

Meeting Minutes Approved - 5/7/2007

CUMBERLAND SCHOOL COMMITTEE

APRIL 12, 2007

MINUTES

The regular meeting of the Cumberland School Committee held on Thursday, April 12, 2007 at the Cumberland Administrative Office/Cafetorium, 2602 Mendon Road, was called to order at 6:30 p.m., by Chairman Frederic C. Crowley, with the following present:

Frederic C. Crowley, Chairman, Robert Thibodeau, Vice Chair, Lisa Beaulieu, Donald J. Costa, W. David Wagner, Earl T. Wood

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

Absent: Karen MacBeth, Clerk; Susan C. Carney, Ph.D, Assistant Superintendent

I. Approval of Agenda - On a motion by Mr. Thibodeau, and a second by Ms. Beaulieu, it was VOTED 4-0 TO APPROVE the agenda, without Mr. Costa and Mr. Wagner.

II. 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 Grievance Hearing - #006-07-01

Mr. Thibodeau made a motion to adjourn to Executive Session. Ms. Beaulieu provided a second. On a roll call voted, it was VOTED 4-0 TO APPROVE the motion, without Mr. Costa and Mr. Wagner. Open Session recessed at 6:31 p.m.

Open Session reconvened at 7:38 p.m. with Mr. Costa and Mr. Wagner present.

III. Pledge of Allegiance - The Pledge of Allegiance was led by committee members.

IV. Approval of Agenda - On a motion by Mr. Thibodeau, and a second by Mr. Wagner, it was VOTED 6-0 TO APPROVE

V. Chairperson's Report - The Chair noted Ms. MacBeth's absence and wished Mr. Hilton a speedy recovery. He reported receiving two letters against the transportation policy and a letter which was more of a petition supporting the Sodexo services and a complimentary letter from Jay Black of Barrington regarding the open meeting laws and the notices in the Journal.

VI. Comments from the Public

A. Public Comments - Mr. Kelly stated he hoped the Committee, administration, teachers, support staff, students, parents and the general public at large would agree that every means should be taken

to ensure that students are learning in an

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environment that is safe, secure and conducive to achieving the highest quality of education. When students commit a violent act in a school setting it is expected it should be dealt with in a manner by which the other students and school personnel know that such acts will be taken seriously and will not be tolerated. Likewise, when we have an adult in a school setting that commits a violent act it is expected they be dealt with appropriately. After all, should not the adults be serving as a role model to our students? Mr. Kelly further stated he was confident that a majority of the committee and the Superintendent would never allow the hire, re-hire or reinstate any individual who may have previously been terminated as a result of prior violence in a school setting. If there is even one member of the committee who has contemplated advocating such action or is continuing to pursue such action, then he asked that they immediately end their efforts. Mr. McLaughlin reported he was at the State House and the formula for state aid is being looked at seriously.

He offered compliments to the Superintendent for Tuesday's special needs program. He offered his experience repairing cars if there were a class offered for kids who want to learn basic body work. The Superintendent explained the credit for Tuesday's program goes to the Cumberland Special Education Advisory Committee.

B. Student Government Report - None.

VII. Reports of Standing Committees - None.

VIII. Consent Agenda - On a motion by Mr. Thibodeau, and a second by Mr. Wagner, it was VOTED 6-0 TO APPROVE the Consent Agenda.

A. Police Report

B. Truancy Report

C. Approval of Minutes

1. Open Session: 3/8/07, 3/22/07

D. Facilities Report

E. Enrollment Report

IX. Approval of Minutes

A. Executive Session: 1/11/07, 2/8/07, 3/8/07, 3/22/07, 3/28/07 - On a motion by Mr. Wood, and a second by Mr. Thibodeau, it was VOTED 6-0 TO APPROVE tabling the minutes. Mr. Wood noted he hadn't had time to read the minutes and Mr. Thibodeau noted he had noted additional comments for the minutes.

X. Personnel Recommendations

A. On a motion by Mr. Thibodeau, and a second by Mr. Wagner, it was VOTED 6-0 TO APPROVE the appointment of Christopher Fernandes, Girls' Assistant Outdoor Track Coach at Cumberland High School, effective 3/13/2007 (budgeted).

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B. On a motion by Mr. Costa and Mr. Thibodeau, and a second by Mr. Wood, it was VOTED 5-1 TO APPROVE the extension on the retirement date of Omer LeClerc, Assistant Principal at Cumberland High School, effective 6/30/2007 (from the end of the third quarter in March), with Mr. Wood voting against.

C. On a motion by Mr. Costa and Mr. Wood, and a second by Mr. Thibodeau, it was VOTED 5-1 TO APPROVE the resignation of David Sherman, Wrestling Coach at Joseph L. McCourt Middle School, effective 3/25/2007, with Mr. Wagner voting against.

D. On a motion by Mr. Wood and Ms. Beaulieu, and a second by Mr. Thibodeau, it was VOTED 6-0 TO APPROVE the FMLA Maternity Leave of Kristine Brown, Grade 5 Teacher at Community School, effective 5/17/2007 to the end of the 2006-2007 school year (budgeted).

