

# **CUMBERLAND SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

**JANUARY 26, 2006**

## **MINUTES**

**The regular meeting of the Cumberland School Committee held on Thursday, January 26, 2006, at the Administrative Office/Cafetorium, 2602 Mendon Road, was called to order at 7:30 PM, by Vice Chairman Donald J. Costa, with the following present:**

**Paul Neves, Chairman, 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. A moment of silence was observed for Joe White.**

**II. Approval of Agenda - On a motion by Mr. DaCosta, and a second by Mr. Wood, it was VOTED 6-0 TO APPROVE the agenda.**

**III. Chairperson's Report - None.**

**IV. Comments from the Public**

**A. Public Comments - None.**

**B. Student Government Report - Jason Anastasiades reported the Winter Ball was this coming weekend at Wright's Farm. He suggested the dates of February 28th or March 1st to meet with the School Committee in HR 219 at 6:00 p.m. The Superintendent will let him know which date would be better.**

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

**A. Curriculum Committee - Ms. Teel reported the subcommittee had met regarding the new state GLE and GSE mandates. On a motion by Ms. Teel, and a second by Mr. DaCosta, it was VOTED 6-0 TO APPROVE the realignment of the science course sequence to meet the new GLE's. This will eliminate the applied Science 1 and 2 and Practical Science and add Fundamental Biology, Fundamental Chemistry and Fundamental Physics. Biotechnology and Applied Physics and Alternative Fuels will be added for Grade 12.**

**Mr. Neves' arrival is noted at 7:38 p.m.**

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**On a motion by Ms. Teel, and a second by Mr. DaCosta and Ms.**

**Crowley, it was VOTED 6-0 TO APPROVE the elimination of the Applied Math track at Cumberland High School and replace it with fundamental level Algebra 1, Geometry and Algebra 2 and a one year transition for 2006-2007 of Pre-Algebra for students that are not quite ready for Algebra 1, with a recommendation as to whether or not to continue to offer Pre-Algebra in 2007-2008 to be presented by the Curriculum Standing Committee next winter and approve the concept of reorganizing the middle school math curriculum with the new Grade Level Expectations (GLEs). Mr. Wood expressed concern for middle school students and that not all students have an easy time learning algebra. The Superintendent noted the state standards changing instruction normally done at 8th grade is now at 7th grade and the 7th grade is at 6th grade. She pointed out the change in elementary math as preparation.**

**Mr. Costa relinquished the chair to Mr. Neves.**

## **B. Finance Committee**

**1. Payment of Invoices - On a motion by Mr. Costa, and a second by Ms. Teel, it was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE payment of invoices in the amount of \$1,456,881.69.**

### **2. Purchases**

**a. On a motion by Mr. Costa, and a second by Mr. Thibodeau and Ms. Crowley, it was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE the purchase of up to 48 Dell OptiPlex SX280 computers with 15" E153 FP all in one scan and LCD display (26 to McCourt Middle School computer lab, 4**

each to libraries of Ashton, B.F. Norton, Community, JJ McLaughlin Cumberland Hill and Garvin, 2 to Cumberland Hill Annex Teacher's Room) not to exceed \$54,000.

b. On a motion by Mr. Costa, and a second by Mr. DaCosta, it was **UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE** the purchase of textbooks for elementary school book closets from Harcourt in the amount of \$12,475.04.

c. On a motion by Mr. Costa, and a second by Mr. DaCosta and Mr. Wood, it was **UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE** the E-Rate proposal by Mr. Barrett, starting July 1, 2006, not to exceed \$54,057 (in the 06-07 budget). Mr. Barrett reported there is a 40% reimbursement.

3. **Cumberland Community Lacrosse Program Proposal** - On a motion by Mr. Costa, and a second by Mr. DaCosta, it was **VOTED 6-1 TO APPROVE** the formation for a Lacrosse boys and girls team at the High School to join the RI Interscholastic league to be under the jurisdiction of the Athletic Department, the School Department and the Superintendent's office, at no cost to the School Department, with Mr. Neves voting against. A written agreement would be in place which outlines specific conditions while the policy is developed by the Rules and Regulations Committee to include the following:

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**The funds identified by the Director of Athletics as necessary to**

**support initial startup and annual operations must be on deposit with the School Department prior to scheduling competition.**

**The School Committee and Administration shall have complete care and control of all activities associated with the particular sport.**

**The use of students in fundraising activities shall be consistent with all approved policies of the Cumberland Public Schools.**

**Should the sport no longer be offered, all surplus funds shall be transferred to the High School Athletic General Account.**

**Any additional conditions which the School Committee members feel would protect the future financial interest of the school system would be considered.**

**Mr. Geiselman reported he did speak to the director of the Interscholastic League and both boys and girls teams can be scheduled for competition. Mr. Costa apologized for the short notice in presentation of this; it was initially scheduled for February, but a decision was needed by the Interscholastic League. Mr. Rotella will draft and execute a memo of agreement as soon as possible. The Superintendent suggested Mr. Geiselman contact Mr. Finn to make sure he is aware of the above.**

## **VI. Consent Agenda**

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

**1. On a motion by Mr. Wood, and a second by Ms. Teel, it was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE the appointment of Kristen**

**Noke, Grade 1 Teacher at JJM Cumberland Hill Elementary School, effective 1/26/2006 for the remainder of the 2005-2006 school year (Budgeted, 1 year, Step 1), retroactive to September.**

**2. On a motion by Mr. Costa, and a second by Ms. Crowley, it was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE the appointment of Kerry Saltzman, Grade 3 Teacher at Garvin Memorial School, effective 1/26/2006 for the remainder of the 2005-2006 school year (Budgeted, 1 year, Step 1, no advanced lane), retroactive to September. The Superintendent introduced the appointee.**

