

# **CUMBERLAND SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

**OCTOBER 27, 2005**

## **MINUTES**

**The regular meeting of the Cumberland School Committee held on Thursday, October 27, 2005, at the Administrative Office/Cafetorium, 2602 Mendon Road, was called to order by Chairman Paul Neves at 7:30 PM, with the following present:**

**Paul Neves, Chair, Donald J. Costa, Vice Chair, Arthur DaCosta, Clerk,**

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

**Also Present: Donna A. Morelle, Ed.D., Superintendent, Joseph A. Rotella, Esq., Director of Administration**

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

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

**III. Chairperson's Report - The Chair announced that Arthur Kimball, the Providence Journal reporter, was leaving and wished him well.**

**IV. Comments from the Public**

**A. Public Comments - Mr. Cioffi would reserve his comments until after the reading of the new use of facilities policy.**

**B. Student Government Report - Jason Anastasiades reported on recent activities at the High School. He noted they are preparing 75 turkey baskets for Thanksgiving. Donations of cash or non-perishable items can be made at the High School. He will give some available dates to the Superintendent for a joint meeting with Student Government members and the School Committee.**

#### **V. Reports of Standing Committees**

**A. Property Committee - Mr. Wood reported holding a meeting Monday regarding the auditorium roof leak. He thanked Dr. Morelle and the facilities team for their quick response. Garland has authorized Wayne Roofing to make repairs at no charge to the school department. Fury Roofing is also making repairs to a leak at the High School. They will be conscientious in removing snow this winter. The Superintendent noted there was a FEMA team on site examining the auditorium and she will keep the committee apprised if they are eligible for emergency funds.**

**Cumberland School Committee**

**October 27, 2005/Minutes -2-**

## **B. Finance Committee**

**1. Payment of Bills - On a motion by Mr. Costa, and a second by Mr. DaCosta, it was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE payment of bills in the amount of \$1,304,649.29.**

### **2. Bid Awards**

**a. On a motion by Mr. Costa, and a second by Mr. DaCosta and Ms. Crowley, it was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE the purchase of 12 Dell Computers (12 OptiPlex GX620 Desktop) through the State MPA for Cumberland High School CAD lab, not to exceed \$12,543.96. This will be split evenly between the High School and technology budget.**

**b. Mr. Costa made a motion to approve a change order for repair of boiler #2 at North Cumberland Middle School to AD&D Welding & Boiler Works, Inc., not to exceed \$26,236.29. Mr. Wood Provided a second. The original bid was awarded on February 24, 2005. Ms. Dutremble explained that while repairing boiler #1, it was noticed that the asbestos on boiler #2 was buckling. Mr. Thibodeau felt this should go out to bid since the amount is over \$5,000. Mr. Rotella clarified this is a change order, not a new bid. The motion FAILED 4-3, with the following voting AYE: Ms. Crowley, Mr. Costa, Mr. Wood; NAY: Mr. Thibodeau, Mr. DaCosta, Ms. Teel, Mr. Neves. Mr. Hilton explained that if the boiler fails, rental would be \$1,000/day.**

**c. Mr. Costa made a motion to approve a fuel adjustment of \$5,148 for snow removal to RB Site Construction. Mr. Thibodeau provided a second. This will be monitored by Ms. Dutremble and Mr. Hilton. Mr. Costa noted RB Site has been the contractor for the last three to five**

years and the only other bidder at the time couldn't provide a performance bond. The motion FAILED 5-2, with the following voting AYE: Mr. Costa, Ms. Teel; NAY: Mr. Thibodeau, Ms. Crowley, Mr. DaCosta, Mr. Wood, Mr. Neves.

d. On a motion by Mr. Costa, and a second by Mr. DaCosta, it was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE purchase of #2 fuel oil for the 2005-2006 year to Brennan Oil, North Providence, RI, from the RI State Bid awarded 8/1/05 to 7/31/05.

Mr. DaCosta made a motion to revisit the boilers. Ms. Crowley provided a second. On a roll call vote, it was VOTED 4-3 TO APPROVE the motion, with the following voting AYE: Mr. Wood, Ms. Teel, Mr. DaCosta, Mr. Neves; NAY: Mr. Thibodeau, Ms. Crowley, Mr. Costa.

Mr. DaCosta made a motion to approve the change order for repair of boiler #2 not to exceed \$26,236.29. Mr. Wood provided a second. Discussion ensued regarding possible engineering costs of \$2,000 and the time to review bids. Mr. Hilton explained that boiler #1 was not complete due to asbestos abatement.

Cumberland School Committee

October 27, 2005/Minutes -3-

On a roll call vote, it was VOTED 4-3 TO APPROVE the motion, with the following voting AYE: Mr. DaCosta, Ms. Teel, Mr. Wood, Mr.

