

# **OFFICIAL**

## **CUMBERLAND SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

**JUNE 14, 2007**

### **MINUTES**

**The regular meeting of the Cumberland School Committee held on Thursday, June 14, 2007 at the Cumberland Administrative Office/Cafetorium, 2602 Mendon Road, was called to order at 7:34 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 Mr. Thibodeau.**

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

**III. Chairperson's Report - The Chair reported Ms. MacBeth and Mr. Costa will be late. He noted receiving a double whammy from the town and the state on the budget. He reported the committee is invited to a BF Norton Family Reading Club meeting on June 18th at 6:30 p.m.**

**IV. Comments from the Public - Amanda Cahoon was representing the Lacrosse team and stated they won the state championship this year and they wanted the committee to know how much it means to the team. They have nine girls on the team who are academic all Americans. She thanked the committee for their support. Ms. Malone, Principal of BF Norton, spoke about a project undertaken by Mrs. Kauflin at McCourt Middle School and Mrs. lanetta at BF Norton. The classes learned about a girl in Japan during World War II who attempted to make a thousand cranes. The classes made cranes to send to the patients at Walter Reed Hospital. Ms. Malone then presented the committee with cranes.**

**Mr. McLaughlin stated he was saddened by the news of the budget and hoped the buses wouldn't be cut.**

**Mr. Costa's arrival is noted at 7:40 p.m.**

**V. Student Recognition - The Superintendent recognized the following students, having them talk about their projects and presented them with a certificate of recognition:**

**A. Destination ImagiNation**

**Elizabeth Anthes Carrie Collette Elizabeth Criscione**

**Sara Dolan Katherine Packard**

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**B. International Vex Challenge Robotics Competition**

**Brian Andrade Daniel Lopes Andrew Miller**

**Ryan Miller Edward Norberg Andrew Silva**

**Jonathan Sundquist Lucas Wild**

**C. CHS Debate Team**

**Katelyn Chopy Andrea Kszystyniak Brad Lamoureux**

**John Lefrancois William Murphy Brian Seaver**

**The Superintendent thanked Joan LaPlante, Coach, noting she is retiring this year. Ms. LaPlante thanked Ms. Frappier and Mr. Doodson.**

**D. RI Stock Market Game 2007**

**Nathan Wright Cory Silva**

**The Superintendent reported attending an awards luncheon at Marble House and read the students' essays.**

**E. Town Spelling Bee 2007 - First Place Winner**

**Benjamin Tribelli**

**F. Braille Readers are Leaders Award**

**John Frampton**

**VI. Teacher Recognition - The Superintendent recognized the following retirees and wished them well:**

**Susanne Barrach Karen Brousseau Joan Butler**

**Gail Frappier Mary Ann Garlock Kathleen Hart**

**Wendy Hickey Ann Iannotti Frances Jones**

**Susan McKee Bruce Noelte Marlene Wilk**

**Daniel Zabinski**

**Mrs. Crowley wished them all well on behalf of the CTA. Mr. Costa noted a total of over 300 years of service. Ms. Beaulieu commented on her son's experience with reading in Mrs. Wilk's class.**

**The Chair declared a recess at 8:14 p.m. Ms. MacBeth's arrival is noted at 8:20 p.m. The meeting reconvened at 8:23 p.m.**

**VII. Greece Trip - Postponed.**

**VIII. Reports of Standing Committees**

**A. Amendment to Durham School Services Transportation Contract - No action.**

**B. Contract for Lighting Conservation Improvements - No Action.**

**C. Telephone System RFP - Mr. Wagner reported the Finance Committee met at**

**6:30 p.m. and approved a telephone system upgrade that will result in a savings and better use of staff.**

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**On a motion by Mr. Wagner, and a second by Mr. Thibodeau, it was UNANI- MOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE the contract in the amount of \$31,329.86. It was noted this is a state approved vendor. Mr. Rotella explained the state approved vendor list allows the committee to use bids from that list without an RFP. Mr. Wood asked for clarification and Mr. Rotella confirmed that by using vendors from the list three competitive bids are not needed.**

