

# **UNOFFICIAL**

## **CUMBERLAND SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

**AUGUST 30, 2007**

### **MINUTES**

**The regular meeting of the Cumberland School Committee held on Thursday, August 30, 2007 at the North Cumberland Middle School, 400 Nate Whipple Highway, was called to order at 7:35 PM, by Vice Chairman Robert Thibodeau, with the following present:**

**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**

**Absent: Frederic C. Crowley, Chairman**

**I. Pledge of Allegiance - The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mr. Wagner.**

**II. Approval of Agenda - On a motion by Mr. Wood, and a second by Mr. Wagner, it was VOTED 6-0 TO APPROVE moving the Kaestle Boos Associates Construction Project Update under New Business to item A. Building Committee Update under Old Business.**

**On a motion by Mr. Wagner, and a second by Mr. Wood, it was VOTED 6-0 TO APPROVE the agenda as amended.**

**III. Chairperson's Report - None.**

**IV. Comments from the Public - Jim McLaughlin commented on the letter from a member of the Cross Country Team and requested the full team be reinstated; if it is a matter of funding, he will raise the money. Tricia Clarey commented on losing the kindergarten assistants, noting kindergartners are immature and need help. Cheryl Keeler read a letter written by Nicole Curran regarding teacher assistants.**

**V. Reports of Standing Committees**

**A. Property Committee**

**1. Approval of RFP for School Security Systems - Mr. Wood reported the bids for the alarm monitoring system for Ashton, Community, Garvin, Cumberland Hill and BF Norton were opened on August 15th .**

**On a motion by Mr. Wood, and a second by Mr. Costa, it was VOTED 6-0 TO APPROVE the bid by Sonitrol Security Systems for equipment in the amount of \$66,264 and a two year contract for monitoring not to exceed \$85,596.**

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## **B. Finance Committee**

**1. Preschool Tuition Rates - Mr. Wagner made a motion to increase preschool tuition from \$130/month to \$175/month. Ms. MacBeth provided a second. When Mr. Wagner stated this would take effective immediately, Mr. Costa expressed concern that parents had not been notified. Mr. Prignano explained this increase was based on a survey of preschools in the area in February and again this summer. The Superintendent reported 75% of the families pay on time, but there are some who do have pay plans. There is no charge for a child with an IEP. Ms. MacBeth withdrew her second. Mr. Wood provided a second. It was VOTED 4-2 TO APPROVE the motion, with Ms. MacBeth and Mr. Costa voting against.**

**2. Fund Balances - On a motion by Mr. Wagner, and a second by Ms. MacBeth, it was VOTED 6-0 TO APPROVE setting up the fund balance for items that had been encumbered but not yet paid.**

**3. Miscellaneous - Mr. Thibodeau explained the Blue Cross contract was a three year extension that was signed by the town Finance Manger, not the school department. Ms. MacBeth asked how the school department was getting the savings on the contract when some of the money was from the town. Mr. Prignano explained that the town already had a balanced budget and this was a way for the town to assist the school department. Ms. MacBeth read from a document from the Interscholastic League and asked the**

**Superintendent to reconsider the cross country team. The Chair asked if a survey at both schools by the Principals at the Middle Schools and the Athletic Director could be done.**

## **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 VOTED 5-0 TO APPROVE the one year appointment of the coaching positions (see attached), with Ms. MacBeth recusing herself. It was noted Joe Samek would be Boys and Girls cross country coach.**

## **VII. Old Business**

**A. Building Committee Update/Kaestle Boos Associates Construction Project Update - Mr. Cifune made a power point presentation on the renovations at the High School, including the classrooms, cafeteria, the west driveway and parking lot. Mr. Prester made a power point presentation on the renovations at Ashton and Cumberland Hill Schools. A parent asked about the overcrowding and the Superintendent that they will be looking at boundaries.**

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## **B. Recalls**

**1. On a motion by Mr. Costa, and a second by Ms. Beaulieu, it was VOTED 6-0 TO APPROVE rescinding 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:**

**a. Julie Pascoe, recall to the position of Special Educator at Joseph L. McCourt Middle School, effective 8/31/2007.**

**b. Lane Sisak, recall to the position of Special Educator at North Cumberland Middle School, effective 8/31/2007.**

**2. On a motion by Mr. Wood, and a second by Mr. Costa, it was VOTED 6-0 TO APPROVE rescinding 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:**

