

OFFICIAL

CUMBERLAND SCHOOL COMMITTEE

SEPTEMBER 20, 2007

MINUTES

A meeting of the Cumberland School Committee held on Thursday, September 20, 2007, at the Cumberland Administrative Office/Cafetorium, 2602 Mendon Road, was called to order by Chairman Frederic C. Crowley at 6:30 PM, with the following present:

**Frederic C. Crowley, Chairman, Robert Thibodeau, Vice Chair,
Karen MacBeth, Clerk, W. David Wagner**

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

I. Vote to go into Executive Session for Discussion and/or Action Items Referred to in GLRI 42-46-5:

A. Grievance - Exception (9)

1. CTA Level 3 - #06-07-17

Mr. Wagner made a motion to adjourn to Executive Session. Mr. Thibodeau provided a second. On a roll call vote, it was VOTED 4-0 TO APPROVE the motion. Open Session recessed at 6:31 p.m.

Open session was reconvened at 7:37 p.m. 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

II. Pledge of Allegiance - Mr. Thibodeau led the Pledge of Allegiance.

On a motion by Mr. Wood, and a second by Mr. Wagner, it was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE sealing the Executive Session minutes.

III. Approval of Agenda - On a motion by Mr. Wagner, and a second by Mr. Wood, it was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE moving item B. 2007-208 Recognition of Family, School and Community Partnership under New Business to before the Chairperson's Report.

On a motion by Mr. Wagner, and a second by Mr. Wood and Mr. Thibodeau, it was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE the amended agenda.

IV. New Business

B. 2007-2008 Recognition of Family, School and Community Partnership - The Superintendent reported they are focusing their work on ways the school district interacts with family and schools in the community. She recognized Marguerite Savickas from Central Administration for her work as the first person new families meet when they come to Cumberland to register their children for school. Dr. Morelle recognized William Skitt, Principal at Community School, for the work they have done with the RI Parent Information Network. Mr. Skitt recognized the SIT, teachers and parents for their work and commented on some of their activities. The Superintendent recognized Paula Maloney and Deb Rude for BF Norton's Home Summer Literacy Program. Ms. Maloney noted that four years ago they started with 12 students and this summer they had 62. She complimented the teachers for their planning and work in this program. Dr. Morelle recognized Kathy Gibney, Principal at Cumberland Preschool Center and the Child Outreach Program. Ms. Gibney also recognized Joanne Bascomb for her work and the teachers and staff. In closing, Dr. Morelle noted they will be recognizing the Cumberland School Volunteers in the future as this is their 40th year.

V. Chairperson's Report - The Chair noted he and Mr. Costa were unable to participate in the healthcare issue and thanked Mr. Thibodeau for taking over and he also thanked the committee, the Superintendent, the Town Council and Mayor McKee. Mr. Crowley thanked Mr. Wood for handling the RFP for the school security.

VI. Comments from the Public

A. Public Comments - Brian Kelly talked about going to Gillette Stadium to help the Lacrosse team with fund raising and stated they are asking for equitable funding. He asked the finance subcommittee to make a recommendation to the full committee. Vanessa Molloy attempted to comment on the pay checks and the Chair stopped her, explaining a grievance was heard earlier. Linda lanetta commented on the need for a one day librarian at BF Norton. Jim McLaughlin commented on the cuts that have been made in sports and asked for another survey. Mary Ann Schultheis stated she thought the teachers have been very patient with the construction and she was upset with the Chair for the way he spoke to Ms. Molloy. She noted the juniors will be taking SATs in October or November and she hasn't seen anything from the school on that. Julie Butler commented the guidance area had to move for construction and there had been problems with the phones. She asked for the assistance of a retired guidance counselor. Marina Amin commented on the Chair stopping Ms. Malloy from speaking. Christopher Barnhart explained he is a student and the students are not getting what they need. He was corrected when he said he heard there would be no letters of

recommendation. Lynn Kelly expressed concern for retribution and expressed concern with slow pay and that staff is recalculating mileage.

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Chris Chenard stated as a student he is upset by the way teachers are treated and now they are not receiving a fair and just compensation. Rod McGarry wanted to set the record straight that teachers are professionals and letters of recommendation will be written. Juliana Amin was upset the way her favorite teacher was treated. Kara Solebello thought that with so many people here and so many speaking there must be something wrong. Mike Monigan stated the teachers really ry. He noted the foyer looks really nice but there is no braille. Jesse Poon felt the class advisors were underpaid.

B. Student Government Report - Nikita Duke and Chirene Albatal reported they have new home room representatives and a new Principal. They reported there was a freshman orientation, a teacher breakfast and freshman elections. Future activities will be a formal dance for homecoming and Spirit Week will be October 14 - 19th.

