

**OFFICIAL**

**Meeting Minutes Approved by School Committee: 9.25.08**

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

**2**

**3 Proceedings At:**

**4 School Committee Town of Cumberland**

**5**

**6 IN RE: School Committee Meeting**

**7 DATE: Thursday, August 28, 2008**

**TIME: 8:00 P.M.**

**8 PLACE: Cumberland High School**

**Auditorium**

**9 2600 Mendon Road**

**Cumberland, RI**

10

11 **School Committee Members:**

12 **Frederic C. Crowley, Chairperson**

**Donald J. Costa, Vice Chairperson**

13 **Karen MacBeth, Clerk**

**W. David Wagner**

14 **Robert C. Thibodeau**

**Lisa Beaulieu**

15 **Earl T. Wood**

16

**APPEARANCES:**

17

**FOR THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE:**

18

**Joseph A. Rotella, Esquire**

19

20 **ALSO PRESENT:**

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

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

22

23

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

2           **MR. CHAIRMAN: Mrs. Beaulieu, would**

3           **you be so kind as to lead us in the Pledge of**

4           **Allegiance?**

5           **(PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE)**

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

7           **agenda is Approval of the Agenda.**

8 MR. WOOD: Motion.

9 MR. WAGNER: Second.

10 MR. CHAIRMAN: Motion by Mr. Wood,

11 second by Mr. Wagner. Discussion?

12 All those in favor? Opposed?

13 Hearing no opposition, the ayes have it.

14 The next item on the agenda is the

15 Election of Vice Chairperson. The floor is open

16 for nominations.

17 MRS. MACBETH: I nominate Earl

18 Wood.

19 MR. THIBODEAU: I nominate David

20 Wagner.

21                   **MR. CHAIRMAN: Is there a second?**

22    **Mr. Wood?**

23                   **MR. WOOD: Second.**

24                   **MR. CHAIRMAN: You're going to**

25    **second your own?**

3

1                   **MR. WOOD: Yes.**

2                   **MR. CHAIRMAN: Second by Mr. Wood.**

3                   **MR. THIBODEAU: I nominate David**

4    **Wagner.**

5                   **MR. CHAIRMAN: Nomination by**

6 Mr. Thibodeau of David Wagner. Is there a  
7 second to that nomination?

8 MS. BEAULIEU: I will second the  
9 nomination.

10 MR. CHAIRMAN: Any further  
11 nominations? Once, twice, three times.  
12 Nominations are closed. Since this is one  
13 against the other, why don't we do a roll call  
14 vote and you either answer -- excuse me, we'll  
15 do Earl Wood first. On Earl Wood, discussion on  
16 Mr. Wood?

17 MS. BEAULIEU: I just wanted to say  
18 that I appreciate the opportunity that both of

19 these candidates gave me to speak to them about  
20 some of the questions and concerns that I have,  
21 and I look forward to continuing to work with  
22 both of the individuals on this committee that  
23 are currently nominated. I feel they both have  
24 good values and have some leadership skills, and  
25 I guess that's all I want to say.

4

1 MR. CHAIRMAN: I'll second that.

2 Any further discussion?

3 MRS. MACBETH: I'd just like to say

4 that I nominated Earl Wood because I think Earl  
5 would be an excellent candidate for our Vice  
6 Chair position. I think over the last almost  
7 two years that we've served together Earl has  
8 always been the one person on this committee  
9 that has shown that he can work with everybody,  
10 keep the children as the main focus of this and  
11 follow the rules and be on top of even the  
12 minutest detail and a person that all of us  
13 would feel comfortable going to him.

14 MR. CHAIRMAN: Any further  
15 discussion on Earl Wood? Discussion on David  
16 Wagner?

17                   **MRS. MACBETH: I have a couple of**  
18    **points that I would like to bring up on that**  
19    **nomination. First of all, we just left a**  
20    **Finance Subcommittee meeting that I'm still**  
21    **shaking following due the contact that happened**  
22    **in there, and I would have hoped somebody that**  
23    **was going to run as the Vice Chair would have**  
24    **been able to rule a member out of the order and**  
25    **keep the meeting as it was. As much as I do**

1    **like David as a person, as a Vice Chair we need**

2 somebody that would be able to do this.

3           **The second concern that I have is**  
4 **that I believe members of this committee again**  
5 **got e-mails regarding a situation that needs to**  
6 **be discussed in open session here, and that**  
7 **concerns me that that could open us again for**  
8 **another issue with the Attorney General.**

9           **MR. CHAIRMAN: Any further**  
10 **discussion on Mr. Wagner that would be relevant**  
11 **to the issue?**

12           **MR. THIBODEAU: Yes, I've known**  
13 **David for a long time. I see him as a fair and**  
14 **neutral person, and that meeting we just came**

15 from, I think he did nothing. Because it's a  
16 public record, those checks are public record.  
17 So I differ with Mrs. MacBeth again, and I'll be  
18 differing with her again and again and again.

19 MR. CHAIRMAN: Any further  
20 discussion?

21 MRS. MACBETH: All set.

22 MR. CHAIRMAN: I would just like to  
23 thank both of the candidates for running.  
24 Mr. Wood, I have come, over the last two years  
25 to respect and even like you, and I respect your

1 work effort, and even though we differ on very  
2 many things, at least we can disagree without  
3 being disagreeable with one another.

4 But in the alternative, I've worked  
5 with Mr. Wagner, I've coached Mr. Wagner's son.  
6 I've known him for quite a few years now and my  
7 vote is going to be with Mr. Wagner because of  
8 his ability.

9 Any further discussion on

10 Mr. Wagner?

11 All those in favor of Mr. Wood?

**12 We're going to do it by roll call vote.**

**13 MR. WOOD: Yes.**

**14 MS. BEAULIEU: No.**

**15 MRS. MACBETH: Yes.**

**16 MR. WAGNER: No.**

**17 MR. THIBODEAU: No.**

**18 MR. CHAIRMAN: No. Mr. Wood has**

**19 two votes. Two affirmative votes.**

**20 On Mr. Wagner and in the same**

**21 direction for a roll call vote.**

**22 MR. WOOD: No.**

**23 MS. BEAULIEU: Yes.**

**24 MRS. MACBETH: No.**

**1 MR. THIBODEAU: Yes.**

**2 MR. CHAIRMAN: And the chair votes**

**3 yes, so it's 4 to 2. Mr. Wagner is elected Vice**

**4 Chair. Congratulations, Mr. Wagner.**

**5 The next item on the agenda is the**

**6 Chairperson's Report. We're coming towards the**

**7 end of the season, and it's nice to see so many**

**8 people still in the stands. School has begun**

9 and we're coming down the back stretch. We have  
10 the seat public comments. We have a sign-up  
11 sheet, where is the sign-up sheet? Okay. Thank  
12 you, Ms. Colwell. The usual rules apply.  
13 There's a five-minute rule of speaking, there is  
14 no personal attacks, vice versa.

15 The next item on the agenda -- and  
16 also, Mr. Wagner, I'm going to -- never mind.  
17 I'm going to turn the Chair over to you. Is  
18 that okay? You can take it from here.

19 (MR. WAGNER AS CHAIR FOR REST OF HEARING)

20 MR. WAGNER: Thank you, Mr.  
21 Crowley.

22 I believe the next item that was  
23 left up on here would be Comments From the  
24 Public. Do we have anybody signed up? Can I  
25 have the list? The first person is Carmen

8

1 Corneau. Please say your name, spell it, and  
2 your address, please.

3 MS. CORNEAU: My name is Carmen  
4 Corneau, C-O-R-N-E-A-U. I live at 110 West  
5 Road, that's in Cumberland. I recently -- the

6 school performance classifications. It was very  
7 disheartening to me. My son is in one of the  
8 caution schools at this point and he's only in  
9 the first grade, but looking at the other  
10 schools in the Cumberland District, these --  
11 there -- it's just terrible. I mean, how are  
12 our are we going to raise our children in the  
13 Cumberland School area with these kind of  
14 percentages? I'd like to know what is going to  
15 be done to improve it and how, as a parent, we  
16 can make it better for our children.

17 I've seen throughout the school  
18 year a lot of battling between the School

**19 Committee and the community, and our children**  
**20 are getting lost in this war, and this is a good**  
**21 point to show they are being lost. These grades**  
**22 are awful. I mean, my son is going to be going**  
**23 to this high school and they had only 20 percent**  
**24 efficiency in math. That's pretty terrible. So**  
**25 my question is how are we going to fix this,**

**9**

**1 what are we going to do?**

**2 Instead of fighting all the time,**

3 we need to take care of this because I don't  
4 want my child to get to high school and not be  
5 able to go to college because of these grades.  
6 So I just need an answer to that. I appreciate  
7 it.

8 (APPLAUSE)

9 MR. WAGNER: The next person is  
10 Cathy Boucher. State your name and address and  
11 spell it please.

12 MS. BOUCHER: Cathy Boucher,  
13 B-O-U-C-H-E-R, and I live at 40 Jackson Street.  
14 I think the reason for me coming this evening to  
15 speak is to educate the Committee on what goes

16 on when parents choose to send their children to  
17 nonpublic schools, what they go through when  
18 they borrow books from the public, you know, the  
19 high school, the school department. I truly  
20 believe that it is not a very user friendly  
21 system, and I think what happens is parents end  
22 up buying the books themselves. They go to the  
23 department, fill out the forms, they're told  
24 either they're not covered, they're not on the  
25 list, we can't get them, and they end up

1 spending the money themselves which I think in  
2 that situation nobody knows unless that person  
3 comes forward and tells somebody, nobody knows.

4 I have a couple of examples which  
5 I'll share with you. I know the student's a  
6 friend of mine from North Smithfield, she's in  
7 about 7th grade, she received two science books  
8 from North Smithfield, the North Smithfield  
9 School Department. The same students in the 7th  
10 grade in Cumberland went to the Cumberland  
11 School Department, filled out forms, and this  
12 one was told on the day that she was going to

13 pick up the books, so a week before school  
14 starts that, oh, we can't get them. So now she  
15 is struggling, going on-line, trying to get the  
16 books, and she ended up buying them and that  
17 gets swept under the rug. Nobody knows. I just  
18 wanted to bring that to your attention.

19 Another issue that I'd like to  
20 bring to your attention also is the condition of  
21 the textbooks. We picked my son's math book and  
22 it comes complete with duct tape. The binding  
23 before I had it was coming off also, pages were  
24 coming out. I ended up putting some glue in the  
25 binding that fixed that problem, but still it

1 has this lovely duct tape on it, and the pages  
2 are, you know, I'd say they might be able to  
3 last a year but they might not. I was concerned  
4 that it might not last so I bought this book  
5 online for \$7 with the shipping, brand-new book.  
6 I'm not saying all books are \$7, I know books  
7 are expensive, but this is ridiculous. We pay  
8 tax money too, you know, and if I was in the  
9 public school my son would get his workbooks as

10 well as any soft covered books, all of which we  
11 have turned down. We can't get workbooks, we  
12 can't get any soft cover lab books, nothing. We  
13 get our textbooks which are considered hard  
14 cover. If you go in and ask for a soft-cover  
15 book, whether it has text or not, you know,  
16 whether it is a workbook or not, we can't get  
17 it.