**a. Sharon Chung, recall to the position of Technical Studies Teacher at Joseph L. McCourt Middle School, effective 8/31/2007.**

**b. Keith Colwell, recall to the position of Technical Studies Teacher at North Cumberland Middle School, effective 8/31/2007.**

**C. Reconsideration of RFP for Special Education Program Audit - Mr. Wood explained he requested this be put back on the agenda after talking to the Business Manager and finding it would be funded from last year's budget. Mr. Wood made a motion to reconsider a proposal for an RFP for the Special Education Program Audit. Ms. Beaulieu provided a second. Ms. MacBeth felt with the acting Special Education Director and Deputy Director, parents, teachers and**

**assistants they should be able to work together to look at the information already available. It was VOTED 4-2 TO APPROVE, with Ms. MacBeth and Mr. Costa voting against.**

**On a motion by Mr. Wood, and a second by Mr. Wagner, it was VOTED 4-2 TO APPROVE the proposal, with Ms. MacBeth and Mr. Costa voting against.**

## **VIII. New Business**

**A. Home School Instruction Requests 2007-2008 School Year - Dr. Carney requested approval of ten renewals and two new requests for home schooling for 2007-2008. On a motion by Mr. Wood, and a second by Mr. Wagner, it was VOTED 6-0 TO APPROVE the requests.**

**B. Northern Rhode Island Collaborative Presentation - Mr. MacDonnell, Executive Director of the Northern RI Collaborative, spoke about the collaborative programs. He explained that many years ago they began to open their classes for tuition to those outside the collaborative. That money has been invested with the intent to build. With the possible sale of their building they began looking at property and purchased the old Epheta House property, which is now not needed. He couldn't say what the agreement was with the town of Cumberland. Mr. MacDonnell explained the savings to Cumberland of \$142,000.**

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**C. 2007-2008 Budget Reconciliation/Update - The Superintendent reported that the long negotiations with Blue Cross and Durham have balanced the budget and there are no action items being brought forward.**

**IX. Superintendent's Report - The Superintendent noted the bus routes are in the Valley Breeze and thanked Marcia Green for the article on the high school. She wanted to dispel the rumor that high school classes would be held at the middle schools.**

**X. Comments from the Public - Kathy Lambert spoke about kindergarten orientation evolving from meet the teacher to staff and administration giving new parents information. She has requested revising the orientation. Heidi Jarvis stated it was discomfoting to attend orientation and finding that the classrooms were not ready. Rod McGarry tried to speak about a grievance and was ruled out of order by the Chair. Kate Egan commented on kindergarten teacher assistants and she thought these issues should be settled earlier in the school year. Melinda Jackson commented that she hoped the Special Education Program Audit did not become an issue of money. Jerry Egan expressed disappointment that the President of the CTA was ruled out of order.**

**XI. School Committee Comments (School Liaison Reports) - Ms.**

**MacBeth reported attending a Kids First function at the Crowne Plaza and there were vendors of healthy food for school that go with the new Welless Policy. She has information available for anyone interested. Mr. Wood reported Cumberland Hill will be holding first day activities Wednesday through Friday where parents can go into the classroom with their students. He also noted the first high school football game will be tomorrow and the team's fund raiser is a gold cards for discounts.**

**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**
- 2. Superintendent's Annual Evaluation/Objectives**

**B. Negotiations/Litigation - Exception (2)**

- 1. CTA/ICSE**
- 2. Central Administrators' Contracts**
- 3. Non-Contractual Salaries**
- 4. Potential Litigation**

**Mr. Wagner made a motion to adjourn to Executive Session. Mr. Wood provided a second. On a roll call vote, it was VOTED 6-0 TO APPROVE the motion. Open Session recessed at 9:20 p.m.**

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**Open Session reconvened at 11:06 p.m. On a motion by Mr. Wood, and a second by Mr. Wagner, it was VOTED 6-0 TO APPROVE sealing the Executive Session minutes.**

**XIV. Adjournment - On a motion by Mr. Wood, and a second by Mr. Wagner, it was VOTED 6-0 TO APPROVE adjourning Open Session at 11:07 p.m.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Shirley Harris**

**Recording Secretary**

**Subject to the approval of the School Committee**