VII. Reports of Standing Committees

A. Finance Committee

1. Payment of Bills - On a motion by Mr. Thibodeau, and a second by Ms. MacBeth, it was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE payment

of bills in the amount of \$561,143.93. The Superintendent noted they are working on an agreement with Our Lady of Fatima.

2. Award of Bid for Special Education Program Audit - Tabled in the subcommittee.

B. Property Committee

1. Lockers at Cumberland High School - Mr. Wood reported there were approximately 200 lockers that were not usable. Mr. Hilton had priced out the repair of those lockers at \$9/lock and \$70/hour and the repairs should be done in three weeks. Mr. Wood reported that Mr. Hilton is seeking a report on the roof at BF Norton as to whether it should be repaired or redone. The money has been budgeted.

VIII. Consent Agenda

B. Police Report - August

C. Approval of Minutes

1. Open Session: 8/16/07, 8/30/07

2. Special Meeting: 8/28/07

D. Facilities Report

E. Enrollment Report

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

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IX. Approval of Minutes

A. Unseal Executive Session: 7/30/07 - The Chair turned the meeting over to the Vice Chair. Mr. Wagner made a motion to unseal the minutes. Mr. Thibodeau provided a second. Ms. Beaulieu stated she didn't think the entire minutes needed to be unsealed to report out a vote that was taken. The motion and second were withdrawn.

On a motion by Ms. Beaulieu, and a second by Mr. Wood, it was VOTED 4-0 TO APPROVE tabling, with Mr. Costa and Mr. Crowley recused.

B. Special Meeting/Executive Session: 8/8/07 - On a motion by Mr. Thibodeau, and a second by Mr. Wagner, it was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE tabling.

C. Executive Session: 8/16/07 - The Chair turned the meeting over to the Vice Chair. On a motion by Mr. Wood, and a second by Mr. Wagner, it was VOTED 5-0 TO APPROVE the minutes, with Mr. Costa and Mr. Crowley recused.

D. Executive Session: 8/30/07- Mr. Wood made a motion to approve. A second was provided by Mr. Wagner and Mr. Thibodeau. The motion and second were WITHDRAWN when Ms. MacBeth stated there was a comment she made that was not in the minutes. On a motion by Ms. MacBeth, and a second by Mr. Thibodeau, it was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE tabling, with Mr. Costa

recused.

X. Personnel Recommendations - The Superintendent presented the following:

A. On a motion by Ms. Beaulieu, and a second by Mr. Wagner, it was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE the resignation of Robin Taylor, Grade 6 Teacher at North Cumberland Middle, effective 9/9/2007.

B. On a motion by Ms. Beaulieu, and a second by Mr. Wagner, it was VOTED 6-0 TO APPROVE the FMLA Maternity Leave of Allison Laplume, Art Teacher at Cumberland High School, effective 9/24/2007 - 12/3/2007, with Ms. MacBeth off the dias.

C. On a motion by Mr. Thibodeau, and a second by Mr. Wagner, it was VOTED 6-1 TO APPROVE the appointment of Sandra Cocca, Special Educator at Cumberland High School, effective 9/5/2007 (FTE: 1.0; Step 1; Advanced Lane: n/a; Co-pay: 10%; budgeted), with Mr. Wood voting against. Mr. Wood expressed concern for the candidate not having experience.

D. On a motion by Mr. Costa, and a second by Ms. Beaulieu, it was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE the appointment of Mark Souza, Elementary Music Teacher system-wide, effective 9/21/2007 (FTE: 1.0; Step 1; Advanced Lane: n/a: Co-pay: 10%; budgeted). He will be assigned to various schools.

E. Mr. Wagner made a motion to approve the appointment of Luann Mesick, English Department Co-Chair at Cumberland High School, effective 9/21/2007 (budgeted), and Robert Thurston, English

Department Co-chair at Cumberland High School, effective 9/21/2007 (budgeted). A second was provided by Mr. Thibodeau.

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The Superintendent explained they both came forth with a job description of one supervising grades 9-10 and the other 11-12. They will share the stipend and have a modified schedule. This is supported by the high school principal. It is for one year and will be reviewed at the end of the year. On a roll call vote, it was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE the motion.

F. On a motion by Mr. Thibodeau and Mr. Costa, and a second by Mr. Wagner, it was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE the retirement of David Meikle, Physical Education Teacher at Garvin School, effective 12/21/2007. Mr. Wagner commented that Mr. Meikle will be missed.

G. On a motion by Mr. Costa, and a second by Ms. MacBeth, it was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE the retirement of Maria Silva, Teacher Assistant at Joseph L. McCourt Middle School, effective 12/31/2007.

H. Mr. Thibodeau made a motion to approve the appointment of Robert DiMartino, Drama Teacher at Cumberland High School, effective 9/21/2007 (FTE: 1.0, Salary \$66,734/\$68,068; Advanced Lane: n/a; Co-pay: 10%; budgeted). A second was provided by Ms.

