

"Unapproved" Meeting Minutes

CUMBERLAND SCHOOL COMMITTEE

MARCH 8, 2007

MINUTES

The regular meeting of the Cumberland School Committee held on Thursday, March 8, 2007 at the Cumberland Administrative Office/Cafetorium, 2602 Mendon Road, was called to order at 7:31 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; 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. Costa, and a second by Ms. MacBeth, it was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE the

agenda.

III. Chairperson's Report - The Chair reported the RISCA met Saturday; they are targeting unfunded mandates and planning a march on the State House. He reported receiving a letter from Rosemary Chammot and asked Mr. Rotella to respond and explain the mandates. The Superintendent noted the letter was a copy of comments made at a budget hearing and that she has met with Ms. Chammot. The Chair and Superintendent differed in interpretation of Ms. Chammot's letter and it was agreed the Superintendent would follow up with Ms. Chammot.

IV. Comments from the Public

A. Public Comments - Ms. Malloy, a French teacher at the High School, spoke on behalf of teachers on the resignation of the High School Principal. Since they are facing new graduation requirements, new technology and probably changes in schedules, as well as major construction, she requested the committee review their acceptance of the Principal's resignation. The Chair noted that would be up to Mr. Driscoll. Mr. Kelly reported his wife was here earlier to meet with his daughter and her guidance counselor. They couldn't meet in guidance and where they met was very cold. His daughter has complained in the past about having to wear coats in class. He asked if the contractors couldn't provide modular classrooms. The Superintendent noted this was brought to her attention and she would not ignore health and safety. These issues need to be brought

to the principal's attention. She has met with Mr. Driscoll and he has swing spaces arranged. Mrs. Lambert reported there were 15 teachers, including high school teachers, that volunteered to read to elementary students for Read Across America.

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Mr. McLaughlin had a sample of signs to be carried on a march at the State House and asked anyone interested to sign up. He reported that Rep. Singleton would like to address the committee. Ms. Butler stated since coming back from vacation her office has been cold and they had been breathing in fumes, but the problem has been rectified.

Ms. Butler expressed concern for scheduling and the cutting of positions. The Superintendent will have Dr. Carney meet with the guidance staff to clear up any misconceptions.

B. Student Government Report - Will Murphy, President of the Sophomore class, reported on upcoming events that will include Pennies for Patients, the Freshman Frolic, the Sophomore Hop, the Junior Prom and the Senior Reception.

V. Reports of Standing Committees

A. Curriculum Committee - Ms. Beaulieu reported the committee met to discuss Keyworks. She noted the curriculum committee meetings

are open to the public. She requested scheduling a workshop on the March 15th at 6:00 p.m. and invited the whole committee to attend.

VI. Consent Agenda

A. Police Report

B. Truancy Report

C. Approval of Minutes

1. Open Session: 2/8/07, 2/22/07

D. Facilities Report

E. Enrollment Report

Mr. Wood made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Mr. Wagner provided a second. Mr. Costa requested removing the Truancy Report. Ms. Beaulieu requested removing the Open Session minutes. On a motion by Mr. Costa, and a second by Mr. Wood, it was **UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE** amending the motion. On a motion by Mr. Wood, and a second by Mr. Costa, it was **UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE** the Consent Agenda.

B. Truancy Report - Mr. Costa commented that the report states the Truant Officer is continually investigating residency issues. He requested a report on the number of non-residents found. The Superintendent stated she would meet with the officer and report back. On a motion by Mr. Costa, and a second by Mr. Thibodeau, it was **UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO ACCEPT** the report.

C. Approval of Minutes - Mr. Rotella noted the name of Mary Ann Garlock was missing from the list of retirees on the 2/22/07 minutes.

On a motion by Mr. Wood, and a second by Ms. MacBeth, it was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE the Open Session minutes of 2/8/07 and 2/22/07 as corrected.

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V. Approval of Minutes

A. Executive Session: 1/11/07, 2/8/07, 2/22/07 - On a motion by Mr. Wood, and a second by Mr. Costa, it was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE tabling.

B. Special Meetings: 2/10/07, 2/13/07 - On a motion by Mr. Wagner, and a second by Mr. Wood, it was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE the minutes.

VI. Personnel Recommendation - The Superintendent presented the following:

A. On a motion by Mr. Costa, and a second by Ms. Beaulieu, it was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE the appointment of Tieg Bean, Boy's Lacrosse Head Coach, at Cumberland High School for the 2006-2007 school year, effective 3/9/2007, (FTE: n/a, Step: n/a, Advanced Lane: n/a, Copay: n/a, budgeted).

B. Mr. Costa made a motion to approve the FMLA Parental LOA of Heather Hamilton, Grade 5 Teacher at JJM Cumberland Hill School, effective March 26, 2007 to the commencement of the 2008-2009

school year (budgeted). Mr. Wood provided a second. The Superintendent noted this is a one year parental leave per the CTA/School Committee agreement and Ms. Hamilton has notified the committee that she will not return until September of 2008 which is consistent with the articles (Article 21-D-3-b, Items 1-6) of the contract. Mr. Rotella cited the contract. Discussion ensued regarding interpretation and the length of the leave. Ms. MacBeth noted it was in the best interests of the children to keep someone in the classroom through the school year. On a roll call vote, it was **UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE** the motion.

