

1 **STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE**
PLANTATIONS

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Proceedings At:

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School Committee Town of Cumberland

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5 **IN RE: School Committee Meeting**

6 **DATE: Thursday, July 24, 2008**

TIME: 7:30 P.M.

7 **PLACE: Cumberland High School**

Auditorium

8 **2600 Mendon Road**

Cumberland, RI

9

10 **SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBERS:**

11 **Frederic C. Crowley, Chairperson**

Donald J. Costa, Vice Chairperson

12 **Karen MacBeth, Clerk**

W. David Wagner

13 **Robert C. Thibodeau**

Lisa Beaulieu

14 **Earl T. Wood**

15

APPEARANCES:

16

FOR THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE:

17

Joseph A. Rotella, Esquire

18

19 **ALSO PRESENT:**

20 **Donna A. Morelle, Ed.D./Superintendent**

Susan C. Carney, Ph.D./Assistant Superintendent

21

22

23 **ALLIED COURT REPORTERS, INC.**

115 PHENIX AVENUE

24 **CRANSTON, RI 02920**

(401) 946-5500

1 **(HEARING COMMENCED AT 7:35 P.M.)**

2 **MR. CHAIRMAN: We'll call the**
3 **meeting to order. Mr. Wagner, would you be so**
4 **kind to lead us into the Pledge of Allegiance.**

5 **(Pledge of Allegiance)**

6 **MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you,**
7 **Mr. Wagner. Next item on the agenda is Approval**
8 **of Agenda. Do we have a motion for that.**

9 **MR. WAGNER: Motion.**

10 **MR. THIBODEAU: Second.**

11 **MS. BEAULIEU: Mr. Chairman, I**

12 **would like to remove agenda Item 13B**

13 **Negotiation/Litigation - Exception (2), item**

14 **numbers 2 and 3 of the agenda, please.**

15 **MR. CHAIRMAN: Motion by**

16 **Mrs. Beaulieu to move agenda item Number 13,**

17 **remove B2 and 3 from the agenda.**

18 **MR. WAGNER: Second by Mr. Wagner.**

19 **MR. CHAIRMAN: Discussion? All**

20 **those in favor? Opposed? Hearing none. The ayes**

21 **have it. Numbers 13B, 2 and 3 are removed. Can**

22 **we approve the agenda?**

23 **MR. WAGNER: No, we did not.**

24 **MR. CHAIRMAN: Any further**
25 **discussion on the approval of the agenda?**

3

1 **MS. BEAULIEU: Mr. Chairman, I just**
2 **wanted to make a comment that on Old Business, I**
3 **spoke with Mr. Fields today from the Attorney**
4 **General's office and he confirmed that the**
5 **agenda item under Old Business was (inaudible).**

6 **MR. CHAIRMAN: You're not asking to**
7 **remove anything?**

8 **MS. BEAULIEU:** I'm not asking you
9 to remove anything, I'm only mentioning that I
10 spoke with the Attorney General's office today
11 with regard to the agenda items under Old
12 Business, and he felt that he was appropriately
13 agendaed. I just wanted to make that comment.

14 **MR. CHAIRMAN:** Was there any
15 question in your mind?

16 **MS. BEAULIEU:** I wanted to be
17 certain that those items would be agendaed
18 appropriately.

19 **MR. CHAIRMAN:** And you're certain
20 now, right?

21 **MS. BEAULIEU: Based on the**
22 **conversation I had with him, I feel confident.**
23 **Thank you.**

24 **MR. CHAIRMAN: Any further**
25 **discussion? All those in favor? Opposed?**

4

1 **Hearing none. The eyes have it.**

2 **The Chairperson's Report is the**
3 **next item on the agenda. The first thing is**
4 **that I received another letter from a satisfied**

5 parent, Dr. Morelle. I can't give you the name
6 because it had something to do with her child.
7 That I understand you had a meeting with this
8 lady and Principal Gould and this lady wrote to
9 Commissioner McWalters praising you. And if you
10 have a personal file, or something, I know we've
11 given you a hard time about cooperation, but you
12 have been cooperating, and if you have a
13 personal file, I'd like you to put this in the
14 personal file. Only I get a copy of these and
15 just ask, if you wish, you can give a copy to
16 the rest of the school committee members.

17 As far as public comment is

18 concerned, there is a five-minute rule which
19 applies to everybody. There is no personal
20 attacks. Please be civil to everyone. Please
21 don't give us anything that is repetitive or
22 redundant. If you have ten people that are
23 going to speak on the same subject, please have
24 that spokesperson give your views on it. Also,
25 no discussion about grievances, student

5

1 suspensions, or other executive session matters.

2 As you know, this is the politics season, and

3 please, no politics. It's not the forum for it.

4 We are a nonaffiliated group. And if you have a

5 political agenda that you'd like to discuss,

6 please take out a newspaper ad. There's a

7 sign-up sheet, as always, at the podium. I

8 noticed a couple of people signing up.

9 Mr. Prignano, would you be so kind to get the

10 sign-up sheet and bring it up here, please.

11 Thank you.

12 The next item on the agenda is

13 comments from the public. The first person to

14 sign up is Brian Kelly.

15 MR. KELLY: First thing I would

16 like to do is, I don't know if Mr. Rotella is
17 going to be here or if he's gone for the
18 evening. I have here a package of information
19 for Mr. Rotella. It's in response to
20 communication that he recently received, along
21 with a bill for \$32,000. It's addressing
22 reasons why I believe that the school committee
23 should not pay for the legal fees concurred by
24 Mr. Crowley from his attorney on the ethics
25 case. I provided copies of the orders from the

1 Ethics Commission, as well as the minutes of the
2 Ethics Commission. There's a lot of, in my
3 opinion, a lot of mistruths in the letter that
4 Attorney Capenary (phonetic) provided.

5 MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Kelly, mistruths
6 are lies, would you agree? Please, there's no
7 personal attacks.

8 MR. KELLY: I'll read my points.
9 Can I have the mike? Don't interrupt me. Thank
10 you.

11 MR. CHAIRMAN: No personal attacks.
12 That's your first warning.

13 **THE WITNESS: Mr. Capenary goes on**

14 **to say that there was exoneration of Mr. Crowley**

15 **in this case. What attorney Capenary fails to**

16 **expose in the letter is that the prosecutor**

17 **(sic) for the Ethics Commission clearly stated**

18 **in her memorandum that the motion that she made**

19 **that the order in finding a probable cause not**

20 **be dismissed. That was submitted to the Ethics**

21 **Commission, that is what the Ethics Commission**

22 **approved without modifications. To say,**

23 **otherwise, I believe it's completeley**

24 **inaccurate. Another basis that Attorney**

25 **Capenary believes that either the town or the**

1 school is responsible for any of this, or myself
2 personally, is that he states that the complaint
3 was frivolous, and indeed in the initial
4 response by attorney Capenary to the Ethics
5 Commission, he cites as the reason to pay the
6 legal fees for Mr. Crowley.

7 I would just point out that given
8 that the Ethics Commission move forward and
9 issue an order and found a probable cause that

10 and of itself, meaning that it was not a
11 frivolous complaint. If they had founded a
12 frivolous complaint, it wouldn't even gotten to
13 that point. So again, it's another inaccuracy,
14 but I guess when you want to say what you want
15 and to explain to people rather than taking
16 responsibility for your own actions, that is
17 what you'll do.

18 And in today's paper, Attorney
19 McFarley says that in the defense of minutia
20 takes up Joe Rotella's time. Now if we mean the
21 definition of minutia, Mr. Crowley, is that we
22 need compliance with the laws that are in place

23 to ensure public body, okay, then I will tie up
24 Mr. Rotella every single day to ensure that that
25 minutia is complied with. If it hadn't been for

8

1 your actions, there would not have been any fees
2 incurred by you for your attorney. I've been
3 told tonight that the former Attorney General
4 Pine charges \$250 an hour. You're telling
5 public taxpayers that he charged you 450 an
6 hour.

7 **MR. CHAIRMAN: I didn't tell**

8 **anybody anything, Mr. Kelly.**

9 **MR. KELLY: You're quoted saying in**

10 **saying that.**

11 **MR. CHAIRMAN: If someone says**

12 **that, I don't care. I don't even read the paper**

13 **that you're talking about. Excuse me,**

14 **Mr. Kelly, you've got 30 seconds. Please,**

15 **instead of making attacks on members of the**

16 **school committee, please keep your remarks --**

17 **MR. KELLY: Then finally, if we**

18 **look at totality of this situation of any**

19 **expenses that have occurred, defending his**

20 minutia, the most recent complaint has to do
21 with a string of e-mails. And I knew what your
22 defense would be. Your defense is is because
23 you sent multiple e-mails that, you know, is in
24 compliance with the Old Meetings Act, and if you
25 would like, I'm sure you very well --

9

1 MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you,
2 Mr. Kelly. Next person to speak is Mr. Bela.
3 Please leave the podium.

4 **MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Bela.**

5 **MR. BELA: I ask that you please**

6 **not interrupt me. Thank you. My name is**

7 **Joe Bela. Would you please explain to me why**

8 **the Attorney General has to continually get**

9 **involved because of your behavior? Please**

10 **explain.**

11 **MR. CHAIRMAN: Is that a personal**

12 **attack, Mr. Bela?**

13 **MR. BELA: I'm asking a question.**

14 **MR. CHAIRMAN: I don't read your**

15 **newspapers that you're talking about.**

16 **MR. BELA: Why does he keep finding**

17 your conduct violates state law?

18 MR. CHAIRMAN: No personal attacks,

19 Mr. Bela.

20 MR. BELA: I'm asking you

21 questions. I have a right as a taxpayer to ask

22 questions. As of today, you have almost a dozen

23 complaints against you. What is the reason for

24 this? Mr. Field ruled that you need to explain

25 why your decisions did not represent a local or

1 knowingly violation of the OMA. He gave you ten
2 days in which to explain why further penalties
3 should not be imposed. Today is day 11.

4 Mr. Crowley, you had quoted as saying that
5 Mr. Rotella responded within the timing of it
6 but only to get a clarification. So then did
7 you meet last week and answer Mr. Field?

8 That's yes. Mr. Crowley, how do you explain
9 your quote, "fears about negotiations with
10 unions and personal matters being disclosed to
11 your violations in executive session and not
12 reporting of your meeting minutes which is
13 required by law? After reading your comments in

14 today's paper, are you seriously asking the
15 taxpayers to pay your fines with our children's
16 education money?

17 MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Bela, I'm afraid
18 you're making a personal attack. That's your
19 third warning. Next one, you're out of here.
20 Officer, take note.

21 MR. BELA: You are quoted in
22 today's paper as saying that, I quote, "we will
23 vote in open session. We'll vote for the next
24 ten meetings. We'll do it 100 times, if they
25 want." Now, if that's true, why did the four of

1 you convene in executive session on the 14th and
2 vote on Ms. Morelle's contract behind our backs?

3 Simple question. On February 14th, I stood here
4 and asked you if the school committee documents
5 have exposed our town for possible lawsuits.

6 You as the board answers no. But according to
7 the AG's office, you didn't tell us the truth.

8 I'm asking why not. On February 14th, the board
9 convenes to executive session and to extend Ms.
10 Morelle's contract. A public body may not vote

11 in executive session. Now either your legal
12 counsel does not know his own laws
13 or --

14 MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Bela, that is a
15 personal attack on legal counsel. Officer,
16 would you kindly remove Mr. Bela from the, not
17 only the premises, but from the building and the
18 Cumberland school department.

19 MRS. MACBETH: I disagree.

20 MR. CHAIRMAN: We've given him
21 three chances. If you could please leave.

22 Next person is Carla Bela.

23 Mrs. Bela, would you please come up.

24 **MR. ROTELLA: Mr. Chairman, you as**
25 **the chairman have the ability under the law to**

12

1 **ask someone to be removed from the room. You've**
2 **already done that.**

3 **MR. CHAIRMAN: But the man is still**
4 **in the room. Officer, please remove him from**
5 **the room.**

6 **MR. BELA: You didn't answer my**
7 **question, sir. I'm a taxpayer.**

8 **MRS. BEAULIEU: I make a motion to**
9 **take a five-minute recess, please.**

10 **MR. WOOD: Second.**

11 **MR. CHAIRMAN: Motion for a recess**
12 **by Ms. Beaulieu, seconded by Mr. Wood.**

13 **Discussion? All those in favor? Opposed? The**
14 **eyes have it.**

15 **(RECESS)**

16 **MR. CHAIRMAN: We'll call the**
17 **meeting to order.**

18 **MS. BELA: My name is Carla Bela.**
19 **First off, after reading today's article about**
20 **Mr. Crowley's attorney bill. My first thought**

21 was you've got to be kidding. The more I
22 thought about this, the angrier I got. Now, I'm
23 not one to stand here and cause trouble, but
24 enough is enough. Mr. Crowley, how dare you
25 blame us for things that you have done wrong.

13

1 First off, \$7,000 is incorrect. \$30,000 is of
2 your doing. You were found in violation and
3 that is your problem, not ours. Secondly, the
4 \$40,000 that you claim is our responsibility

5 because of complaints made against the school
6 committee, that's part of Mr. Rotella's job. So
7 that is not extra money spent. It is you, sir,
8 who continually goes against your laws and I
9 would like you to explain, which I know I will
10 not get an explanation, how you feel that it is
11 my fault or anyone else's fault that you would
12 go against these laws.

13 If this committee had followed the
14 rules, then there wouldn't be any complaints and
15 we wouldn't be here tonight making these
16 accusations or personal attacks, as you would
17 like to put it. Month to month we sit here and

18 listen to you tell us how we need to act in this
19 meeting. I'm sorry, sir, but those rules apply
20 to you, as well. You tell us no personal
21 attacks, but yet when someone stands at this
22 podium, you sit there and throw backhanded
23 remarks at us and are absolutely rude. So if
24 you're telling us to behave one way, why is it
25 okay for you to be the other way. I'm all

14

1 messed up here. I have never been so disgusted

2 in the school committee in my life, but it just
3 keeps on getting worse. I'm afraid that you
4 guys will not have my child or any child in the
5 Town of Cumberland's best interest at hand. The
6 school committee's behavior in a whole, it's
7 just irrational. It does not make sense. There
8 is something wrong here. This school committee
9 continually ignores the voices of the people for
10 some reason.

11 We elected you, and you in fact
12 work for us, not for the superintendent. Our
13 community is fed up with your antics. It's time
14 to elect a school committee and administration

15 who'll work together in the best interest of our
16 children. People who show the community with
17 respect, as well as respect amongst themselves.
18 Finally, I do trust that my children will not
19 suffer for anything my husband or I have done
20 here tonight or any other night.