18 So, this morning I went down to the  
19 office. When I ordered my books for my son's  
20 high school, unfortunately they have the wrong  
21 list on the website, so I ordered the wrong  
22 Spanish book. During the summer they revised

**23 the list so when we went to orientation, we**  
**24 found out that he needed a different one. So**  
**25 honestly, I was thrilled because I know that**

**12**

**1 other students in the class got it through**  
**2 Cumberland. So I called and I was told to come**  
**3 down, and that we'd have to fill out some**  
**4 paperwork, add it to the list, and I walked in**  
**5 the door and she said oh, that had to be ordered**  
**6 and you missed the deadline. Sorry. So I'm**

7 thinking to myself then why did I come down  
8 here. You know, I mean, maybe it was just a  
9 human error. Okay. Fine. But it is just one  
10 thing after another. You know, textbook  
11 condition, human error. It is ridiculous.

12 When we save the town lots of money  
13 not educating our children, and I think I used  
14 to get really upset about these issues but now I  
15 just sit back and I say to myself that this is  
16 why I don't send my kids to Cumberland Public  
17 Schools. You know, they can't manage a  
18 book-borrowing system, how can they possibly  
19 educate my child in a way that I want them to

20 be. So thank you.

21 (APPLAUSE)

22 MR. WAGNER: The next item we have

23 on here is Report of Standing Committees. And

24 Karen, I know the Personnel Subcommittee met

25 this afternoon.

13

1 MRS. MACBETH: The Personnel

2 Subcommittee did meet this evening and we are

3 ready to bring forward the assistant principal

4 contracts as amended, and Dr. Morelle, would you  
5 like to speak on the amendment of the assistant  
6 principal contract?

7 MS. MORELLE: During the Personnel  
8 Subcommittee there were five assistant principal  
9 contracts reviewed. Those assistant principal  
10 contracts were for the three assistant  
11 principals at Cumberland High School and for the  
12 assistant principals each at the middle schools,  
13 one at North Middle and Joseph McCourt Middle  
14 School. The motions that were made to approve  
15 the contracts included modifications, and follow  
16 along and make sure that I mentioned all the

**17 ones that we discussed.**

**18 First of all, for all of the**  
**19 contracts that were one-year contracts in the**  
**20 performance evaluation section, we're going to**  
**21 insert the phrase "in the month of May", so that**  
**22 in the performance evaluation section it will**  
**23 say, "The superintendent shall annually perform**  
**24 a performance evaluation in the month of May in**  
**25 accordance with such guidelines as are**

1 established." That will be the introductory  
2 sentence in each one-year contract on the  
3 performance evaluation section.

4 In addition, it was noted by  
5 Mrs. MacBeth that one of the contracts for  
6 Mr. Fuller at Cumberland High School, they  
7 omitted the language on the healthcare buyback  
8 and so before that contract is signed I will  
9 advise that contract to include the exact  
10 language that is stated in each of the other  
11 assistant principals' contracts, and essentially  
12 that language would say as follows, He or she  
13 may elect annually to exchange his health plan

14 for one-half of the cost of the school  
15 department for individual coverage as required  
16 by the campaign. So that language will be  
17 amended.

18 On Mr. Masterson's contract, we had  
19 to review his attendance record and to include  
20 the number of accrued sick days. So on page two  
21 of that contract, the line under sick leave  
22 should state, "Parties agree that Jason  
23 Masterson will start this contract with 33.5  
24 accrued sick days."

25 According to my notes, that was the

1     **sum total of the modifications that we made. If**  
2     **you have any other notes I'd appreciate it if**  
3     **you would bring them forward.**

4             **MS. MACBETH: The only thing, I**  
5     **discussed two other things and one of the things**  
6     **I discussed is the vacation time and the amount**  
7     **of time, the four weeks, and then the**  
8     **possibility, though they also have the**  
9     **possibility of working that December, February,**  
10    **April vacation so I ask that that be watched**

11 carefully.

12 MS. MORELLE: And when you approve  
13 or if you approve contracts in the full  
14 committee, Mr. Masterson's contract should be  
15 approved contingent upon his appointment during  
16 personnel recommendations or subject to that  
17 appointment later this evening. The personnel  
18 recommendation is based on the terms of the  
19 contract.

20 MRS. MACBETH: And the second point  
21 that I brought up, and it had to do with  
22 contract language and specifically the health  
23 care buyback was one of the focuses, and I just

**24 had mentioned that or suggested that it**

**25 piggyback the teacher's contract language so**

**16**

**1 that going into this year's negotiations that**

**2 may be something that will be considered, and I**

**3 believe the response back was we're always able**

**4 to go back and add an amendment to these**

**5 contracts.**

**6 MS. MORELLE: That's correct.**

**7 MRS. MACBETH: So it's up in front**

8 of the full Committee right now for a vote.

9 MR. WOOD: So moved.

10 MRS. MACBETH: Second.

11 MR. WAGNER: Motion by Mr. Wood,

12 second by Mrs. MacBeth.

13 MR. ROTELLA: Mr. Chairman, subject

14 to the later approval of Mr. Masterson to

15 personnel, his contract should be subject to

16 that.

17 MR. WAGNER: I understand. Any

18 more discussion? All right. All those in

19 favor? Opposed? 5 to 0, the ayes have it.

20 Mrs. MacBeth, anything else?

**21 MRS. MACBETH: No.**

**22 MR. WAGNER: Anybody else?**

**23 MR. WOOD: I have a concern that we**

**24 also have three administrators that have not**

**25 been in front of the contract for at least six**

**17**

**1 months. I would just like to know when we are**

**2 going to approve those contracts. I'm talking**

**3 about the Central Administration team.**

**4 MRS. MACBETH: They'll be on the**

5 next agenda for personnel.

6 **MR. WAGNER: The Finance**

7 **Subcommittee met right after that and we had a**

8 **pretty busy evening. The first item we had was**

9 **payment of bills and we approved on a**

10 **three-nothing vote to bring forward four**

11 **registers in the total of \$169,539.49. I would**

12 **like a motion to go ahead and approve them to**

13 **pay those.**

14 **MRS. MACBETH: I make a motion.**

15 **MR. WAGNER: Motion by**

16 **Mrs. MacBeth.**

17 **MS. BEAULIEU: Second.**

**18 MR. WAGNER: Second by**

**19 Ms. Beaulieu. Any discussion? All in favor?**

**20 Opposed? 5 to 0, the ayes have it.**

**21 The next item I see listed here**

**22 would be Discussion and/or Award of the Contract**

**23 for Aimsweb Assessment Tool and that one was**

**24 brought forward by a 2 to 1 vote with**

**25 recommendation to approve.**

**18**

**1 Mr. Prignano, if you would? I know**

2 the last time -- I'd like a motion to approve to  
3 pay that.

4 MR. THIBODEAU: Motion to approve.

5 MR. WAGNER: Second?

6 MRS. BEAULIEU: Second.

7 MR. CHAIRMAN: Second by

8 Mrs. Beaulieu.

9 MR. WOOD: Mr. Chairman, isn't

10 there two bids or two papers that we just

11 received? Unaware that we'd actually be

12 discussing, even though these are on our agenda

13 and they were supposed to be put in last month's

14 agenda and I believe they were, but being

15       unaware these would be discussed and not just  
16       tacked on, I'll make a motion to table these  
17       until the next meeting.

18                   **MS. MORELLE:** If I can add a  
19       comment about the Aimsweb, actually the Town  
20       Council approved that at their recent meeting  
21       and we were bringing it back tonight so both the  
22       School Committee and the Town Council could  
23       approve that. That's one of those school  
24       improvement fund items that was placed as a  
25       result of the budget and I apologize it was not

1 in your packet. I expected that it was the  
2 same. It was true with the ConnectEd. The  
3 issue last time is that you wanted us to resolve  
4 whether or not there was a bid or a master price  
5 agreement that we could pay back on and we  
6 confirmed there was a bid from another  
7 municipality that can be approved. So we  
8 believe that probably we can go ahead with the  
9 Aimsweb without your vote but I would prefer not  
10 to do that. If there was some consideration for  
11 that, and I certainly understand possibly a

12        **compromise might be that we could move that**  
13        **forward if you wanted to wait on the ConnectEd.**

14                **MR. WOOD: I understand that the**  
15        **Town Council got this two weeks, but we just**  
16        **received these clearly five minutes ago.**

17                **MR. PRIGNANO: You did have it two**  
18        **weeks ago in your packet, you've had one and you**  
19        **had an opportunity to review. They**  
20        **inadvertently didn't get copied again because**  
21        **you already had copies of them. They're coming**  
22        **out of a special town appropriation.**

23                **MR. WOOD: When I looked at my**  
24        **agenda, I see them there, but then when I looked**

25 at my information in my packet, there is nothing

20

1 there so I'm assuming we have things --

2 MR. CHAIRMAN: Well, we have a

3 motion and duly seconded on a --

4 MR. WOOD: Discussion?

5 MR. CHAIRMAN: There is no

6 discussion on the motion to table. So I would

7 like to go ahead and take a vote. All in favor

8 of the table? We'll do roll call.

9 MRS. BEAULIEU: Aye.

10 MR. THIBODEAU: No.

11 MR. WOOD: No.

12 MS. MACBETH: Yes.

13 MR. CHAIRMAN: Motion to table, who  
14 votes yes? Negative is the not to table.

15 MRS. MACBETH: Yes.

16 MR. THIBODEAU: No.

17 MR. CHAIRMAN: Chair votes no. I  
18 believe that is 3 to 2, motion fails.

19 What I would like to do then is --

20 do we have a motion on this? We started

21 discussion, I don't believe we had a motion to

22 accept this.

23 MRS. MACBETH: We did. It started

24 as a motion.

25 MR. CHAIRMAN: We have a first and

21

1 second.

2 Joe, what -- as far as this

3 particular contract, it's already been approved

4 through the Town Council. I mean is this

5 something we can go ahead and do without

6 necessarily going with the approval?

7 MR. ROTELLA: Alex, I believe that

8 since the Town Council has already approved it,

9 I think the purpose of bringing it back before

10 the School Committee was to make sure that the

11 School Committee was in concert with what the

12 Town Council had already approved. I believe

13 the funds for this particular project are

14 already approved by the counsel and they can be

15 expended without your approval; however, I think

16 it would be much cleaner if the School Committee

17 did take a vote on it.

18 MR. THIBODEAU: Mr. Chairman, the

19 -- this was actually tabled because it is a  
20 \$5,000 rule and we're looking for the correct  
21 procedure to move this in the affirmative, and  
22 on both of them, one of them is a piggyback bid  
23 and the other one is a sole source. That  
24 satisfies my needs because I was the one who  
25 brought it up and it was duly seconded and

22

1 tabled. So That's why I go along with voting  
2 for this today.