C. Mr. Wagner made a motion to approve the FMLA Parental LOA of Kathryn Newman, Guidance Counselor at Cumberland High School, effective May, 2007 to the commencement of the 2008-2009 school year (budgeted). A second was provided by Ms. MacBeth. The Superintendent noted the request is consistent with the CTA contract. On a roll call vote, it was **UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE** the motion.

D. On a motion by Mr. Costa, and a second by Mr. Thibodeau and Mr. Wood, it was **UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE** the appointment of Mary Hill, Teacher Assistant at Joseph L. McCourt Middle School, effective 3/12/2007 (budgeted).

VII. Old Business

A. Building Committee Update - Mr. Wood reported the CHS2010 Committee met with KBA for updates on renovations. Monday, March 12th , at 6:00 p.m. they will be meeting with Edvance on technology.

The courtyard should be completed this week and groundbreaking on the science wing, cafeteria and west road is on hold due to the cold. They held a workshop with neighbors and most of the discussion centered on the west road and traffic. They will be talking to the police about traffic calming in the area. The 3.5 building committee met on the 28th and reviewed bids with KBA. Bids should be picked up by the 27th.

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KBA came up with a cost of about \$40,000 for an alternate for the gym at Cumberland Hill and that would require a resolution by the Town Council. KBA didn't believe the fire codes would change. The architects did request variances on the fire rated doors and glazing of some windows. The committee voted to send the letter to the fire officers and town building officials. The punch list is being completed for windows and doors and the doors will have to be repainted. The meeting scheduled for the 14th is canceled. The next 3.5 meeting will be March 28th.

VIII. New Business

A. Report on Special Senate Hearing on Property Tax Cap Relief Law - The Superintendent reported many groups, including the Superintendent's Association and the Business Manager's

Association, are reacting to the legislation. She cited the Valley Breeze article on Mayor McKee taking leadership of a coalition on the state's school aid while being sensitive to the taxpayers. The Superintendent's Association met with legislators including Rep. Paiva Weed. Mr. Prignano reported his impression was that the legislation is not going away. Members of the panel discussed what they will be doing to make this work. He stated they may have to change the way they look at non-taxable revenue, the town's debt service or look at the expenditure side. The Superintendent noted that the Mayor's group may not be looking at mandates the same way the Superintendents are and has made an appointment to meet with Mayor McKee.

B. Use of School Facilities Policy - Mr. Thibodeau introduced John Gibbons from the Warwick Convention Bureau. Mr. Gibbons explained he is trying to find courts for a basketball tournament and expressed concern for the cost of the Wellness Center. Mr. Rotella explained this was listed as a discussion of a policy, not to generate revenue. The Chair ruled Mr. Gibbons could continue. Mr. Gibbons explained he had a hoop group called Jam Fest and they additional basketball courts but the policy is extensive and the cost is high. Mr. Wood explained under the clause of an interagency agreement, an event like this can negotiate a fee with the Superintendent. The Superintendent noted the Rules & Regulations Committee will be reviewing the policy and she can provide a report to the committee on requests and uses of the facilities. She stated she would like to meet with Mr. Gibbons to have a conversation on the policy.

IX. Superintendent's Report - The Superintendent reported a substantial turnout for the kindergarten registration with 231 kindergarten students and 30 other elementary students registered. There are 24 additional first graders so they need to do further analysis of students. Dr. Morelle noted in the committee had a packet of policies, including the Sexual Harassment Policy, the Bullying Policy. Mr. Costa will be reviewing the Transportation Policy and the Job Share Policy Wednesday night. Also at the committee's seats was what is on the town's web site.

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Mr. Legacy has been digging into the web site and there are some inconsistencies with school committee information. She asked the committee to review and update their information for the web site. She apologized there has not been a videographer at the last two meetings and she will follow up as to why. She noted the Providence Journal series on NECAP. She clarified what her comments were to the Journal reporter and noted she was sure the results at Cumberland Hill were due to the hard work of the teachers, not just the consultant that was hired. She asked for an RSVP for the RI Northern Collaborative dinner meeting.

X. Comments from the Public - Ms. Miller reported the CTA Special Education Advisory Committee has begun and she was hoping people would have questions they can address. Mr. McLaughlin stated there was a sign up sheet and they will be at the State House Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday from 3:00 to 6:00 p.m.

XI. School Committee Comments (School Liaison Reports) - Ms. Beaulieu thanked the CTA for inviting her to read in Reading Across America. Ms. MacBeth reported she is working with the local police to make badges for the teachers. She attended the meeting at B.F. Norton and commented on the dedicated group of special educators. Mr. Wood reported the PTO at Cumberland Hill will be holding a sweetheart dance for 4th and 5th graders tomorrow and 2nd and 3rd graders on the 16th. The boys will be going to laser tag. Mr. Costa reported the Wellness Policy Committee will be meeting Wednesday at 4:00 p.m. and the Rules & Regulations after that. Mr. Thibodeau reported the Community PTO will be meeting Monday at 7:00 p.m.

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. Thibodeau made a motion to adjourn to Executive Session. Ms. MacBeth provided a second. On a roll call vote, it was VOTED 6-1 TO APPROVE the motion, with Mr. Costa voting against. Open Session recessed at 9:27 p.m.

Open Session reconvened at 10:36 p.m. On a motion by Mr. Wagner, and a second by Ms. MacBeth, it was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE sealing the Executive Session minutes.

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XIII. Adjournment - On a motion by Mr. Wagner, and a second by Ms. MacBeth, it was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE adjourning Open Session at 10:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Shirley Harris

Recording Secretary

Subject to approval by the School Committee