21 MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mrs.

22 Bela.

23 MRS. BELA: Thank you.

24 MR. CHAIRMAN: The next item on the
25 agenda is Reports of Standing Committees,

1 **Payment of Bills. Mr. Wagner?**

2 **MR. WAGNER: Yes. The Finance**

3 **Subcommittee met this afternoon and early this**

4 **evening. We only had a couple of items on our**

5 **agenda. The first one was Payment of Bills. We**

6 **voted to pay seven registers in the total of**

7 **\$527,942.61, and I would like to make a motion**

8 **that we go ahead and authorize those payments.**

9 **MR. THIBODEAU: Second.**

10 **MR. CHAIRMAN: Motion by Mr. Wagner**

11 **to authorize those payments, second by Mr.**

12 Thibodeau. Discussion? Yes, Mrs. MacBeth?

13 MRS. MACBETH: Thank you. In our

14 subcommittee we went through our registers and I

15 have concern over only one specific line item on

16 one of the registers and that was educational

17 supplies. It was for Premiere which is the

18 company for freshman agendas. Those are

19 basically homework pads that the students write

20 in and there was clarification that the handbook

21 or portion of the handbook would also be part of

22 the agenda. But the line item was \$3,439. And

23 I just feel where we've had to make cuts in our

24 budget, that when we start looking at \$3,000

25 it's going to add up, so when it came time to

16

1 vote on the subcommittee, it was that one thing.

2 Thank you.

3 MR. CHAIRMAN: Any further

4 discussion? Questions?

5 MR. WAGNER: Actually, Mr.

6 Chairman, on those agendas for the \$3,000, I

7 believe we clarified these were last year's

8 purchases, so these are items that we already

9 have in the house. So it just needs to be paid.

10 And I believe you said that we've already

11 started instituting looking at other companies

12 to lower the cost; is that correct?

13 MS. MORELLE: Two strategies. The

14 middle schools as far as our understanding have

15 a lesser cost and the high school, they've been

16 working with an organization to fund the

17 agendas.

18 MR. CHAIRMAN: Any further

19 discussion? First of all, Mrs. Beaulieu, did

20 you have your hand up?

21 MS. BEAULIEU: That was actually my

22 question.

23 MRS. MACBETH: So these are agendas

24 that have been already used by the students?

25 MS. MORELLE: That's a bill to be

17

1 paid out of the FY08 Budget.

2 MRS. MACBETH: And further

3 clarification, for the 9th grade for this coming

4 year, you're seeking alternative funding?

5 MS. MORELLE: I will have Principal

6 **Gould clarify that for the committee, but that's**
7 **my understanding that we're working together**
8 **with an organization or several funders to**
9 **integrate the handbook into the agendas and to**
10 **provide them for students without an impact on**
11 **the budget.**

12 **MRS. MACBETH: Thank you. Thank**
13 **you, Mr. Wagner, for clarifying that because I**
14 **misunderstood that.**

15 **MR. CHAIRMAN: All those in favor**
16 **of paying our bills? Opposed? The ayes have it.**

17 **MR. WAGNER: There was another item**
18 **with regard to housekeeping with this year's**

19 budget. And I'll ask that Mr. Prignano take it
20 from here as far as what we're trying to
21 accomplish.

22 MR. PRIGNANO: The other item on
23 the agenda tonight was to take some dollars that
24 still remain in the fiscal 2008 budget, and, you
25 know, our budget here will stay open for another

18

1 30 to 60 days. That really applies to the
2 previous fiscal year. But a couple of areas.

3 What we wanted to do is not have these balances
4 just flap in the fund balance, but actually have
5 them similar to what we did last year, certain
6 dollars designated them for specific purposes,
7 so then there were the four items that we talked
8 about.

9 The first one was an area of
10 medical bills. Each and every year in our
11 budget, because we are self-insured. We never
12 know what claims are going to run. The
13 experience at least a year and a half, almost
14 two years that I that I've been here now, is the
15 experience of claims in the Cumberland School

16 Department has been high. And what I'd like to
17 do is take away the money that was left that we
18 talked about. We talked anywhere from \$
19 \$350,000, it's actually a little more than that,
20 take that remaining dollars of about \$450,000 in
21 reserve next year just for medical type of
22 bills. What it will do is give us some budget
23 flexibility in the '09 year of cushion against
24 medical bills in the new year. I don't know if
25 there's any questions on that. I'll take them

1 one at a time. I'd like to do that, and I feel
2 it would establish, it would put us in a better
3 shape for fiscal '09.

4 MR. CHAIRMAN: Before we do
5 questions, can we have a motion one way or the
6 other?

7 MR. WAGNER: I would like to make a
8 motion that we approve the 2008 reserves to the
9 specific accounts for the 2009 budget, medical,
10 \$450,000, library books, \$50,000, educational
11 supplies, \$100,000 and the snow removal, \$7,000.

12 MR. THIBODEAU: Second.

13 **MR. CHAIRMAN: Motion by Mr.**
14 **Wagner, second by Mr. Thibodeau. Discussion?**

15 **MRS. MACBETH: We had a discussion**
16 **on this on talking about the reserves, so this**
17 **is money that is left over from our 2008 budget?**

18 **When you look at, let's take, for example,**
19 **educational supplies. We have a balance left of**
20 **\$121,000, and even though it was at one time**
21 **\$121,000, to me instead of putting it back into**
22 **educational supplies, Mr. Wagner and I talked**
23 **about this where it's strictly an opinion. I**
24 **would sooner see us have another nurse at the**
25 **high school, transitional, and the Wellness**

1 Center for safety reasons for our children and
2 also educational reasons. I would sooner see us
3 bring the nurse back even if it's just for one
4 year, than put a \$100,000, now this is \$100,000
5 that we had of surplus last year, back into a
6 reserve for educational supplies. So that was
7 one of the conversations that we had with the
8 subcommittee.

9 MR. CHAIRMAN: Further discussion,

10 Mr. Thibodeau? Any further discussion?

11 MS. MORELLE: Would you like any
12 further classification? I know there's a number
13 of people in the audience that would be
14 interested to know specifics about the library
15 book account.

16 MR. PRIGNANO: The remaining items,
17 as of today, we still have a balance in our
18 district wide of about \$57,000 left in library
19 books. What I'd like to do is designate for
20 purchase of library books going forward. And
21 one of the things that we talked about is that
22 with construction going on at Cumberland Hill

23 and the creation of a real library there at that
24 school right now, they really haven't had a
25 library in the past, and we would need some

21

1 money to start that library.

2 The next item, Educational

3 Supplies. There was a \$121,000 left in those

4 line items. Last year, if you recall, we

5 actually made a real conscious effort to

6 increase the textbook workbook, library books,

7 all those types of educational supplies line
8 items, and we did. We increased that budget by
9 10 percent last year. We don't want to lose
10 that. We want it to go to educational supply
11 line items. Remember remaining we created that
12 account for text books, and we took \$200,000
13 last year and we put it aside for textbooks and
14 that allowed us to do some things this year with
15 some textbooks.

16 So we'd like to have that money.

17 It was earmarked for educational supplies. We'd
18 like to continue that way and not have it go
19 into salaries, something that is a

20 repetitive-type of thing. If we make a one
21 large purchase whether it's on educational
22 supplies, use that money, use it for textbooks,
23 something in that field, it would be like a
24 one-time purchase, thing. So when we have that
25 one-time remaining dollar amount on these

22

1 accounts we should try to earmark it for a one
2 time future -- you know, down the road. We put
3 that money into just one balance to pay for any

4 position next year, which would increase the
5 amount of one time revenues which is already
6 higher than we would like it. But we really
7 have no choice. So that's why we chose a
8 one-type of expense area. The last item is snow
9 removal. We spent \$31,000. That's another
10 certainly not at the risk of medical claims, but
11 it's one of those unknown accounts. You can
12 have a terrible winter and spend double on snow
13 removable. Or you can have a year like we had.
14 I don't think we spent \$2,000. We ended up
15 taking that money and allocating for the phone
16 system around the district that year. This will

17 just give us the remaining \$7,000 that's left in
18 that account. It will designate and give us
19 some flexibility in that, going forward. It
20 then would give us a little flexibility.

21 MS. MORELLE: I would just like to
22 add a couple of comments about the library
23 books, and particularly with regards to the
24 Cumberland Hill library. I've been sitting on
25 the Building Committee for a number of years now

1 and as the project has been coming to a close,
2 which it will very shortly, the committee has
3 really been strategizing with the town to figure
4 out to make sure that all aspects of that
5 project were completed to everyone's
6 satisfaction just within the last couple of
7 weeks, we were able to figure out how to provide
8 the library with new shelvings so it wasn't
9 going to have to be a secondhand situation.

10 And I was explaining to
11 Mrs. MacBeth and the other subcommittee members
12 that the Town Council really stimulated some
13 thinking on my part during those budget

14 discussions we had, where we were talking about
15 what does a model classroom looks like. And
16 this really generated some thoughtfulness. If
17 this is going to be a new library, then what
18 does a model library look like. We really have
19 to have the funds for it. So what we'd like to
20 do if the committee thinks a good recommendation
21 is to target these funds for library books over
22 the next few weeks have the faculty at
23 Cumberland Hill, or whomever, Principal
24 Reinalda, designate to identify what inventory
25 is currently available. Clearly the media said

1 **what had existed was not a full-fledged library.**

2 **What would it take to develop a library in a**

3 **way, media center, in a way that was a**

4 **high-quality resource for the school. And then**

5 **from there, if they don't use all the \$50,000,**

6 **there may be some to look at the next needed**

7 **library and to begin to go through our libraries**

8 **in a way that at some point we should say, our**

9 **facilities are in good shape, and we can move on**

10 **to the classrooms. That's the real thinking**

11 behind that.

12 MR. CHAIRMAN: Any further

13 questions for Dr. Morelle or Dr. Prignano, or

14 any further discussion? I've got hands.

15 Mrs. MacBeth?

16 MRS. MACBETH: My first question is

17 for Alex. Is it typical to have the little bit

18 over \$600,000 left at the end of the budget?

19 MR. PRIGNANO: He will election 600

20 is a little over half percent, over a half

21 percent, so I don't think that is a tremendous

22 amount. We've been talking about we thought we

23 would be running a surplus. I assumed as during

24 the year that educational supplies, textbooks,
25 and those things I kind of forecast at zero. If

25

1 they need to be spent, they need to be spent.
2 Do put in my forecast whole 10 percent of the
3 balance of the budget so I show those line items
4 not showing any surplus. What I want to do is
5 not have the availability to use either the next
6 year which we're going to have an '09 budget and
7 so it be available to what they originally

8 earmarked to be, saying gee, we've had such a
9 year. We have this money left. We had a 200
10 dollar balance in our budget this year that we
11 can take and we were in that area that I thought
12 we would be in.

13 **MRS. MACBETH:** On the salaries
14 roughly \$200,000, how much did it cost or would
15 it cost to reinstate the TA's that were cut last
16 year, and another question, had they been
17 reinstated to be reflective in this year's
18 budget?

19 **MR. PRIGNANO:** They're in the '09
20 Budget.

21 MS. MORELLE: There is a level of
22 teacher's assistance in this year's budget and
23 the principal met with me. In fact, a member of
24 the committee tonight asked me about
25 kindergarten enrollment.

26

1 MRS. MACBETH: I absolutely agree
2 with having library books and having a brand-new
3 library for the children. What is different by
4 putting it this way, rather than putting it in

5 the budget another way?

6 MR. PRIGNANO: This is left from

7 the '08 budget. We didn't designate them for a

8 specific purpose. It was going toward surplus,

9 but it would be undesignated for us to spend it

10 any way. I just think it makes a little

11 stronger commitment and statement for the

12 committee that this is money I can put aside for

13 library and educational supplies, and that's

14 what we want to be eventually.

15 MRS. MACBETH: So Mr. Crowley, is

16 there a way does to preclude portions of these

17 reserves, or does in have to be done a one lump

18 way?

19 MR. CHAIRMAN: There's a motion on
20 the table that's been duly seconded. So we have
21 to deal with this motion first.

22 MRS. MACBETH: Thank you.

23 MS. BEAULIEU: I know that one of
24 the things that we had done when I was on the
25 PTO was had families adopt books and that's

1 certainly not to say that we wouldn't want to

2 **commit money to this, but it's part of the**
3 **community partnership that the PTO is interested**
4 **in taking advantage of this library and having**
5 **the families that were donated. The other**
6 **question I have is these are designated monies**
7 **that came from the original line item, so snow**
8 **removal came from snow removal. Is the snow**
9 **removal an annual process?**

10 **MR PRIGNANO: I'd like to try to**
11 **renew the contract that we had.**

12 **MS. MORELLE: I think with the**
13 **exception of medical, if you look at the**
14 **notation that came from an accumulation of what**

15 some have called breakage on salary (inaudible)
16 sometimes people will say how did that actually
17 happen? It doesn't take too many positions being
18 filled only part of the year or at a lessor
19 staff that we budgeted for.

20 MS. BEAULIEU: Do we know at this
21 point the average from the district with last
22 year's budget we would be hiring at an average
23 of step 3 or step 4, I believe.

24 MS. MORELLE: We used the same
25 number of third step, plus all the fringe for

1 the compensation budget and that's why we have
2 some limitations and there will be positions
3 that that we will bring forward. I think I've
4 already commented to you of the ones that we
5 know by prior experience. And would be nearly
6 impossible for that reserve step, but I'll
7 certainly speak to you on those as they come
8 forward.

9 MR. WAGNER: Ales, I don't remember
10 right off the top of my head, but for the
11 medical, what is our monthly basis?

12 **MR. PRIGNANO: About \$6 million a**
13 **year.**

14 **MR. WAGNER: We did in fact, if I**
15 **remember correctly, we have a couple of months**
16 **where we were actually worked over by our**
17 **monthly projection of about 400 bucks.**

18 **MR. PRIGNANO: Sure.**

19 **MR. THIBODEAU: On the same vein of**
20 **reporting, how many people hit the max for**
21 **insurance in our group?**

22 **MR. PRIGNANO: We take claims up to**
23 **a \$100,000 and then the insurance premiums kick**
24 **in. I was told that 70 people actually hit the**

25 threshold for a \$100,000 which is a awfully high

29

1 number.

2 MR. CHAIRMAN: Any further

3 discussion? We have a motion that has been, duly

4 seconded on 6B. I'll do a roll call vote.

