

Minutes Approved - June 8, 2006

CUMBERLAND SCHOOL COMMITTEE

MAY 11, 2006

MINUTES

The regular meeting of the Cumberland School Committee held on Thursday, May 11, 2006 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 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 VOTED 6-0 TO APPROVE the agenda, with Mr. Costa not having arrived.

III. Chairperson's Report - Mr. Neves commented that in his personal opinion it was unprofessional to report in the Providence Journal on a retirement that is not official. He added he also thought it unprofessional for the Mayor to state the school department and the town should combine business offices. He hopes the Mayor will address Dr. Morelle or the administration before it is in the paper.

IV. Comments from the Public - None.

Mr. Costa's arrival is noted at 7:35 p.m.

V. Reports of Standing Committees

A. Property Committee - Mr. Wood reported Edwards & Kelcey reviewed the fire code conditions at the elementary schools and has provided a summary of the cost, which is approximately 4.2 million dollars. The fire chiefs have been updated by the Superintendent and Mr. Hilton on the plans. The biggest obstacle is funding. Copies of the report will be provided to the planning board and the Town Council President.

B. Personnel Committee -

1. General Clerk Business Office - Mr. Thibodeau reported meeting earlier. He noted the only changes to the job description of the clerk/receptionist were to process the workers compensation claims and OSHA report. On a motion by Mr. Thibodeau, and a second by Mr. Wood, it was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE the job description for General Clerk Business Office.

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2. Business Manager - It was noted the job description for the Business Manager was reviewed and there were no changes.

3. Building Secretary - Mr. Thibodeau reported this was reviewed as an emergency request of the Superintendent. Dr. Morelle explained that depending on action taken later in the meeting, there would be an opening and the job description should be reviewed. An ICSE job pool is scheduled for Wednesday. Mr. Thibodeau read the job description. Mr. Costa objected to not being able to review this prior to the meeting. It was noted there is nothing in the ICSE contract requiring ICSE approval to revise the job description. Mr. Thibodeau made a motion to accept the amended Building Secretary job description. Ms. Teel provided a second. On a roll call vote, it was VOTED 5-2 TO APPROVE the motion, with the following voting AYE: Mr. Thibodeau, Ms. Crowley, Mr. DaCosta, Ms. Teel, Mr. Wood; NAY: Mr. Costa, Mr. Neves.

B. Curriculum Committee - Ms. Teel presented the following recommendations:

1. On a motion by Ms. Teel, and a second by Ms. Crowley, it was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE the Student Profile Sheet 2006-2007 for fifth grade students.

2. Ms. Teel made a motion to approve the revised grade 6-12 social

studies curriculum. A second was provided by Mr. Costa and Mr. DaCosta. Ms. Teel stated it was her understanding the social studies curriculum had not been reviewed in 25 years. She noted the revised curriculum is aligned with national standards; there are no state standards. The Superintendent commented this was for the purpose of selecting texts with modifications over time. Mr. Costa and Mr. DaCosta withdrew their second.

Ms. Teel amended her motion to include the support of the purchase of appropriate texts. A second was provided by Mr. Costa and Mr. DaCosta. It was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE the amended motion.

3. Ms. Teel made a motion to approve the following texts to support the curriculum changes:

- 9th & 10th grade - Honors: The American Vision by Glencoe/McGraw Hill; Regular: American Pathways to the Present by Prentice Hall

- 6th Grade - World Studies: Foundations of Geography, US and Canada, Latin America by Prentice Hall

- 7th Grade - World Geography 2007 edition

A second was provided by Mr. DaCosta and Ms. Crowley. Mr. Silverio reported the cost of the 810 freshman and sophomore books would be \$43,530; 160 honors texts \$10,876. He noted there would be on line access as long as the texts are being used.

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Mr. Butler reported the cost would be \$25,709.55 for grade 6 and \$31,752.95 for grade 7 texts. The Superintendent reported these are usually budgeted on a cycle and the total amount is not in the budget; they would have to negotiate with the publisher. Mr. Silverio explained the book representative indicated there would be ways to purchase on a plan. The Business Manager stated she would have to look at what the representative is proposing. It was VOTED 6-1 TO APPROVE the motion, with Mr. Thibodeau voting against.

3. On a motion by Ms. Teel, and a second by Ms. Crowley, it was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE the Preschool Report Card.

4. On a motion by Ms. Teel, and a second by Ms. Crowley, it was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE the pilot of the PALS program in Pre-K and K during the 2006-2007 school year.

C. Rules & Regulations Committee - Mr. DaCosta reported they are working on the Use of School Facilities policy and Attendance policy and that they received an update from the Wellness Committee.

VI. Consent Agenda

A. Police Report

D. Truancy Report

E. Approval of Minutes

1. Open Session: 4/13/06, 4/27/06

2. Executive Session: 4/11/06, 4/13/06, 4/27/06

F. Facilities Report

G. Enrollment Report

On a motion by Mr. DaCosta, and a second by Ms. Crowley, it was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE the consent agenda without Personnel.

