

## ADDENDUM TO OCTOBER NEWSLETTER #2

### SCHOOL COMMITTEE NOTES

On behalf of the School Committee, we welcome all of you to the 2004-2005 school year. Thank you to all staff for making the opening of school a great success.

Enrollment at CCHS is a bit above projected numbers and the highest it has been in many years. Actual numbers for assessment purposes are given on October 1, and in October we will report those numbers.

We have a new language lab, approved by voters last year, being installed, which should be finished by the end of October. Renovations to the lower gym will also continue. Our new fiber optic cable has been run and the new phone system has been installed. Thank you for your patience during the first few days of school as that project was completed. Contracts are settled with all of our labor associations, and the budget approved last year in both Concord and Carlisle, a "match" as required by regional agreement, maintained our athletic program. We thank everyone who assisted in getting this accomplished. As we enter the new school year, we are grateful that our program remains strong and our students well served.

This year the School Committee will be focused on what to do about the building at CCHS. For several years now the issue has been studied. The first committee formed was directed to look at CCHS strictly to accommodate increased enrollment and reported to the School Committee three years ago. The plan reported showed one way to further carve up spaces, but did not address all concerns of old parts of the building or take a programmatic approach to what would best support curriculum. The SC wanted a closer look at what the building should look like to properly accommodate our curricular program, and asked for a longer term vision of curriculum needs, enrollment driven needs, and, to some extent, current building conditions. In December of 2002 the School Committee heard from the second committee, which studied CCHS from both an enrollment and programmatic perspective. A plan was presented, and warrant articles were prepared to enact part of the plan. That was the year, however, that state funding was drastically cut, and we chose not to move forward in that economic climate.

This year, the School Committee will focus on bringing forth a building plan for CCHS. We are currently reviewing the previous plans, and getting questions answered which may direct how we proceed. We will be bringing you further information soon.

For those of you interested in following budget issues, the kick off for the preparation of next year's budget happens at the coordination meeting in September. In October, the Finance Committee of Concord meets with us about next year, and preliminary guidelines are set shortly thereafter. It is a good opportunity for anyone interested to understand what the School Committee must consider as we budget. All of this information will be considered in the next months as we prepare a budget by January.

We welcome the many new faces at CCHS, both students and teachers, and wish you a happy and healthy school year.

Betsy Bilodeau, Regional School Committee