

# **Approved Meeting Minutes - August 10, 2006**

## **CUMBERLAND SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

**JULY 26, 2006**

### **MINUTES**

**A special meeting of the Cumberland School Committee held on Wednesday, July 26, 2006, at the Administrative Office/Cafetorium, 2602 Mendon Road, was called to order by Vice Chairman Donald Costa at 6:05 PM, with the following present:**

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

**Robert C. Thibodeau, Earl T. Wood**

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

**Absent: Rosa Crowley, Linda Teel; Susan C. Carney, Ph.D, Assistant Superintendent**

**I. Pledge of Allegiance - The Pledge of Allegiance was led by committee members. A moment of silence was observed for the passing of Mrs.Sara Nasif.**

**II. Approval of Agenda - On a motion by Mr. Thibodeau, and a second by Mr. DaCosta and Mr. Wood, it was VOTED 4-0 TO APPROVE the agenda, without Mr. Neves.**

### **III. Reports of Standing Committees**

**A. Finance Committee - On a motion by Mr. Thibodeau and a second by Mr. Wood, it was VOTED 4-0 TO APPROVE the bid for electronic portfolio software and implementation from Ideas Consulting, Inc., of Providence, not to exceed \$26,700, without Mr. Neves. The Superintendent explained this had been part of a bid with Lincoln. It supports the new diploma system at the High School where students are required to demonstrate proficiency in six core academic areas.**

**On a motion by Mr. Wood, and a second by Mr. Thibodeau and Mr. DaCosta, it was VOTED 4-0 TO APPROVE moving Personnel Recommendations and Recalls to Items 5 and 6, without Mr. Neves.**

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

**A. On a motion by Mr. Wood, and a second by Mr. DaCosta, it was VOTED 4-0 TO APPROVE the resignation of Brianne Hoag, Special Educator at McCourt Middle School, effective 7/27/2006, without Mr. Neves.**

**B. On a motion by Mr. DaCosta, and a second by Mr. Wood, it was VOTED 4-0 TO APPROVE the following resignations, without Mr. Neves:**

**1. David Lamontagne, Cross Country Head Coach at North Cumberland Middle School, effective 7/27/2006.**

**2. Brien Keller, Freshmen Basketball Coach at Cumberland High School, effective 7/27/2006.**

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**3. Paul Mazziotti, Boys' Lacrosse Coach at Cumberland High School, effective 7/27/2006. The Superintendent noted she has been working with the Athletic Director on a two step process to get the intentions of all the coaches and working with those looking for reappointment.**

**C. On a motion by Mr. DaCosta, and a second by Mr. Thibodeau, it was VOTED 4-0 TO APPROVE the FMLA of Julie Dean, Grade 2 Teacher at Garvin School, effective 9/28/2006 to 11/14/2006, without Mr. Neves.**

**Mr. Neves arrival is noted at 6:15 p.m.**

**D. On a motion by Mr. DaCosta, and a second by Mr. Wood, it was VOTED 5-0 TO APPROVE the FMLA of Kellie Bissonnette, Grade 3 Teacher at Garvin School, effective 9/26/2006 to 11/10/2006.**

**E. On a motion by Mr. Wood, and a second by Mr. DaCosta, it was VOTED 5-0 TO APPROVE the request of Laurie Bollin as a .5 Math Teacher at Cumberland High School for the 2006-2007 school year, effective 8/28/2006.**

**F. On a motion by Mr. DaCosta, and a second by Mr. Thibodeau, it was VOTED 5-0 TO APPROVE the Parental Leave of Absence for Elizabeth Simao, Grade 1 Teacher at B.F. Norton School for the 2006-2007 school year, effective 8/28/2006.**

**V. Recalls - The Superintendent presented the following:**

**A. On a motion by Mr. DaCosta, and a second by Mr. Wood, it was VOTED 5-0 TO APPROVE rescinding the action taken by the school committee on February 23, 2006 not to renew the employment of the following for the 2006-2007 school year:**

**1. Kerry Saltzman, recall to the position of Elementary Teacher at an Elementary School to be determined, for one year only, effective 7/27/2006 (budgeted).**

**VI. JJM Cumberland Hill Elementary School/Annex Consolidation - The Superintendent made introductory remarks noting she was charged with creating a budget to meet the needs of 100% of the kids 100% of the time using resources, collaboration and learning communities. The budget is based on facts. One of the facts is they have been unsuccessful in negotiation a lease for the annex. Another is that the projected enrollment is different from the actual enrollment across the district. Dr. Morelle noted the school department didn't get the requested budget allocation. The Chair announced that public comments will be taken at the end of the presentation.**

**The Superintendent made a power point presentation showing**

enrollment and the vacancy of classrooms at Cumberland Hill and Community Schools. There would be a savings of \$372,224 by not using the Annex. They are currently using the Annex without a lease, so they would have to prorate the month of July since the lease ended June 30th.

