

# **CUMBERLAND SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

**MARCH 23, 2006**

## **MINUTES**

**The regular meeting of the Cumberland School Committee held on Thursday, March 23, 2006 at the Administrative Office/Cafetorium, 2602 Mendon Road, was called to order at 7:35 PM, by Chairman Paul Neves, 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.**

**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 commended the North Cumberland Middle School staff and Police Department for their coordination of a situation Monday.**

#### **IV. Comments from the Public**

**A. Public Comments - None.**

**B. Student Government Report - None.**

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

**A. Rules & Regulations Committee - Mr. DaCosta reported meeting earlier on the Use of Facilities policy and they will have a separate policy for the Wellness Center and change the application process for the use of facilities with separate applications for the Wellness Center, fields and use of facilities. And they may be looking at an RFP/RFQ for an event planner. They will be looking at policies for the School Committee minutes, adapting the Open Record Laws to post official or unofficial minutes in 14 days on the Secretary of State Web Site. Additional policies to be considered are an attendance policy and a key holder policy. The next meeting will be April 4th at 6:00 p.m.**

##### **B. Finance Committee**

**1. Payment of Invoices - On a motion by Mr. Costa, and a second by Ms. Teel, it was VOTED 6-1 TO APPROVE payment of invoices in the amount of \$1,620,270.35, with Mr. Wood voting against.**

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**2. Disposal of Obsolete Computers - On a motion by Mr. Costa, and a second by Ms. Crowley and Mr. DaCosta, it was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE the disposal with Mr. Barrett's supervision. Mr. Hilton has made an arrangement with Mr. Fernandes.**

## **VI. Consent Agenda**

**A. Personnel Recommendations - None.**

## **VII. Old Business**

**A. Building Committee Update - Mr. Wood reported bids for architectural services for the 3.5 Elementary/Middle School/Tucker Field Building Committee will be opened tomorrow. He reminded the committee there would be a special School Committee meeting April 3rd at 5:45 p.m.**

**B. Search Committee Update - Mr. Rotella reported the B.F. Norton screening committee met last week. A paper screening was done and they will be interviewing approximately six candidates. The committee for Assistant Superintendent is being formulated at this time. The Superintendent noted she feels strongly about the process they followed when hiring Mr. Skitt, with on site visits. Mr. Draper will be at B.F. Norton until March 31st and there is another interim person available. Mr. Rotella reported the ad for Assistant Principals was in the paper this week and they will be setting up a screening committee.**

**C. Release of NECAP Results - The Superintendent reported they had been getting glimpses of the information over the past weeks. She**

attended the Governor's press conference today. She thought this is a test for teachers, the results are meant to form instruction in the classroom and where curriculum will begin to be addressed. This is also an assessment system for families. Dr. Morelle reported the numbers for the state are about 50% proficient in math, 59% in reading and 51% in writing. She noted the complexity of interpreting the results. Looking at the elementary level, 60% of the state are proficient in reading in grade three and almost across Cumberland that number was exceeded. There is one school that bears watching. In grade five where Cumberland has looked at reading, Cumberland exceeded the 60% level. She reported the workshop for principals to learn how to talk about this data starts Monday and hers is on Tuesday.

## **VIII. New Business**

**A. Rhode Island Association of School Committees Presentation -**  
The Superintendent introduced Mr. Duffy, Executive Director of RIASC, who spoke about the benefits of being a member of RIASC. He noted they are lobbyists for education. He reported they are looking at group savings in energy costs, telecommunications, and starting a workers comp pool, as well as property and casualty and life insurance. He noted 34 of 36 towns are members.

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**B. NEASC Letter of Acceptance - CHS Two Year Progress Report - Mr. Driscoll reported submitting a six month report and then a two year report earlier this year. They had to respond to 92 recommendations and the nexus of the accreditation process and the graduation by proficiency has been met. The six areas that are left are all in action in terms of what is being done with the bond project and graduation by proficiency. He admitted his disappointment that the two warnings were not lifted, but noted the continued accreditation.**

**C. Appointment of District-wide School Health & Wellness Sub-Committee - The Superintendent reported this committee would be charged with developing wellness policies for the district. Mr. Neves and Ms. Dutremble would be co-chairs. On a motion by Mr. DaCosta, and a second by Ms. Crowley, it was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE the committee with the following members:**

**Lori Chadwick School Nurse Teacher, Cumberland Pre-School Ctr**

**Lynne Conca Food Service Director, Sodexo**

**Pamela Costa Parent, JJM Cumberland Hill School**

**Fran DeRuiter Registered Nutritionist, Sodexo**

**Dina Dutremble Business Manger, Cumberland Public Schools**

**Janet Hook Parent, CHS, Registered Nutritionist**

**Leslie Morin Consumer Science Teacher, NCNS**

**Paul Neves Chairperson, Cumberland School Committee**

**Margaret Wharton School Nurse Teacher, Community School**

**IX. Superintendent's Report - The Superintendent supported the Chair's remarks about the staff and faculty at North Cumberland Middle School. She noted the collaboration of the administration and police department. She stated the NECAP results are intended to be informative, not punitive.**

**X. Comments from the Public - Mr. Crowley commented on Mr. Duffy's presentation and the savings that RIASC could offer.**

**XI. School Committee Comments (School Liaison Reports) - Mr. Wood reported receiving a letter from four students proposing a service learning project. The Superintendent reported they contacted her as well and she will schedule a meeting with them when Mr. Wood is available. Mr. Wood reported the Town Council passed funding for the playground. The young ladies' ball is this weekend. Mr. DaCosta noted the basketball hoops are up at Garvin. Mr. Hilton reported they were from Berkley Homes. Ms. Crowley thanked everyone for the flowers, e-mails and telephone calls. Mr. Costa reported as the liaison to the Special Advisory, St. Thomas Knights of Columbus will be holding a fund raiser for special needs children preparing to go to Disney.**

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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**
- 2. Central Administrators' Contracts**
- 3. Non-Contractual Salaries**

**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. Open Session recessed at 8:40 p.m.**

**Open Session reconvened at 9:07 p.m.. without Mr. Thibodeau. On a motion by Ms. Crowley, and a second by Mr. Wood, it was VOTED 6-0 TO APPROVE sealing the Executive Session minutes.**

**XIII. Adjournment - On a motion by Ms. Crowley, and a second by Mr. DaCosta, it was VOTED 6-0 TO APPROVE adjourning the meeting at 9:08 p.m., with Mr. Thibodeau having departed.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Shirley Harris**

**Recording Secretary**

**Approved by the School Committee April 12, 2006**