

**Minutes Approved - December January 11,2007**

**CUMBERLAND SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

**DECEMBER 14, 2006**

**MINUTES**

**The regular meeting of the Cumberland School Committee held on Thursday, December 14, 2006 at the Cumberland Administrative Office/Cafetorium, 2602 Mendon Road, was called to order at 7:39 PM, by Chairman Frederic C. Crowley, with the following present:**

**Frederic C. Crowley, Chairman, Robert Thibodeau, Vice Chair, Karen MacBeth, Clerk, Lisa Beaulieu, Donald J. Costa, Wayne D. Wagner, Earl T. Wood**

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

**Absent: Susan C. Carney, Ph.D, Assistant Superintendent**

**I. Pledge of Allegiance - The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Corey Tweedie and Chris Antunes from Cumberland Boy Scouts, Troop #1.**

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

**III. Chairperson's Report - The Chairman thanked his fellow committee members for electing him Chair, commenting on some notable past chairs. He stated he would try to build a team to come together as his number one goal is the education of the children in the town. He wished the Superintendent, administration, volunteers, parents and staff members Season Greetings.**

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

**A. Public Comments - Mrs. Lambert commented that even teachers who are tenured and have life certification look forward to professional development, it is not something distasteful.**

**B. Student Government Report - The Superintendent introduced Joe Bibeault and Jesse Poon from the high school. Jesse Poon reported on the Jr. Class Ring Ceremony, the New York trip on Columbus Day and parent visitation. He reported this Sunday is the annual Breakfast with Santa. Joe Bibeault reported on the turkey baskets for Thanksgiving, the Adopt A Family program and volunteering at the House of Compassion. He noted there is a clothing drive for students at the high school.**

## **Cumberland School Committee**

**December 14, 2006/Minutes -2-**

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

**A. Rules & Regulations Committee - Mr. Costa reported meeting on the Wellness Policy. On a motion by Mr. Wood, and a second by Ms. MacBeth, it was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE removing the Wellness Policy from the table. He reported on the state requirement that the policy be initiated by January first or second. He reviewed the wording modifications. A vote of approval would be taken under Old Business.**

**B. Finance Committee - On a motion by Mr. Thibodeau, and a second by Ms. MacBeth, it was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE invoices in the amount of \$868,708.26. Mr. Costa asked what line the invoice for St. Joan's for \$13,884.98 would be paid under. The Superintendent explained that invoice is due as tenants at will for July and August. Mr. Prignano stated he would find the money in the budget and pay it under the line initially established for that. He explained the standard expenditure report, saying they are over in health benefits and that the surplus showing is because they are only four months into this fiscal year.**

**C. Personnel Committee - Ms. MacBeth reported meeting on the job description for Reading Teacher/Specialist. Mr. Thibodeau made a motion to approve the job description for Reading Teacher/Specialist. Mr. Wagner provided a second. Ms. MacBeth had some questions on**

the PLP guidelines for that position and Dr. Morelle explained page 24 of the PLP guidelines. The Superintendent targeted literacy instruction as a support mechanism. On a roll call vote, it was **UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE** the job description. Discussion ensued regarding making notes on approved job descriptions with the date of approval.

Ms. MacBeth reported the word specialized would be added to the job description for Literacy Teacher/Coach. Mr. Thibodeau made a motion to approve the job description for Literacy Teacher/Coach. Mr. Wagner provided a second. The Superintendent explained the budget supported two positions in the literacy program and has the specialized training for the ten listed functions. Ms. MacBeth stated she had concerns and would like to have all certified reading teachers. On a roll call vote, it was **VOTED 4-3 TO APPROVE** the motion, with the following voting **AYE: Mr. Wood, Mr. Wagner, Mr. Costa, Ms. Beaulieu; NAY: Mr. Thibodeau, Ms. MacBeth, Mr. Crowley.**

## **VI. Consent Agenda**

- A. Police Reports - October, November**
- B. Truancy Reports - October, November**
- C. Approval of Minutes**
  - 1. Open Session: November 14, 2006**
- D. Facilities Reports - November, December**
- E. Enrollment Reports - November, December**

## **Cumberland School Committee**

**December 14, 2006/Minutes -3-**

**On a motion by Mr. Wood, and a second by Mr. Costa, it was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE removing the police report from the Consent Agenda.**

**On a motion by Mr. Wood, and a second by Mr. Costa, it was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE the amended Consent Agenda. Mr. Thibodeau commented on the drop in enrollment.**

**A. Police Report - Mr. Wood expressed concern for the number of larcenies; nine in October with three drug arrests and 13 in November with six drug arrests. He suggested meeting with the police chief, the resource officer, administration and school committee members. The Superintendent shared Mr. Wood's concerns and suggested a workshop after the new resource officer begins. Mr. Costa suggested including truancy in the workshop. Dr. Morelle stated she would schedule a workshop to include parents, that this should be a community action plan.**

### **VII. Approval of Minutes**

**A. Executive Session 11/30/06 - On a motion by Mr. Thibodeau, and a second by Mr. Costa, it was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE the Executive Session minutes of 11/30/06.**

**B. Special Meeting 11/30/06 - On a motion by Mr. Thibodeau, and a**

**second by Mr. Costa, it was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE the special meeting minutes of 11/30/06.**

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

**A. On a motion by Mr. Thibodeau, and a second by Mr. Wagner, it was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE the resignation of Susan Froment, Teacher Assistant, at Joseph L. McCourt Middle School, effective 12/11/2006.**

**B. On a motion by Mr. Wood, and a second by Mr. Costa, it was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE the FMLA Maternity Leave of Renee Calabro, Grade 3 Teacher, at Community School, effective 2/27/2007 with a return date of 4/24/2007.**