5 Mr. Thibodeau?

6 MR. THIBODEAU: Yes.

7 MR. WAGNER: Yes.

8 MRS. MACBETH: No.

9 MS. BEAULIEU: Yes.

10 MR. WOOD: Yes.

11 MR. CHAIRMAN: And the chair votes

12 yes. So that's 5 to 1 with MacBeth against. The

13 next item on the agenda is Approval of

14 Department Head and Job Descriptions.

15 Mrs. MacBeth?

16 MRS. MACBETH: We met with the

17 subcommittee tonight and the first job

18 description that I wanted to fill the rest of

19 the committee in and public are changes. We had

20 our draft form and for a department Chairperson

21 which is the first one. Under a special

22 function. Number 1 and 2. On Number 1 serves
23 as a serves as a member. Serves as a
24 professional development and committee. Then
25 there's a period. We took that period out and

30

1 added the word which to there and then also on
2 number 2, same thing, serves as a member of the
3 facility leadership team. We took the period
4 out at on the Guidance Department Chairperson.
5 We took out under essential functions Number 19

6 and then we're adding to it the same words that
7 are on the bottom of the department chairperson
8 and they read annual appointment based on
9 satisfactory evaluation of performance relative
10 to essential function of the job description for
11 department Chairperson. So we added that to the
12 guidance department chairperson and then we also
13 added that to the special education department
14 chairperson.

15 And on the education department
16 chairperson, we took out number 29 underneath
17 essential function, and number 32. And that is
18 it for the discussion and your vote to establish

19 a function balance reserves. We would need a
20 motion. I'm sorry. Approval of department job
21 description.

22 MR. WAGNER: I'll make that motion,
23 Mr. Chairman.

24 MR. CHAIRMAN: Motion by Mr.
25 Wagner.

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1 MRS. MACBETH: Second.

2 MR. WOOD: Second by Mr. MacBeth.

3 Yes, Mr. Wood.

4 MR. WOOD: These drafts are motions
5 to make these approved upon the amendments
6 amounts this week.

7 MRS. MACBETH: Yes. But we also
8 agreed that the personal subcommittee would meet
9 again in the very near future to look at the
10 Special Education Department chairperson and the
11 Guidance Department chairperson and their
12 function.

13 MS. MORELLE: Just clarification on
14 that is that we would be posting them --

15 MRS. MACBETH: You're going to be

16 posting them tonight, but there are many
17 teachers that won't necessary take place for a
18 year, but we don't want to wait until this time
19 next year.

20 MR. WAGNER: Dr. Morelle, just a
21 couple of items that were requested. One was
22 the current department heads, the ones who were
23 appointed in '07/'08, would they necessarily be
24 the department heads for '08/'09, and then as a
25 follow-up to go with that because we are putting

1 in that evaluation process, and one is in
2 regards to an evaluation, is there an appeal
3 process to go with that evaluation process?

4 MS. MORELLE: The first part of
5 your question is about department heads that
6 would have been appointed in '08. Since we
7 weren't appointing annually, did you actually
8 mean those that were in the position in '07/'08.

9 MR. WAGNER: That's exactly what I
10 meant.

11 MS. MORELLE: So those folks who
12 were in the position in '08, the second part of

13 the question was?

14 MR. WAGNER: One of the things that
15 we're putting into each of these descriptions is
16 an evaluation process, and is part of that
17 evaluation process just something that happened
18 in that process that you don't agree with as
19 with any evaluation. There's usually something
20 that can be done. I just wanted to know if that
21 was part of the process.

22 MS. MORELLE: The evaluation would
23 be some sort of narrative relative to an
24 essential function that you are voting on
25 tonight, and with any evaluation process if

1 **there's a disagreement, you would be able to**
2 **first of all, bring that to the supervisor that**
3 **evaluates you. You can always, I guess the word**
4 **is appeal, but bring any decision of an**
5 **administrator to their supervisor, which in fact**
6 **in most of those instances would be the**
7 **principal or if it was not the principal, it**
8 **would be the superintendent. So if folks are**
9 **concerned about a new process, they should feel**

10 that there would be safeguards, absolutely. We
11 work very closely with the leadership CTA on
12 issues like this on a regular basis, and I would
13 expect that we would continue to.

14 I would also just like to comment
15 on one of the reasons why we're doing this is
16 because we have a number of vacancies in the
17 high school around the department head structure
18 at this point, and Principal Gould thought that
19 it would be advisable that the job description
20 be updated before anyone be asked to step into
21 the role, particularly after there's been a new
22 administration at the high school for a year

23 where all the PTR work going on and graduation
24 work. Frankly, I think it was a very smart idea
25 on her part, and given the fact that they'll be

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1 annual appointments, it will be aligned with
2 many of the other types of coordinator-type
3 position and we have a coaching position that
4 are annual appointments. Does that answer your
5 question?

6 MR. WAGNER: Yes.

7 **MRS. MACBETH: I guess I'm a little**
8 **confused now. So people that haven't retired**
9 **that that are current department chairs, will**
10 **continue to be department chairs for this coming**
11 **school year?**

12 **MS. MORELLE: No, they will put a**
13 **Letter of Intent or reapply for the position, we**
14 **hope, but they need to know that the job is**
15 **going to be different, that there's new**
16 **responsibility. You're voting tonight on a**
17 **variation to the essential functions that have**
18 **been in the job description.**

19 **MRS. MACBETH: Were they given an**

20 evaluation last year, or would that negatively
21 or positively impact them when they were
22 reapplying?

23 MS. MORELLE: I would surmise that
24 there is not a written evaluation because it was
25 not explicit in the job description. And I will

35

1 certainly clarify that with Principal Gould, so
2 I would assume that there would be feedback
3 ongoing, but nothing written.

4 MRS. MACBETH: And past practice

5 has been they're reappointed every year, no?

6 MS. MORELLE: No. Past practice

7 has been once they were appointed and they

8 worked here for the next 12 years and they chose

9 to the department head asking some egregious

10 issue, they were the department head.

11 MRS. MACBETH: So basically by

12 approving these right here people that are

13 currently in the position that in the past had

14 normally been just in the position are now not

15 in the position, haven't been given a written

16 negative evaluation, but basically now you need

17 to apply with everybody else.

18 MS. MORELLE: They need to affirm
19 that they're willing to meet the expectations of
20 the new job description. It's not anything to
21 the person. I'd like to separate the person and
22 the position from the work. And I'll separate
23 it. When someone is asked to be accountable for
24 their work, they need to have clear
25 expectations, and you're changing those

1 expectations, so as a procedure, and we've
2 spoken to the CPA about this. This is a
3 procedure to ensure that everyone has the
4 opportunity to revisit their commitment to those
5 expectations. They would need to do that
6 through applying for the position, but I would
7 assume, but I can't speak with certainty, but I
8 would assume in most cases if it's a person
9 that's been in the position and wanted to
10 continue, that's likely what would happen.

11 MRS. MACBETH: Okay. Thank you.

12 MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Wood?

13 MR. WOOD: Mr. Rotella, I know

14 **you're adding the words to the department**
15 **chairs, salaries and terms. Isn't there a**
16 **clause in the contract about the salary they**
17 **receive as department chair?**

18 **MR. ROTELLA: Mr. Wood, there is a**
19 **provision in the contract, but that is also**
20 **approved by the school committee whenever that**
21 **contract is renegotiated. So I think that's**
22 **consistent with the language that should be in**
23 **the job description. The school committee sets**
24 **that salary.**

25 **MR. WOOD: So it's not an annual**

1 thing?

2 MR. ROTELLA: No.

3 MR. WOOD: The other question I

4 have is again going back to the annual

5 appointment. This is just like we do similar to

6 what to do with coaches, they put a Letter of

7 Intent in, they bring it forward and you make

8 your recommendation to affirm or reappointment

9 that position?

10 MS. MORELLE: This election would

11 be the third set of positions that you need to
12 (inaudible). We started with the coordinators,
13 middle level, and then added to that set of
14 employees, the coaches, and then now we have
15 department heads in that same situation.

16 MR. WOOD: Just to clarify
17 something, Mr. Chairman. We are adding the
18 wording to Special Education Department
19 Chairperson. We're adding the same wording
20 salaries in terms of employment?

21 MRS. MACBETH: Yes, we are.

22 MR. CHAIRMAN: Any further
23 discussion? I have a question of you,

24 Dr. Morelle. One is you mentioned working

25 closely with the CTA on things. Did you work

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1 with the CTA on these job description changes?

2 MS. MORELLE: After the development

3 of the draft we shared them, and prior to them

4 being introduced to the personnel subcommittee

5 and prior to any votes from the subcommittee,

6 both Mr. Garian (phonetic) and Mrs. Foley have

7 reviewed them, yes.

8 **MR. CHAIRMAN:** And was their input

9 positive?

10 **MS. MORELLE:** They were agreeable

11 to the process that we discussed, and that was

12 my sentiment. We also talked about a boasting

13 period. They were agreeable that rather than a

14 full two-week window, if you do a approve these

15 tonight, we would move to post them tomorrow.

16 **MR. CHAIRMAN:** You know what I'm

17 getting at. I just don't want a grievance on my

18 desk tomorrow morning. Any further discussion?

19 All those in favor? Opposed? Hearing none. The

20 ayes have it. The next is the approval of job

21 descriptions.

22 MRS. MACBETH: I do have a point to

23 order. First of all, on the agenda I just

24 noticed it right now, it says Approval of Job

25 Description Coordinator K-8 Literacy

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1 Coordinator. And then in parentheses is two.

2 MS. MORELLE: I can clarify that.

3 There is two separate agenda items, and number 2

4 is simply a typographical error.

18 not mistaken, and I sat on that committee
19 meeting after Mr. Thibodeau said let's move the
20 question.

21 MRS. MACBETH: There was no
22 question.

23 MR. ROTELLA: I understand that,
24 but he asked that the item be moved for a vote.
25 I think Mr. Wagner seconded it, and you did it

1 and you did take a vote on that and you recorded

2 a vote. And the vote was recorded as a 3 to 0.

3 MRS. MACBETH: Right.

4 MR. ROTELLA: The word,

5 Mr. Thibodeau, was to move the question to the

6 full committee. Mr. Wagner approved it or

7 provided a second and you recorded a vote on it

8 and that's what you should report to the

9 committee.

10 MRS. MACBETH: Okay. Thank you.

11 Everybody should have the literacy coordinator

12 list in front of them, and there were no changes

13 to this, correct?

14 MR. WAGNER: None.

15 **MS. MORELLE: Actually, it's a**
16 **draft. And what I explained to the subcommittee**
17 **is that the basis for the job description was**
18 **they previously adopted job description and the**
19 **committee felt which was the K-8 literacy coach**
20 **and all the italicized areas were additions that**
21 **built the coordinator job description, and**
22 **particular items 1 through 4 are the real**
23 **distinguishing characteristics of the**
24 **coordinator's position.**

25 **MRS. MACBETH: Thank you.**

1 **MR. WAGNER:** I'd like to make a
2 **motion to approve the job description K-8**
3 **Literacy Coordinator, Item D, under Sub-Item D**
4 **number 6.**

5 **MR. CHAIRMAN:** Motion by Mr.
6 **Wagner.**

7 **MS. BEAULIEU:** Second.

8 **MR. CHAIRMAN:** All those in favor?
9 **Opposed? Hearing none. The ayes have it.**
10 **Mrs. MacBeth?**

11 **MRS. MACBETH:** Approval of Job

12 Descriptions K-8 Mathematics Coordinator. And
13 again the full committee has the draft on that.
14 And the committee felt to bring it to the full
15 committee as it was presented to us with no
16 changes, so I'll make a motion to approve that.

17 MR. WAGNER: Mr. Chairman, I would
18 like to make a motion to approve under item 6E
19 Approval of Job Description K-8 Mathematics
20 Coordinator.

21 MRS. BEAULIEU: Second.

22 MR. CHAIRMAN: Motion by Mr.
23 Wagner, second by Mrs. Beaulieu. Discussion?
24 All those in favor? Opposed? Hearing none. The

25 ayes have it. The next items on the agenda is

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1 personnel recommendations. Dr. Morelle?

2 **MS. MORELLE:** I would like to

3 present two resignations to the school

4 committee. First is the resignation of William

5 Skitt, Principal at Community School, effective

6 7/25/2008.

7 **MRS. BEAULIEU:** So moved.

8 **MRS. MACBETH:** Second.

9 **MR. CHAIRMAN: Discussion?**

10 **MRS. BEAULIEU: Mr. Chairman, I**

11 **just wanted to say how much I appreciate Mr.**

12 **Skitt. I think he was tremendous to the**

13 **parents. He was wonderful to the teachers. He**

14 **was willing to listen to anyone who had a**

15 **question or concern about the school, and it**

16 **takes big individual to have 700 students with**

17 **more than a hundred as kindergartners. I know**

18 **that I will greatly miss him and I wish him**

19 **well.**

20 **MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mrs.**

21 **Beaulieu. Mrs. MacBeth?**

22 **MRS. MACBETH:** I think Mrs.

23 **BEAULIEU** said it very well. Absolutely, he will

24 be sorely missed. Thank you.

25 **MR. CHAIRMAN:** Any further

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1 discussion? We have a motion and a second for

2 **Bill Skitt's** resignation. All those in favor?

3 Opposed? Hearing none. The ayes have it.

4 **MS. MORELLE:** If I could just add a

5 comment. I was fortunate enough to be one who

6 recommended Mr. Skitt for principal at
7 Community, and I can recall the worry at the
8 time on just about everybody's part of the
9 administration on the part of parents, worry on
10 the part of the school committee members, and I
11 can remember really, really great advice that
12 was given to me to go slow, to be thoughtful, to
13 do whatever it took to make sure that
14 recommendations came from the school committee
15 with someone who would be able to work at
16 Community School in a collaborative manner with
17 the students and faculty. And when we met Bill,
18 we knew fairly soon on the process that he would

19 be a really good match at Community. And he has
20 a very special way about him, which is his
21 unique style. We are very lucky that he
22 contributed to our school district at Community
23 School for the last three years, and I certainly
24 want to say publicly a large note of thanks to
25 him, and I wish him the absolute best in the

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1 future.

2 MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you,

3 Dr. Morelle?

4 MS. MORELLE: The resignation of

5 Kristina Wirth, effective July 25, 2008.

6 MR. WAGNER: So moved.

7 MR. WOOD: Second.

8 MR. CHAIRMAN: Discussion? All

9 those in favor? Opposed? Hearing none. The

10 ayes have it.

11 MS. MORELLE: I have additional

12 recommendations under the recall item.

13 MR. CHAIRMAN: Next item on the

14 agenda is old business. Mr. Wood?

15 MR. WOOD: There's no update on

16 building.

17 MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Next

18 item is recalls. Dr. Morelle?

