

CUMBERLAND SCHOOL COMMITTEE

APRIL 14, 2005

MINUTES

The regular meeting of the Cumberland School Committee held on Thursday, April 14, 2005 at the Administrative Office/Cafetorium, 2602 Mendon Road, was called to order at 7:30 PM, by Chairman Paul Neves, with the following present:

Paul Neves, Chairman, Donald J. Costa, Vice Chair, Arthur DeCosta, Clerk,

Rosa Crowley, Linda Teel, Robert C. Thibodeau, Earl T. Wood

Also Present: Donna A. Morelle, Assistant Superintendent, Joseph A. Rotella, Esq., Director Legal Services/Employee Relations

Absent: Joseph M. Nasif, Superintendent

I. Pledge of Allegiance - The Pledge of Allegiance was led by committee members.

II. Approval of Agenda - On a motion by Mr. Costa and Mr. Wood, and a second by Ms. Crowley and Mr. DaCosta, it was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE the agenda.

III. Chairperson's Report - None.

IV. Comments from the Public - Ms. Jarvis read from a letter sent to Mrs. Teel regarding the cancellation of the public forum on the Superintendent search. Mr. McLaughlin commented that CHS2010 should include maintenance contracts for the boilers. Ms. Steinke explained there were many people at the High School looking for the public forum. The Chair explained a news release was sent to the media on Friday. Ms. Steinke suggested it could have been posted on the school department web site.

V. Reports of Standing Committees

A. Personnel - Mr. Thibodeau reported the committee reviewed the job description for the Director of Building and Grounds and explained the changes. On a motion by Mr. Thibodeau, and a second by Mr. Wood, it was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE the job description as presented.

VI. Consent Agenda - On a motion by Mr. Costa, and a second by Mr. DaCosta, it was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE the Consent Agenda.

A. Police Report - The Chair noted the names should be blacked out.

A. Approval of Minutes

1. Open Session: February 16, 24; March 10, 24, 2005

2. Executive Session: March 10, 24, 2005

Cumberland School Committee

April 14, 2005/Minutes -2-

B. Maintenance Report

C. Enrollments Report

D. Building Use Report

Mr. Wood thanked Tom Roux for providing the report and stepping in as acting Director of Building & Grounds.

VII. Old Business

A. Phase III Update & Vote - Dr. Morelle reported this is a defining moment for students, families of Cumberland to create a teaching and learning environment second to none in the nation. She introduced the Principal of Cumberland High School. Mr Driscoll recognized the parents assisting with the power point presentation. He introduced two seniors, Savannah Potrzeba and Kathryn Bonner, to tell of what they have and haven't had at the high school. Slides were shown of the renovated auditorium and one of the lavs. The students noted that students now have pride in the lavs and aren't smoking and there is no graffiti. They proceeded to describe conditions shown in additional pictures of classrooms and the cafeteria with photos of what could be. Mr. Davignon reviewed the implementation time frame. Mr. Bruce reviewed the Town's fiscal condition and the potential cost to a homeowner. On a motion by Mr. Costa, and a second by Ms. Crowley and Mr. Wood, it was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE forwarding the 30 million dollar bond to the Town Council for approval.

B. Search Committee Update - Mr. Rotella reported the application

process for the Building & Grounds Director is closed. The job description has been approved and a screening committee will be put together this week. Mr. Thibodeau reviewed the Superintendent Search committee membership. He reported there were nine initial candidates, reduced to five. All candidates were asked the same questions and a scoring sheet was used. It was the School Committee's charge to bring multiple candidates forward, but that was not done. He noted that candidate names cannot be given out due to privacy. The search committee members will report to the School Committee later in Executive Session. Mr. Yorke, as a parent representative to the search committee, commented there has been gross misinformation in the media about this process. He stated the postponement of the public forum was not candidate based, but logistical. He believed the interference by the Mayor and a Councilman was a huge disrespect to the members of the committee, the process, the kids and the candidates. Mr. Desmond asked the purpose of the forum. The Chair explained it was to meet the candidates and noted it has not been canceled.

