

# **"Unapproved" Meeting Minutes - January 25, 2007**

## **CUMBERLAND SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

**JANUARY 25, 2007**

### **MINUTES**

**The regular meeting of the Cumberland School Committee held on Thursday, January 25, 2007 at the Cumberland Administrative Office/Cafetorium, 2602 Mendon Road, was called to order at 7:45 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, W. David Wagner, Earl T. Wood**

**Also Present: Donna A. Morelle, Ed.D., Superintendent; Susan C. Carney, Ph.D, Assistant Superintendent**

**Absent: 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. Thibodeau, and a second by Mr. Wagner, it was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE the**

agenda.

**III. Chairperson's Report - The Chair reported he and Ms. Beaulieu attended the RI School Committee Association training for new members and they heard speakers on school department finance and the open meeting laws. He also reported on the passing of a former educator, Hannah Veronica Moss Smith.**

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

**A. Public Comments - Mr. McLaughlin complimented the Chair and the committee on their willingness to hear students. He reported he met with Rep. Singleton regarding the school funding formula and Mr. Singleton is interested in getting on the agenda. He also complimented Ms. MacBeth on her vote for the 3.5M bond money.**

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

#### **V. Reports from Standing Committees**

**A. Finance Committee - On a motion by Mr. Thibodeau, and a second by Ms. MacBeth, it was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE payment of invoices in the amount of \$1,214,077.61.**

**Mr. Thibodeau made a motion to approve payment for the dishwasher. Ms. MacBeth provided a second. Mr. Costa asked if a vote was necessary since it was approved at a prior meeting. The chair ruled on the side of caution to proceed. On a roll call vote, it was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE the motion.**

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**Mr. Wagner reported a transfer of \$270,000 in the medical benefits and transportation lines. Mr. commented that he thought that was a set line item. Mr. Prignano explained there was not enough in the transportation line. There were 37 buses total and the \$200,000 for July and August was not included. Mr. Wagner reported the finance subcommittee had approved 17 copy machines and the purchase of new phone service. Mr. Prignano explained that he needs to file for phones and networking Erate by February 7th. The Superintendent stated that if the committee didn't move forward with the finance committee's recommendation, they could hold a separate school committee meeting. Mr. Thibodeau made a motion to approve the finance committee's recommendation. Ms. MacBeth provided a second. On a roll call vote, it was VOTED 5-2 TO APPROVE the motion, with the following voting AYE: Mr. Wagner, Mr. Thibodeau, Ms. MacBeth, Ms. Beaulieu, Mr. Crowley; NAY: Mr. Wood, Mr. Costa.**

**Mr. Wagner reported there had been a security issue and the subcommittee voted to approve work on the doors. On a point of order, Mr. Wood asked why it was not sent to the property committee first; he felt the doors should have been repaired, not replaced. Mr.**

**Thibodeau made a motion to approve the bill for the doors. Ms. MacBeth provided a second. On a roll call vote, it was VOTED 5-2 TO APPROVE the motion, with the following voting AYE: Mr. Wagner, Mr. Thibodeau, Ms. MacBeth, Ms. Beaulieu, Mr. Crowley; NAY: Mr. Wood, Mr. Costa.**

**On a point of order, Mr. Costa noted the copiers had not been voted on. Mr. Thibodeau made a motion to approve the purchase of 17 copiers. Ms. MacBeth provided a second. Mr. Wagner explained that Mr. Prignano had provided a proposal for 17 machines. Mr. Prignano explained most of the copiers are old and they break down. He worked with IKON who came back with a report on 32 machines. Mr. Prignano tried to identify two machines per school at a cost of \$15,644/year, with a maintenance of .004 per page, versus the current .006. He also reviewed lease versus purchase, the \$71,000 for the dishwasher in the food service account, and the office equipment lines at each school. Some of the old machines will be bought back and placed in lessor usage areas. He then met with the town's Director of Finance for a five year loan from the town. On a roll call vote, it was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE the motion.**

**B. Special Programs - Mr. Thibodeau reported they are waiting for a ruling from the state.**

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### **VII. Consent Agenda**

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

**1. On a motion a motion by Mr. Wood, and a second by Mr. Wagner, it was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE the resignation of John Brodeur, Head Baseball Coach at North Cumberland Middle School, effective 1/18/2007, and the resignation of Michael Pariseau, Junior Varsity Baseball Coach at Cumberland High School, effective 1/18/2007. Mr. Costa commented on Mr. Brodeur's coaching for 18 years.**