19 MS. MORELLE: At your seats tonight

20 there was an additional set of the personnel

21 recommendations entitled Addendum Number 2 and

22 that is the sheet that I'll be working from for

23 those recalls that I'll be recommending this

24 evening. I recommend the action taken by the

25 school committee on February 14, 2008 not to

1 **renew the employment of the following for the**
2 **2008/2009 school year, be rescinded: Patricia**
3 **Garraghy recall to CTA job pool effective July**
4 **25, 2008. Is it your pleasure that you vote**
5 **individually or as a group?**

6 **MR. WAGNER: I'd like to take them**
7 **together.**

8 **MS. MORELLE: Thank you. Sheryl**
9 **Reedy, recall the position of .4 Social Worker**
10 **at Systemwide effective July 25, 2008; Kimberly**
11 **Hatch, recall to the CTA Job Pool effective**
12 **July 25, 2008; Lane Sisak, recall to the**

13 position of Special Educator at North Cumberland
14 Middle School effective July 25, 2008; Julie
15 Pascoe, recall to the CTA Job Pool effective
16 July 25, 2008; Elizabeth Conley, recall to the
17 position of .6 World Language Teacher at
18 Cumberland High School effective July 25, 2008;
19 and Robert Kirkjian, recall to the position of
20 Science Teacher at Cumberland High School
21 effective July 25, 2008.

22 MR. WOOD: So moved.

23 MS. BEAULIEU: Second.

24 MR. CHAIRMAN: Is there any

25 discussion?

1 **MR. WAGNER: Yes, Mr. Chairman.**

2 **I'm a little concerned that we're taking these**

3 **before we complete the budget reconciliation in**

4 **Item number 9. Is this something that we should**

5 **be dealing with the budget reconciliation prior**

6 **to doing this or is this something that will**

7 **have no impact?**

8 **MS. MORELLE: I guess it's your**

9 **interpretation. I guess I'll give you this**

10 explanation. There are students in every
11 instance to be serviced by the faculty that I'm
12 recommending that you recall, in many instances,
13 to meet legal requirements. They either were
14 budgeted in the original budget or -- I'm trying
15 to think if it's possible. I don't think any of
16 these are budget items that I'm recommending
17 that you need to vote on in the reconciliation.
18 There are a couple of middle-level positions,
19 but not impacted here. So I think I could
20 safely say that you can go ahead and vote on
21 these, particularly because of the aspect of the
22 legal requirements.

23 MR. WAGNER: Thank you.

24 MR. CHAIRMAN: I might add that

25 these people are out on unemployment and that's

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1 costing \$513 a week, per person, double

2 occupancy. Are there any recalls whose name is

3 not listed in the audience tonight?

4 MS. MORELLE: I think that's a hand

5 up in the back. Welcome back?

6 MR. CHAIRMAN: It hasn't been voted

7 on yet. Any further discussion? All those in
8 favor? Opposed? Hearing no opposition. The ayes
9 have it. Now welcome back.

10 MS. MORELLE: Julie, welcome back.

11 MR. CHAIRMAN: The next item on the
12 agenda is a vote to Affirm the Superintendent's
13 Contract Extension and Salary. That's on number
14 VIII. Old Business, C.

15 MR. WAGNER: So moved, Mr. Chair.

16 MR. CHAIRMAN: Motion by Mr.
17 Wagner.

18 MR. THIBODEAU: Second.

19 MR. CHAIRMAN: Second by Mr.

20 Thibodeau.

21 Now, before we do that, Mr. Rotella

22 has given me a letter to read. I guess it was

23 in all of our packages. Do you want me to read

24 this to the audience, Mr. Rotella?

25 MR. ROTELLA: Mr. Crowley, I put

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1 that in as an explanation as why that item was

2 on the agenda. I have no problem with you

3 reading it to the public and making it part of

4 the record.

5 MR. WAGNER: I think it's probably

6 a good idea.

7 MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay. I received an

8 interoffice memo dated July 22, 2008 to me, with

9 a copy to Dr. Morelle from Joe Rotella on both

10 to affirm the Superintendent's Contract

11 Extension and Salary. The note or memo goes as

12 follows:

13 "As you have been previously

14 informed, the most recent Attorney General's

15 decision relating to several matters has been

16 received and reviewed. That decision provides

17 that the School Committee would have the
18 opportunity to vote in open session in order to
19 remedy what, by its opinion, was a violation of
20 the OMA.

21 "The matter on the agenda under Old
22 Business entitled 'Vote to Affirm
23 Superintendent's Contract Extension and Salary'
24 is the matter in question. As you know, this
25 committee had, on February 14, 2008, voted to

1 extend the Superintendent's contract, which vote
2 took place in executive session. That action,
3 the vote in executive session, was the subject
4 of a complaint to the Attorney General. The
5 request to affirm that vote in open session,
6 will, I believe, remedy that situation."

7 Please keep in mind that you, at
8 the School Committee meeting of July 10, 2008,
9 voted in open session a pay schedule that will
10 be implemented concerning all Administrators and
11 Principals. Included in that scale was the
12 Superintendent's 2008-2009 salary number.
13 Please contact me if you have any questions.

14 Initialled JAR."

15 Mr. Rotella, I know you spoke to

16 Mr. Field yesterday and today. Did you want to

17 have any further clarification or comments?

18 MR. ROTELLA: As a result of the

19 members of the School Committee's concern with

20 the regard to the item that was on the agended

21 (sic) and how it was agended, I did contact

22 Mr. Field directly. I spoke with him this

23 morning by phone. I informed him that in fact

24 we would be taking this matter up this evening.

25 I read the agenda item that was on our agenda

1 **this evening. He indicated to me that it was**
2 **very clear that this committee would be voting**
3 **in open session to extend the contract of the**
4 **Superintendent, and he had no problem or**
5 **question with that particular agenda item.**

6 **MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you,**
7 **Mr. Rotella. Any further discussion?**
8 **Mrs. MacBeth?**

9 **MRS. MACBETH: I'm very glad to see**
10 **that this committee is doing this in open**

11 session; however, I'd like to just say to this
12 committee that I hope that we all would vote in
13 a manner that reflects us as committee members
14 voted into office by our Cumberland community
15 and that we have listened to their voices and
16 vote accordingly. Thank you.

17 MR. CHAIRMAN: On a roll call vote.

18 Mrs. MacBeth?

19 MRS. MACBETH: No.

20 MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Thibodeau?

21 MR. THIBODEAU: Yes.

22 MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Wagner?

23 MR. WAGNER: Yes.

24 MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Wood?

25 MR. WOOD: Yes.

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1 MR. CHAIRMAN: Mrs. Beaulieu?

2 MRS. BEAULIEU: Yes.

3 MR. CHAIRMAN: The Chair votes yes

4 with Mrs. MacBeth against.

5 The next item on the agenda is New

6 Business 2008/2009 Budget Reconciliation. Who's

7 got that, is that Alex or Dr. Morelle?

8 **MS. MORELLE: Before we begin, I**
9 **would like to say thank you for the committee**
10 **for both recommending me, the issue with the**
11 **Attorney General and for affirming the vote on**
12 **my contract extension and finding the confidence**
13 **in my abilities. I appreciate that.**

14 **I just want to get organized on the**
15 **budget here for a moment. I think it's been a**
16 **tremendous amount of hard work on so many**
17 **people's heart over many, many months and that**
18 **it's really fair to acknowledge that work.**
19 **First of all, the budget process started back in**
20 **November of 2007, about nine months ago. We've**

21 either been planning it with the leadership team
22 or presenting to the school committee for your
23 approval or moving it through the process with
24 the Town Council over a number of months of
25 trying to leverage their support and then now

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1 back for a quite a few weeks figuring out how to
2 reconcile it. And I was really struck this year
3 by how -- I hate to use the word "special" the
4 process was. The way that everyone invested

5 themselves in not just the budget itself, but in
6 really trying to create a deeper understanding
7 of the school department and the students in the
8 department; what their needs are and the people
9 who are here doing the work and how we try to
10 understand our work. And that came from
11 something that's way outside of the requirements
12 of the town charter. That's what we have to do.
13 What we have to do is make sure that the school
14 committee approves the budget by a certain date
15 and then transmit it to the Finance Director in
16 the spring, wait for the mayor to make a
17 recommendation.

18 What I did not expect this year,
19 and so many of us were pleasantly surprised
20 about, was the response by council members
21 clearly lead by Jeff Mutter, the finance
22 chairperson on the town council to try to create
23 another bridge between the elected and the
24 appointed officials on the town government side
25 and those of us who are on the school department

1 side. I think that the solutions that were

2 developed were solutions that would not have
3 been developed but for the fact that we had
4 these conversations, and I think they will be a
5 legacy for Mr. Mutter now that we know that he
6 is not going to be a future member of the town
7 council, so I'm happy to have been part of that.

8 I know also that individual members
9 of my leadership team were really struck by the
10 deep commitment of the town council over those,
11 particularly the scorching nights that we had in
12 the month of May, the 13th, the 19th, the 26th
13 at the schools where they trusted, they gave us
14 an open quorum to speak about the schools and

15 student learning that we would be able to convey
16 to them a message about what ways the town could
17 support us and that would help them make better
18 informed decisions. And where we're all very
19 fortunate where that budget has created the
20 interest for student learning, that we were able
21 to garner the funds that we looked for, and as
22 we went back to the reconciliation process, we
23 were able to restore some of the funds to areas
24 that you expressed concerns about, whether
25 community members expressed concerns about, and

1 because we go through the line items to
2 reconcile that, they don't always stand out
3 singularly. I just want to mention what a
4 couple of those areas are. For example, we were
5 able to increase the number of elementary
6 classrooms to match the enrollment. And they
7 were able to do that without regard of your
8 concern of exceeding class size. We were able
9 to bring recommendations to you this evening to
10 increase staffing at the middle school level,
11 again, to offset enrollment issues.

12 **We were able to make a**

13 **recommendation that you'll consider tonight to**

14 **restore funds to the Athletic Budget, and again**

15 **I believe I saw the parents here this evening,**

16 **but she really wrote me an eloquent letter after**

17 **being at Garvin School about rethinking about**

18 **some of my definition of what it means to have a**

19 **face-to-face structural relationship and what**

20 **that whole child's development was about, and**

21 **what it looks like in the budget, so I'm happy**

22 **that to be able to say that we were able to**

23 **bring you a recommendation to restore that**

24 **\$35,000 to be able to increase for education**

25 line items. And as you know, Councilor

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1 Kirkpatrick came here, one of the first meetings

2 that he had to be after all of the town

3 council's meetings and reminded us that the

4 priority should be in that area, so we were very

5 sensitive to that as we developed the

6 recommendations.

7 Lastly, of course, you voted on a

8 budget reserve tonight that's going to set up

9 some decisions for us to work with the folks at
10 Cumberland Hill to establish what I hope will be
11 a model library, and that will really forge us
12 ahead in that area. So tonight we have a set of
13 recommendations for you. We're certainly open
14 to answering any questions that you have with
15 regard to balancing the budget. I will say that
16 if you were able to see a way to approve each of
17 the recommendations that we brought this
18 evening, we would have a balanced budget, and if
19 that is not what occurs, we will go back and
20 discuss some of the things we did not bring
21 forward on the table this evening.

22 Mr. Prignano, do you want to start

23 bringing us back to the actual School Committee

24 Approved Budget, how the gap was developed

25 around the town appropriation and then we can go

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1 through and start asking for the committee to

2 make some votes?

3 MR. PRIGNANO: The budget sheet,

4 the reconciliation sheet that you have in front

5 of you. You can see at the top the School

6 **Committee Original Budget which was passed by**

7 **the school committee, \$52,352,188.00 that went**

8 **to that. On the revenue side it's been adjusted**

9 **now after the town council, after the mayor**

10 **submitted it to the Town Council, and the Town**

11 **Council took it into action. The changes,**

12 **again, you'll see that the gap of \$439,431.00.**

13 **The changes covering the area of the town**

14 **reduction, as you recall, our original**

15 **appropriation reflects from the town for the**

16 **full amount allowed, the three and a half**

17 **percent, which would have been \$1,251,000.00.**

18 **We actually received a \$600,000.00 increase**

19 from them which left us \$651,000.00. So the
20 first line is the Town Reduction appropriation
21 of \$651,031.00.

22 Now, the town tried to find other
23 ways to get us additional dollars in ways that
24 wouldn't impact there general funds. What they
25 did, they came to us and said, gee, you have

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1 items in your budget that you would be putting
2 through the Master Lease arrangement, or would

3 be putting through the Master Lease arrangement
4 that could be Master Leased, and so what we did
5 is we took the \$100,000 from the utility budget
6 for repairs, capital improvement, not so much
7 repairs, but capital improvement. And we will
8 be including that in the resolution to the Town
9 Council asking that be added to our Master Lease
10 dollars. That'll allow us to free up the
11 \$100,000 from the utilities budget.

12 The other item that you recall, the
13 town had also had \$111,600.00, to be exact, in
14 their budget in their 2008 budget this year.
15 That was for the first interest payment Master

16 Lease that we did this year. They did the
17 Master Lease rather late in the year and the
18 first interest payments on that least won't
19 occur till their fiscal 2009 budget. So they
20 gave that \$111,600.00 available to us, and what
21 they've supposedly done is the roof repair that
22 they're doing at B.F. Norton for \$149,000.
23 They're going to provide us \$111,600.00.

24 Now, we had set the money aside
25 last year when the school committee designated

1 **some capital dollars for that roof repair.**

2 **It'll allow us to use that extra money in fund**

3 **balance increases. We had that money designated**

4 **at the end of '07 for roof repairs. We'll now**

5 **be able to undesignate that amount because**

6 **they're going to pay for that. And it will fall**

7 **to us as surplus unrestricted dollars that we**

8 **can use on anything, and we'll be able to move**

9 **that into our 2009 budget, and you'll see that**

10 **as you go along. The town really actually came**

11 **up with more like \$811,000.00.**

12 **I think Dr. Morelle talked about**

13 how the interest that the council showed in that
14 budget and the chance gave us the opportunity,
15 and I really think in a very, very tight year,
16 the \$800,000.00 that they made available to us
17 was generous. So that gets us to the net
18 \$439.431.00 gap.

19 MS. MORELLE: Chairman Crowley,
20 what I just want as an explanation at what point
21 do you want to take votes on the line items so
22 we don't get too far away from ourselves. I
23 know in prior years we've done subsections.
24 We've gone through line items and you've
25 approved either a section or actually each line

1 item.

2 MR. CHAIRMAN: I would say that the
3 first Budget Reconciliation with the proposed
4 adjustments and proposed revenues, we'll take
5 that as one item. I remember last year we just
6 went through it item by item.

