraprofessionals.

The Board approved the extra duty employments for Faith Aukerman, Brittany Stevens, West Side Elementary Girls on the Run sponsors; Melody Knudson, Intermediate School Math Bowl/Pentathlon.

The Board accepted the extra duty resignation from Todd Hesselbart, High School Girls Head Soccer Lay Coach.

The Board approved the educational conference requests for 46 employees for the months of October, November, December, January, and February.

The Board approved adoption of the 2018 Board

Meeting Schedule. The meeting dates mirror past calendars. Board meetings are held the first and third Mondays of most months at 7:00 p.m. Exceptions are noted on the schedule.

The Board approved permission to advertise for an additional appropriation for the 2017 Referendum Fund. The 2016 calendar year ended with a cash balance which was not determined until the 2017 budget was advertised. In order to access the funds, an additional appropriation must be advertised to add the funds to the 2017 budget. The \$2,500,000.00 from the cash balance will be used to continue with some HVAC replacements and Technology infrastructure upgrades throughout the corporation. The public hearing for the additional appropriation will be held November 6 after the notice is published twice in local news media.

The Board approved a Municipal Advisory Services Agreement for the General Obligation Bonds and First Mortgage Bonds for the High School construction project. The fees will be paid to H.J. Umbaugh & Associates for the financial services provided.

The Board held a public hearing on the lease financing bond for the High School project. Lease financings are used by school corporations to borrow funds for renovation and construction. The Building

Corporation will purchase a portion of the building for at least the appraisal value, then lease the portion of the building back to the school corporation. There were no comments or remonstrance from the public in attendance, and Board President Myers declared the public hearing closed.

The Board held a public hearing on the additional appropriation for lease funding. The sale of the real estate to the Building Corporation creates additional funds which must be added to the annual budget as an additional appropriation. There were no comments or remonstrance from the public in attendance, and Board President Myers declared the public hearing closed.

The Board held a public hearing on the additional appropriation for the General Obligation Bond which is the source of capital for the High School project. Since the General Obligation Bond sale creates additional capital, the proceeds from the bond must be appropriated to the budget before they can be used for expenditures. There were no comments or remonstrance from the public in attendance, and Board President Myers declared the public hearing closed.

The Board approved the Resolution which determines the need for the High School Project. This resolution states that the need for the project exists for the

education of students, and the necessary funds are not available to finance the project.

The Board approved the Resolution to Approve the Sale of Real Estate. This resolution allows the school corporation to levy the required property tax to pay the lease payments to the Building Corporation which will be used to pay the bond holders.

The Board approved the Resolution to Approve Additional Appropriation for Lease Financing. The School Corporation has determined the present facilities of the High School are not adequate to provide for the proper educational environment for the students now attending or who will attend in the future. The appropriation of proceeds from the sale of real estate to the Building Corporation will generate the proceeds to renovate and construct the additions to Concord High School. The funds are to be appropriated for the costs of the project. A construction fund will be established for this purpose.

The Board approved the Resolution for Additional Appropriation for the General Obligation Bond after the public hearing before the bond proceeds can be expended.

The Board approved the resolution to assign construction bids for the High School project. The Building Corporation will own a portion of the High School building. Bond proceeds held by the trustee bank will be used to pay the contractors for the construction

work on the building project. The construction contracts will be assigned to the Building Corporation for payment.

The Board approved the Resolution to Authorize the Third Supplement to the Continuing Disclosure Undertaking. The Securities and Exchange Commission requires school corporations entered into a Master Continuing Disclosure Undertaking before using bonds. The School Corporation agrees to provide certain financial information and provide notice of any material events in a timely manner to the SEC's database.

The Board approved the Resolution for the General Obligation Bond. This Final Bond Resolution establishes the amount to be borrowed, the maximum term of the repayment, and maximum interest rate. The resolution authorizes the publication of the Notice of Sale of the Bonds, and establishes a bid committee who will award the bonds to the lowest bidder.

The Board approved the salary schedule for Speech and Language Pathologist and Associates. Previously the speech and language pathologists and associates were employed through the Elkhart County Special Education Cooperative and assigned to Concord buildings. Through attrition, these employees are becoming employees of Concord Schools, and an appropriate salary schedule needs to be established. Mrs. Smith

presented a new salary schedule which is comparable to the scale used by ECSEC.

The Board approved the contract with AME Group to complete a network assessment of the LAN, WLAN, and WAN as the corporation moves forward toward the digital age learning initiatives. Three companies were contacted for quotes, and AME Group was chosen to complete the assessment.

The Board gave permission for the High School Speech and Debate Team to attend a tournament at Fisher's High School January 5 and 6, 2018. The students will compete against teams that would not normally be on the schedule of meets, and provide additional tournament experience.

The Board afforded the public in attendance the opportunity to address the Board on non-agenda items at this time.

The Board will attend the ISBA Region 2 Legislative Update meeting in Plymouth October 25. The November 6 Board meeting will be at the Junior High School at 5:00 p.m. December 4 the Board meeting will be held at Intermediate School at 7:00 p.m. The Board will meet at 9:00 a.m. on December 28 for the end of year meeting.