

SCHOOL COMMITTEE NEWS FEBRUARY 2007

Please mark your calendars with the following important dates:

Concord Public Hearings on School related articles will be held on **Wednesday February 28 at 7:30PM at the Alcott School Auditorium**

Concord Town Elections, including a debt exclusion question for CCHS, will be on **Tuesday March 27**. Polls are open from 7:00 AM until 8:00 PM. Absentee ballots are available 30 days prior to the vote. Please vote!

Concord Town Meeting in Concord will begin on **Monday April 23** at 7:00 at CCHS.

Carlisle Town Caucus March 12, Town Meeting April 30, Town election May 8

Why is it important to note these dates? The public hearings provide voters with an opportunity to both understand and comment on matters that will be put before the electorate at Town Meeting and/or the polls. There will be several important votes taken this spring.

At Town Elections in Concord on March 27 voters will have an opportunity to vote for a debt exclusion to fund \$1.25M worth of improvements at CCHS. The debt exclusion must be voted in the affirmative both at the polls and at Town Meetings in both Concord and Carlisle in order for the Regional School to be able to borrow this money. The town election is also an opportunity to vote for the re-election of Jan McGinn to the School Committee and the election of Fabian Fondriest to School Committee. They are running for office unopposed. We thank Jan and Fabian for their willingness to serve the community in this important role.

Town Meeting will have all articles affecting the schools, including the K-8 budget, the CCHS budget, a borrowing for CCHS improvements, approval of expenditures within the Town Manager's capital plan for CPS improvements, and an article related to the construction of fields at CCHS. There are also two articles by petition, one of which asks citizens at Town Meeting to vote on school budgets by secret ballot, and another which suggests that the Regional School Committee consider covering administrative costs of Adult and Community Education.

There will be no request for overrides in Concord this year to fund operating budgets for the CPS, CCHS, or town budgets. The anticipated vote on a new Willard School will be held in the fall of 2007, as designs are not far enough along to vote this spring.

Voting on the debt exclusion for CCHS on March 27, prior to Town Meeting, is happening in order to prevent the need for an election in June after the Town Meeting just for that one question. The \$1.25M request will allow the region to borrow money to make necessary improvements at the school.

The transportation building, better described as the old trailer, has to be replaced. This money includes the regional portion of the building plus septic design and installation (\$120,000), a double-wide modular classroom to provide more classroom space (\$150,000), software which will integrate human resources and financial management (\$175,000), heating system upgrades (\$285,000), science lab fume hoods (\$75,000), cafeteria and hall renovations including asbestos removal and new tables and chairs (\$120,000), fire alarm detection equipment (\$170,000), and upgrade existing lighting which is partially funded by a grant and has a short payback due to energy efficiency (\$150,000). The Regional School Committee has carefully looked at investing in CCHS only where necessary for safety and immediate needs of the next few years.

Again, please mark your calendars with the important dates mentioned. We look forward to your participation.

Thank you,

Betsy Bilodeau for the School Committee