7 MR. PRIGNANO: So they took the
8 \$439,000 gap from the results of our request
9 from the town and what actually were able to

10 receive. Now the others listed below, these are
11 recommendations. We should make adjustments to
12 these various revenues. Medicaid. We talked
13 about also the budget number of \$450,000
14 originally. It became clear not too long after
15 the budget was submitted that continuing change
16 in the Medicaid laws, and stuff, were going to
17 result in a reduction in that revenue of less
18 than \$450,000 that we have budgeted this year.
19 We've collected between \$450 and \$500,000 this
20 year, and there's even more stringent regulation
21 of rules. I would recommend that we reduce the
22 Medicaid Budget from \$450,000 to \$375,000. The

23 next number on the State Aid, as you recall,
24 they actually voted to, you know, an anticipated
25 at approximately \$13 million dollars of revenue

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1 from Twin River. Cumberland's share of that
2 would be \$251,000. Now, what we've done is we
3 can't be in all certainty know what that number
4 is going to be at this point. What we've done
5 is, and you'll see it when we get further into
6 the presentation, and I think the superintendent

7 going to a letter from the Commission of
8 Education for what his thoughts were on this.
9 But what we're doing is we want to include it in
10 the revenue side of the budget and we've
11 identified a like amount of \$261,000 on the
12 appropriation side of the budget that we will
13 not spend until -- we'll spend only as we
14 receive these dollars. If we receive zero, we
15 wouldn't do any of it. If we receive a portion
16 of it, we would do a portion of these items.

17 MS. MORELLE: And it is important
18 for you to understand two aspects of this money.
19 First, I would like to read to you a portion of

20 the letter sent from Commissioner McWalters with
21 regard to his opinion on how to include the
22 money in a Budget Reconciliation, and then I
23 would like to explain to you our thinking about
24 how we really need to include all of it in the
25 budget, but only as Alex said on if/then kind of

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1 the basis. So I'll start with the letter that
2 was transmitted to the superintendent on
3 June 20th. And in paragraph 2 it indicates that

**4 it is important to note that these funds,
5 meaning the State Aid distribution are not
6 guaranteed and are subject to the availability
7 of additional revenue. Districts should not
8 include a projection in revenue in the budget
9 because it will create a structural deficit if
10 overnight gambling proceeds fall short. Any
11 funds received by districts are unrestricted,
12 however, the intent of these additional funds is
13 to offset unforeseen costs, such as heating
14 costs, gas prices, utilities, excess snowplowing
15 demands.**

16 So we had an extensive discussion

17 about the fact that we couldn't ignore that the
18 funds might be (inaudible) until they used this
19 both on the revenue and expenditure side of the
20 balance sheet that we're presenting tonight;
21 however, the plan for the expenditures are such
22 that we would only allocate those expenditures
23 on a dollar-to-dollar basis as we receive the
24 money. We wouldn't be committing it to anything
25 like, for example, a salary -- something that

1 was a fixed cost that had to be spent.

2 Regardless of whether the money came in, it

3 would put us in a difficult situation. We can

4 articulate the list of those items for you.

5 MR. WAGNER: I see the list in the

6 back over here and not to get into them, but are

7 they also prioritized?

8 MR. PRIGNANO: In my mind they

9 were. I haven't talked to the superintendent

10 about it. I kind of put a list together that we

11 approved.

12 MS. MORELLE: Actually, we would

13 come to the committee. For example, we are

14 assured of receiving June and July so some part
15 of that money we will receive, and then we can
16 start going down the list and as the year goes
17 on we're less certain about it.

18 MR. PRIGNANO: The next two items,
19 Section 125 Co-pays and Retiree
20 Health/Dental/Life Insurance Premiums that our
21 retirees continue to purchase for the Cumberland
22 School Department. There's a net \$22,000
23 increase in revenues there based on what
24 actually has happened and what we actually
25 collected now that June is over that, you know,

1 I couldn't be a hundred percent sure of that
2 number back last January. That's just adjusting
3 for what actually happened in those two areas
4 and, I picked up a little bit of revenue there.
5 The summer school tuition went for that program
6 that ran through the summer. We had budgeted
7 \$36,000 for the tuition reimbursement and the
8 number of students we had here actually
9 generated \$31,000 of tuition, summer school
10 tuition. So it's done. Summer school's over.

11 And we know what we collected. It's 31, not 36,
12 now we know what it is. The last two items,
13 Reimbursement ML \$86,000. As you know, what
14 we've done is go through the town. The town has
15 the need to just attract items and for state
16 purposes to know what we spend on capital items.
17 What we do is we budget an appropriation for a
18 vast of these items. And we also budget the
19 revenue reimbursement from the town so that we
20 buy the item and then we seek reimbursement from
21 the town and the town reimburses us for the
22 items. So in the original budget we had a
23 Master Lease that we put together. And we

24 really tried to keep our overall budget

25 increase, which was only 1.83 percent. We were

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1 really kind of mean with that. And that's what

2 these items were \$194,000. The last item, as

3 you know, in 2006, the school department

4 actually ran \$157,000 surplus. That was

5 included in the 2007 budget. In the 2007

6 budget, we ran a surplus last year without

7 having to tap that fund balance, those dollars,

8 and fund balance so we actually used it again in
9 this year's budget as part of our budget
10 solution, and I believe we will not have to use
11 it again in 2008. So that \$167,355 is available
12 for us to use in the 2009 budget, also. So
13 you'll see the net change in revenues would be
14 \$456,355 and we'll bring in a new budget total
15 on the revenue side of \$52,369,112 almost
16 \$17,000 so actually different than the original
17 budget that the school committee passed back in
18 January, and that actually comes to a 1.94
19 percent increase.

20 MR. WAGNER: Mr. Chairman, I'd like

21 to make a motion that we accept the adjustments
22 to the revenue side of the budget as presented
23 by Mr. Prignano.

24 MR. CHAIRMAN: Motion by Mr.
25 Wagner.

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1 MRS. BEAULIEU: Second.

2 MR. CHAIRMAN: Second by Mrs.

3 Beaulieu. Discussion?

4 MR. WOOD: On the revenue side, for

5 example, the fund balance we're thinking about
6 adding another \$167,355 which is what we've
7 already budgeted for 2009, so we're going to add
8 that number to the \$229,825?

9 MR. PRIGNANO: Plus also we'll be
10 adding into that because what the accounting
11 treatment of the \$111,000 that the town give us
12 will be \$11,000, so we will have a sizable fund
13 balance surplus that we're using and have to
14 make up the future years. I mean, is it what
15 you want to do in a perfect world? No, but, we
16 don't have much choice other than to use these
17 funds. Unlike a city and town they sell bonds

18 and the bondholders and rating agencies, those
19 type of agencies like to see a city and town
20 with, say 5 to 10 percent fund balance reserve
21 as a total net budget.

22 So if we were a municipality, for
23 example, they want to know that their
24 bondholders, the people bought bonds based on
25 these ratings of the Cumberland School

1 Department if that was the case, they want to

2 make sure they're going to get paid. We don't
3 sell bonds, we don't have rating agencies, and
4 don't have to carry a large fund balance. What
5 we do though, if we use that budget \$500,000, we
6 have to make sure we can make that up in future
7 budgets.

8 MR. WOOD: Some of these fund
9 balances have restricted balances?

10 MR. PRIGNANO: No, none of these
11 would be. Restricted balances that we have set
12 aside for medical, for snow removal, library
13 books, those would be designated for specific
14 purposes. They would go into our fund balance

15 but only that \$500,000 would be available for us
16 to use as undesignated and to use for the '09
17 budget. The other money you chose to designate.

18 MR. WOOD: So it would be safe to
19 say this \$500,000 it purports that a loss of
20 \$75,000 in medical? The \$500,000 that we're
21 talking about, the fund balance. Now we're also
22 showing a \$75,000 deductible in medical
23 reduction?

24 MS. MORELLE: It's your
25 recommendation for a reduction.

1 **MR. WOOD:** Let me rephrase my
2 question. So we've only overrun our Medicaid
3 line, of medical?

4 **MR. PRIGNANO:** No, this is the
5 Medicaid reimbursement that we get for kids who
6 are in our district and have Medicare and
7 eligible to be reimbursed from Medicaid. The
8 federal government and the state government
9 absolutely are trying to get out of that
10 business, and they have continued to change the
11 rules, and stuff.

12 **Now, in the past you could submit a**
13 **reimbursement for a child without any approval**
14 **by that child's parent or guardian. That's no**
15 **longer the case. They put more and more things**
16 **in the way of trying to slow down the growth of**
17 **their reimbursements. They disqualified this**
18 **year a number of services that used to be**
19 **eligible for reimbursement that are no longer**
20 **eligible. As you recall, we did a leap year**
21 **budget reduction of \$141,000 to that line item.**
22 **It brought it down to \$500,000, and we're going**
23 **to collect somewhere between 450 and \$500,000**
24 **this year, pretty close to \$500,000, but I think**

25 next year we'll probably be in the \$400,000,

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1 more likely 375.

2 MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Wood.

3 Any further discussion? Mrs. MacBeth?

4 MRS. MACBETH: Two questions.

5 Under revenue reimbursement for Master Lease,

6 that's an assumption right there for \$86,000?

7 MR. PRIGNANO: We had originally

8 \$194,000 Master Lease in our budget

9 reimbursement on the revenue side, and the
10 \$194,000 into various departments on
11 appropriation side. What we're doing is, we are
12 increasing those appropriations by that \$86,000.
13 If the town increases our Master Lease, we'll do
14 those. If they don't, then the 86 won't go in
15 on either side of the budget. When I go to
16 Council with a resolution for the Master Lease,
17 I plan, I'd like to get that down soon so that
18 we can stop sending money to them. Last year's
19 number was 397. We're going to go with a number
20 this year more like of \$380,000. A hundred
21 they've already put in for the facilities area.

22 MRS. MACBETH: My second question
23 was when we have a motion and we're voting on
24 this, the motion is to vote on this number not
25 everything that was originally included, we're

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1 just voting on the number; is that correct?

2 MR. PRIGNANO: Well, I think you
3 can be voting on those seven recommendations?

4 MRS. MACBETH? Right, but just the
5 number of the revenue, not anything else of how

6 it may impact our budget later on. We're going
7 to take those item by item?

8 MR. PRIGNANO: Yes, on the
9 appropriation side one section at a time, also.

10 MR. CHAIRMAN: Any further
11 discussion? The motion was on the revenues.

12 MRS. MACBETH: Okay.

13 MR. CHAIRMAN: Further discussion?
14 There has been a motion made, duly seconded.
15 All those in favor? Hearing none. The ayes
16 have it.

17 MR. PRIGNANO: If we move to the
18 second page, we get to the appropriation side of

19 the budget side, and some of the things we
20 talked about we'll see here. We had to approve
21 the appropriations. The first item that I would
22 recommend is, as you recall, the original
23 budget, because we have a retirement incentive
24 out there that was -- it wasn't going to expire
25 until after we had sent the budget down to the

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1 mayor or the finance director. So at the time,
2 we had set ourselves a goal of an additional

3 **\$474,446 of retirements which was, we were**
4 **looking for 25 retirements in total at the time.**
5 **So we had just bracketed that number in. We**
6 **didn't know where they were going to come at the**
7 **time, but I'm saying it's the first thing we**
8 **should do is put that money back that, take away**
9 **that negative bracket number. And then it'll go**
10 **into each of the various (inaudible).**

11 **MR. WAGNER: Mr. Chairman, I'd like**
12 **to move that we accept that.**

13 **MR. CHAIRMAN: Motion by Mr.**
14 **Wagner.**

15 **MRS. MACBETH: Second.**

16 **MR. CHAIRMAN: Second by Mrs.**
17 **MacBeth. Discussion? All those in favor?**
18 **Opposed? Hearing none. The ayes have it. The**
19 **next item.**

20 **MR. PRIGNANO: The next group is**
21 **Salaries, and they're all teacher salaries for**
22 **the most part they're either from Ashton or the**
23 **high school. And this is the net result of**
24 **several things. It's additional retirements**
25 **that came forward after the budget was**

1 submitted, part of the \$474,000 in savings.
2 There was also a group of resignations that we
3 received for people that resigned and left the
4 district. And they also include, and I think
5 the superintendent started to allude to it in
6 her opening comment, based on student
7 enrollments that have developed, allowed her to
8 put in some positions.

9 There were four elementary
10 positions and 1.6 positions at North Cumberland
11 Middle School. So these numbers at each of
12 these schools are the net result of those

13 actions, as well as there's been, I guess a job
14 pool already where there has been some people
15 that -- there was a mini job pool that reflected
16 some changes in people that moved to different
17 schools, as well as a decision that was made.

18 If you recall, the original budget had two
19 kindergartners going to Cumberland Hill.

20 Whatever we know about where people will be
21 currently reflected in these numbers. And the
22 net total is \$210,480.50. We can go through
23 each and every one of them or you can vote that
24 as one item.

25 MR. WAGNER: Mr. Chairman, I'd like

1 to make a motion to go ahead and accept the
2 adjustments to the salary lines in the
3 Cumberland School District, a total \$210,480.50.

4 MR. THIBODEAU: Second.

5 MR. CHAIRMAN: Motion by Mr.

6 Wagner, second by Mr. Thibodeau.

7 MRS. MACBETH: I would just like to

8 take a short recess.

9 MR. CHAIRMAN: Motion by Mrs.

10 MacBeth to take a quick recess.

11 MR. WAGNER: Second.

12 MR. CHAIRMAN: All those in favor?

13 Opposed? Hearing none. The ayes have it.

14 MRS. MACBETH: Thank you.

15 (Short Recess)

16 MR. CHAIRMAN: We have a motion on

17 the floor and duly seconded. Discussion?

18 Mrs. MacBeth?

19 MRS. MACBETH: I just have some

20 specific questions on how this impacts each

21 school. I know in the original budget, there

22 were many positions that had been cut, and I

23 don't know if you were able to go school by
24 school and tell us the positive or the negative
25 on each one of these items or if you need to

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1 wait for Donna or not.

2 MR. PRIGNANO: I may not have them

3 all.

4 MS. MORELLE: We have personnel

5 supplements that we can update that will have

6 all the breakdowns or that we updated in order

7 to, but we don't have it printed this evening.