**C. On a motion by Mr. Costa, and a second by Mr. Wagner, it was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE the appointment of Sharon Chung, Industrial/Technical Studies Teacher at Joseph L. McCourt Middle School, effective 12/15/2006 for the 2006-2007 school year (FTE: 1.0, Step: 2, Advanced Lane: n/a, Copay: 10%, budgeted).**

**IX. Old Business**

**A. Building Committee Update - The Superintendent reported she had an outstanding visit to the visual and performing arts area at the high school and they are two weeks away from using the space as it was designed for or as swing space. She noted a representative from RISD was present as they are interested in a partnership with programs in that area.**

## **Cumberland School Committee**

**December 14, 2006/Minutes -4-**

**Dr. Morelle reported the high school will be hosing the inauguration for Mayor-elect McKee and that Arts area as well as the Wellness Center will be available to tour. Mr. Wood reported the CHS2010 Building Committee will be meeting Monday at 6:00 p.m. There will be a report on the opening of bids for the science wing and Dimeo should have a revised budget. There had been surprising news from the fire marshal's board; they denied the request for variances on the fire code. He noted the Cumberland Fire Marshal had supported the variances.**

**B. Search Committee Update - The Superintendent reported she is not ready to make a recommendation for the Technology Director. There are excellent candidates and she would like to perform additional interviews as she wants to make sure the right person is hired. Mr. Britto has been assuming some of the duties. There are three applicants for the Vice Principal position at the high school.**

**C. Wellness Policy - Second Reading - On a motion by Mr. Costa, and a second by Mr. Thibodeau, it was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE the Wellness Policy as amended with the second reading.**

### **X. New Business**

**A. Vote to Approve Revised Scope of Work for the 3.5M Elementary/Middle School/Tucker Field Building Committee Projects -**

**Mr. Wood reported that most of the school committee members attended a workshop last night with the town council and building committee members. There is a shortage of 1.2 million dollars to complete both projects. The Building Committee is recommending the School Committee support one project at Ashton and putting Cumberland Hill as an add/alternate. Mr. Wood made a motion to recommend to the town council to go out to bid for Ashton School as a base bid and JJM Cumberland Hill School as an add/alternate. Mr. Thibodeau provided a second. Ms. MacBeth stated she is looking at the education impact and feels there should be funding for both projects before starting. Ms. Beaulieu asked Mr. Wood to explained the costs. He reported there is a small amount remaining after windows and doors. Ashton would cost \$1,372,000 and Cumberland Hill two million dollars. To build just the all purpose rooms would be \$981,000, which does not include any services, architectural fees or fire code up-grades. That would be \$1,962,000. He noted inflation has been 26%. He noted there are other issues with design impacting ADA and fire codes. Mr. Thibodeau commented they have to act on this as there is an equity issue. The other elementary schools have seen improvement, but not Ashton and Cumberland Hill. On a roll call vote, it was VOTED 6-1 TO APPROVE the motion, with Ms. MacBeth voting NAY.**

**B. 2007-2008 Budget Planning Process - The Superintendent explained the budget planning process. There are two key concepts: 1) to create as many evidences as possible, which the leadership team is working on; 2) building the school house through zero based**

**budget. Dr. Morelle will get the committee a copy of the budget time lines.**

**Cumberland School Committee**

**December 14, 2006/Minutes -5-**

**X. Superintendent's Report - The Superintendent extended the same greetings to the department and community and wished everyone a happy holiday and restful break.**

**XI. Comments from the Public - Mrs. Crowley commented on having to raid her personal supply stash to assist her niece who is a new teacher. She stated teachers have been subsidizing the budget for years by purchasing their own supplies. She noted each committee member is a liaison to a school and asked them to visit their schools and that they should be sharing at each meeting. Mr. McGarry offered season's greetings. He stated he was comforted by the goals of educating the children of the town, but noted there are some challenges, such as class sizes, being under-supplied, not enough books, books over 20 years old. He also suggested teachers be included in any workshops on the larceny problem.**

**XII. School Committee Comments - Mr. Wood reported Cumberland Hill will be doing their annual A Christmas Carol Tuesday night. The fourth and fifth grades are working on the robotics team. He offered congratulations to the freshman football team for making the**

freshman bowl. He extended an invitation from Mr. Higgins, Town Council President, to a holiday gathering at Third Base next Wednesday. Ms. Beaulieu reported visiting the Ashton PTO and was impressed with their partnership with Ms. Karbonik. She commended the PTO, noting the after school programs. Ms. MacBeth commented on the North Cumberland Middle School parent teacher nights and noted the professionalism of the teachers and how many that stayed late to meet with all the parents. She also complimented the custodial staff and maintenance of the building. Mr. Thibodeau reported on Community School activities. He reported they have their own web site, [www.1communityschool.com](http://www.1communityschool.com).

**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**
- 4. Potential Litigation**

Mr. Wagner made a motion to recess to Executive Session. Mr. Thibodeau provided a second. On a roll call vote, it was **UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE** the motion. Open Session recessed at 9:28 p.m. Open Session reconvened at 10:50 p.m.

**On a motion by Mr. Wood, and a second by Mr. Costa, it was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE sealing the Executive Session minutes.**

**Cumberland School Committee**

**December 14, 2006/Minutes -6-**

**XIV. Adjournment - On a motion by Ms. MacBeth, and a second by Mr. Wagner, it was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE adjourning Open Session at 10:51 p.m.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Shirley Harris**

**Recording Secretary**

**Approved by the School Committee January 11, 2007**