**Neves; NAY: Mr. Thibodeau, Ms. Crowley, Mr. Costa.**

**C. Personnel Committee - Mr. Thibodeau reported meeting on the job descriptions for the secretaries to the Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent. He noted the changes to the Assistant Superintendent secretary now includes 18 essential functions and a title change to Confidential Secretary to the Assistant Superintendent. On a motion by Mr. Thibodeau, and a second by Mr. Costa, it was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE the job description of Confidential Secretary to the Assistant Superintendent.**

**Mr. Thibodeau noted the changes to the Superintendent's secretary now includes 20 essential functions and the title changes to Confidential Secretary to the Superintendent/School Committee. On a motion by Mr. Thibodeau, and a second by Ms. Crowley and Ms. Teel, it was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE the job description of Confidential Secretary to the Superintendent/School Committee.**

**Mr. Thibodeau reported the committee reviewed and approved salary adjustments of \$40,450, plus benefits for a total of \$44,988, to bring salaries in line with the state average, to include the following increases: Special Education Director \$5,000; Deputy Special Education Director \$5,000; Director of Technology \$2,000; Network Manager \$2,400; High School Principal \$3,300; High School Assistant Principals \$1,040; Middle School Principals \$3,240; Middle School Assistant Principals \$1,275; Elementary School Principals \$1,600 and the Elementary School Assistant Principal \$800. Mr. Thibodeau made a motion to approve the increases as recommended by the**

**Superintendent. Ms. Teel provided a second. The Superintendent noted this process began with the prior Superintendent and would be retroactive to July 1st. Mr. Costa noted he could not support the motion, while the intent is good, the budget process had cut 3.3 million dollars and he is not sure the money is in the budget. The Business Manager explained she reviewed salaries in the budget and there will be a modest surplus due to vacancies and new hires.**

**Mr. Wood made a motion to table. Mr. DaCosta provided a second. On a roll call vote, the motion FAILED 4-3, with the following voting AYE: Mr. DaCosta, Mr. Wood, Mr. Neves; NAY: Mr. Thibodeau, Mr. Crowley, Mr. Costa, Mr. Teel.**

**On a roll call vote, it was VOTED 4-3 TO APPROVE the motion, with the following voting AYE: Mr. Thibodeau, Ms. Crowley, Ms. Teel, Mr. Wood; NAY: Mr. Costa, Mr. DaCosta, Mr. Neves.**

**Cumberland School Committee**

**October 27, 2005/Minutes -4-**

## **VI. Consent Agenda**

**A. Personnel Recommendations - On a motion by Mr. DaCosta, and a**

**second by Mr. Wood, it was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE the following:**

**1. Resignation**

**a. Melissa Olivier, Grade 3 Teacher at Garvin School, effective 10/28/2005.**

**2. Appointments**

**a. Colleen Green, Library Media Specialist at B.F. Norton School, effective 10/14/2005 (FTE: 0.2, Step: 1, Advanced Lane: Masters, Co-pay: 10%, Budgeted). One year position.**

**b. Sara Smith, Assistant Volleyball Coach at Cumberland High School, effective 10/27/2005 (FTE: n/a, Step: n/a, Advanced Lane: n/a, Co-pay: n/a; Budgeted).**

**c. Kimberly Bishaw, Cross Country Coach at North Cumberland Middle School, effective 10/27/2005 (FTE: n/a, Step: n/a, Advanced Lane: n/a, Co-pay: n/a/, Budgeted).**

**VII. Old Business**

**A. Building Committee Update - The Superintendent reported there wasn't a quorum for the CHS2010 meeting so there is no report. Mr. Wood reported the 3.5 Building Committee met last night. The Tucker Field project is nearly complete and there may be funding for a Phase II. Future projects were reviewed and the Business Manager is preparing a housing aid application. The next meeting will be November 9th.**

**B. Search Committee Update - No report.**

## **VIII. New Business**

**A. 2005-2006 Budget Update - The Superintendent reported the last time the budget was reconciled was June 30th. The Business Manager reported that the budget was kept in filling new positions. Of concern is the escalating cost of energy. She noted she had estimated a 20% increase and according to a survey by the Department of Education shows a 17% increase. Health claims through October 31 show a slight deficit of \$47,000. They are looking at changes in the charter schools. They are developing a plan for the Superintendent to be able to review discretionary spending. The FY 2004-2005 ended with an \$88,000 surplus. This information will be forwarded to the Town Council.**

**B. Use of Facilities Policy - 1st Reading - Mr. DaCosta read the policy. The policy will be implemented January 1st. Mr. DaCosta noted he had received a letter from Mr. Hamel of the Parks & Recreation Department. The Superintendent noted that all prior requests through December 31st have been made; however all organizations are requested to complete a new application. The Chair asked people to submit their concerns and questions to the Superintendent in writing and they will be reviewed by the Rules and Regulations Committee. The second reading will be held at the December meeting.**

**Cumberland School Committee**

**October 27, 2005/Minutes -5-**

**Mr. Geiselman asked for a definition of intermittent use and the Superintendent explained that the School Department was not giving up control of the building to another organization. Mr. Cioffie of the YMCA explained the currently are using three schools and are concerned with the cost.**

**IX. Superintendent's Report - The Superintendent thanked the committee for its patience in issues that were brought forward.**

**X. Comments from the Public - None.**

**XI. School Committee Comments (School Liaison Reports) - Mr. Wood reported JJ McLaughlin Cumberland Hill will be holding a Harvest Dance tomorrow and preparing for a holiday bazaar. There will be a pie sale for Thanksgiving.**

**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**

**2. Central Administrators' Contracts**

**3. Non-Contractual Salaries**

**Mr. Thibodeau 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. Open Session recessed at 9:18 p.m.**

**Open Session reconvened at 9:45 p.m. On a motion by Mr. Wood, and a second by Ms. Teel, it was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE sealing the Executive Session minutes.**

**XIII. Adjournment - On a motion by Ms. Teel, and a second by Mr. DaCosta, it was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE adjourning the meeting at 9:46 p.m.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Shirley Harris**

**Recording Secretary**