8 MRS. MACBETH: Thank you.

9 MR. PRIGNANO: I can tell you're a

10 good portion of them. For example, in Ashton

11 there's no effect on them. We received

12 additional Title 1 money that we didn't know

13 about or expected, and we were able to transfer

14 two reading teachers that were part of the

15 general fund budget into Title 1, and so federal

16 dollars will be able to pay for those positions

17 next year. Community Salaries, the lion's share

18 of that increase is for kindergarten teachers

19 being transferred back from Cumberland Hill to

20 Community.

21 There was also a retirement and a

22 resignation there. Cumberland Hill salaries

23 there was one retirement, a resignation, plus

24 the kindergartners' teachers leave. And we

25 added two first grades there. Garvin, there are

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1 two positions. I think a first and second

2 grade, as well as a resignation and retirement.

3 B.F. Norton, the \$112,000, no positions. Once

4 again, we were able to transfer reading
5 positions into Title 1. McCourt, that increase
6 is actually from someone who participated in
7 that mini job pool that we had job budgeted
8 that, a certain salary. In North Cumberland
9 Middle School, the lion's share have added 1.6
10 positions because of enrollment at the middle
11 school.

12 MS. MORELLE: 4.4 positions, .4
13 math, .4 English, .4 science, and .4 social
14 studies. We had an issue like this several
15 years ago. It tended to recur periodically
16 because of the enrollment, and I did direct

17 Dr. Ken Worthy to narrow the scope of the
18 employment as much as possible, and that's why
19 they're all .4 positions.

20 MR. PRIGNANO: And the last one,
21 High School Salaries. The additional
22 retirements that we did have after the budget
23 was submitted, a share of them were at the high
24 school and we actually had seven retirements and
25 resignations that make up that reduction with

1 the high school salaries.

2 MRS. MACBETH: So on this we

3 haven't restored any of the positions that were

4 initially cut within the first budget that was

5 approved?

6 MS. MORELLE: Do you have a

7 specific position that you're contemplating?

8 MRS. MACBETH: Again, school

9 nurses, and the second one was some of the

10 custodians.

11 MS. MORELLE: At this point of time

12 either of those budget cuts are reflected in

13 these decisions. I'm sorry. The way you asked

14 the question was the restoration. I was
15 responding to your question.

16 MRS. MACBETH: And the foreign
17 language or the, I believe it was part of the
18 music program.

19 MS. MORELLE: Well, that was a
20 scheduling proposal, so we are in a process of
21 implementing that schedule proposal.

22 MR. CHAIRMAN: Any further
23 discussion? All those in favor? Opposed?

24 MR. WAGNER: Aye.

25 MR. THIBODEAU: Aye.

1 **MRS. MACBETH: No.**

2 **MR. PRIGNANO: The next area also**

3 **in the area of salaries. The first one, Special**

4 **Ed Salaries. One of the things as fortunate as**

5 **we were with Title I dollars that allowed us to**

6 **move some positions into the, the general fund**

7 **budget into the Title I fund to pay for reading**

8 **teachers. In the area of Part B we had to take**

9 **a portion of a lot of dollars which are**

10 **approximately \$1,100,000 and we had to set aside**

11 approximately 15 percent of them for what they
12 call disproportion (phonetic). And my
13 understanding is that many, many, many
14 communities of school districts in Rhode Island
15 had the same type of requirements. So the fact
16 that we used some of the entire portion of those
17 dollars to pay for salaries and fringe benefits
18 in the past for special educators and teachers
19 assistants, we had to reduce that budget by
20 approximately \$178,000 and move money from the
21 grant into the general fund.

22 Now, we seem to be fortunate enough
23 that a few dollars that we had in the grant in

24 the past, they're going to count towards our
25 disproportion. And there was a behavior

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1 specialist program and some other programs were
2 new in our grant last year, so we had to come up
3 with about \$120,000 rather than 178, so what
4 we've done is we've taken one position, we put
5 it back into the general fund by which is the
6 deputy director (inaudible). The second one is
7 summer schools. We reduced the revenues of

8 summer schools by \$5,000. We also had \$10,000
9 more on the appropriation side than we needed
10 for additional teachers, we have less kids and
11 we have less need for teachers.

12 The next three are just items of
13 what's going on with the school committee, what
14 they want to do with school administrative
15 contracts, and stuff. We have certain dollar
16 amounts appropriated in the budget if the school
17 committee follows up on where they seem to be
18 going with the administrative contract, those
19 last three dollar amounts, the \$2,300, \$3,700
20 and 300 bucks would be, two of them would be a

21 reduction of \$300. So the net of all of those
22 items \$53,586.61.

23 MR. WAGNER: Mr. Chairman, I would
24 like to propose that we accept this as was
25 presented by Mr. Prignano.

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1 MR. CHAIRMAN: Motion by Mr.
2 Wagner.

3 MRS. MACBETH: Second.

4 MR. WOOD: Second.

5 **MR. CHAIRMAN: Second by Mrs.**
6 **MacBeth and Mr. Wood. Discussion? All those in**
7 **favor? Opposed? Hearing no opposition. The ayes**
8 **have it.**

9 **MR. PRIGNANO: The next area is**
10 **reconciliations. The first one is a result of**
11 **the net reduction salaries the \$210,000. The**
12 **Certified Pension amount of \$12,771.03. The**
13 **same with FICA Medicare results of changes in**
14 **salaries, the \$1,187.00. Medical, and that's**
15 **why we wanted to establish a reserve today. We**
16 **really, really, struggled finding the last**
17 **\$200,000 trying to balance the budget. And what**

18 we're doing is we're taking the claims number
19 down of \$175,000, which we may be successful, we
20 may not, but we wanted to establish that reserve
21 and have some fallback in case we are unable to.
22 So the recommendation is since you passed
23 \$450,000 reserve for Medical, as it would take
24 this year's claims budget down by \$175,000. And
25 then on the last one, I think it was mentioned,

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1 and I'll mention it because Joe is not here,

2 we've had an ongoing saga going with the Rhode
3 Island Employment Security where we've had an
4 employee who was really just a part-time
5 employee for us who was collecting unemployment
6 benefits that shouldn't have been associated
7 with the Cumberland School Department. As you
8 know, we're self-insured in that area, we pay
9 dollar for dollar, but it's the benefits that
10 were providing this individual. We've been
11 diligently trying to get them to address this
12 for us, and they have, and they've come back and
13 agreed with us that we shouldn't have to pay
14 that, so there will be a credit in the area of

15 **\$15,338.00.**

16 **MR. WAGNER: Mr. Chairman, I'd like**

17 **to move that along accepted as presented,**

18 **\$204,296,11. I'd like to make that motion.**

19 **MR. THIBODEAU: Second.**

20 **MR. CHAIRMAN: Motion by Mr.**

21 **Wagner, second by Mr. Thibodeau.**

22 **MRS. BEAULIEU: You had mentioned**

23 **what that refund would be, I guess, I'm curious**

24 **if we paid into it, so is it the Department of**

25 **Labor that returns the money?**

1 **MR. PRIGNANO:** They're going to
2 give us credit on future bills.

3 **MR. CHAIRMAN:** Any further
4 discussion? Mrs. MacBeth?

5 **MRS. MACBETH:** Yes, I would like to
6 add to Mr. Prignano's response to Mr. Thibodeau.
7 It was Mr. Costa who originally raised the
8 concern to both the committee and to the
9 administration. Can you explain a little bit
10 more on the medical so I can understand it
11 better.

12 **MR. PRIGNANO: As you recall, a**

13 **little bit earlier tonight we reserved an**

14 **additional \$450,000 on an '08 proceeds for**

15 **medical. It's a setup of medical reservice. As**

16 **we were balancing this budget over the last**

17 **couple of weeks, the last 100 to \$200,000 has**

18 **been some of the most difficult discussions**

19 **we've had here in the district trying to find**

20 **those dollars. As we've gotten farther out away**

21 **from June 30th and dollars we had in '08 even if**

22 **we weren't cutting at 175, I would have bet a**

23 **thousand percent for setting up that medical**

24 **reserve. But setting that reserve up does give**

25 us flexibility in the medical budget that we

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1 haven't had before just because we had a bad
2 year last year doesn't necessary mean we'll have
3 a bad year this year. We could be cut, we could
4 overspend it by some amount of money. We don't
5 know that yet. We're willing to gamble if that
6 is the right word for \$3,450 reservice, and not
7 have to go back and look for additional
8 positions that we really struggled trying to

9 find.

10 MR. CHAIRMAN: Any further

11 discussion?

12 MRS. MACBETH: Would that \$175,000,

13 when we go further, is there any personnel

14 changes for the positive in here or in the

15 budget?

16 MS. MORELLE: The ones that I

17 mentioned already before and 1.6 positions at

18 the middle level had been -- I don't want to

19 call it restored, added into the budget. They

20 were not on the table when you approved the

21 budget previously, however, in the intervening

22 weeks enrollment has driven us into a situation
23 where to be respectful of instructional
24 practices and class size, we really needed to
25 ensure that.

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1 MRS. MACBETH: Thank you.

2 MR. CHAIRMAN: Any further

3 discussion? All those in favor? Opposed?

4 MR. CHAIRMAN: 5 to 1 with MacBeth

5 against.

6 **MR. PRIGNANO: The next area in the**
7 **area of purchase services is Athletics. As you**
8 **recall, when the budget first came out, there**
9 **was a bracketed number in the athletic budget of**
10 **\$35,000, I believe it was the fund-raising**
11 **activities. It might have been reduction of**
12 **programs at the time, whatever, but what we've**
13 **done is we've gone back and at this point we've**
14 **restored that \$35,000.**

15 **Area Voc Tuitions at the Voc School**
16 **in Pawtucket Career Vocational Center. Last**
17 **year we had a budgeted number of close to**
18 **\$500,000 and our tuitions were nowhere near**

19 that. The next line item we discussed a number
20 of times is cost share of the Sherlock Center.
21 The state used to pay 65 percent of those costs
22 and we would pay 35 percent. They're just
23 reversing the roles and we're going to pay 65
24 percent and they're going to pay 35 percent. We
25 received a letter from them after the budget was

1 approved by the school committee so we need to
2 go in and adjust for that. The next item for

3 **\$284,000. I think we've had a number of**
4 **discussions on this. This is a credit that we**
5 **decided to take against the money that we'll be**
6 **receiving back from the collaborative, Northern**
7 **Rhode Island Collaborative. I think that the**
8 **committee approved taken as tuition credit, so**
9 **we will be reducing tuition line item by that**
10 **284. We spent far in excess of that 284 with**
11 **the collaborative, so that credit will all be**
12 **taken next year. Student Assistance Program.**
13 **This is a program, a counseling program that has**
14 **run in the past (inaudible).**

15 **MS. MORELLE: Well, I'd like to**

16 point out that the individuals in this position

17 really provides a valuable service to the

18 district. We were in a very difficult budget

19 situation, I want to say two years ago, and we

20 made a decision to reduce the assistance program

21 from two full-time positions in the district to

22 one, but I would strongly urge the committee to

23 consider this addition dollars in the budget

24 because for our matching funds of \$15,000, we'll

25 be able to have a full-time counselor which will

1 cost us, you know, the commensurable amount of
2 a 7th or 8th step teacher. So it's really
3 dollars worth a lot. Specifically also we
4 talked about the health risk of students and
5 trying to ensure that we have support for that,
6 so I would hope that you would consider this.

7 MR. PRIGNANO: Moving along on the
8 list. The next item Technology Purchase
9 Services. This basically was money in the
10 technology budget, much of what do in the areas
11 of maintenance and on a number of software
12 products that we have in the district. What

13 we're going to do is, we're going to use the
14 Article 31 Technology money to pay for some of
15 that. We're taking it down by \$50,000, so we'll
16 be able to find another source of dollars to pay
17 for it. The next one is Business Office Abra
18 Maintenance. I have a line item of \$6,000 in
19 the budget to pay for the annual maintenance on
20 the software unit (inaudible). The next line
21 item is Water & Sewer. I'm recommending the
22 superintendent include it her recommendation, an
23 increase of that line item of \$20,000 based on
24 what was spent this year. We actually overspent
25 the budget this year by \$20,000 in those areas.

1 **Legal fees, as you know last year midyear, one**
2 **of our budget adjustments was the advertising,**
3 **legal fees, some other things for what we were**
4 **actually spending. We're still in the middle of**
5 **arbitration with CCA, and I think that we should**
6 **increase that number by an additional \$10,000.**

7 **The next line item in the 3000 series. Copier**
8 **maintenance once again now that the year has**
9 **ended, I know what we've actually spent. As you**

10 recall, when we did purchase of \$17,000 copier a
11 year ago, I reported that there would be a
12 reduction in maintenance cost and we actually
13 had some savings from that account, and I'm
14 recommending a \$5,000 additional savings
15 reduction in the budget.

16 Advertising Fees are pulling up
17 significantly with the Journal and other
18 newspapers, I believe, have run ads. We're
19 forced to run a number of ads just by legally
20 like notifications of meetings, et cetera, so
21 the advertising position would be I'm
22 recommending an increase of \$10,000 for that

23 line item. Pupil transportation. Last year, as
24 you know, when we extended our contract for two
25 additional years, we did it after the new rates

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1 had taken effect. And so we paid what the third
2 year rates would have been, increases in the
3 rates would have been in the third year even
4 though in the third year of their contract, they
5 had agreed to hold the rates at year 2 level.
6 So the difference in that is about a \$49,000

7 **increase. I really could take it June 30th, or**
8 **I think I could make the argument that our**
9 **transportation contract really runs**
10 **September 1st to August 30th this year. So I'm**
11 **going to take that credit from the last month of**
12 **that third career contract which will fall in**
13 **our '09, so we'll take a \$49,000.**

14 **The next one is Special Ed. We**
15 **went before the Town Council last week with some**
16 **20 something resolutions for the efforts (sic)**
17 **and the items that the new science building**
18 **that's now completed. And we also had two items**
19 **on there, one was the elementary and middle**

20 school computers which were approved. And one
21 other item on there, as you recall, we included
22 a number of \$17,000 last year included a number
23 of \$30,000 but didn't know what it might cost us
24 for a special education plan and we've been able
25 to locate one that would satisfactorily provide

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1 what the special ed director would need and have
2 purchased that for \$17,750, I think. So with
3 that purchase now and in having that plan

4 available at the beginning of school year, it
5 should take the transportation line item down by
6 \$5,000. So we've done that.

7 The next one, Telephone. As you
8 know we just included the new voice systems for
9 the high school and that will now allow us to
10 buy a block of 100 numbers which will
11 significantly reduce our costs of lines, and so
12 I've taken the telephone count down by another
13 \$5,000. We've done some significant things in
14 that area with Richard's assistance. The last
15 item the Student Fees taken down by \$14,000.
16 What we did last year is we tried to budget all

17 that student activity from the general fund.