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It would probably take two weeks to vacate the Annex and leave it in the condition it was initially in. Mr. Hilton explained the associated moving costs. Mr. Rotella explained the lease is three years old; there are no sunset clauses or penalties. He explained that St. Joan's expected the school department to contribute half of the cost to address the fire code issues for approximately \$20,000 or more. The Superintendent proceeded to explain the assignment of JJM Cumberland Hill kindergarten students and faculty to Community School starting with the 2006-2007 school year. Grade 1 students and faculty would be assigned to JJM Cumberland Hill. All certified and non-certified staff displaced by the consolidation would be transferred. It is expected administration, the school improvement team and PTOs at both schools will work together to ensure a smooth transition. She noted the analysis of the consolidation proposal.

The Chair took public questions. A parent asked about one identity.

The Superintendent explained that when she talks about primary grades, she is referring to grades 1 through 5.

Ms. Nocera expressed concern for the time it would take her kindergartner getting home because her second grader doesn't get home until 3:40 p.m. The Superintendent explained she has spoken to a number of parents and is working with Durham on the bus routes. The Superintendent is recommending a Space Utilization Task Force for the entire district. Mrs. Barry asked if this is redistricting and Dr. Morelle explained the registration of pre-school and kindergarten enrollments and she has been watching the trends for four years. Mr. Neves stated no one on the committee wants to hear the word redistricting, but the borders for schools do need to be realigned. A parent suggested waiting until next year to make those decisions. Several parents commented about the lease. Mr. Rotella explained that they were dealing with the budget in December and had been reviewing enrollments then began negotiation of the lease in the spring. Mr. Costa reported they have been renting the Annex for 18 years and reviewed the amount this has cost. The Superintendent explained this would also remedy the two major issues of communication and oversight in the SALT report which is available on the internet. She recommended consolidating John J. McLaughlin Cumberland Hill School and Annex for the 2006-2007 school year as outlined by the Superintendent of Schools.

The Chair declared a recess at 7:22 p.m. The meeting reconvened at 7:47 p.m.

**Ms. Reinalda spoke to the parents saying she understands their anxiety and has thought long and hard, but feels that the Annex was actually short changed by her not being there all the time. She thanked her staff for coming to a summer meeting. She is supporting this and is asking the SIT team to look at their space utilization. Mr. Skitt stated he is welcoming the kindergarten teachers the opportunity to articulate the curriculum and this is an exciting opportunity to work together.**

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**Mr. Thibodeau made a motion to approve the Superintendent's recommendation to initiate the steps to consolidate John J. McLaughlin Cumberland Hill School and Annex for the 2006-2007 school year as outlined by the Superintendent of Schools. Mr. Costa and Mr. DaCosta provided a second. The Chair read a statement in support of the recommendation prepared by Ms. Teel who was away on vacation. Mr. Wood asked about the two schools having one identity. The Superintendent explained that the kindergartners who would be assigned to Cumberland Hill will be integrated into the Community School but would have the same teachers. Discussion ensued regarding membership to the PTO and being classroom**

parents. A parent asked about computers in the classroom and the Superintendent explained that at the Annex they couldn't wire the kindergarten rooms for computers, but it is expected they will have access at Community School. Ms. Lambert noted the Superintendent presented a budget that was not met and it is the parents responsibility to advocate for their children. A spirit of collaboration is needed and spoke about the difficulty to move a classroom due to the amount of materials teachers collect over time and requested consideration for boxes to move some materials. A parent noted that she has children from first grade to tenth and that her tenth grader was one of the kindergartners who had to go to the middle school; initially there was a lot of anxiety but it was a wonderful experience. A parent asked for reassurance from the Superintendent that she will put the kindergarten back at Cumberland Hill as soon as possible and she gave that assurance. A parent who is a bus driver asked if there would be an orientation. The Chair stated there would be orientations for first graders going to Cumberland Hill and for kindergartners going to Community. Mr. Skitt announced Kindergarten Orientation is tentatively scheduled for August 22nd. Another parent asked about portable classrooms and the Superintendent noted that was considered, but they are utilizing space that is currently available. All school committee members made comments in support of the recommendation. It was VOTED 5-0 TO APPROVE the Superintendent's recommendation. The Superintendent asked if the parents had questions to call the principals or herself and gave her e-mail address.