3                   **MR. CHAIRMAN:** Any further

4                   **discussion? Mrs. MacBeth.**

5                   **MRS. MACBETH:** Thank you. On

6                   **Aimsweb I know that we've been told it was a**

7                   **sole source, but I still have concerns about it**

8                   **not going out to bid and I do think there are**

9                   **other companies out there that do have similar**

10                  **products to this and that we're going with**

11                  **Aimsweb and because it is already in one school**

12                  **and teachers have received training on this.**

13                  **While I understand it may be a good idea,**

14                  **because it is already here and there's training**

15                  **and it may be a good product, I still have very**

16 big concerns that it has not gone out for bid.

17 MR. CHAIRMAN: Anyone else? The

18 motion has been made and seconded. Approval of

19 going out with Aimsweb. All in favor? All

20 opposed?

21 MR. WOOD: No.

22 MS. BEAULIEU: Yes.

23 MRS. MACBETH: No.

24 MR. THIBODEAU: Yes.

25 MR. CHAIRMAN: Chair votes yes. 3

1 to 2.

2 The next item would be the

3 ConnectEd Communication Software, and I'd like

4 to get a motion to go ahead and bring this

5 forward and process it. It came through the

6 subcommittee. That was approved on a vote today

7 in the subcommittee.

8 So if I could get a motion to

9 approve?

10 MR. THIBODEAU: Motion to approve.

11 If this is the one for the piggyback bid, this

12 piece -- I'm all set with this.

13 **MR. CHAIRMAN: Second?**

14 **MRS. MACBETH: Second.**

15 **MR. CHAIRMAN: Second by**

16 **Mrs. MacBeth. Discussion?**

17 **MS. BEAULIEU: May I ask a question**

18 **of Dr. Morelle?**

19 **MR. CHAIRMAN: Go ahead.**

20 **MS. BEAULIEU: Do you know in what**

21 **time frame if this is approved it would go**

22 **on-line?**

23 **MS. MORELLE: I know that we've**

24 **been working with Jessie Mead who's the field**

25 **representative and he's ready as soon as the**

1     **Committee does approve this to work with us. We**  
2     **also have spent the summer updating the student**  
3     **database so we have e-mail addresses and updated**  
4     **phone numbers so that we'll have a higher**  
5     **percentage of accurate contact when we're able**  
6     **to put the system in place. So if you are**  
7     **approving this tonight, we'll be in contact with**  
8     **him tomorrow to start that timeline moving.**

9             **MR. CHAIRMAN: If I recall, this**

10 ties into the system at the town and the police  
11 department?

12 MS. MORELLE: That's correct. This  
13 is the same system, and in fact, when and if the  
14 police department go with CTY, the price will  
15 actually come down.

16 MR. CHAIRMAN: Any further  
17 discussion? We have a motion on the table, duly  
18 seconded. All in favor of approving the  
19 ConnectEd Communication Software, a total of  
20 \$17,100, if I remember, a price of \$3 per  
21 student. All in favor? Opposed? Hearing no  
22 opposition, 5 to 0.

**23                    The next item would be Discussion**

**24                    and/or Award of the Contract For Generator At**

**25                    the Joseph L. McCourt Middle School.**

**25**

**1                    MR. WOOD: So moved.**

**2                    MRS. MACBETH: Second.**

**3                    MR. CHAIRMAN: Discussion? This is**

**4                    for a generator at the McCourt Middle School**

**5                    that I believe is going to come out of a grant;**

**6                    is that correct?**

7                   **MR. PRIGNANO: Security grant that**  
8                   **the police department is receiving.**

9                   **MR. CHAIRMAN: Any discussion?**

10                  **Motion has been made and duly seconded. All in**  
11                  **favor? Opposed? Hearing none, motion passes, 5**  
12                  **to 0.**

13                  **Next item is Discussion and/or**  
14                  **Award of Contract For Exterior Community School,**  
15                  **and that is a bid to work on the schools, total**  
16                  **of \$14,700. The vendor and the sole bidder was**  
17                  **Tower Construction in Cranston, Rhode Island.**  
18                  **There were several others that applied --**  
19                  **offered, but chose not to submit a bid. So I'd**

**20** like a motion to go ahead and approve those.

**21** **MR. THIBODEAU:** So moved.

**22** **MRS. MACBETH:** Second.

**23** **MR. CHAIRMAN:** Motion by

**24** Mr. Thibodeau, second by Mrs. MacBeth.

**25** Discussion?

**26**

**1** **MS. BEAULIEU:** Mr. Chairman, the

**2** question I have is this for the front facade of

**3** Community School?

4 **MR. CHAIRMAN: It is.**

5 **MR. THIBODEAU: Finally. And the**

6 **electricity is all going to come down and go up.**

7 **MS. BEAULIEU: Thank you. That**

8 **will make everyone happy.**

9 **MR. CHAIRMAN: Anyone else?**

10 **Hearing nothing else, all in favor? Opposed?**

11 **The ayes have it, 5 to 0.**

12 **Next item is Discussion and/or**

13 **Award of Contract For the Canopy Repair At**

14 **Ashton School, and there were two bidders on**

15 **this one, or three actually. There was Colony**

16 **Roofing of Mystic, Connecticut, Barboza of**

17       **Central Falls, Tower Construction of Cranston,**  
18       **Rhode Island; is that correct?**

19               **MR. PRIGNANO: We're recommending**  
20       **the low bidder.**

21               **MR. CHAIRMAN: We're recommending**  
22       **the low bidder, Barboza of Central Falls of**  
23       **\$3600. There were several others that did not**  
24       **submit a bid. I need a motion to approve that.**

25               **MS. BEAULIEU: So moved.**

1           **MRS. MACBETH: Second.**

2           **MR. CHAIRMAN: Any discussion?**

3           **MR. WOOD: Mr. Hilton -- does --**

4           **these bids are, basically you're talking about a**

5           **third, the lowest bid's the third second bid.**

6           **Does this meet the scope, all scope, was there a**

7           **scope of the project done and this fulfills it**

8           **at \$3,600?**

9           **MR. HILTON: The big thing is the**

10          **high bidders from Mystic, Connecticut, they**

11          **would incur costs in transporting their workers**

12          **from Connecticut back and forth. It's just a**

13          **membrane system, it is a very small repair job.**

14       **The 3600 is very close to what we had received**  
15       **from a local vendor.**

16               **MR. WOOD: Okay.**

17               **MR. CHAIRMAN: Anything else? All**  
18       **in favor? Opposed? Passes, 5 to 0.**

19               **The next item is Discussion and/or**  
20       **Award of Contract For Athletic Equipment. This**  
21       **was also passed by a vote of three to nothing in**  
22       **the subcommittee this evening. A total of**  
23       **\$17,858.68, multiple vendors are being used.**  
24       **I'd like a motion to go ahead and award these.**

25               **MS. BEAULIEU: So moved.**

1           **MR. THIBODEAU: Second.**

2           **MR. CHAIRMAN: Discussion? All in**

3           **favor? Opposed? 5 to 0, approved.**

4           **The next is Discussion and/or Award**

5           **of Contract For a Tractor. This is for a John**

6           **Deere tractor that would mow the lawn as well as**

7           **I believe would snowplow the new sidewalks for**

8           **the high school. It was brought forward from**

9           **Subcommittee by a vote of 2 to 1. We used a --**

10          **I think the total is \$32,959.97.**

11                   **Mr. Hilton, if you went all the**  
12                   **back up to the top up there you may have to come**  
13                   **all the way down again. I'd like a motion to go**  
14                   **ahead and approve.**

15                   **MR. THIBODEAU: Motion to approve.**

16                   **MR. CHAIRMAN: Motion by**  
17                   **Mr. Thibodeau. Is there a second?**

18                   **MS. BEAULIEU: Second.**

19                   **MR. CHAIRMAN: Discussion?**

20                   **MRS. MACBETH: Yes. At the**  
21                   **Subcommittee meeting, I brought up that I would**  
22                   **like to see this go out to bid. Even though it**  
23                   **is a John Deere tractor and it looks great, it**

**24      may be the best price, I'd still like to go out**

**25      and get bids on this.**

**29**

**1                   MR. CHAIRMAN: I understand.**

**2      Mr. Hilton, what are we using as a rationale for**

**3      going out on this? It's a master price list**

**4      from?**

**5                   MR. HILTON: It's a Massachusetts**

**6      master price list which identifies Rhode Island**

**7      as a partner in their bidding. It is also under**

8 the municipal pricing of John Deere.

9 MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Rotella, is that

10 an accepted practice?

11 MR. ROTELLA: Yes, it is.

12 MR. CHAIRMAN: Any further

13 discussion? All in favor? Opposed?

14 MRS. MACBETH: Aye.

15 MR. CHAIRMAN: 4 to 1, it's

16 approved. In affirmation, Mr. Wood,

17 Mrs. Beaulieu, Mr. Thibodeau, and Mr. Wagner,

18 and Mrs. MacBeth voted against.

19 We already voted on that.

20 Discussion and/or Award of Digital

21      **Equipment and Software, and that was approved**

22      **through the Subcommittee by a vote of 3 to 0.**

23      **This is off the state bid list and this is with**

24      **the caveat that this is subject to -- actually**

25      **Dr. Morelle, if you could cover this?**

30

1              **MS. MORELLE: On Monday evening I**

2      **had a discussion with the CHS 2010 Building**

3      **Committee as to whether or not these items could**

4      **be covered under the FFNE line items for the**

5 high school building project. The Finance  
6 Director for the town did give us guidance that  
7 it would be appropriate and we did craft a  
8 resolution which we forwarded today.

9           However, in the event that that was  
10 not an acceptable option, or that the School  
11 Committee preferred, given the amount of the  
12 money and the fact that we have pretty much  
13 brought to closure the resolutions through the  
14 Town Council, to enact a vote tonight to approve  
15 this. We put this on the agenda ahead of time.  
16 So what you have in front of you this evening is  
17 the option to approve this purchase and you

18 could approve it contingent on a discussion with  
19 the Town Council and a decision from them as to  
20 whether or not they want to pass that  
21 resolution. I believe that is what the Finance  
22 Subcommittee did this evening. I don't have the  
23 exact wording of what the motion was but I think  
24 that was the intent behind it.

25 MR. CHAIRMAN: All right. So it

1 was brought forward with that understanding.

2       **What I would like to get is a motion to approve**  
3       **this based on whether or not -- or contingent**  
4       **upon what happens in the Property Subcommittee**  
5       **and then also going forward through the Town**  
6       **Council. Can I get a motion for that, please?**

7               **MS. BEAULIEU: So moved.**

8               **MR. THIBODEAU: Second.**

9               **MR. CHAIRMAN: Discussion?**

10              **MRS. MACBETH: That Earl, would it**  
11       **be the Property Subcommittee or would it be --**

12              **MR. WOOD: We seem to bypass**  
13       **Property Subcommittee.**

14              **MS. MORELLE: Mr. Wagner, the**

15       **Committee that I was referring to was the CHS**  
16       **2010 Building Committee.**

17               **MR. CHAIRMAN: I'm sorry, the CHS**  
18       **2010 Building Committee. We'd like to make that**  
19       **2010 Building Committee. Discussion?**

20               **MRS. BEAULIEU: Thank you,**  
21       **Mr. Chairman. It was my understanding that**  
22       **digital equipment and software was part of the**  
23       **FFNE for the art and music wing, and why -- I**  
24       **guess I wonder why it wasn't included in that.**

25               **MS. MORELLE: Originally the order**

1 was for a significantly higher amount of  
2 cameras. The business manager's advice was that  
3 we needed to review the process by which we  
4 identified a vendor, and also we asked the high  
5 school to reexamine the amount of cameras and  
6 which software they were going to purchase.

