

NAME OF BOARD/COMM: Luther Conant School Council

FILED BY: Tricia O'Reilly

DATE OF MEETING: December 7, 2023

TIME OF MEETING: 4:00 p.m.

PLACE OF MEETING: Conant School Conference Room

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Tricia O'Reilly, principal
Michelle Laflamme, teacher
Priya Prabaka, parent
Loretta Crumlish, community member
Mary Tsacoyeanes, community member

4:00 1. Public comment

- Request for information about the budget and how it will affect Conant

4:05 2. Discussion of purpose of School Council; Selection of co-chair; identify dates and times for remaining meetings

- The purpose of this advisory council is to communicate and advise on ideas, voice concerns
- Size and number of school representation and parent/community representation must be equal
- Need a co-chair. Co-chair assists in running the meeting. Mary Tsacoyeanes self-nominated and was accepted as the co-chair.

4:15 3. Discussion of Conant School Improvement Plan

- Reviewed goals and explanation of SIP
- Goal #1: Multi-tiered system of support (MTSS) required by MA DESE. Use

data/evidence to determine what kids know/need to know and then offer different layers of support based on that data. Staff meet regularly to review data and make decisions on additional supports needed for each student. New implementation for ABRSD.

- Example supports: small group instruction in class during daily flex block with classroom assistant support; small group instruction with specialists (math, reading, etc.)
- Goal #2: “Conant School will improve students’, staffs’ and families’ sense of belonging by strengthening the school’s culture and climate by intentionally implementing culturally-responsive instructional practices and materials.”
 - Culturally Responsive Teacher Leaders (CRTLs)
- Goal #3: “Improve social-emotional, mental health, and behavioral outcomes for students by shifting our environments, practices and supports so that students can more effectively access learning and cultivate constructive relationships.”

4:30

4. Discussion of Conant Budget

- Concern about lack of air-conditioning
- Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) toured the building last year to determine if Conant is eligible for state-funding of a new building. If there is talk of a new building then they are unlikely to install air-conditioning in Conant.
- Superintendent Peter Light asked the MSBA to pause the process due to the district-wide budget concerns.
- ABRSD is experiencing an extraordinary budget deficit (\$9.5 million). Multiple reasons:
 - Health Insurance:
 - Major depletion of funds from the Acton Health Insurance Trust due to large claims. HIT needs to immediately replenish the funds and raise health insurance 25%. District covers 75% of health insurance costs. District is covering the increase for the district staff until June.
 - Special Education:
 - Cost for out of district students (students enrolled in a specialized program or school) increased. This includes transportation.

- Inflation:
 - Heating, electricity, cost of living increases
- Depletion of reserves over the past couple of years due to ongoing budget constraints
- Admin will create two budgets to present to the school committee (one with an override and one without). People in the community have asked what it would look like if the district would close Conant. To close Conant would save \$1.2 million.
- Conant continues to build community (example: creating a school song)

4:45 5. Open Discussion - What would Committee Members like to include in future meetings?

- Email Dr. O'Reilly or Mary with topics for future meetings

5:00 6. Adjournment