**VII. FY 2006-2007 Budget Reconciliation/Update - The Superintendent made the following recommendations:**

**A. On a motion by Mr. DaCosa, and a second by Mr. Thibodeau, it was VOTED 5-0 TO APPROVE the 1211 Closed items (1. Grade 1 Annex in the amount of \$54,330).**

**B. On a motion by Mr. DaCosta, and a second by Mr. Wood, it was VOTED 5-0 TO APPROVE all Consolidation items:**

- 1502 1. Annex Building Secretary \$ 46,485**
- 1602 1.5 Annex Custodians (.5 no reduct to ins) 66,890**
- 1321 .2 Annex Librarian 10,866**
- 1211 .2 Annex Art 10,866**
- 1211 .2 Annex Music 10,866**
- 1211 .2 Annex PE 10,866**

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- 3106 Annex Nursing Services 36,000**
- 1930 Annex Lunch Aid 3,374**
- 3241 Annex Insurance 115**
- 3251 Annex Rental (inc. utilities, snow rem) 114,586**
- 3230 Annex Copier Repair 1,031**
- 3231 Annex Repair of Buildings 1,500**
- 3232 Annex Repair of Equipment 89**
- 4902 Annex Cleaning Supplies 2,500**

**4903 Annex Maintenance Supplies 300**

**3402 Annex Telephone 2,500**

**C. On a motion by Mr. DaCosta, and a second by M. Wood, it was VOTED 5-0 TO APPROVE increasing 3241 Property/Liability/Auto Insurance by \$5,110.**

**D. On a motion by Mr. Thibodeau, and a second by Mr. DaCosta, it was VOTED 5-0 TO APPROVE consolidating all items but Maintenance and Repair of Buildings for \$94,000:**

**3000 AESOP Attend Pur Service HR \$10,000**

**3000 Pur Service Technology Software 16,265**

**3232 Equipment Repair Facility 10,000**

**3331 Travel 7,450**

**3906 Snow Removal 3,400**

**4110 Tucker Field - Electricity 1,876**

**4111 Heating Oil 28,553**

**4112 Tucker Field - Gas 1,262**

**4112 Gas 96,041**

**4902 Cleaning Supplies 5,900**

**4903 Maintenance Supplies 10,000**

**5423 Maintenance Equipment 14,000**

**E. On a motion by Mr. Thibodeau, and a second by Mr. Wood and Mr. DaCosta, it was VOTED 5-0 TO APPROVE tabling the Increased Cost of Electricity by \$8,177.**

**F. On a motion by Mr. Costa, and a second by Mr. DaCosta, it was VOTED 5-0 TO APPROVE tabling Maintenance & Repair of Buildings by \$94,000**

**The Superintendent noted there was still a one million dollar shortfall. Mr. Costa requested more back up on the utilities changes.**

**VIII. 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**

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**B. Negotiations/Litigation - Exception (2)**

**2. CTA/ICSE**

**3. Central Administrator's Contracts**

**4. Non-Contractual Salaries**

**Mr. Costa made a motion to adjourn to Executive Session. Mr. DaCosta provided a second. On a roll call vote, it was VOTED 5-0 TO APPROVE the motion. Open Session was recessed at 8:47 p.m.**

**Open Session was reconvened at 9:21 p.m. On a motion by Mr. Wood, and a second by Mr. DaCosta, it was VOTED 5-0 TO APPROVE sealing the Executive Session minutes.**

**IX. Adjournment - On a motion by Mr. Costa, and a second by Mr. DaCosta, it was VOTED  
5-0 TO APPROVE adjourning Open Session at 9:22 p.m.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Shirley Harris  
Recording Secretary**

**Approved by the School Committee August 10, 2006**