7 So the real issue tonight is we're  
8 at a crossroads with the opening of school and I  
9 just want to make sure that whatever action is  
10 taken tonight allows us to quickly purchase  
11 these materials so both the instructor has the

12 tools that he needs and students have materials  
13 they need for the course that they're taking.

14 MRS. BEAULIEU: But the  
15 understanding is that this will be part of the  
16 2010?

17 MS. MORELLE: We can go forward  
18 that way based on the guidance from the Finance  
19 Director, but, you know, that doesn't mean that  
20 the Town Council will approve the resolution.  
21 If they don't, I'd like to have an approval here  
22 so we could take it out of educational supplies  
23 and purchase the equipment. I guess that is the  
24 bottom line.

25

**MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes, Alex?**

33

1           **MR. PRIGNANO: We would take that**  
2           **out of the \$100,000 that we -- if we don't go**  
3           **through the FFNE group, the \$100,000 that the**  
4           **Committee recently designated for educational**  
5           **supplies from last year's budget that hasn't**  
6           **been spent. So it wouldn't affect our 2009**  
7           **budget.**

8           **MR. CHAIRMAN: Any further**

9 discussion? All in favor? Opposed? Hearing

10 none, motion passes 5 to 0.

11 I believe as far as the Finance

12 Subcommittee, that's pretty much the end of what

13 we had for discussion for the Committee.

14 Okay. Moving on. We have the

15 Consent Agenda and Item A under that would be

16 Approval -- so the first item would be approval

17 of the Open Session Minutes of 7/24/08.

18 MR. WOOD: So moved.

19 MRS. MACBETH: Second.

20 MR. ROTELLA: Mr. Chairman, I

21 believe that there is a typographical error with

22 regard to one of the names of an individual who  
23 was speaking in Public Comment. It is typed up  
24 as Bela. It should be Vela, V-E-L-A. And I  
25 would suggest that any approval be subject to

34

1 correction of the typographical error.

2 MR. WOOD: So motion to approve as  
3 amended.

4 MS. BEAULIEU: Second.

5 MR. CHAIRMAN: All in favor?

6      **Opposed? Hearing no opposition, it passes 5 to**  
7      **0.**

8                      **And the next item on here is**

9      **Personnel Recommendations. Dr. Morelle.**

10                      **MS. MORELLE: Just a point of**  
11      **clarification this evening with your personnel**  
12      **recommendations. You have Original Sheet, then**  
13      **you have Addendum One, you have Addendum Two**  
14      **which is actually the recalls, we'll handle**  
15      **that, and you have Addendum Three. So during**  
16      **personnel recommendations right now I will be**  
17      **taking the first sheet entitled simply Personnel**  
18      **Recommendations which begins with two**

19       resignations, and then if we could follow along  
20       next to Addendum 1 and then Addendum 3.

21               I'll begin with the resignations.

22       I request the advice and consent of the School  
23       Committee on the resignation of Sharon Chung,  
24       Technical Education Teacher at Joseph L.  
25       McCourt Middle School, effective August 31st,

35

1       2008.

2               MS. BEAULIEU: So moved.

3                   **MRS. MACBETH: Second.**

4                   **MR. CHAIRMAN: Discussion? All in**

5   **favor? Opposed? Hearing none, the motion**

6   **passes 5 to 0.**

7                   **MS. MORELLE: On the resignation of**

8   **David St. Jean, Technical Education Teacher at**

9   **Joseph L. McCourt Middle School, effective**

10   **August 31st, 2008.**

11                  **MS. BEAULIEU: So moved.**

12                  **MRS. MACBETH: Second.**

13                  **MR. CHAIRMAN: Discussion?**

14                  **MR. WOOD: Dr. Morelle, he wasn't**

15   **on the recall list and recalled back because of**

16 certification?

17 MS. MORELLE: That's correct.

18 There were a number of teachers including

19 Mr. St. Jean who were under review for

20 certification for a variety of positions, and

21 the reason he was not recalled was because he

22 was not eligible to receive certification in the

23 position that he wanted to teach in.

24 MR. CHAIRMAN: Anything else? All

25 in favor? Opposed? Hearing none, the motion

1 passes 5 to 0.

2 MS. MORELLE: On appointments,

3 we'll begin at North Cumberland Middle School, I

4 request the advice and consent of the School

5 Committee on the appointment of Malaina Borden,

6 .4 FTE Social Studies Teacher at North

7 Cumberland Middle School, effective August 26th,

8 2008.

9 MS. BEAULIEU: So moved.

10 MRS. MACBETH: Second.

11 MR. CHAIRMAN: Motion by

12 Mrs. Beaulieu, second by Mrs. MacBeth.

13 Discussion? All in favor? Opposed? Hearing

14 none, the motion passes 5 to 0.

15 MS. MORELLE: On the appointment of

16 Patricia Hanley-Almanzar, Reading Specialist,

17 North Cumberland Middle School, effective

18 August 26th, 2008, Step 2.

19 MRS. MACBETH: Motion.

20 MS. BEAULIEU: Second.

21 MR. CHAIRMAN: Discussion?

22 MR. WOOD: Mr. Chairman, why Step

23 2?

24 MS. MORELLE: Because she worked in

25 the district last year and she worked the

1 requisite number of days to earn Step 1 last  
2 year as a substitute for a long-term employee.

3 MR. CHAIRMAN: Anything else?

4 MR. WOOD: It's not here in her  
5 application.

6 MR. ROTELLA: Mr. Wood, my office  
7 oversees the substitutes.

8 MR. WOOD: It's just funny she  
9 didn't put in her teacher's application that she

10 worked in our district.

11 MS. MORELLE: She worked in this

12 position last year, actually.

13 MR. CHAIRMAN: Anything further,

14 Mr. Wood? Anyone else? All in favor? Opposed?

15 Hearing none, motion passes 5 to 0.

16 MS. MORELLE: At Cumberland High

17 School I request the advice and consent on the

18 appointment of Stephanie DaSilva, Social Studies

19 Teacher, Cumberland High School, effective

20 August 26th, 2008, Step 1.

21 MS. BEAULIEU: So moved.

22 MR. CHAIRMAN: I'll second it.

**23 Discussion? Mrs. MacBeth?**

**24 MRS. MACBETH: Thank you. At the**

**25 last School Committee meeting, when we brought**

**38**

**1 back the Social Studies teacher, I had asked the**

**2 question does that we mean we have one more**

**3 Social Studies teacher left to hire and I was**

**4 told no, we had -- I remember getting calls that**

**5 there are either two part-time or 2.4 positions**

**6 left.**

7                   **So when I did see this on the**

8       **recommendations, I did talk to Dr. Morelle, we**

9       **did talk today, and she said that that was an**

10       **error, that she had found out very quickly and**

11       **it was a mistake. She said this is a full-time**

12       **position at the high school. I then went on to**

13       **ask how -- what the procedure was and who had**

14       **done the interview with us and I wanted some**

15       **details there because I was made aware that we**

16       **had qualified candidates, one in particular that**

17       **had done long-term subbing in the Social Studies**

18       **that wasn't granted even an interview, and not**

19       **as the School Committee we micromanage that way,**

20 but I wanted to find out what the protocol was,  
21 and unfortunately we still have to wait for  
22 those details. So I feel very uncomfortable  
23 moving forward with this. Not the candidate  
24 herself, just the position.

25 MS. MORELLE: I'd just like to ask

39

1 you to qualify your statement because it made it  
2 sound as if this was not a qualified candidate.

3 MRS. MACBETH: No, it's not the

4 candidate, it's the process that was followed  
5 that I'm still -- that I still have questions  
6 on.

7 MS. MORELLE: If you want to take  
8 time during discussion, Mrs. Gould will be happy  
9 to clarify the process. Would you mind stepping  
10 to the mic and just explain the application  
11 review process and the interview process that  
12 you used in the Social Studies department?

13 MS. GOULD: When we had the  
14 position there were -- it had been advertised  
15 earlier in the summer, and there were a number  
16 of -- there were a lot of applications in the

17 personnel office. We reviewed the  
18 administration, myself and the assistant  
19 principals went through all the applications and  
20 we culled out people who were certified and felt  
21 was appropriate for the job, working with a  
22 person in the Social Studies Department, Kelly  
23 DeMarco. We reviewed the applications and chose  
24 a number to call in and we interviewed this  
25 summer. At each interview was a representative

1 of the Social Studies Department, myself, and  
2 either Mr. Keller who was a former Social  
3 Studies teacher or Mrs. Vinelli who is another  
4 assistant principal.

5 After that, after the Committee  
6 came down to the ones that they felt were the  
7 most appropriate, we called references, several  
8 references on each candidate and after we had  
9 that information put forward, I put forward  
10 actually two recommendations to Dr. Morelle, and  
11 she interviewed them and recommended for  
12 approval of the recommendations.

13 MRS. MACBETH: Can I ask a

14        **qualifying question or a question about that?**

15        **So the initial process was you and the assistant**

16        **principals going through the applications and**

17        **then it went to the Social Studies or was**

18        **somebody from the Social Studies an initial part**

19        **of going through these applications?**

20                **MS. GOULD: I would say that we**

21        **initially went through the applications but we**

22        **mostly pulled out applications that were**

23        **actually valid applications --**

24                **MS. MACBETH: We meaning who?**

25                **MS. GOULD: The administrators,**

1 pulled out the applications that were valid  
2 applications. In other words, they had the  
3 right certification, they had the -- the right  
4 certification for Rhode Island and they were  
5 people we would like to look at and we also had  
6 the -- then the Social Studies person also went  
7 through the applications.

8 MS. MORELLE: So what I'm hearing  
9 you say is that at the administrative screening  
10 level you were doing more of a technical review

11 of the application so that you skim them down to  
12 a smaller number and then the Social Studies or  
13 the Content Area Specialist worked with you to  
14 identify the qualifications of the candidate. I  
15 don't want to put words in your mouth.

16 MS. GOULD: No, that's right. I  
17 thought that's what I said. So that is what  
18 happened.

19 MRS. MACBETH: So the initial round  
20 of the administration going through, you left  
21 everybody in there that was certified and  
22 qualified, and then you went through with a  
23 Social Studies Teacher?

24 MS. GOULD: Yes, and we offered it

25 -- at some point we said, you know, if there is

42

1 not a person -- because there could have been

2 somebody that was certified in Connecticut and

3 we wouldn't have put them through on the first

4 review. We had a short time and we wanted to

5 hire somebody that was certified here already.