Beaulieu. Mr. Rotella explained there is a contract in place for this year at the top step so the amount is shown for the first and second half of the year. The Superintendent explained the salary was due to his years of experience and this is a specialized area. There were no other candidates. Mr. Wood noted his certificate is in history and he is emergency certified. Dr. Morelle noted he has a fine arts degree from URI. Ms. Beaulieu made a motion to table. Ms. MacBeth provided a second. On a roll call vote, the motion FAILED 4-3, with the following voting AYE: Mr. Wagner, Ms. MacBeth, Ms. Beaulieu; NAY: Mr. Wood. Mr. Thibodeau, Mr. Costa, Mr. Crowley.

On a roll call vote, it was VOTED 4-3 TO APPROVE the original motion, with the following voting AYE: Mr. Thibodeau, Mr. Costa, Ms. Beaulieu, Mr. Crowley; NAY: Mr. Wood, Mr. Wagner, Ms. MacBeth. Ms. MacBeth stated her concern was on the salary, not the candidate. Mr. Costa noted his vote was because of the need.

I. On a motion by Mr. Costa, and a second by Mr. Wagner, it was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE the appointment of Lynn Mello, Music Teacher at BF Norton School, effective 9/21/2007 (FTE: 0.5; Step 1; Advance Lane: n/a; Co-pay: 10%; budgeted). She will also be assigned to various schools.

XI. Old Business

A. Recalls - None.

B. Building Committee Update - Mr. Wood reported work continues at Ashton and Cumberland Hill Schools. The oil tank has been removed

from Cumberland Hill and they are looking into a catch basin that needs to be installed. The steel is due in October 1st at Ashton School. The CHS2010 committee met Monday and is working on a final punch list with KBA.

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On October 15th there will be talk about the landscaping. The new lighting is in and there is a timer on the lights from Farm Drive. He noted the school has been in darkness for so long that now it seems very bright. They are also discussing renovation of the guidance office. A letter has been received from Captain Crocker on the security system and all requirements have been met and reimbursement has been requested for the grant.

XII. New Business

A. Home School Instruction Requests 2007-08 School Year - The Assistant Superintendent presented two requests for home schooling. On a motion by Mr. Wood, and a second by Mr. Wagner, it was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE the requests.

B. 2007-2008 Recognition of Family, School and Community Partnership - Above.

C. Tour of School Facilities - The Superintendent explained it is a tradition that at this time of year the school committee tour all the schools. The committee preferred Option 1, touring the high school,

Cumberland Hill and Ashton and then the other schools. The Superintendent will work with KBA to be available for the construction projects.

XIII. Superintendent's Report - The Superintendent thanked Mr. Wood for his work on the lockers. She noted the school department and the building committee are working on the conditions in the guidance area and they are collecting a list of items not originally included in the scope of work.

XIV. Comments from the Public - Kathy Lambert commented on opening day with kindergartners and the need for teacher aids. Brian Kelly stated he is filing a complaint with the Attorney General because payment of bills is not the agenda. He commented on the style of the Chair's leadership and asked the Chair to step down. Tracey Iwuc commented on case loads and being a resource teacher at the high school. Jim McLaughlin thanked those who helped with the Garvin playground. He stated he is forming a committee regarding the cuts.

XV. School Committee Comments (School Liaison Reports) - Ms. Beaulieu reported the first PTO meeting at Ashton will be Tuesday at 6:00 p.m. Mr. Wood reported there will be a welcome back afternoon at Cumberland Hill next Wednesday, the 26th at 3:30 p.m. Ms. MacBeth commented on the survey Mr. McLaughlin was talking about for extra curricular and sports and that she agreed it needed to be

looked into. She also requested the financing of sports be put on a finance committee agenda. Mr Costa thanked parents of BF Norton and SCRAPS for their invitation to work on their playground. Mr. Wood reported there will be a football game tomorrow. The Chair thanked parents, school employees and students for attending this evening.

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He explained to the students the zero tolerance on speaking on anything discussed in Executive Session and there had been a grievance.

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**
- 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.

Thibodeau provided a second. On a roll call vote, it was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE the motion. Open Session recessed at 9:45 p.m.

Open Session was reconvened at 10:59 p.m. On a motion by Mr. Wood, and a second by Mr. Thibodeau, it was VOTED 6-0 TO APPROVE sealing the Executive Session minutes, without Mr. Costa.

XVII. Adjournment - On a motion by Ms. MacBeth, and a second by Mr. Thibodeau, it was VOTED 6-0 TO APPROVE adjourning Open Session at 11:00 p.m., without Mr. Costa.

Respectfully submitted,

Shirley Harris

Recording Secretary

Approved by the School Committee October 11, 2007