E. On a motion by Mr. Wood, and a second by Mr. Thibodeau, it was VOTED 6-0 TO APPROVE the FMLA Parental Leave of Cara Camire, Guidance Counselor at Cumberland High School, effective for the 2007-2008 school year (budgeted).

F. On a motion by Mr. Thibodeau, and a second by Mr. Wagner, it was VOTED 6-0 TO APPROVE the FMLA Maternity Leave of Jenifer Stafford, Grade 2 Teacher at JJM Cumberland Hill School, effective 3/26/2007 to the end of the 2006 school year (budgeted).

XI. Old Business

A. Building Committee Update - Mr. Wood reported the 3.5 Building Committee met on March 28th. The windows and doors update was given by Mr. Hilton and all the doors will be repainted this spring. KBA held a walk through and the bids are due Wednesday, April 18th and they will be reviewed by the committee on the 25th. Mr. Wood also reported on the CHS2010 and there was a water main found on the west driveway. That water main will be replaced. Renovations should start May 7th. A handicap accessible ramp will be put in for the stage in the Trans Cafe. The costs of some of the classroom renovations will be discussed at the next meeting.

B. Job Share Policy Revision - Mr. Costa reported last night's meeting was canceled. On a motion by Mr. Costa, and a second by Mr. Wagner and Mr. Thibodeau, it was VOTED 6-0 TO APPROVE tabling.

XII. New Business

A. The Coordinated School Health and Wellness Subcommittee Annual Report - Mr. Costa reported receiving a progress report from the state and there will be a subcommittee meeting on the 24th. On a motion by Mr. Costa and a second by Mr. Thibodeau, it was VOTED 6-0 TO APPROVE tabling. The Superintendent reported there is a web site to review that information: www.thrive.RI.org.

B. CHS2010 Progress Report & Facilities Update - The Superintendent reported that she would make this report in Mr.

Hilton's absence.

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She noted the external activity can be seen and that the building of the science wing will be going on at the same time as the renovations. There were four stages, with the first being the Wellness Center and then the Art and Music fit-up. Dr. Morelle explained they are trying to sequence the work and the week after vacation there will be some changes for staff and students. On approximately May 1st the third floor social studies wing will be closed and classes will be moved. They will be having outside moving firms assist in moving furniture and supplies so as to not over-tax the maintenance staff. Mr. Legacy is assessing the impact on the technology. A second tier will be on May 15th which will impact the cafeteria and they are working with Sodexo. The last impact will be over the summer. A determination has been made that the only area to be used this summer will be the Wellness Center; unfortunately, the pool wing will not be available due to the locker room work. Dr. Morelle also noted that the business office may have to be modified or even moved over the summer due to the elevator and bathroom work. She explained she is working with Mr. Morris from Dimeo on access to the practice fields for the summer due to the construction equipment on campus. The school calendar is under review. Summer school for the high school will be held at McCourt Middle School. Mr. Hilton will be

reviewing custodial staffing.

XII. Superintendent's Report - The Superintendent thanked everyone who attended the district report night and also commended the Cumberland Special Education Advisory Committee for their program on PBGR work and how it applies. Two teams of educators from the high school have been invited to additional courses and will report back to their schools. Tuesday they will be at Crown Plaza for recruiting new teachers.

XIV. Comments from the Public - Mr. McLaughlin commented that some of the young families in his area are concerned with kids walking to school. The Chair noted this is with the Rules & Regulation Committee now.

XV. School Committee Comments (School Liaison Reports) - Mr. Wood reported May 17th JJM Cumberland Hill will have a Celebration of Learning to show the students' work. They are scheduling their field trips. Mr. Costa commented on Mrs. LaPlante's letter regarding funding for the debate team. The Superintendent noted the team is short \$1,300 toward the \$5,000 needed for their trip. Mr. Costa asked to have this added to the Finance Subcommittee agenda. Mr. Wood noted there was a policy on this. Mr. McLaughlin said his Council would be willing to have a fund raiser for them. Ms. Beaulieu reported that Ms. MacBeth asked her to report on the Special Education Advisory Committee forum for Proficiency Based

Graduation Requirements. She noted it won't lower the bar for special education students. The Committee meets the second Tuesday of each month from 7:00-9:00 p.m. in the Transitional Building. Ms. Beaulieu also reported on the Science Olympiad and the team is coached by Stacy Stetkiewicz and teacher, Ms. Duhamel.

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Cumberland High School also competed in the VEX Competition and they won the Inspire Award. She recognized the teachers and students, stating the team is now at the national competition in Atlanta. Seven teams from Cumberland competed in the Destination Imagination Competition. Ms. Beaulieu thanked the CHS parent advisory for inviting her to last night's meeting. She suggested something like a pizza party could be given for the students for what they are going through with the construction at the High School.

XVI. 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

No Executive Session was necessary.

XVII. Adjournment - On a motion by Mr. Thibodeau, and a second by Mr. Wagner, it was VOTED 6-0 TO APPROVE adjourning the meeting at 8:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Shirley Harris

Recording Secretary

Approved by the School Committee May 7, 2007