6 But we also offered certainly to the Social

7 Studies person, you can go through the rest of

8 the resumes, they were welcome to do that and  
9 open to that.

10 MRS. MACBETH: So all qualified  
11 candidates were pushed forward for review with  
12 somebody from the Social Studies Department?

13 MS. GOULD: Yes.

14 MS. MORELLE: Thank you,  
15 Mrs. Gould.

16 MR. CHAIRMAN: Any further  
17 discussion? All in favor? Opposed? Hearing  
18 none, motion passes 5 to 0.

19 MS. MORELLE: On the appointment of  
20 Terri Hebert, Girls Assistant Field Hockey

**21 Coach, Cumberland High School, effective**

**22 August 26th, 2008.**

**23 MR. WOOD: So moved.**

**24 MRS. MACBETH: Seconded.**

**25 MR. CHAIRMAN: Discussion? All in**

**43**

**1 favor? Opposed? Hearing none, the motion**

**2 passes 5 to 0.**

**3 MS. MORELLE: At B.F. Norton**

**4 School, I requested advice and consent of the**

5      **School Committee on the appointment of Brenda**  
6      **Moscarelli, Grade 1, ELL Teacher, B.F. Norton**  
7      **School, effective August 26th, 2008. The**  
8      **position is Step 3.**

9                      **MS. BEAULIEU: So moved.**

10                     **MR. WOOD: Second.**

11                     **MR. CHAIRMAN: Discussion? All in**  
12      **favor? Opposed? Hearing none, the motion**  
13      **passes 5 to 0.**

14                     **MS. MORELLE: I request the advice**  
15      **and consent of the School Committee on the**  
16      **appointment of Monique Swiszczy, K-8 Mathematics**  
17      **Coordinator, Systemwide, effective August 26th,**

18 2008.

19 MS. BEAULIEU: So moved.

20 MR. WOOD: Second.

21 MR. CHAIRMAN: Discussion?

22 MR. WOOD: Ms. Swiszczy will do a

23 great job in this position, I wish her the best

24 of luck in this new position. This is her

25 second year so you will be well off with her

44

1 expertise in this position.



15 a classroom teacher, what is the process through  
16 which we will find a new --

17 MS. MORELLE: We already have made  
18 that transition and at the beginning of the  
19 school year her classroom was already assigned  
20 to another classroom, and we have already had  
21 some discussions about this transition. So if  
22 this fails this evening obviously we would  
23 change our direction.

24 MR. CHAIRMAN: Anyone else? All in  
25 favor? Opposed? Motion passes 5 to 0.

1 (Applause)

2 MS. MORELLE: Perhaps we could just  
3 take a minute, if there's anybody here in the  
4 audience who was recently appointed before we go  
5 onto the next page, because there are a  
6 substantial number of appointments this evening,  
7 would you like to stand and receive the  
8 congratulations of the Committee.

9 Anyone else besides Monique here?

10 (Applause)

11 MS. MORELLE: Moving onto Addendum

12       **Number 1, at North Cumberland Middle School, I**  
13       **request the advice and consent of the School**  
14       **Committee on the appointment of Bonnie-Lynn**  
15       **Drezek, Teacher Assistant, North Cumberland**  
16       **Middle School, effective August 26th, 2008.**

17               **MR. WOOD: So moved.**

18               **MS. BEAULIEU: Second.**

19               **MR. CHAIRMAN: Discussion? All in**  
20       **favor? Opposed? Hearing none, the motion**  
21       **passes 5 to 0.**

22               **MS. MORELLE: On the appointment of**  
23       **Justine Rivet, Teacher Assistant, North**  
24       **Cumberland Middle School, effective August 26th,**

**25 2008.**

**46**

**1 MS. BEAULIEU: So moved.**

**2 MRS. MACBETH: Second.**

**3 MR. CHAIRMAN: Discussion? All in**

**4 favor? Opposed? Motion passes 5 to 0.**

**5 MS. MORELLE: On the appointment of**

**6 Manuela Silva, 1:1 Teacher Assistant at North**

**7 Cumberland Middle School effective August 26,**

**8 2008.**



22 a repeat here?

23 MS. MORELLE: Did I just say that

24 one twice?

25 MR. CHAIRMAN: Has she been here

47

1 before?

2 MS. MORELLE: Oh, actually she has

3 worked in the district as a substitute before

4 but has never been appointed. So we're very

5 excited to appoint her this evening.

6 **MR. CHAIRMAN: All those in favor?**

7 **Opposed? Motion passes 5 to 0.**

8 **MS. MORELLE: Mr. Wagner, I said**

9 **the exact same thing when I saw her name on the**

10 **list of recommendations.**

11 **At Joseph L. McCourt Middle School,**

12 **I request the advice and consent of the School**

13 **Committee on the appointment of Jessica Braga,**

14 **English Language Learner Teacher Assistant at**

15 **Joseph L. McCourt Middle School, effective**

16 **August 26th, 2008.**

17 **MR. WOOD: So moved.**

18 **MS. BEAULIEU: Second.**



3 favor? Opposed? Motion passes 5 to 0.

4 MS. MORELLE: At Ashton School on

5 the appointment of Kristine Bulis, Teacher

6 Assistant, Ashton School, effective August 26th,

7 2008.

8 MR. WOOD: So moved.

9 MS. BEAULIEU: Second.

10 MR. CHAIRMAN: Discussion? All in

11 favor? Opposed? Motion passes, 5 to 0.

12 MS. MORELLE: On the appointment of

13 Jennifer Hunt, Kindergarten Teacher Assistant,

14 Ashton School, effective August 26th, 2008.

15 MR. WOOD: So moved.

**16 MS. BEAULIEU: Second.**

**17 MR. CHAIRMAN: Discussion? All in**

**18 favor? Opposed? Motion passes 5 to 0.**

**19 MS. MORELLE: On the appointment of**

**20 Stephanie Jackvony, Teacher Assistant, B.F.**

**21 Norton School, effective August 26th, 2008.**

**22 MS. BEAULIEU: So moved.**

**23 MRS. MACBETH: Second.**

**24 MR. CHAIRMAN: Discussion? All in**

**25 favor? Opposed? Hearing none, the motion**

1 passes 5 to 0.

2 MS. MORELLE: If you're in the

3 audience and you would like to stand for

4 recognition, if you were just appointed, please.

5 I see some of you back there.

6 (Applause)

7 MS. MORELLE: On Addendum Number 3,

8 at B.F. Norton School, I request the advice and

9 consent of the School Committee on the

10 appointment of Amy Battisti, Guidance Counselor,

11 B.F. Norton Schools, effective September 15th,

12 2008. That is Step 10.

**13 MS. BEAULIEU: So moved.**

**14 MR. THIBODEAU: Second.**

**15 MR. CHAIRMAN: Discussion?**

**16 MR. WOOD: Mr. Chairman, I**

**17 understand, again my concerns would be the step,**

**18 the step where we budgeted hiring this year with**

**19 our budget and I'm just hoping we're going to**

**20 need a budget reconciliation, and I'm hoping we**

**21 get that at the next meeting so we can see where**

**22 our budget is.**

**23 Also, is this going to fill all our**

**24 guidance counselors for the district?**

**25 MS. MORELLE: Actually we still**

1 have an advertisement for a position at the high  
2 school, which position is the Guidance  
3 Department Head. That advertisement has run at  
4 least in one paper on a -- at least one Sunday  
5 paper, and we'll be checking tomorrow with the  
6 High School Administration to see if they  
7 believe the ad should run again on Sunday. We  
8 need to fill that position.

9 MR. WOOD: Shouldn't we be filling

10 the high school before -- not to say one should  
11 take precedent over the other, but because the  
12 high school students and they're moving on,  
13 shouldn't we look to fill that position first  
14 before we fill the elementary position?

15 MS. MORELLE: I would absolutely  
16 agree with you but I can't force a candidate  
17 into a particular position. So in this instance  
18 the candidate was interested in an elementary  
19 position, even though she has middle school and  
20 high school experience. She's coming now from  
21 an elementary setting, returning to the  
22 district.

23                   **MS. BEAULIEU:** You stated that we  
24                   were still in search of a department chair for  
25                   the Guidance Department. Does that include the

51

1                   responsibilities of a guidance counselor in  
2                   addition to the department chair?

3                   **MS. MORELLE:** There is some  
4                   caseload management, yes.

5                   **MR. CHAIRMAN:** Anyone else? All in  
6                   favor? Opposed?

7                   **MR. WOOD: No.**

8                   **MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Wood in**

9                   **opposition, the vote is 4 to 1 to approve.**

10                  **MS. MORELLE: On the appointment of**

11                  **Dina Fleury, ELL Teacher Assistant, B.F. Norton**

12                  **School, effective August 26th, 2008.**

13                  **MS. BEAULIEU: So moved.**

14                  **MRS. MACBETH: Second.**

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

16                  **those in favor? Opposed? Hearing none, the**

17                  **motion passes 5 to 0.**

18                  **MS. MORELLE: I'd like to go back**

19                  **one moment and indicate that that is with a**

20       **Master's. I don't believe I read that aloud and**  
21       **I wanted to make sure that is in the record.**

22               **MR. CHAIRMAN: So it's an FTE 1,**  
23       **Step 10, Lane Masters, 11 percent budget.**

24               **MS. MORELLE: At Joseph L. McCourt**  
25       **Middle School, I request the advice and consent**

52

1       **of the School Committee on the appointment of**  
2       **Darlene Young, Teacher Assistant, Joseph L.**  
3       **McCourt Middle School, effective August 26th,**

4 2008.

5 MR. WOOD: So moved.

6 MS. BEAULIEU: Second.

7 MR. CHAIRMAN: Discussion? I

8 actually would like -- Darlene Young, she will

9 make an absolutely wonderful addition. She does

10 a wonderful job with children and she has a very

11 nice hand and knows what she's doing so I think

12 she'll do a wonderful job.

13 So anyway, anybody else? All in

14 favor? Opposed? Motion carries 5 to 0.

15 MS. MORELLE: On the appointment of

16 Erin Mahan, .5 FTE Reading Specialist at Joseph

17 L. McCourt Middle School, effective August 26th,  
18 2008. That position is at Step 9 and there is a  
19 bachelor's plus 30 advanced lane.

20 MS. BEAULIEU: So moved.

21 MR. THIBODEAU: Second.

22 MR. CHAIRMAN: Discussion?

23 MR. WOOD: Last year we had the  
24 Reading Specialist that was there was put on the  
25 recall list. How come she was not recalled back

1 for this position?

2 MS. MORELLE: She is being recalled  
3 this evening to a full-time position and she has  
4 been assigned to Garvin School. There was not a  
5 full-time position at McCourt Middle School for  
6 her to be assigned to. The candidate that we  
7 are hiring for this half-time position has  
8 experience in other positions previously and  
9 would be therefore coming into the district at a  
10 higher step because of the public school  
11 experience, at half of the dollar value of the  
12 step.

13 MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Wood, anything

14 else?

15 MR. WOOD: Again, it is not going

16 to be reflected in the our budget, it's Step 3.

17 MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Anyone

18 else? All in favor? Opposed?

