

UNOFFICIAL

CUMBERLAND SCHOOL COMMITTEE

JUNE 28, 2007

MINUTES

The regular meeting of the Cumberland School Committee held on Thursday, June 28, 2007 at the North Cumberland Middle School, 400 Nate Whipple Highway, was called to order at 7:35 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; Joseph A. Rotella, Esq., Director of Administration

I Pledge of Allegiance - The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mr. Costa.

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

III. Chairperson's Report - The Chairman noted there was mail that

needed to be answered and gave the Superintendent permission to open his mail. He noted receiving a letter from Tim Coombs, a student at the high school, about home rooms next year. The Superintendent will read his letter and develop a response. Mr. Crowley congratulated Mayor McKee for working on an extension for the fire code relief.

IV. Comments from the Public - Ms. Kirkpatrick, a teacher at the Pre-School Center, spoke about what they do at the Pre-School Center, noting research supports early intervention having long term affects on development. She expressed concern for moving parts of the center and the importance of teachers assisting each other. Mr. McLaughlin asked for an update on the buses and the donation of \$220,000 for the Ashton and Cumberland Hill Schools.

V. Reports of Standing Committees

A. Property Committee - Mr. Wood reported meeting earlier on current projects; the door latches are being replaced at Community, phone lines are being switched from Verizon to Cox; dishwashers are being installed; basic alarm systems and motion detectors are being installed at each school. Some of the custodial workers will be switched around for the summer to start cleaning. The contract for the roof at BF Norton is being looked into. An agreement was reached with the fire marshals to be in compliance with all schools for the start of the 2008-2009 school year. Mr. Wood stated he didn't have a dollar amount for all the schools; he is only aware of costs

related to the two building committees.

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B. Finance Committee - On a motion by Mr. Thibodeau, and a second by Mr. Wagner, it was VOTED 6-0 TO APPROVE the payment of bills in the amount of \$982,358.22, without Ms. MacBeth.

1. Energy Source Lighting Proposal - Mr. Thibodeau reported this was approved in the subcommittee. Mr. Prignano explained he and Mr. Hilton have been looking at capital improvement projects for savings and this is for the middle schools. The cost would be just under \$51,000 and there would be a utility rebate of \$12,000. This will be on the July 19th agenda. On a motion by Mr. Thibodeau, and a second by Mr. Wagner, it was VOTED 6-0 TO APPROVE tabling, without Ms. MacBeth.

2. Amendment to Durham School Services Transportation Contract - Mr. Thibodeau reported this did not come out of committee.

The arrival of Ms. MacBeth is noted at 8:05 p.m.

3. 2007-08 Rhode Island Association of School Committees Membership - Mr. Thibodeau introduced Tim Duffy from RIASC who spoke about what RIASC does, including meeting with legislators and

managing an energy aggregation pool. Mr. Duffy reported they are looking at coupling out of district busing. Cumberland is the only community out of 36 that is not a member. Mr. Thibodeau made a motion to pay the \$6,200 fee and join RIASC. A second was provided by Mr. Wagner. Mr. Costa made a point of order, asking what year this is for and the Chair stated 2007-2008. Mr. Costa asked this be tabled since there is no budget. The Superintendent noted this is not in the budget and something would have to be cut. On a roll call vote, it was VOTED 4-3 TO APPROVE the motion with the following voting AYE: Mr. Wagner, Mr. Thibodeau, Ms. MacBeth, Mr. Crowley; NAY: Mr. Wood, Mr. Costa, Ms. Beaulieu.

4. Award of Contracts - Health & Medical Supplies - Mr. Thibodeau made a motion to approve the following bids:

School Health Supply Co.	\$	351.10
Medco Supply for school medical		3,263.67
Medco Supply for athletic medical		469.20
Collins		1,568.69
Wm. Macgill		837.64
Total	\$	6,490.30

Mr. Wagner provided a second. It was noted this is to fill the medicine cabinets for the start of the 2007-2008 school year. On a roll call vote, it was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE the motion.