**D. Curriculum Committee - Ms. Beaulieu reported they are continuing their self study**

**and discussed areas of students who struggled to meet the standards. She noted the meetings are open to the public.**

**E. Special Programs - Mr. Thibodeau reported meeting on energy use, noting other communities are seeing savings.**

**F. Rules & Regulations - Mr. Costa noted the committee met last night. Dr. Monti has reviewed the Head Lice Policy and there is a new proposal from the new RI Department of Health guidelines. Mr. Costa reported there will be a change with the Medication Dispensing Policy because information will now be stored in SchoolMax rather than manually. They will be revisiting the policy manual.**

**IX. Consent Agenda - On a motion by Mr. Thibodeau, and a second by Mr. Wagner, it was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE the Consent Agenda.**

**A. Police Report**

**B. Truancy Report**

**C. Approval of Minutes**

**1. Open Session: 5/10/07, 5/24/07**

**D. Facilities Report**

**E. Enrollment Report**

**X. Approval of Minutes**

**A. Executive Session: 5/10/07 - Mr. Wagner made a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Thibodeau provided a second. Ms. Beaulieu noted she disagreed with some of the contents of the minutes. On a motion by Ms. Beaulieu, and a second by Mr. Thibodeau, it was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE tabling the minutes.**

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

**A. On a motion by Mr. Thibodeau, and a second by Mr. Wagner, it was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE the retirement of Bruce Noelte, Physical Education Teacher at North Cumberland Middle School, effective 6/30/2007.**

**B. On a motion by Mr. Costa, and a second by Ms. Beaulieu and Mr. Thibodeau, it was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE the FMLA Maternity Leave of Tanya Martins, Grade 2 Teacher at Ashton School, effective 9/4/2007 with a return date of 10/29/2007 (budgeted).**

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**C. On a motion by Mr. Wood, and a second by Ms. Beaulieu, it was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE the FMLA Maternity Leave of Jennifer Moulico, Grade 4 Teacher at Ashton School, effective 9/4/2007 with a return date of 12/06/2007 (budgeted).**

**D. On a motion by Ms. Beaulieu, and a second by Mr. Wood, it was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE the Parental Leave of Holly St. Pierre, Spanish Teacher at**

**Joseph L. McCourt Middle School, effective 9/4/2007 for the 2007-2008 school year.**

**E. On a motion by Mr. Wood, and a second by Mr. Wagner, it was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE the appointment of Dorothy Gould, Principal at Cumberland High School, effective 7/1/2007, as per agreement (Advanced Lane: N/A; Co-pay 20%; budgeted). The Superintendent noted the agreement is the standard agreement with the budgeted salary. Ms. Gould will be working with the current Principal until July for transition purposes. She has agreed to ten days compensation for not using vacation time this summer. Ms. Gould was introduced to the committee.**

## **XII. Old Business**

**A. Building Committee Update - Mr. Wood reported the CHS2010 committee met a week ago and next week the campus will be closing. The next meeting is this coming Monday in the Superintendent's conference room. The 3.5 building committee has been very busy and met with Mayor McKee to come up with a plan to fund the**

elementary school projects without going out to bond. This Wednesday there will be a referendum on the Town Council agenda for the multi-purpose rooms and fire alarm updates at both schools, plus the nurses suite at Ashton and the media center at Cumberland Hill.

**B. Recalls -** The Superintendent explained she had requested this be on the agenda so she could bring forward rescissions, but due to the budget she is unable to do that at this time. She is having the Business Manager do an analysis of the budget gap. They had build in the 3% increase in state aid. In reviewing course requests, they may be returning one of the world languages teachers. Dr. Morelle suggested a budget workshop to reconcile the budget and requested members review their schedules. Ms. MacBeth expressed concern for the 31 names on the recall list and unemployment. Mr. Rotella noted there are some individuals on that list with emergency certifications that would not qualify for unemployment.