19 MR. WOOD: No.

20 MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Wood is a no.

21 Motion passes 4 to 1.

22 MS. MORELLE: On the last

23 appointment this evening, North Cumberland

24 Middle School, I'm proud to request the advice

25 and consent of the School Committee on the

1      **appointment of Jason Masterson, Assistant**  
2      **Principal, North Cumberland Middle School, and**  
3      **that would be effective September 1st, 2008.**

4                    **MR. THIBODEAU: So moved.**

5                    **MRS. MACBETH: Second.**

6                    **MR. CHAIRMAN: Discussion? All in**  
7      **favor? Opposed? Hearing none. The motion**  
8      **passes 5 to 0.**

9                    **MS. MORELLE: Jason,**  
10     **congratulations. I know you're here with your**

11 family.

12 (Applause)

13 MS. MORELLE: I know we have some

14 other folks in the audience that were just

15 appointed. If you would stand for recognition,

16 we'd appreciate it. Congratulations also.

17 (Applause)

18 MS. MORELLE: Thank you for the

19 support of the career development of our current

20 employees, on both Jason's appointment this

21 evening. I think it is a wonderful time in the

22 district when we're able to promote from within,

23 and our school administrators' knowledge of the

**24 school system is going to be beneficial to the**  
**25 students and the families; and I also want to**

**55**

**1 thank those people who served on the Screening**  
**2 Committee. I know some of them are here in the**  
**3 audience this evening, and we can't do work like**  
**4 this without input from parents and support**  
**5 staff and faculty and administrators. We value**  
**6 your insight and opinion and we now that you'll**  
**7 work to support both of our new administrators**

8 at North Cumberland Middle School. Thank you.

9 (Applause)

10 MR. CHAIRMAN: All right. Old

11 Business.

12 Building Committee update,

13 Mr. Wood.

14 MR. WOOD: I'm going to refer this

15 to Dr. Morelle.

16 MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Wood, you missed

17 a meeting?

18 MR. WOOD: Yes, I did.

19 MR. CHAIRMAN: Is that the first

20 time?

**21 MR. WOOD: No.**

**22 MR. CHAIRMAN: Dr. Morelle?**

**23 MS. MORELLE: It is possible that**

**24 the meeting on Monday was the last meeting of**

**25 the CHS 2010 Building Committee. The Committee**

**56**

**1 met to review final invoices and to review the**

**2 last FFNE items to talk about the progress of**

**3 the project, the opening of school, and what**

**4 that was going to be like with the Science Wing**

5 completed, and to get updates about the  
6 technology from Mr. Legacy, and at this point  
7 our next steps are the preparation for the  
8 rededication.

9 The School Department's been  
10 working with some members of the Building  
11 Committee as well as members of the community.

12 So I would take this opportunity to ask you to  
13 put September 27th and September 28th on your  
14 calenders. At noontime on Saturday  
15 September 27th there will be a rededication  
16 ceremony here at the auditorium at the high  
17 school where we have invited community officials

18 and other state dignitaries to help us celebrate  
19 what I thought was a wonderful explanation that  
20 Phil Marcello gave in the Providence Journal, "A  
21 scholastic showplace," and that ceremony will be  
22 an official opportunity to rededicate the  
23 Cumberland High School campus. And then beyond  
24 that we will be going as a Building Committee to  
25 the Town Council at a future date in October to

1 bring a resolution forward that will actually

2 dissolve the Building Committee. So we may have  
3 to take this item off the agenda, Mr. Wood.

4 MR. WOOD: 3.5 will not be again  
5 until the 10th of September, and we'll probably  
6 be closing that one out by the end of the year  
7 also.

8 MR. CHAIRMAN: That's really great.

9 Recalls?

10 MS. MORELLE: Okay. Thank you.

11 I recommend that the action taken  
12 by the School Committee on February 14th, 2008,  
13 not to review the employment of the following  
14 for the 2008/2009 school year be rescinded:

15                    **Bonnielynn Deblois recalled to the**  
16                    **position of .6 FTE Media Specialist, Systemwide,**  
17                    **and each of these is effective August 26th,**  
18                    **2008.**

19                    **Keith Colwell, recalled to the**  
20                    **position of Technical Education Teacher, North**  
21                    **Cumberland Middle School. Keith's recall is**  
22                    **contingent on the Department of Education**  
23                    **issuing his certification, but we do know he is**  
24                    **certified.**

25                    **Bobbie Wallick recalled to the**

1 position of .6 FTE Speech Language Teacher,  
2 Cumberland High School.

3 Alison Laplume recalled to the  
4 position of .6 FTE Art Teacher, Systemwide.

5 Lorre Lang recalled to the position  
6 of Grade 5 Teacher, John J. McLaughlin  
7 Cumberland Hill Elementary School.

8 Mark Souza recalled to the position  
9 of .5 FTE Music Teacher, Systemwide.

10 Leah Hogan recalled to the position  
11 of Physical Education Teacher.

12                   **Kimberly Viola recalled to the**  
13                   **position of .4 FTE English Teacher, North**  
14                   **Cumberland Middle School.**

15                   **And Kerri Reilly recalled to the**  
16                   **position of Reading specialist at Garvin School.**

17                   **MRS. MACBETH: Motion to approve.**

18                   **MS. BEAULIEU: Second.**

19                   **MR. CHAIRMAN: Discussion?**

20                   **MR. WOOD: Under Leah Hogan, it**  
21                   **says recalled to position, it says to CTA Job**  
22                   **Pool.**

23                   **MS. MORELLE: It should be to the**  
24                   **position. We did hold a mini job pool with**

25      **these positions, and Ms. Hogan was the last**

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1      **individual who would be eligible for this**  
2      **particular position, and that is why she is**  
3      **being recalled. We're not sure that she will in**  
4      **fact end up taking it.**

5              **MR. WOOD: So should it be**  
6      **systemwide?**

7              **MS. MORELLE: Systemwide, that's**  
8      **correct. All of the itinerary teachers are**

9 assigned Systemwide and then -- or hired  
10 Systemwide and then given assignments at the  
11 local sites. Thank you.

12 MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Wood, anything  
13 else?

14 MR. WOOD: No.

15 MR. CHAIRMAN: Anyone else? All in  
16 favor? Opposed? Hearing none, the motion  
17 passes 5 to 0.

18 MS. MORELLE: I know some of you  
19 are in the audience, so please, welcome back to  
20 your positions. We're happy to have you back  
21 this evening.

**22 MR. CHAIRMAN: That takes care of**

**23 Recalls, I believe we are now on to New**

**24 Business. Home School Instruction Requests,**

**25 2008/2009 School Year.**

**60**

**1 MS. CARNEY: We have just one**

**2 request this evening and I recommend that you**

**3 approve.**

**4 MR. THIBODEAU: So moved.**

**5 MS. BEAULIEU: Second.**

6                   **MR. CHAIRMAN: Discussion?**

7                   **MS. BEAULIEU: Dr. Carney, I think**

8                   **we had more than one, we had an addendum that**

9                   **came in the second packet and in the first**

10                  **packet there were -- I have a copy of that if**

11                  **you would like to see it.**

12                  **MS. CARNEY: Thank you very much,**

13                  **Mrs. Beaulieu. Yes, we do and that's right, on**

14                  **August 21st I also indicated that we had**

15                  **renewals of five youngsters and one new request.**

16                  **I have reviewed all of the**

17                  **curriculum that has been referenced and I also**

18                  **recommend that you approve this, this list.**

19                   **MR. CHAIRMAN:** It sounds like we  
20                   need to take back the original motion?

21                   **MR. THIBODEAU:** I will.

22                   **MS. BEAULIEU:** I'd like to make a  
23                   motion to approve the six renewals and one new  
24                   request. And I'll withdraw my second.

25                   **MR. THIBODEAU:** Second.

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1                   **MR. CHAIRMAN:** Discussion? All in  
2                   favor? Opposed? Hearing no opposition, motion

3 passes 5 to 0.

4 Opening of School for the 2008/2009

5 School Year. Dr. Morelle?

6 MS. MORELLE: I'll start with

7 Transportation. We have some wonderful people

8 working with us throughout the district, and one

9 of the group of people is the employees and

10 staff at Durum School Services. They have

11 worked very hard to respond to the bus issue,

12 the bus routes and bus needs that we have across

13 the district, and they do that in cooperation

14 with Mr. Geiselman who is our transportation

15 liaison, and we opened school successfully

**16 yesterday, today was the second day of school.**

**17 That does not mean that we do not have**

**18 individual instances of transportation concerns**

**19 throughout the district. That typically what we**

**20 spend the first week or two of school**

**21 addressing, in order to iron out the routes,**

**22 make sure that stops are exactly where they**

**23 should be, and Mr. Geiselman has been quite**

**24 faithful in following up with any phone calls or**

**25 e-mails that he has received. So if there is**

1 anyone in the audience that has a concern, I  
2 would ask that you direct it to him so he has  
3 the opportunity to review it.

4 One of our major issues this year  
5 is the traffic pattern at Cumberland High  
6 School, and I want to applaud the administration  
7 at the high school for working in concert with  
8 the Cumberland Police Department and our  
9 Buildings and Grounds Department to review the  
10 traffic pattern and come up with something that  
11 would be amenable to the needs of the high  
12 school in terms of supervising students, as well

13 as the safety of the students, and the means of  
14 the town. Actually, we've been pleased to have  
15 Chief DeMaris here in the morning, we've had  
16 Captain Coyne and the resource officer reviewing  
17 the traffic patterns, they're very pleased it  
18 with it right now. We're bringing both buses  
19 and car traffic, vehicular traffic into the back  
20 of the school to our new main entrance this  
21 morning, and they've designed a bus route that  
22 brings the students, once they get dropped off,  
23 the buses come out by the Transitional Building,  
24 the cars move around and use what is known as  
25 the West Driveway. So they're going to monitor

1 that for about the first month of school.

2 If any School Committee members are  
3 aware of any individual transportation concerns,  
4 because I know that oftentimes you will be the  
5 first to hear from a constituent, you're out in  
6 the public, I would either ask you to direct the  
7 parent to Mr. Geiselman or to send an e-mail  
8 directly to him with the information and then I  
9 know that he will follow up.