**3. Mr. DaCosta made a motion to approve the sick leave of Barbara Bogosian, Speech Therapist at Garvin Memorial, effective 1/19/2006. A second was provided by Ms. Teel. On a motion by Mr. DaCosta, and a second by Mr. Costa, it was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE tabling.**

**4. On a motion by Mr. DaCosta, and a second by Ms. Crowley, it was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE the following retirements:**

**a. Lidia Araujo, Art-Secondary at Cumberland High School, effective 6/30/2006.**

**b. Martha Aurelio, Art-Elementary at Community School, effective 6/30/2006.**

**c. Frank Bielecki, Social Studies Teacher at Cumberland High School, effective 6/30/2006.**

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**d. Regina Blais, Grade 6 English Teacher at North Cumberland Middle, effective 6/30/2006.**

**e. Emilia Cooney, World Language Department Chairperson/Teacher at Cumberland High School, effective 6/30/2006.**

**f. Eni Desmond, ESL Teacher at B.F. Norton School, effective 6/30/2006.**

**g. Pamela Gibbs, Grade 5 Teacher at Community School, effective 6/30/2006.**

**h. Diane Hardy, Grade 1 Teacher at Community School, effective 6/30/2006.**

**i. Doreen Howe, Grade 2 Teacher at Ashton School, effective 6/30/2006.**

**j. Kathleen Kenwood, Physical Education Teacher at Community School, effective 6/30/2006.**

**k. Howard Lancaster, Science Teacher at Cumberland High School, effective 6/30/2006.**

**l. Lynda Martin, Grade 6 Teacher at Ashton School, effective 6/30/2006.**

**m. Olivia Neves, ESL Teacher at B.F. Norton School, effective 6/30/2006.**

**n. Ronald Noble, Assistant Principal at Cumberland High School, effective 6/30/2006.**

**o. Janet Querceto, Grade 5 Teacher at Ashton School, effective 6/30/2006.**

**p. Laura Riggs-Mitchell, Assistant Principal at Cumberland High**

**School, effective 6/30/2006.**

**q. Susan Rodowicz, Grade 2 Teacher at JJM Cumberland Hill Elementary School, effective 6/30/2006.**

**r. Elaine Rowan, Grade 4 Teacher at JJM Cumberland Hill Elementary School, effective 6/30/2006.**

**s. Kenneth Ruschetta, Physical Education Teacher at Cumberland High School, effective 6/30/2006.**

## **VII. Old Business**

**A. Building Committee Update - The Superintendent reported under Phase III there are two requests for proposals advertised, construction manager services and architectural and design services.**

**The response is due by February 3rd. Mr. Neves expressed concern for the work on the fire suppression system being completed by September.**

**B. Search Committee Update - Mr. Rotella reported they have advertised for an Assistant Superintendent and Principal at B.F. Norton. The closing date is February 1st.**

**C. 2006-2007 School Calendar - The Superintendent reported she would like to continue developing a list of time lines for the calendar and will add it to a future agenda.**

## **VIII. New Business**

**A. 3.5 Elementary/Middle School/Tucker Field Building Committee Recommendation for Contractor(s) for the Ashton School and John J. McLaughlin Cumberland Hill Elementary School Doors and Windows**

**Projects - Mr. Wood reported there were two contractors, Advantage Glass and Lockheed. He explained the weighted criteria.**

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**After interviewing both companies, the recommendation was Lockheed for Ashton and JJM Cumberland Hill. He noted the biggest factor for Lockheed was that they would use their own employees and the staff is trained and certified in asbestos removal. Windows will be removed and replaced in one day. Mr. Wood pointed out the two sample windows on display. On a motion by Mr. DaCosta, and a second by Ms. Crowley, it was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE the recommendation of Lockheed in the amount of \$748,500. Mr. Wood stated this would go before the Town Council on February 1st and Lockheed will start work when school ends. He noted other projects will be the all purpose room at Ashton and extending the library and kitchen area at JJM Cumberland Hill. Remaining funds are approximately 2.3 million dollars.**

**IX. Superintendent's Report - The Superintendent congratulated the students graduating from the DARE program. She also recognized the essay winners Courtney Gallucci, Tyler Roy and Tom Lazarus at Community School and Jaycine Nicole Cote, Kevin Scullin and Mitchell Baxter at Garvin School. Dr. Morelle also congratulated 5th grader Alex Villaneuva, winner of the Spelling Bee. She commented**

on the issue with the graffiti at North Cumberland Middle School that was in effect a bomb threat, noting that the school department coordinated that investigation with the police department. She wanted it known the teachers and staff maintained control in that building and no one was in danger and if anyone had any concerns to contact her. She stated it was with personal regret to see her colleagues, not just employees, who are retiring. She has worked with them and her children had been taught by them and she looks forward to partnering with the CTA to find young, qualified teachers or even second career teachers.

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

**XI. School Committee Comments (School Liaison Reports) - Mr. Wood reported the JJM Cumberland Hill playground committee is holding a fund raiser dinner at the Coachman with a silent auction. Ms. Teel congratulated the 5th graders who completed the DARE program and thanked Officer Kevin Frolich and also congratulated the Spelling Bee winners. There will be a series of family math nights at Community School and she thanked the teachers who put these together. There will be a fund raiser at the end of March. Mr. DaCosta congratulated the 5th graders at Garvin School. Mr. Costa thanked Durham School Services and commented on the detailed report. He noted he has asked the Superintendent to invite them to the next Finance Committee meeting. He thanked the retiring teachers for their service.**

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**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**

**No Executive Session was necessary.**

**XIII. Adjournment - On a motion by Mr. DaCosta, and a second by Mr. Costa, it was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE adjourning the meeting at 9:07 p.m.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Shirley Harris**

**Recording Secretary**