C. Anti-Bullying Policy - Second Reading and Vote - On a motion by Mr. DaCosta, and a second by Mr. Thibodeau and Mr. Wood, it was VOTED 6-1 TO APPROVE waiving the second reading of the Anti-Bullying Policy, with Mr. Costa voting against. On a motion by Mr. DaCosta, and a second by Mr. Thibodeau, it was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE the Anti-Bullying Policy as read at the prior meeting.

Cumberland School Committee

Mr. McLoughlin attempted to speak on another topic and was ruled out of order.

VIII. New Business

A. Featured School: Cumberland Middle School - Dr. Koutsogiane introduced Mr. Walsh who assisted with a Power Point presentation of Cumberland Middle School. The Principal explained the diverse social, economic make up of students. She highlighted the many activities and groups at the school.

B. Professional Partners - The Assistant Superintendent gave an update on the program, noting they had completed the self-study. The program exceeds other programs in the state due to the movement towards full induction for teachers, its use as professional development and frame work of three years. They are now looking at ways to improve the program.

IX. Superintendent's Recommendations

A. Personnel Recommendations - The Assistant Superintendent presented the following:

1. The request for a FMLA leave by Tracie Drolet, Special Education Teacher at B.F. Norton School, effective May 2, 2005, was WITHDRAWN.

2. On a motion by Mr. Wood, and a second by Mr. DaCosta and Mr.

Costa, it was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE the appointment of Diane Payson, Teacher Assistant-ALP at Cumberland High School, effective April 15, 2005 (1.p FTE, Step 1, No Advance Lane, 10% Copay).

B. General Comments - The Assistant Superintendent agreed with Mr. Wood's comments on Mr. Roux's stepping in as Building & Grounds Director, noting he had assisted in a situation with a transformer at NCMS and worked with National Grid.

X. Comments from the Public - Ms. Steinke request a memo be sent home with students regarding the public forum. Ms. Jarvis requested an update on the search committee and process involved in replacing the principal at Community School. Ms. Lambert praised the CHS2010 Power Point presentation and suggested it, the prospectus and Executive Summary be put on the web site. Mr. McLaughlin also praised the presentation and commented on the age of some textbooks. Ms. Jackson commented on the poor conditions at the High School. Mr. Driscoll clarified that CHS2010 is not over cost and there are no over runs. Mr. Nobrega reiterated the fact there are no cost over runs and noted some of the delays were caused 40 years ago. He went on the record as the first Council member to support Phase III.

XI. School Committee Comments (School Liaison Reports) - Mr. Wood reported Cumberland Hill PTO will have a presentation on the College Bound Fund with Paul Tavares at 7:00 p.m. on May 3rd. May 15th will

be Mother/Son golf and a Golf Tournament on the 15th. He noted some of the phone calls being received on the search committee are out of line.

Cumberland School Committee

April 14, 2005/Minutes -4-

Ms. Teel reported attending Destination Imagination and recognized the teams and awards that were won by students at Community School. Mr. DaCosta thanked Garvin School for inviting him to participate in Reading Week.

XII. Vote to go into Executive Session for Discussion and/or Action Items Referred to in GLRI 42-46-5

A. Personnel Matters - Exception (1)

1. CTA/ICSE

B. Negotiations/Litigation - Exception (2)

1. CTA/ICSE

Mr. Costa made a motion to adjourn to Executive Session. Ms. Crowley provided a second. On a roll call vote, it was **UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE** the motion. The meeting recessed at 9:34 p.m.

Open Session was reconvened at 11:30 p.m. On a motion by Mr. Wood, and a second by Mr. DaCosta, it was **UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE** sealing the Executive Session minutes.

XIII. Adjournment - On a motion by Ms. Crowley, and a second by Mr. DaCosta, it was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE adjourning the meeting at 11:31 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Shirley Harris

Recording Secretary