10                   **The second issue that I would bring**  
11           **up is facilities. We have three facilities that**  
12           **are just coming closed with construction**  
13           **projects. I'm happy to say that we've received**  
14           **a Certificate of Occupancy for Cumberland Hill**  
15           **School, and that was a big sigh, and school**  
16           **started successfully throughout the district**  
17           **where our new projects were completed.**

18                   **It's been delightful here at the**  
19           **high school. Although in all honesty, you know,**  
20           **we have a huge facility here now to understand**  
21           **and to deal with. And I know that, again the**  
22           **high school administration and faculty have been**

**23 very generous and patient, and we're dealing**  
**24 primarily with health and safety issues right**  
**25 now, and then we'll go back around and look at**

**64**

**1 any other of the small issues that might have**  
**2 accumulated that we weren't able to address**  
**3 before the opening of school. Mr. Hilton is**  
**4 planning on using September 9th, which is the**  
**5 day of the primary, to address particular**  
**6 projects like that, and also hoping to use**

7 September 9th for some possible professional  
8 development training with the custodial staff.

9 So I do not want to be remiss, I  
10 want to thank everyone on the facility staff who  
11 did an incredible job. The buildings are just  
12 spotless. We've been everywhere, we've all been  
13 out in schools, walking through schools, and  
14 everyone we come across we know has put in that  
15 extra time and effort to really have a wonderful  
16 opening for school with regard to how the  
17 schools look and you can tell there's a lot of  
18 school pride. I'm very pleased about that and I  
19 do want to say thank you to everyone. I know

**20 Cathy's in the audience, and I hope that perhaps**  
**21 we can find a way to meet with the custodial**  
**22 staff together and convey that message to them.**  
**23 I think that would be important, they've worked**  
**24 really hard.**

**25 I think I'm going to hold onto**

**65**

**1 enrollment until the last issue because there's**  
**2 a little quirk with the enrollment that we're**  
**3 dealing with. I'll take staffing next.**

**4                    The staffing, as you can see**

**5    tonight, we've appointed quite a number of**

**6    people to fill positions. We were pretty close**

**7    to 100 percent staffed across the district and**

**8    where we had some last minute issues where**

**9    someone may have not been able to return to the**

**10   that position, the personnel department did a**

**11   wonderful job filling in with substitutes, and**

**12   the only position that I'm aware of right now**

**13   that is not filled with a full-time employee is**

**14   the tech ed position at McCourt Middle School.**

**15   They're still interviewing, and that guidance**

**16   department opening that we mentioned already.**

**17      And if you know of any candidate that would be**  
**18      interested in any of those positions, please**  
**19      point them in our direction. All they have to**  
**20      do is e-mail or fax us resumes and we're looking**  
**21      to interview and fill those positions as which**  
**22      quickly as possible. Not only because of**  
**23      learning needs but also because of the fact that**  
**24      when someone is not in that position,**  
**25      responsibility falls onto other people.**

**1                    The last item I want to talk about**

**2        is enrollment and I asked Margaret Thicket if**

**3        she would give us an update on the numbers as**

**4        close to today as possible. It is an**

**5        interesting picture of the district right now.**

**6        What she was able to show me were the numbers**

**7        from October 1st of last year, 2007, and the**

**8        same enrollment numbers for each of the schools**

**9        on the last day of school, which oftentimes, you**

**10       know, is a particular kind of trend because you**

**11       have mobility in the district, and then the**

**12       numbers as of the first day of school. So**

**13       basically that will be students that have**

14 enrolled.

15 The reason that we take October 1st

16 numbers is they're found to be truer numbers.

17 Sometimes students don't show and by October 1st

18 the numbers would have settled down. Whether or

19 not these numbers are going to hold or not is

20 not to be known at this point, but the most

21 outstanding change in the district is at

22 Cumberland High School.

23 On October 1st of 2007 the

24 enrollment was 1,591 students. On the last day

25 of school at Cumberland High School there was

1 1,492 students, so the enrollment had changed by  
2 100 students over the course of the year. The  
3 number of enrolled students at Cumberland High  
4 School for this year is 1,620. And we're  
5 working now to figure out whether or not that  
6 number is going to be a true number and how it  
7 will impact scheduling. I have been meeting  
8 with the high school principal and talking to  
9 her about that. She's working with Guidance in  
10 a couple of areas. They know that there is

11 going to be issues with overages and we need to  
12 address that, and I asked her to do her due  
13 diligence to see what kind of impact that will  
14 have on the schedule. In many instances these  
15 students are still walking in and enrolling just  
16 in the past few days.

17 For example, I was walking across  
18 campus this morning and there was a 9th grade  
19 young woman sitting there with her mother, and  
20 as I approached them to talk with them, they  
21 were just making the decision today to come back  
22 to public school from a nonpublic setting. So  
23 we really need to watch these numbers, and I

**24 don't know whether it is the economy or the high**  
**25 school being a School of Choice now or a**

**68**

**1 combination, but it's definitely a trend that**  
**2 has been occurring during the last two or**  
**3 three weeks. We have 17 new seniors enrolled**  
**4 which is not a typical trend, and I wanted to**  
**5 make you aware of that, and if necessary, I will**  
**6 have to make some adjustments with staffing but**  
**7 we're not at that point yet.**

8                   **MRS. MACBETH:** That last number  
9           that you gave, those are numbers of bodies that  
10          have come?

11                   **MS. MORELLE:** Those are numbers of  
12          students who were enrolled to come, they were  
13          registered in the system, they went through the  
14          Enrollment Center. They either came, rolled up  
15          from North Cumberland Middle School and McCourt  
16          Middle School plus new registrations, and it's  
17          obviously much higher than we were anticipating.  
18          So we'll know over the next few days as  
19          attendance fluctuates how many of those students  
20          actually walk through the door and stay here.

**21 MRS. MACBETH: One of the things**  
**22 that it may be, it may not be, but I know that**  
**23 parents of children that go to other schools,**  
**24 private schools, received letters and**  
**25 information of where their children were**

**69**

**1 supposed to go and attend, even though they're**  
**2 not attending here. So that may be one of the**  
**3 things that is driving the numbers, especially**  
**4 from the middle school to the high school.**

5                   **MS. MORELLE: We'll monitor the**  
6                   **attendance. I will keep you posted.**

7                   **MR. CHAIRMAN: All set,**  
8                   **Dr. Morelle?**

9                   **MS. MORELLE: I'd be happy to**  
10                  **answer any questions you have about the opening**  
11                  **of school but I think that that pretty well**  
12                  **characterizes it. Although, probably the best**  
13                  **way to characterize school is the fact that**  
14                  **we've been out at schools, even 10 or 15 minutes**  
15                  **after the opening of the day, and the**  
16                  **attentiveness to instruction has been**  
17                  **remarkable.**

18                   **Dr. Carney, do you want to comment**  
19                   **on that? I know you were at different schools.**

20                   **MS. CARNEY: Well, actually**  
21                   **yesterday I went to four different schools. It**  
22                   **was the first time in my career that I have ever**  
23                   **had an opportunity to see students that were**  
24                   **coming for the first full day of school, and I**  
25                   **was at Cumberland Hill. I have never seen a**

70

1                   **better organized welcoming for all those**

2 youngsters. They had professional staff members  
3 assigned to each bus, they brought them off the  
4 youngest, the next to youngest, so it was very  
5 systematic. The parents who could also were in  
6 attendance with them. And when you're used to  
7 greeting teenagers getting off of buses and you  
8 see something like that, you really, really  
9 appreciate. All I could think of, for those  
10 very young students, the growth that must be so  
11 evident from the beginning of the year to the  
12 end of the year, and it is probably astounding.  
13 I can't say enough.

14 Dr. Morelle is absolutely right. I

15 started there so I saw them disembark off the  
16 buses and head off to their classrooms. But  
17 then I went to Ashton and Garvin, and very early  
18 on in the morning it was quiet, everyone was  
19 pleasantly in place, and do you know I didn't  
20 see one student crying which, you know, having  
21 been one that did cry I thought to myself, that  
22 is unusual. Really, I can't say enough about  
23 the staff here in Cumberland, and obviously the  
24 time and effort they put in. The teachers, the  
25 teacher's assistants, the building

1 administration, the paraprofessionals, everybody  
2 is to be commended for the time and effort they  
3 put in, because the school opening doesn't  
4 happen by accident. It happens by good solid  
5 planning and so everybody deserves a long  
6 weekend. So I was very pleased, and we're going  
7 to continue next week. I haven't been to the  
8 secondary schools yet so I'm going to make my  
9 travels there next week. Thanks.

10 MR. CHAIRMAN: Actually, I remember  
11 the best day of the school year was always the

12 first day over at Garvin. I can't tell you how  
13 many of those I went through. It was always  
14 just so much fun because the kids couldn't wait,  
15 the night before, I wonder who I'm going to  
16 have, and they'd argue with each other about  
17 which teacher they're going to get, and if they  
18 got the one they wanted it was a celebration.  
19 They'd have to change lines and talk to each  
20 other, and it was just a wonderful experience.  
21 I do miss that, that was fun.

22                   Anyway, so that's the

23 Superintendent's Report. Do we have the Report  
24 on Teaching and Learning coming up next?

**1 at your place this evening, I provided for you**  
**2 an overview of the nature themes that, I felt**  
**3 that would be helpful for us to start talking**  
**4 about so that you could have a sense of**  
**5 direction, the district is working for**  
**6 improvements. I find public comments so**  
**7 difficult because when both of these speakers**  
**8 got up tonight, it would have been opportunity**

9 for me to be able to, or Committee members to be  
10 able to respond to both the issue about personal  
11 interactions around textbooks and I don't know  
12 if that parent is still here but I do have her  
13 name, and to be able to talk about what the  
14 individual circumstances might be.

15 But more so than that, the issue  
16 about understanding school classifications and I  
17 think that that would be an appropriate future  
18 School Committee topic because there -- it is  
19 such a complex issue and it is something that we  
20 really need to all understand how we can work  
21 together and what the district is doing and what

**22 it does mean and what it doesn't mean.**

**23 With regard to the opening of**

**24 school this year, one of the things that I wrote**

**25 to you about was how technology is really one of**

**73**

**1 the benchmarks, and access to technology is**

**2 really one of the benchmarks for the opening of**

**3 school this year. I thought, you know, change**

**4 really does happen. It may take a long time and**

**5 improvements may happen incrementally to the**

6 degree sometimes that we don't notice them, and  
7 then all of a sudden you have improvements  
8 everywhere.

9 I think the high school is a good  
10 example of that. I think technology is probably  
11 one of the best examples of that. At the  
12 opening-day welcome-back assembly I mentioned  
13 technology in my remarks to the faculty and said  
14 to them, you know, you finally have technology  
15 in the district. You've been patiently waiting  
16 for an opportunity to use technology as an  
17 instructional tool, and that's one of the ways  
18 that students have been shortchanged in this

**19 district. You can't say much more than that**  
**20 because it doesn't really matter any more what**  
**21 the reason was. It is a fact that students are**  
**22 have been shortchanged but they aren't any**  
**23 longer, and that's the good news.**

**24 Going into this school year we all**  
**25 have an opportunity now to use the digital tools**

**74**

**1 available to use to make instruction in the**  
**2 classroom different, and ever teacher that we**

3 employ now has the responsibility to use those  
4 digital tools to differentiate instruction, to  
5 enrich instruction, and that's what we'll be  
6 working on this year. So the story has changed.

