

"Unapproved" Meeting Minutes

CUMBERLAND SCHOOL COMMITTEE

FEBRUARY 10, 2007

MINUTES

A special meeting of the Cumberland School Committee held on Saturday, February 10, 2007, at the Cumberland Administrative Office/Cafetorium, 2602 Mendon Road, was called to order by Chairman Frederic C. Crowley at 12:47 PM, with the following present:

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

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

Assistant Superintendent; Joseph A. Rotella, Esq., Director of Administration

Absent: W. David Wagner.

I. Approval of Agenda - On a motion by Mr. Thibodeau, and a second by Ms. MacBeth, it was VOTED 5-0 TO APPROVE the agenda, without Mr. Costa and Mr. Wagner

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II. FY 2007-2008 Budget Workshop - The Superintendent reviewed the district's vision to teach 100% of the students 100% of the time and zero-based budgeting. She referred to the 3050 legislation for the 5.25% tax cap. Dr. Morelle thanked everyone for attending and recognized the principals who were present, as well as central administrators. Mr. Prignano reviewed revenues, noting the increase in preschool tuitions and how he is working on earning interest on the accounts. He noted the money in the surplus fund has to be made up. The Superintendent reviewed the tax cap impact on additional positions that would not be funded. She noted that they are reviewing non-renewals and she will meet with every teacher who would be receiving a lay-off notice.

Mr. Thibodeau's departure was noted at 1:47 p.m.

Mr. Hilton reviewed the square footage of the buildings and the custodial staffing analysis. He noted the impact of fire and safety codes, the rooms counts and that how rooms are used is taken into account. The Superintendent reported the net change in classrooms in kindergarten through grade 5.

Mr. Costa's arrival was noted at 2:15 p.m.

The Superintendent commented on what the 3.5M Building Committee is looking to do with Cumberland Hill and the kindergarten students at Community School. She explained the recommendation

of a reduction in speech therapy due to enrollment. Ms. Moore reported that some out of district placements may be returning. The issue of holding pre-school in a church has been raised. The class size may be increased and Ms. Gibney reported the law requires a 51/49 ratio of special education to normal peer.

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Dr. Morelle reviewed enrollment at the middle school level and at the high school. The Assistant Superintendent reported that they won't have true numbers for the high school until the students make their course selections. She noted concerns in English because of the requirement for writing and social studies is another area where writing is a requirement. Dr. Carney reported that the Technical Education area is being reviewed as the class sizes are so low, with seven students in electronics, 13 students in auto 2. She felt they shouldn't be competing with vocational schools, but should be offering classes as an elective to develop interest in that area. Ms. MacBeth commented that she doesn't believe in tracking and fundamental classes. She would like to a better educational rigor. Dr. Carney noted that the NEASC recommendations need to be addressed for the report that is due a year from March. Mr. Lemois commented on the space that tech prep is taking and how a comprehensive high school looks different today from 30 years ago. Mr. Kelly commented on tech ed and asked about money from the

Perkins Fund. The Superintendent stated that was only a small amount.

Ms. MacBeth's departure was noted at 3:40 p.m.

Mr. Kirkpatrick asked about sharing services with other communities. The Superintendent explained they do share with the RI Collaborative and the department is pro-active in purchasing materials and bid items.

III. Adjournment - On a motion by Mr. Costa, and a second by Mr. Wood, it was VOTED 4-0 TO APPROVE adjourning at 3:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Shirley Harris

Recording Secretary

Subject to approval by the School Committee