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VI. Consent Agenda

A. Personnel Recommendations - The Superintendent presented the following:

1. On a motion by Mr. Costa, and a second by Mr. Wood, it was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE the Parental Leave of Jennifer Daniels, Special Educator at Community School, effective 9/4/2007 for the 2007-2008 school year.

2. On a motion by Mr. Wood, and a second by Ms. MacBeth, it was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE the FMLA Maternity Leave of Crystal Trudeau, Grade 4 Teacher at Community School, effective 9/4/2007 with a return date of 11/19/2007.

3. On a motion by Mr. Wood, and a second by Ms. MacBeth, it was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE the Catastrophic Leave of Kristine Brown, Grade 5 Teacher at Community School (as per the CTA contract, Article 19-A5).

4. Mr. Wood made a motion to approve the sabbatical of Betsey MacDonald, Art Teacher at Cumberland High School, effective 9/4/2007 for the 2007-2008 school year. Mr. Costa provided a second. On a roll call vote, it was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE the motion.

VII. Approval of Minutes

A. Executive Session 5/10/07, 5/24/07 - On a motion by Ms. Beaulieu, and a second by Mr. Thibodeau, it was VOTED 6-1 TO APPROVE tabling the 5/10/07 minutes, with Ms. MacBeth voting against.

On a motion by Mr. Thibodeau, and a second by Mr. Wood, it was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE the Executive Session minutes of 5/24/07.

VIII. Old Business

A. Building Committee Update - Mr. Wood reported the high school campus is closed. The 3.5 project was approved by the town council, so they are moving ahead with the multipurpose rooms, the nurses suite at Ashton and media center at Cumberland Hill. The building committee met with the contractor, ADS. The contract still need to be signed, but the contractor is starting to schedule work. Ms. MacBeth asked if this should have come back to the school committee for a vote. Mr. Wood explained that it didn't need to and that the town council and the Mayor found the funding for the project.

She asked if the \$229,000 from the capital fund should have come before the school committee and Mr. Wood explained the capital fund had already been approved by the committee in the budget. Ms. MacBeth noted her objection to this. The Chair recognized Councilmen Mutter and Kirkpatrick in the audience.

B. Recalls - The Superintendent recommended the action taken by the school committee on February 22, 2007 not to renew the

employment of the following for the 2007-2008 school year be rescinded:

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1. On a motion by Mr. Wood, and a second by Mr. Thibodeau, it was UNANI- MOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE recalling Bonnie DeBlois to the position of Librarian, System-wide, effective 6/29/2007.

2. On a motion by Mr. Thibodeau, and a second by Mr. Wagner, it was UNANI- MOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE recalling Paul Cournoyer to the position of World Language Teacher at Joseph L. McCourt Middle School, effective 6/29/2007.

3. On a motion by Mr. Thibodeau, and a second by Ms. MacBeth, it was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE recalling James DeLillo to the CTA Job Pool, effective 6/29/2007.

4. On a motion by Mr. Thibodeau, and a second by Ms. MacBeth and Mr. Wagner, it was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE recalling Patricia Garrahy to the position of Speech/Language Educator, System-wide, effective 6/29/2007.

5. On a motion by Mr. Thibodeau, and a second by Mr. Wagner, it was **UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE** recalling Kim Hatch to the position of **Speech/Language Educator, System-wide, effective 6/29/2007.**

6. On a motion by Mr. Wagner, and a second by Ms. MacBeth, it was **UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE** recalling Margaret Lachut to the position of **Art Teacher, System-wide, effective 6/29/2007.**

7. On a motion by Mr. Thibodeau, and a second by Mr. Wagner and Ms. MacBeth, it was **UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE** recalling Kimberly Otero to the position of **Grade 5 Teacher at Ashton School, effective 6/29/2007.**

8. On a motion by Mr. Thibodeau, and a second by Mr. Wagner, it was **UNANI- MOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE** recalling Sheryl Reedy to the position of **Social Worker, System-wide, effective 6/29/2007.**