18 The appropriation side of the budget continued

19 to show it being run through student activity

20 but on the revenue side, but we had the

21 increased money on the appropriation side, so we

22 could take that down and match it to what we

23 have on the revenue side. It's not really a

24 reduction. It's more of a who will be paying

25 the bills for student activities rather than the

1 **general fund. So the total of all those 3000**
2 **series adjustments are reductions for the budget**
3 **of \$361,250.**

4 **MR. WAGNER: Mr. Chairman, I'd like**
5 **to make a motion that we accept the adjustments**
6 **of the 3000 series accounts, total \$361,250.**

7 **MR. CHAIRMAN: Motion by Mr.**
8 **Wagner.**

9 **MR. WOOD: Second.**

10 **MR. CHAIRMAN: Discussion?**

11 **MRS. BEAULIEU: I have just a**
12 **general question. It was my understanding that**
13 **there was a bill in the house regarding**

14 municipalities not needing to advertise for the
15 newspaper for public meetings. Does anyone know
16 the status of that?

17 MS. MORELLE: I'm not aware of a
18 bill of that nature that's passed, but I will
19 look into it.

20 MRS. BEAULIEU: I believe it
21 passed. The second question I had is with
22 regard to the athletic budget. During the week
23 as we were going through some of these budget
24 items, and I guess my question is I'm really
25 looking for clarification once we restore the

1 money to the athletic budget, and I don't think
2 I understood you clearly. So I guess my
3 question was that one of those items wasn't
4 funded or wasn't presented as a recommendation
5 from Mr. Geiselman. What is the process?

6 MS. MORELLE: If you think back to
7 what the \$35,000 was, I had made a
8 recommendation that the athletic sports lineup,
9 so to speak, we maintained is that in part of
10 what I believe to be the budget that was put

11 forward, I know I used the expressions that we
12 were fully funding all the sports that we
13 listed, and one of those was Lacrosse. So we
14 talked about that, and we talked about the fact
15 that Lacrosse would be included on the
16 interscholastically roster as a fully-funded
17 team.

18 So If I can, your question was to
19 some of the detail levels, and I did speak to
20 Mr. Geiselman, and there seems to be some
21 conflict in that in terms of whether or not what
22 the original budget held out for was JB and
23 varsity or just varsity. Typically, what would

24 happen in my mind is if you restore the \$35,000

25 now he has a certain dollar amount available to

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1 him and he has the opportunity to examine that

2 figure out where the money is going to go, and I

3 will certainly bring it to his attention that

4 we've spoken, so we know that it's a question,

5 and I will certainly invite him to come here and

6 speak to the committee, for example, he felt

7 that he had some sort of limitations in doing

8 that, I would absolutely want to know from him
9 what the discrepancy was, and you know, we could
10 probably figure out a way to make it work
11 because certainly we made a commitment, and I
12 don't think that sometimes it's just that the
13 communication goes this way and it's not
14 intended to.

15 MRS. MACBETH: The athletics is for
16 freshman. Is that going to be reinstated with
17 that \$35,000 that we're putting in?

18 MS. MORELLE: It's my understanding
19 that it was never removed. It was a full lineup
20 of sports with the \$35,000 intended to be a

21 fund-raising item, so, however, Mrs. Beaulieu's
22 question today did bring up the issue of going
23 to the detail level now. So as soon as you take
24 a vote on this and it's restored, I will notify
25 Mrs. Geiselman of what the total budget figure

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1 is that he's working with, and we'll certainly
2 sit down and have a discussion.

3 It might be informative for him to
4 come forward at a meeting and have that

5 discussion so you're all aware of exactly what
6 is being done.

7 MRS. MACBETH: I guess I have a
8 very clarifying question. I feel very
9 comfortable approving that with the \$35,000 now
10 that we have a full-funded JV Lacrosse varsity.

11 MS. MORELLE: At this point as of
12 this afternoon, looking at the budget and
13 speaking with Mr. Geiselman, he has not included
14 JV Lacrosse. And I don't have on the tip of my
15 tongue have what that dollar figure is, so we
16 would have to go to some other plan in the
17 budget and figure it out or he has to carve it

18 out of the existing funds that he has in
19 athletics. So it's still a short call in terms
20 of a budget. But this would be our amount, the
21 total dollar amount that was originally on the
22 table.

23 MRS. MACBETH: I do have a couple
24 of more questions. Alex, the Sherlock Center,
25 you said there has been a switch now it's 65.

1 Do we have to pay that?

2 **MS. MORELLE: The services of the**
3 **Sherlock Center for orientation mobility**
4 **services as well as the services for the vision**
5 **impaired. So we contract those services from**
6 **the Sherlock Center based on our need, as many**
7 **of the districts do, and just what Alex**
8 **indicated, the school district's responsibility**
9 **increases significantly and that did occur after**
10 **the original budget was in place.**

11 **MRS. MACBETH: In the tuition a**
12 **reduction of \$284,000 as the committee knows the**
13 **superintendent knows I had spent two years**
14 **advocating for bringing students back to the**

15 district, so I want to commend you, Ms. Colwell,
16 on reducing that line item by \$284,000. That is
17 wonderful. Legal fees, \$10,000, are we sure
18 that we budgeted enough in that line item?

19 MR. PRIGNANO: I don't know how
20 long the arbitration is going to go on. This
21 will give us \$25,000 as a total. When I made
22 the point earlier when I was talking about
23 establishing some reserves that may help us
24 going forward. At the 2009 budget there were a
25 lot of budgets that were extremely tight and

1 that will be one of them and they have to come
2 back each year.

3 MS. MORELLE: I would like to speak
4 to that, if I could. Earlier, last year,
5 Mr. Wagner, if you remember we made a decision
6 that we would periodically come forward to the
7 Finance Subcommittee and we would make budget
8 adjustments, so this was one of the line items
9 that when we looked at it we said, we want to
10 maintain where the priorities are in the budget,
11 and this is certainly an area we want the funds,

12 to the best of our knowledge, but certainly not
13 a place where you want to let money sit just
14 because we may be concerned about it, so we
15 really made an educated decision. And if at
16 some point on a quarterly basis like the first
17 quarter we thought there was an issue. When we
18 come back we will bring the fiscal note as to
19 those bills to be paid. I can give you my word
20 on that.

21 MR. CHAIRMAN: Any further
22 discussion?

23 MR. WOOD: Mr. Chairman, even
24 though we're restating \$35,000 -- of the last

25 years item, I believe Mr. Geiselman will do the

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1 best he can with the money that he has.

2 MS. MORELLE: One of the things I

3 always appreciate about you, Mr. Wood, is that

4 you have such attention to detail.

5 MR. CHAIRMAN: He knows his

6 athletics, too. Any further discussion?

7 MR. WAGNER: I suppose this is a

8 good place as any. The one place, and I'm sure

9 **you've had discussions with regards to this, but**

10 **I do believe that there is an opportunity and we**

11 **probably should discuss the merits of the**

12 **department chair, department head function that**

13 **we have within the district. I do believe that**

14 **the money that is used for that is something**

15 **that certainly could be used in other places.**

16 **For example, I believe that's where we could**

17 **possibly fund the school nurse or probably get**

18 **some services back in our maintenance where we**

19 **could probably throw a few dollars back into our**

20 **athletic budget. And I'm quite sure you and**

21 **your group have looked at it with regards to the**

22 need. My concern is that it may be a luxury
23 that maybe we can no longer afford.

24 MR. CHAIRMAN: Dr. Morelle, you
25 know that I'm with Mr. Wagner on that particular

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1 issue all the way.

2 MS. MORELLE: We have. And I have
3 taken your thoughts to Principal Gould and
4 spoken with her about that, and actually I'm
5 sorry that she's not here to speak directly to

6 that issue. That may be again something that
7 you want her to go forward and give you from a
8 building principal's perspective how in fact
9 those positions figure into the overall
10 leadership and management of the building.

11 There is really two ways to look at the cost of
12 those positions.

13 One is simply to look at the
14 stipends that they receive. To look at the
15 actual total cost is if you figure the periods
16 that they spend, and put a value to that. So
17 when we were examining this item, we did it both
18 ways, and clearly if you look at it just from a

19 stipend's perspective, it's small dollars on the
20 budget and it's probably not even enough to
21 raise the question. So then that bears with the
22 point of view what if you look at it from a
23 perspective that every time there's a department
24 head that's a teaching position that we were
25 either to eliminate or manage in a different

1 way, what do we save. And that's what has kind
2 of pushed us in the direction of not necessarily

3 filling every single one of them, but for the
4 time being, at least our recommendation is to
5 leave that structure in place. And I'm happy to
6 have Dee, as I said speak to that or correspond
7 with you, but I think if she were to find out
8 that the people that run the departments and are
9 those line managers, so to speak, were
10 eliminated, I'd be hard-pressed to what she
11 would do.

12 MR. WAGNER: We can certainly put a
13 Finance Subcommittee on for next week. What I'd
14 like to see in that, though, is I would like to
15 see what those costs are and that was just, by

16 the way, the reason why I asked you about those
17 recalls.

18 MS. MORELLE: Because you felt
19 there could be additional recalls?

20 MR. WAGNER: No, because I felt
21 that if we put the department chairs back in
22 full time we may or may not need all the people
23 that you call back. That's why. Strictly
24 budgetary. I don't understand where all these
25 people, their .4D's, and all that goes.

1 **MS. MORELLE:** To that point, I
2 think that we haven't recalled everyone and
3 there's still some room in a number of the
4 departments to manage that discussion.

5 **MR. WAGNER:** I really feel for our
6 teachers, and I don't -- it's hard when they
7 have to get laid off and called back.

8 **MR. CHAIRMAN:** Any further
9 discussion? There's been a motion that has been
10 duly seconded. All those in favor? Opposed?
11 Hearing no opposition. It's unanimous.

12 **MR. PRIGNANO:** The next thing is

13 the 4000 series. Those are all education supply
14 items of the schools. Ashton, Community,
15 Garvin, Cumberland Hill, B.F., McCourt, and
16 North Cumberland. These are the dollar amounts,
17 about 10 percent reduction we made when the
18 original budget was submitted.

19 MR. WAGNER: I'd like to make a
20 motion that we accept the increase in the
21 education supply line items for the schools with
22 a total of \$23,918.

23 MR. WOOD: Second.

24 MR. THIBODEAU: Second.

25 MR. CHAIRMAN: Discussion? All

1 those in favor? Opposed? Hearing no opposition.

2 The ayes have it.

3 MR. PRIGNANO: The next group of

4 line items, the first one \$120,000 I think that

5 everyone know knows that there has been a 21

6 percent increase in electricity rates going

7 forward that was just recently passed. \$120,000

8 will get us in the area of where we need to be

9 to meet those rate increases. On the other

10 side, we had a pretty good surplus in our

11 national gas, and I think we can handle the rate
12 increase and that rate increase is about 10
13 percent of natural gas. I think we can reduce
14 that.

15 As short as we are on the
16 electricity side, we have a good surplus on the
17 natural gas side. I'm recommending we take that
18 down by \$75,000. The next three, Non Public
19 Textbooks. With a budget of \$31,000 last year,
20 we are really, really trying to follow the law
21 to the T and buy as few textbooks as we have to.
22 And last year because the construction that was
23 going on in the high school, we couldn't even

24 get to some of the storerooms where books were
25 stored because of construction. And we may have

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1 spent more in books than we had too, and I think
2 we can bring that line item down a little bit
3 this year. The lady in my office is doing a
4 really outstanding job, Mrs. Joyce Varner.

5 MS. MORELLE: I just want to
6 clarify. I don't think Mr. Prignano meant to
7 say quite what he said. He said we're trying to

8 buy as few textbooks as possible. Maybe he
9 meant it.

10 MR. WAGNER: As a parent I
11 understand what he's saying, that the law
12 stipulates that there are textbooks that are
13 provided by the school department and there are
14 books that are required and that are not
15 required to be paid by the school department,
16 and all we're simple saying is that we're paying
17 what we should be paying for.

18 MS. MORELLE: I wanted to say that
19 we want an assurance that we're buying all that
20 we're supposed to. Actually, Joyce Varner has

21 done a wonderful job putting the system in
22 place, and we've actually gone out to some of
23 the schools and able to get some books back, and
24 we hadn't gotten back some from a number of
25 years ago, so it worked out very well.

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1 MR. PRIGNANO: The next item,
2 Medical Supplies. This is kind of a reduction
3 that complies and we're going to provide a
4 reduction in the line item for what we actually

5 are spending. I think we did bring the line
6 item down, the last item. We established a new
7 account last year in the budget for protective
8 clothing through the poverty unit, we have to
9 provide certain protective clothing and shoes
10 that they bought custodians, and in the past,
11 there was never accounting for that, and it was
12 just taken out of a line item that had money in
13 it, so we established a line item last year and
14 I forgot that I established a line item. So the
15 total of those items is an increase of \$45,000.

16 MR. WAGNER: Mr. Chairman, I would
17 like to make a motion that we accept the

18 adjustments to the five line items mentioned by
19 Mr. Prignano of \$45,000 total, electricity, gas,
20 non public books, medical supplies and
21 protective clothing.

22 MR. CHAIRMAN: Motion made by
23 Mr. Wagner? Discussion?

24 MRS. MACBETH: I have a couple of
25 questions. I know of two instances where there

1 was a question on non public textbooks for

2 students that have a disability in which it's
3 been in there IEP that they require a set of
4 books at school and a set of books at home. Is
5 that covered? And I know that was a question put
6 to the people downstairs. Is that covered?

7 MS. MORELLE: As it stands right
8 now, there's right now a lot of discussion going
9 on around the non public issue with students
10 with disabilities. Students with disabilities
11 who in public schools have an IEP, have an ISP
12 which is given through the municipality where
13 the school is located. There is no provision
14 for where you would presumably see extra

15 textbooks needed on the issue of modifications
16 on the ISPs. To answer your question, it's not
17 my understanding that it's the school district's
18 responsibility to provide those double-sided
19 books.

20 MRS. MACBETH: One of the instances
21 that I was thinking about was students that
22 could not carry that amount of weight home. And
23 I know that she had asked that those parents
24 that had asked that question, notify them to let
25 them know the interpretation of this.

1 **MS. MORELLE:** There's been no
2 questions posed to my office, so I'm not able to
3 answer that question; however, if it's a
4 mobility issue, then it's probably more
5 incumbent upon the parents to facilitate that
6 extra set of books.

7 **MRS. MACBETH:** My second thing was
8 on electricity, an increase of \$120,000. I know
9 Mr. Thibodeau was working very hard on
10 a cost savings for electricity, or on a program.

11 **MR. THIBODEAU:** We're up to

12 \$4 million right now.