VII. Vote to go into Executive Session for Discussion and/or Action Items Referred to in GLRI 42-26-5

A. Personnel Matters - Exception (1)

1. CTA/ICSE

Mr. Wood made a motion to recess to Executive Session. Mr. DaCosta provided a second. On a roll call vote, it was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE the motion. Open Session recessed at 8:21 p.m.

Open Session reconvened at 8:51 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.

VI. Consent Agenda, Continued

H. Personnel - The Superintendent presented the following:

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Mr. Neves relinquished the Chair to the Vice Chair for the first recommendation since he recused himself from the vote.

1. On a motion by Ms. Crowley, and a second by Mr. Wood, it was VOTED 6-0 TO APPROVE the appointment of Armand R. Pires, Principal at Joseph L. McCourt Middle School, effective 7/1/06 (FTE: 1.0, Step: n/a, Advanced Lane: n/a, Co-pay: 20%, Budgeted), with Mr. Neves recusing himself. Mr. Pires was congratulated by the committee.

2. On a motion by Ms. Crowley, and a second by Ms. Teel, it was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE the appointment of Judy Thomson, Special Services Secretary at the Offices of Special Services in the Administration Office of the Cumberland Public Schools, effective 5/30/06, (FTE: 1.0, Step: n/a, Advanced Lane: n/a, Co-pay: 10%, Budgeted.) The Superintendent noted this position and Secretary to the Assistant Superintendent are confidential secretarial positions and non-union. Ms. Thomson was introduced to the committee.

3. On a motion by Mr. DaCosta and Ms. Crowley, and a second by Mr. Wood, it was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE the appointment of Marguerite T. Savickas, Secretary to the Assistant Superintendent of Schools in the Administration Offices of the Cumberland Public Schools, effective 7/1/2006 (FTE: 1.0, Step: n/a, Advanced Lane: n/a, Co-pay: 10%, Budgeted.)

4. On a motion by Mr. Wood, and a second by Mr. DaCosta, it was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE the resignation of Kim B. Bishaw, Assistant Coach to the Cross Country Team at North

VIII. Old Business

A. Building Committee Update - The Superintendent reported the architects and construction company for CHS2010 have been working on a tight schedule. There will be discussion on the RFP and construction documents for the projects this summer and they should be presenting a design concept soon. A cost benefit analysis and some programming information is needed before bringing it to the building committee. The wood floor for the gymnasium was delivered Monday.

Mr. Wood reported under the 3.5 Building Committee the windows for Ashton will be arriving the first week of June and at Cumberland Hill June 26th. KBA met Monday with Cumberland Hill teachers to go over plans and they will be going to Ashton this Monday. Work was supposed to be done this week at Tucker Field.

B. Search Committee Update - Mr. Rotella reported three recommendations for B.F. Norton and two recommendations for Assistant Superintendent have been forwarded to the Superintendent for interviews. There are 29 applicants for the Assistant Principal positions at the High School.

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C. Open Meetings Policy - 2nd Reading - Mr. DaCosta performed the second reading. On a motion by Mr. DaCosta, and a second by Mr. Wood, it was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE the policy.

IX. New Business

A. School Community Relations Policy - 1st Reading - On a motion by Mr. DaCosta, and a second by Ms. Teel, it was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE tabling for language revisions.

B. District Strategic Plan Update - The Superintendent reported 20 members of the administration and the community met on April 25th and 29th. They looked at what it would take to put a set of strategies in place to move the district forward, particularly for student learning. Thirteen actions plans are in place. She will be looking for the committee to approve the strategic plan at the May 25th school committee meeting.

X. Superintendent's Report - Dr. Morelle reported she has given the committee a summary of end of the year activities and will update them with any changes. Monday she received a copy of the budget that the Mayor forwarded to the Town Council. It indicates the school department's budget has not been recommended for funding. The Superintendent will advise the committee when dates for the public hearings are available.

XI. Comments from the Public - None.

XII. School Committee Comments (School Liaison Reports) - Mr. Wood reported volunteers are needed June 3rd to help build the playground at Cumberland Hill. He congratulated Mr. Pires. Ms. Teel reported Community School students had a great play last weekend and are looking forward to the 5th grade play this weekend. Mr. Thibodeau reported the McCourt Middle School dedication went very well. He commented on the Volunteers' luncheon. Mr. Neves reported Community School has a presentation tomorrow at Slater Mill. He, too, commented on the Volunteers' luncheon.

XIII. 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

Executive Session was not necessary.

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XIV. Adjournment - On a motion by Mr. Costa, and a second by Mr. Wood, it was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE adjourning the meeting at 9:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Shirley Harris

Recording Secretary

Approved by the School Committee June 8, 2006