9. On a motion by Mr. Wood, and a second by Mr. Wagner, it was **UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE** recalling Michelle Shea to the position of **Speech/Language Educator, System-wide, effective 6/29/2007.**

IX. New Business

A. **Professional Development Institute - Summer 2007 - The Superintendent reported they just completed professional development on June 21st and 22nd on crisis prevention training, technology training, instructional strategies in the differentiated classroom and math investigations. There were 92 participants, including certified, non-certified staff and administrators. She**

thanked everyone who participated. Mr. Wood requested information on the middle school reform. The Superintendent noted parents of incoming 6th graders were given information and they should direct any questions to the administration. Ms. MacBeth stated she was under the impression the math would be coming back to the committee for approval. Dr. Morelle explained the presentation was informational and there will be heterogenous grouping for all content areas and one exception for a differentiated instructional pattern in mathematics.

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Ms. MacBeth requested this be added to another agenda. The Superintendent reported there is additional professional development scheduled for August for the leadership team and the evaluators in the district, including high school department heads.

On a motion by Mr. Wood, and a second by Mr. Thibodeau, it was **UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE** a brief recess at 8:50 p.m. The meeting reconvened at 9:00 p.m.

B. 2007-2008 Budget Reconciliation/Update - The Superintendent explained there wouldn't be any cuts made tonight; those would be done in a budget workshop. The Pre-School Program would be moved in tact; the issue is not with the program, but with the facility. Adjustments to the budget have come from various sources. The

shortfall in the town appropriation is \$831,638. There was the assumption there would be a 3% increase in state aid which was \$414,000. There will be a revenue shortfall of \$80,000 in Medicaid. Interest income was increased by \$50,000. One solution to the budget is the concept of a master lease for purchases through a funding solution over several years, resulting in an adjustment of \$397,863. She noted the town's support in the fire code compliance and the elementary projects is significant. The budget was increased by \$103,000 for fringe benefits and there was an increase in the workers compensation line item. There is an immediate shortfall of \$644,255. They are looking across the budget at staffing and spending. The town went out for bid for healthcare, so they are holding the line item of \$392,000. That would bring the budget gap to \$1,036,255. Another area that was being looked at was transportation. The infrastructure, i.e. lighting, sidewalks, doesn't exist for safety. Dr. Morelle noted the Transportation Policy has not been reviewed since 1987 for busing and walking. She has been working with the police department and the bus company to look at bus stops. She would like to initiate the process of sending a letter to the Mayor and the town council indicating what the dilemmas are. Mr. Thibodeau agreed to send a delegation to include her and the finance subcommittee chair and anyone Dr. Morelle chose to the Mayor's office. The Chair and Mr. Costa agreed. Mr. Wood expressed concern for the 30 day time period that would be up July 11th. The Superintendent stated she has reviewed the Town Charter and couldn't find the 30 day time period, but will verify that. If that is so,

she will schedule an immediate workshop. Mr. Wagner felt they should take the 1.2 million and get started. Ms. MacBeth asked to add out of district tuition placements for review and the Superintendent will review that with the Business Manager.

X. Superintendent's Report - The Superintendent apologized for the microphones, noting that construction at the high school has picked up speed and it was too dangerous to meet at that facility. She reported the campus and administration offices will be closed from June 29th to July 13th due to the construction. The business office will be available and essential operations such as purchasing and payroll will not be compromised.

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There will be no student enrollments during this time. Dr. Morelle noted the building committees will be meeting at the public library. She also noted the committee is invited to the tree topping ceremony Tuesday with a pine tree being placed at the top of the science wing addition.

XII. Comments from the Public - None.

XIII. School Committee Comments (School Liaison Reports) - None.

XIV. 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 needed.

XV. Adjournment - On a motion by Mr. Thibodeau, and a second by Mr. Wagner, it was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE adjourning at 9:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Shirley Harris

Recording Secretary

Subject to approval by the School Committee