13 MRS. MACBETH: So this may change

14 this line item, then?

15 MR. THIBODEAU: We have to rule it

16 out first.

17 MRS. MACBETH: Thank you.

18 MR. CHAIRMAN: Further discussion?

19 All those in favor? Opposed? Hearing none.

20 The ayes have it.

21 MR. PRIGNANO: And the last is the

22 5000 series on Capital Items. On the first

23 revenue sheet I was talking about the Master

24 Lease. If you go back and look at your revenue

25 sheet, you'll see that there was \$100,000

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1 solution from the town. Down below we increased

2 the Master Lease revenue side to \$86,000. The

3 three large ones -- the four large ones on the

4 bottom of \$100,000 we talk about is Facilities

5 Items that would now go into the Master Lease.

6 The \$40,000 facilities, the new voice system

7 that we're putting in the high school, I just

8 want to ask the town to pay for the Master

9 **Lease, the same with the Business Office. That**
10 **is with the balance of dollars to complete the**
11 **software project. And the \$30,000 reduction, we**
12 **took that \$17,000 that I spoke about. Because**
13 **the town passed their lease so late, I also**
14 **requested the money or put it in our '09**
15 **allocation because I didn't know what they were**
16 **going to do. So I would take that \$30,000 out**
17 **of the 2009 Master Lease. We don't need to ask**
18 **to borrow more money than we need to.**

19 **MR. WAGNER: Mr. Chairman, I'd like**
20 **to make the motion that we accept the adjustment**
21 **the 5000 accounts, Master Lease, the total of**

22 \$186,000.

23 MR. CHAIRMAN: Motion by Mr.

24 Wagner.

25 MRS. BEAULIEU: Second.

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1 MR. CHAIRMAN: Discussion?

2 Mr. Prignano, I have a question for you. When

3 do we have to have the kids start paying back

4 the interest to the town on the 2010 bond, is

5 that the '09 tenure?

19 Hearing none. The ayes have it.

20 MR. WAGNER: Mr. Chairman, I would

21 like to make a motion that we accept the total

22 appropriations on the expenditure side of

23 \$52,369,112. That should also match the total

24 revenues of the 2009's budget year of

25 \$52,369,112.

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1 MRS. BEAULIEU: Second.

2 MR. CHAIRMAN: Discussion?

16 to the number until we reconcile our budget with
17 the appropriation versus the revenues. Mr.
18 Wood?

19 MR. WOOD: Did we take a vote on
20 the 4000 series?

21 MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes, you missed it.
22 That was a quick one. Okay. Any further
23 discussion? We have a motion that has been made,
24 seconded. All those in favor? Opposed?
25 Hearing no opposition. The ayes have it.

1 **MR. THIBODEAU:** I'd like to
2 congratulate the superintendent and central
3 administration. This is a historical moment to
4 have a budget. A lot of the communities around
5 are nowhere even close. We did it. We should
6 be proud of ourselves. It's a good moment for
7 the district.

8 **MR. CHAIRMAN:** Thank you, Mr.
9 Thibodeau.

10 **MS. MORELLE:** I'd like to thank the
11 committee once again for all your support during
12 this long process.

13 **MR. CHAIRMAN:** Next item on the

14 agenda is the Superintendent's Report.

15 **MS. MORELLE:** Actually, I wanted to

16 make a comment and just congratulate the Office

17 of Children, Youth and Learning for there

18 federal funds that they receive for after-school

19 programming. I think that it's a wonderful

20 opportunity for students and the community, and

21 I think that it also creates a really nice

22 window for the school committee, perhaps, or

23 school administration or together for us to

24 engage in a conversation about what the intent

25 of the programs are and how we might work

1 together, how those programs might accelerate
2 student learning and fill the gap for some of
3 the needs that we are not able to accommodate at
4 this point in time, so I congratulate them.
5 It's obviously exciting when you have a plan in
6 place and you're able to execute it and I think
7 it will be fruitful for all of us.

8 MR. CHAIRMAN: Is that it?

9 MS. MORELLE: I just wanted to make

10 one other comment to the committee which is once
11 again to thank you for the vote this evening. I
12 know that the intent behind the vote was to
13 remedy the issue with the Attorney General's
14 Office, but as Mrs. MacBeth said, she asked when
15 each of you vote to be conscious, and I
16 appreciate the overwhelming show of support.

17 I think it's very meaningful at a
18 time when we have so much work to do on behalf
19 of students. I think it's very meaningful at a
20 time when we have to really focus our efforts on
21 the issues that are about creating advantages
22 for student learning and the research says that

23 stability and leadership is one of the most
24 important things that you can do to advocate for
25 high performance in the district. So on a

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1 personal and professional note, I say, thank
2 you.

3 MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Alex,
4 would you be so kind to get the sign-up sheet
5 from the podium.

6 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: I'll just make it

7 short and sweet on what happened here tonight.

8 I'd like to commend those people who got up and

9 spoke. The Opening Meetings Act is very

10 critical to a democracy and those people that

11 will be commended. You people have come a long

12 way, too, on the school committee. You've

13 actually made an honest effort. But there needs

14 to be more that's got to be done. In reference

15 to what I spoke to tonight with a few of the

16 school committee members, I really feel that

17 there were unanswered questions, and they should

18 be answered. That's why I'm opposing. Like

19 tonight, for instance, if I say to you Madam

20 Superintendent, you know, where's that H fact in
21 the budget (inaudible). That's a question. You
22 don't have to answer that because that's a
23 comment section. So I'm calling for a forum
24 maybe once a month where the average citizen
25 could get up and ask questions of you people,

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1 because as public servants, you have an
2 obligation to answer them. So that's basically
3 all I have to say. Thank you for your time.

4 **MS. MORELLE:** And also, Mr.
5 **McLaughlin,** the last time you asked for some
6 **information** about a legislative study on
7 **mandates,** and my secretary in my office is
8 **working** on that, so we're very good listeners.
9 **We do** respond. And my office is open any time,
10 **so don't** forget that.

11 **MR. MCLAUGHLIN:** I'd like to see
12 **that** put on the agenda, forum, so these people
13 **will** have a chance to express themselves, and I
14 **really** believe dialogue is the answer. We're
15 **there,** but you know something, I know there are
16 **some** areas where you people can't be specific,

17 but I think it would ease a lot of tension. And
18 that's all I have to say. Thank you.

19 MRS. BEAULIEU: Yes, I just wanted
20 to talk a little bit about some of these Open
21 Meetings Violations that we encountered, and I
22 hope that we assume that this is a shared
23 responsibility with this entire committee. What
24 was mentioned tonight was that individuals
25 wanted to be secretive, and I don't think that

1 was ever our intention, and that there were four
2 of us who were in violation, when, in fact, we
3 were all in violation. All seven of us met in
4 executive session, and all seven of us voted.

5 And I hope that each of you takes the time to go
6 through the Attorney General's findings because
7 I found them to be something we need to be more
8 attentive to. And, again, I go back to it's a
9 shared responsibility, and I don't ever recall a
10 time when with regard to the violations anyone
11 specifically stated why we couldn't go into
12 executive session to vote. So I just hope we
13 can add it to the summer reading list that we

14 all take the time to go through the rulings from
15 the Attorney General. And that's all. Thank
16 you.

17 MRS. MACBETH: Picking up on what
18 Mrs. Beaulieu had said in reading the
19 information from the Attorney General, when are
20 you going to put on the agenda to report out the
21 votes that were taken in executive session?

22 MR. CHAIRMAN: The five meetings
23 that you're talking about?

24 MRS. MACBETH: Give or take, yes.

25 MR. CHAIRMAN: That will go on the

1 August 12th agenda. I've spoken to Mr. Rotella
2 a few times about that.

3 MR. WAGNER: I would also like to
4 take a minute. I normally don't speak during
5 the session. But with regards to the Open
6 Meetings Violations and all these other findings
7 that are coming against us, first, I would like
8 to state for anyone who's here that apparently
9 -- well, I know I for one did not feel that we
10 were doing anything wrong.

11 **Apparently, the Attorney General's**
12 **representative feels that we did; therefore, we**
13 **did. I accept my responsibility. It wasn't**
14 **something that shouldn't have happened or should**
15 **have happened. I guess I should have been more**
16 **informed.**

17 **I'm not a lawyer. I'm just a guy**
18 **who sells cars and tries to do the best I can**
19 **here. I would hope that our residents, if they**
20 **see us doing these types of things, I would much**
21 **rather have a relationship where you can come up**
22 **and just say, hey, you really shouldn't be doing**
23 **things this way, this is what we think. Maybe**

24 we weren't receptive. I don't know. We think

25 maybe we were receptive. I've always been told

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1 you can talk to me. I think you can. But, you

2 know, those of you that I've wronged, I'm sorry.

3 If you ask me to take another executive session

4 vote on a personnel matter, I'll walk out of the

5 room. That is about the best I can say. For

6 anyone else who was here tonight let them know

7 you know we got a lot of work that needs to be

8 done, and we need to learn with the differences
9 of opinion that we have, and respect each other
10 for the fact that we have them.

11 MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you,
12 Mr. Wagner.

13 MR. THIBODEAU: The whole Open
14 Meetings that went on, there's a bridge that
15 anybody comes before us, we owe them the privacy
16 of what the moment is of what's going on, if in
17 fact it's a litigation thing. It's never a
18 secret meeting. It's a place that the school
19 committee can go to so they don't divulge our
20 side against their side. There were votes taken

21 until it's done, and then everybody knows. For
22 instance, it's a contract, or something like
23 that.

24 Now, in the case where we have a
25 personnel matter, and this has been the big

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1 discussion that has taken place, and through it
2 all you learn something about each other on the
3 committee, where they go and what they do and
4 how they react. I mean, it's your makeup and

5 you learn about each other as far as if we're a
6 team, if we're not a team. Because I think
7 throughout the years, the audience has seen we
8 haven't been a team out here and they really
9 grasped that and they really smelled blood here,
10 and they really have taken a lot of liberties at
11 the mike.

12 And there's been a lot of
13 disrespectful things said in this room, and a
14 lot of people have been rude. This is the
15 school committee. We are low paid. We're
16 always here. It's almost ten past eleven. We
17 need longer arms. We try to do what's best

18 because that person that comes before us with
19 whatever the problem is it's in what we call
20 executive session, not a secret place.

21 They have rights. If you think a
22 \$1,000 fee, and I'm not making light of it, for
23 the violation or 500 or 250, we could
24 potentially talk millions of dollars if we
25 violate the rights of the human beings that come

1 before us and things leak out. So it's a bridge

2 that we have to do, and it's tough. And yes,
3 the Attorney General handed something down to
4 us, and yes, we're here tonight to correct it,
5 and it will not happen again. Since 1999, I
6 guess, from the notes that I've seen on this,
7 we've been in violation of this. That's a long
8 time.

9 For the personnel matters, there's
10 been some things that go back that far. So it
11 is what it is, and we're here and we're trying
12 to do the best we can. But you got to respect
13 the position of the superintendent. You got to
14 respect that. What I've seen here this year,

15 I'm not proud of it. And that Valentine Day
16 massacre, February 14, it wasn't going to go on
17 again today, no matter what happened. It wasn't
18 going to go on again today. Because one thing
19 we've learned is we have to stick up for our
20 administrators. It's a position. So that's
21 from my heart. That's what I got to say with
22 all my experience. We let her down.
23 February 14th we let her down. So I'm emotional
24 about that, because I care about what we do
25 here. That's it.

1 **MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you,**
2 **Mr. Thibodeau. I'd like to echo all the**
3 **sentiments of my teammates on the school**
4 **committee about the Open Meetings violations.**
5 **Unlike Mr. Wagner, I am a country lawyer, and**
6 **this isn't something that we learn in law**
7 **school, it isn't something that we learn --**
8 **well, actually, Mrs. Beaulieu and I went to**
9 **school committee 101 meeting Mike Fields spoke**
10 **at. It's not something that we learned at that**
11 **seminar. It's not something that we learned**

12 anywhere -- unless we really are not picky
13 about, just pick a topic and go into it. You
14 can handle any topic. You can go into anything.

15 If you want to know about those
16 chairs, you can read any amount of material
17 about those chairs, Google it, whatever you have
18 to do. The same thing we could have done with
19 the Open Meetings Acts, get whatever decisions
20 that have be made, but there hasn't been any
21 decisions made. And as Mike Fields said on
22 March 13th when he appeared here, people from
23 the audience were asking him questions about
24 what happens in that case, what happens in that

25 case. And his answer was to everyone on every

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1 one of those questions, I don't know because we
2 haven't had that come before us yet. But we do
3 know now that from 1999, our committee has been
4 in violation for voting on personnel items in
5 executive session. Yes, we voted on a lot of
6 things in executive session. We all thought we
7 could.

8 Now we know that we're wrong. And

9 **you know, we got to fess up and just take our**
10 **medicine and just not do it again. As far as**
11 **Mr. Thibodeau's comments about Dr. Morelle, when**
12 **I came into this job, I had heard both negative**
13 **and positive things about you. I have known you**
14 **since your first day of student teaching in the**
15 **Town of Cumberland. That was probably two or**
16 **three years ago, but your superintendency**
17 **ability, I've heard both pro and con. But I**
18 **come into this like I do with everything else,**
19 **with an open mind, and I evaluated you with my**
20 **open mind. We had many discussions. You and I**
21 **had many fights, if you recall, or**

22 **disagreements. But we've come to a meeting of**
23 **the minds. And I have come to respect the job**
24 **that you do because you are what the baseball**
25 **announcers call a five to a player. That's a**

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1 **guy that can run, throw, catch, hit for average**
2 **and hit for power. You have all of those**
3 **abilities now with that ability to communicate,**
4 **and that's why I wanted to point that letter out**
5 **to you, because I thought it was important that**

6 have you come a long way, baby. Thank you.

7 Okay. Next item on the agenda.

8 MR. WAGNER: Motion to adjourn.

9 MR. CHAIRMAN: Motion by Mr. Wagner

10 to adjourn.

11 MR. THIBODEAU: Second.

12 MR. CHAIRMAN: All those in favor?

13 Opposed? Hearing none. The ayes have it.

14 (HEARING CONCLUDED AT 11:15 P.M.)

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I, PAULA J. CAMPAGNA, CSR, a Notary Public, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true, accurate, and complete transcript of my notes taken at the above-entitled hearing.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I hereunto set my hand this 22nd day of August, 2008.

PAULA J. CAMPAGNA, CSR, NOTARY PUBLIC/CERTIFIED COURT REPORTER

MY COMMISSION EXPIRES: March 30, 2010

IN RE: School Committee Town of Cumberland

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DATE: July 24, 2008

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