**2. On a motion by Mr. Wood, and a second by Mr. Wagner, it was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE the appointment of Amanda Cahoon, Head Girls' Lacrosse Coach at Cumberland High School, effective 1/26/2007 (FTE: n/a, Step: n/a, Advanced Lane; n/a, Copay: n/a, budgeted).**

### **VII. Old Business**

**A. Building Committee Update - Mr. Wood reported the window wall**

has been moved and they are starting in the courtyard and will be breaking ground soon. There will be a workshop with the Town Council on the February 15th. The Superintendent reporting meeting with the architects and construction company on the cafeteria and the courtyard and about the parking. Mr. Wood noted the students had expressed concerns at the last school committee meeting and Dimeo has a strict policy on no smoking on site and no talking to students. He noted those two concerns had never been brought to the Principal's attention.

**B. Search Committee Update - None.**

**III. New Business - The Chair ruled to reverse the following two items:**

**A. Wellness Committee - The Superintendent reported Mr. Costa will be Chair of the Wellness Committee and other members will include Lynne Conca, Pam Costa, Janet Hook, Fran DeRuiter, Vera Kelaghan, Chris Skurka. Dr. Carney will serve as an ad hoc member. Dr. Morelle stated she is waiting to hear from Dr. Monti. They will now begin educating the community and the PTOs need to know how this will effect their fund raisers. Mr. Costa stated he would like to have a Wellness Committee meeting and get feedback from the principals.**

**The Chair declared a break at 8:35 p.m. The meeting was reconvened at 8:47 p.m.**

**The Chair noted Mr. Thibodeau's departure during the break.**

**B. 2003-2008 District Strategic Plan Update - The Superintendent and**

**Assistant Superintendent made a power point presentation on the district's Strategic Plan beginning with the Vision for Education to reach 100% of the students 100% of the time.**

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**They reviewed Academic Proficiency, Graduation by Proficiency, the Portfolio System, Middle Level Reform, Service-Learning, Technology Integration, Curriculum Development, Professional Partners, Performance Evaluation, School Community Relations, Strategic Marketing, Technology Policies and the Wellness Plan.**

**IX. Superintendent's Report - The Superintendent thanked Ms. MacBeth for obtaining additional copies of the emergency manuals for the FEMA course. She noted the changes with the construction project and that the issues the students raised were investigated. Dr. Morelle stated there will be a lot more changes coming with the construction, noting some inconveniences and the closing of the campus last summer. Anyone with concerns can call her office or Mr. Driscoll. The Superintendent reported that at 4:00 p.m. this afternoon she received an advisory from the Commissioner's office regarding the cold predicted for tomorrow. She stated she would be up early in the morning and in contact with the Building & Grounds Director, police department and other superintendents to decide if there**

should be school. They are concerned for children walking to school and will err on the side of caution.

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

**XI. School Committee Comments (School Liaison Reports) - Ms. Beaulieu reported that she has made copies of handouts that she received at the RIASC training. She noted she was at Garvin School with Mr. Costa for the Got Milk Award. Ms. MacBeth reported the students at North Cumberland Middle School took up a collection for the soldiers in Iraq. Mr. Wood congratulated the Cumberland Hill students on the robotics competition last week. The Chair asked for copies of the schools' handbooks and copies of the Bullying and Sexual Harassment policies for committee members.**

**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**

**4. Potential Litigation**

**Mr. Wagner made a motion to adjourn to Executive Session. Ms. MacBeth provided a second. On a roll call vote, it was VOTED 6-0 TO**

**APPROVE adjourning to Executive Session, with Mr. Thibodeau absent. Open Session recessed at 9:50 p.m.**

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**Open Session was reconvened at 10:20 p.m. On a motion by Mr. Wood, and a second by Ms. Beaulieu, it was VOTED 6-0 TO APPROVE sealing the Executive Session minutes, with Mr. Thibodeau absent.**

**XIII. Adjournment - On a motion by Ms. MacBeth, and a second by Mr. Wagner, it was VOTED 6-0 TO APPROVE adjourning Open Session at 10:21 p.m.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Shirley Harris**

**Recording Secretary**

**Subject to approval by the School Committee**