7           And we also opened the school year  
8 at the elementary level with the second edition  
9 of the Math Investigations material. It is a  
10 benchmark that you appointed a K-8 mathematics  
11 coordinator this evening because Monique will  
12 now be working to support teachers in the  
13 implementation of the second edition of the Math  
14 Investigations. There's a lot of good  
15 information, concrete technical information that

**16 both educators and parents can understand in**  
**17 terms of the organization of the math program**  
**18 and how students learn mathematical content**  
**19 through the sequence and pacing of that program,**  
**20 and I hope that is one of the things that in a**  
**21 very intentional way that our coordinator can**  
**22 help work with parents on, and also bridge with**  
**23 those teachers that may have less understanding**  
**24 of the mathematical content themselves.**

**25 Each decision you make as a**

**1 Committee, such as appointing a math**  
**2 coordinator, makes the district more rigorous in**  
**3 its approach to instruction and gives the**  
**4 students in the district a better opportunity to**  
**5 access their learning and I think it is**  
**6 important for you to think of your decisions**  
**7 that way. I hope that as we move forward this**  
**8 year that we can frame more and more of our**  
**9 meetings and our discussions around teaching and**  
**10 learning, that perhaps we can really have an eye**  
**11 on the agenda to have some aspects of every**  
**12 meeting -- if we're going to take the Building**

13 **Committee update, for example, off, wouldn't it**  
14 **be nice if what we could add in its place is a**  
15 **rigorous discussion around teaching and learning**  
16 **at every meeting, and maybe that would help draw**  
17 **the community in. So again, I offer that.**

18 **MR. CHAIRMAN: Are you all set?**

19 **Okay.**

20 **The next item on here would be**

21 **Comments From The Public. Anybody else sign up?**

22 **Yes, Mr. McLaughlin.**

23 **MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Yes, I'd just like**

24 **to bring to light a few items of interest and**

25 **maybe a little condemnation. In reference to a**

1 fundraiser we have going, it is the House of  
2 Compassion, and I know students from Cumberland  
3 High School have been very supportive of the  
4 House of Compassion and this will be held  
5 September 13th at the St. Thomas Council Knights  
6 of Columbus. So if you could put the word out  
7 there. I know many students have gone over and  
8 helped, and, you know, it will be appreciated.

9 Another thing I'd like to bring to

10 light, the appreciation the superintendent gave  
11 of the support staff that -- in reference to the  
12 cleanup that they did, they are to be commended,  
13 but I also noticed with we're three people short  
14 and I'd like you to review that seriously. We  
15 have a lot of space to cover and I think they do  
16 a great job, but talking with them, they're  
17 saying it is very hard and they're not doing  
18 what they really want to do. They really could  
19 use one or two more custodial people, so maybe  
20 you could take that into consideration.

21 Another thing I would like to bring  
22 up tonight, I want here but at the finance

23 meeting there were a few people that did  
24 personal attacks and I have nothing but  
25 condemnation for that. I don't know the whole

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1 story but I'll find it out. It's not necessary,  
2 we've got enough issues period. Thank you.

3 MR. GERMADMAK: Scott Germadmak,  
4 G-E-R-M-A-D-M-A-K, I live at 7 Aurora, and I was  
5 actually invited here tonight by Ms. Morelle.  
6 My interest was specifically the math program at

7 the elementary level and to put a face with the  
8 name for the new K-8 math coordinator.

9 One of my observations tonight with  
10 the School Building Committee possibly coming  
11 off the agenda soon, it might make sense to  
12 maybe highlight different department heads,  
13 their goals, their shortcomings, what tools they  
14 still need, throughout the course of the year,  
15 whether it is math in October or November,  
16 Social Studies later on. But each of those  
17 department heads I think needs to be here at  
18 some point, let us know how their departments as  
19 a whole are doing, where they're falling short,

**20** where they need boosted up and what we can do as  
**21** the Committee and as parents to help them out.  
**22** Granted it's early in the year, maybe that  
**23** happens, this is my first meeting so it's just a  
**24** suggestion.

**25** The hiring process kind of scared

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**1** me a little bit. To me, the department heads  
**2** know what technical areas they need to have  
**3** filled. Why are they not going through the

4 applicants first to see what fits what they need  
5 and then going back to the administration to see  
6 do they meet all the certifications. Seems like  
7 we're putting the cart before the horse. If  
8 they know what they need, they should be able to  
9 say these are the people we want pursued, let's  
10 make sure they have all the accreditations they  
11 need and go forward. It seems a little bit  
12 backwards.

13 Not to end on a sour note, this  
14 being my first meeting, there is an awful lot of  
15 tension up there and there doesn't seem to be a  
16 whole lot of professional courtesy, at the

17 beginning at least. Somebody wanted to carry  
18 on, the agenda says discussion, I heard somebody  
19 start a discussion and two seconds later it was  
20 stopped because someone with a dissenting  
21 opinion put a motion on and it was immediately  
22 seconded and they were silenced. It doesn't  
23 seem like much of a discussion to me. A lot of  
24 professional courtesy needs to be looked at. It  
25 is very disheartening at my first meeting.

1                   **(Applause)**

2                   **MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you. That**

3                   **leaves School Committee comments, School Liaison**

4                   **reports.**

5                   **Earl, you have anything?**

6                   **MR. WOOD: No, I don't.**

7                   **MS. BEAULIEU: I would thank you.**

8                   **I also want to take this opportunity to**

9                   **compliment the staff including the**

10                  **administrators and teachers and the support**

11                  **services. I watched the high school transform**

12                  **from the year prior to what I never thought they**

13                  **would be able to open and clean up and they did**

14 a wonderful job this year. I thought it looked  
15 even more spectacular given they did not have to  
16 battle dust and construction debris. I'm  
17 appreciative of that.

18 I also wanted to thank the  
19 Providence Journal for its coverage of the high  
20 school and its new facility. I had the  
21 opportunity to attend the Board of Regents  
22 meeting yesterday where they were discussing the  
23 proposed regulations for elementary and  
24 secondary education. I've received a few phone  
25 calls from parents who were very concerned with

1 some of the comments that have been in the  
2 newspaper about the NECAP scores at 11th grade  
3 are required to be one third of our grade, and  
4 the Regents took a fair amount of time to  
5 clarify what that exactly meant, and I don't  
6 want to paraphrase on-line but I do have a copy  
7 of the proposed regulations if anyone is  
8 interested in looking at them. They are still a  
9 work in progress, it was a public meeting, but  
10 they did want to clarify some misconceptions

11 with that. So if anyone would like to see that,  
12 that would be great. And I believe that's it.

13 I guess on a personal note is that  
14 to all the staff, my children have been involved  
15 with the opening the first day. When I asked my  
16 first grader what was his favorite part of the  
17 day, because that's what mommies do, he said  
18 lunch and recess, so I apologize to the teachers  
19 and everyone else but it is lunch and recess.

20 MR. CHAIRMAN: Karen?

21 MRS. MACBETH: Yes, I don't have  
22 any school liaison reports but I would like to  
23 ask that given the release of our standings that

24 we at the next School Committee do have a  
25 presentation from our superintendent and

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1 assistant superintendent on our NECAP scores and  
2 then what is already in place to improve those  
3 scores and what we have planned in the future.  
4 I think that is one of the most important, if  
5 not the most important thing to do at this  
6 point. Thank you.

7 MR. CHAIRMAN: Lisa?

**8 MS. BEAULIEU: I agree**

**9 wholeheartedly that it should always be part of**

**10 that discussion. I do think we've talked a lot**

**11 about it and perhaps as a communications piece,**

**12 we talk about it more. So that the parents who**

**13 do come and are concerned with it, the scores**

**14 came out and we had Dr. Morelle and Dr. Carney**

**15 and other administrators talk about some of the**

**16 changes, but maybe a summary of that so the**

**17 folks who are here in September, and certainly**

**18 having read the AYP report, have an**

**19 understanding of what we've covered and perhaps**

**20 anything new that is going to be covered.**

21                   **MR. CHAIRMAN:** Thank you. Bob?

22                   **MR. THIBODEAU:** I would just like

23    to respond to Mr. McLaughlin. It wasn't a

24    personal attack, it was fact.

25                   **MR. MCLAUGHLIN:** (Inaudible.)

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1                   **MR. THIBODEAU:** You can't talk

2    right now. Please --

3                   **MR. MCLAUGHLIN:** Why can't I talk

4    right now?

5                   **MR. THIBODEAU: Because I said so.**

6                   **MR. MCLAUGHLIN: I could give a**

7                   **hoot you said so.**

8                   **MR. CHAIRMAN: You had your chance**

9                   **to speak. Let him speak.**

10                  **MR. THIBODEAU: These are public**

11                  **records. This check for \$11,750, this check for**

12                  **\$8,000, these cases are done.**

13                  **MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Jim --**

14                  **MR. CHAIRMAN: You're out of order.**

15                  **MR. MCLAUGHLIN: The School**

16                  **Department attorney didn't want to discuss those**

17                  **numbers in open session or the name and this guy**

18 is doing it.

19 MR. THIBODEAU: I stand on my word.

20 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: I'm done.

21 MR. CHAIRMAN: The public has a

22 right to know.

23 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: The public has the

24 right to know a lot of things.

25 MR. CHAIRMAN: I understand that

1 this is a political season, and actually if

2 everybody else is done, I would just like to  
3 take a minute.

4 I think that Mr. Germadmak is a man  
5 who, he's pretty intuitive. He came to his  
6 first meeting and it didn't take him very long  
7 to figure out that there is some tensions that  
8 have been going on here.

9 One of the issues that we do have  
10 here, part of a good thing and part of a bad  
11 thing, is that you have frankly seven very  
12 strong personalities on this Committee, seven  
13 people who care deeply and have very strongly  
14 held opinions. One of the things that we

**15 struggle with is understanding that we all have**  
**16 reasons for the opinions that we hold and they**  
**17 may not be the same reasons you have but we all**  
**18 have different experiences. We at times take**  
**19 things personally and we should not.**

**20 I would like to thank those who**  
**21 voted for me for the vice-chair today and I**  
**22 respectfully understand those who did not. I**  
**23 will do my best in what I'm doing here now, to**  
**24 try to listen, to give people the opportunity to**  
**25 speak when they wish to, keeping the lines of**

1 communication open. I do try to listen to  
2 everyone, even if they have a different opinion  
3 from me. It doesn't necessarily mean I'm going  
4 to change my opinion but you certainly have a  
5 right to speak. There are many thousands of  
6 young men and women living and dying on the  
7 front lines to protect what we hold dear here  
8 and it certainly is our obligation to respect  
9 that and to allow everyone a voice at the table.

10 With that, I'd like to conclude

11 what we have going on here. Do we have anything

12 in Executive Session?

13 MR. ROTELLA: No.

14 MR. CHAIRMAN: In that case, I will

15 entertain a motion to adjourn.

16 MS. BEAULIEU: So moved.

17 MR. THIBODEAU: Second.

18 MR. CHAIRMAN: All in favor?

19 Opposed? Motion is passed, 5 to 0.

20 (HEARING ADJOURNED AT 9:50 P.M.)

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23 Meeting Minutes Approved by School Committee: 9.25.08

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1                   **C-E-R-T-I-F-I-C-A-T-E**

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

5

6                   **IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I hereunto set my**  
hand this 16th day of August, 2008.

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

13

14     **MY COMMISSION EXPIRES: March 30, 2010**

14

15

16     **IN RE: School Committee Town of Cumberland**

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17     **DATE: August 28, 2008**

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