**C. Order of Termination of Employment -** The Chair explained the Order of Termination of Employment is following the public hearing that Mr. Hicks had requested. The Order of Termination of Employment was read by the Chair and Mr. Crowley signed the order.

Mr. Thibodeau's departure is noted at 9:08 p.m.

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### **XIII. New Business**

**A. Use of School Facilities Policy July 1, 2007 - June 30, 2008 - Mr. Costa reported the Rules & Regulations committee had approved the policy from last year. On a motion by Mr. Costa, and a second by Mr. Wagner, it was VOTED 6-0 TO APPROVE the policy, without Mr. Thibodeau.**

**B. Approval of Sodexo Food Services Contract - Mr. Rotella explained the contract is being brought back to the committee for approval. Mr. Costa made a motion to approve. Mr. Wagner provided a second. Mr. Wagner stated there was one other bidder and this provider was selected because the guarantee of income was higher. Sodexo is providing a POS system. Mr. Prignano reported the contract is for one year, with four one-year options. On a roll call vote, it was VOTED 6-0 TO APPROVE the contract, without Mr. Thibodeau.**

**C. 2007-2008 School Budget Update - See recalls.**

**D. Safe Routes to Schools Program Update - The Superintendent reported she has been meeting with John Oben, the Town Planner, parent Liz Lemire, Mr. Hilton and Officer Murphy as the Safe Routes to School planning team to write the federal grant. They have sent out a survey to all the families in kindergarten through 8th grade on how students are arriving and leaving school every day. This is aid in determining what schools would qualify for the grant money first.**

**XIV. Superintendent's Report - The Superintendent expressed**

**appreciation for everyone for giving their energy, talent and interests.**

**Dr. Morelle wished everyone a safe summer and she is looking forward to the next school year.**

**XV. Comments from the Public - Mr. Egan stated the CTA wishes the committee will come up with a budget that will satisfy the needs of the school department and the students of Cumberland. He commented on the health care costs.**

**XVI. School Committee Comments (School Liaison Reports) - Mr. Wood thanked the faculty and PTO at Cumberland Hill for a successful year and commented on the 4th and 5th graders' play. He commented on the North Cumberland Middle School softball team for winning the state championship. Mr. Costa reported on the promotional ceremony at McCourt Middle School and thanked the students and staff. He also thanked the students and staff at BF Norton for the 4th and 5th grade play. Ms. Beaulieu reported tomorrow is field day at Ashton. She welcomed Ms. Gould and noted she will miss Mr. Driscoll. Ms. Beaulieu also thanked Ms. Rude for the summer reading program at BF Norton. Ms. Rude explained this is the fourth year for the literacy program they started after reading a report that students at Title 1 schools loose three years of reading over the summer. Ms. Crowley noted they added a math component for 3rd graders and a 5th grade reading component.**

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**Ms. Beaulieu commented on an article in the Woonsocket Call on a change in the policy in advertising meeting notices and the committee had not discussed this. She also noted the committee never received a copy of the complaint to the Attorney General's office.**

**The Chair noted he had submitted the meeting notice and also noted none of the committee members received a copy of the complaint.**

**XVII. 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. Costa made a motion to adjourn to Executive Session. Mr. Wagner provided a second. On a roll call vote, it was VOTED 5-1 TO APPROVE the motion, without Mr. Thibodeau, and the following voting AYE: Mr. Wagner, Ms. MacBeth, Mr. Crowley, Ms. Beaulieu, Mr. Crowley; NAY: Mr. Wood. Open Session recessed at 9:34 p.m.**

**Open Session reconvened at 10:55 p.m. On a motion by Mr. Wagner, and a second by Ms. MacBeth, it was VOTED 5-0 TO APPROVE sealing the Executive Session minutes, without Mr. Thibodeau and Mr. Costa.**

**XVIII. Adjournment - On a motion by Mr. Wagner, and a second by Ms. MacBeth, it was VOTED 5-0 TO APPROVE adjourning the meeting at 10:56 p.m.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Shirley Harris**

**Recording Secretary**

**Approval by the School Committee August 16, 2007**