

MINUTES OF THE CORNWALL BOARD OF EDUCATION  
MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY, MAY 20, 2010 AT 5:00 P.M.  
AT CORNWALL CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL

Board members present were: Becky Hurlburt, Phil Hart, Thomas Levine, Irene Hurlburt, and Wynne Kavanagh. Rachel Matsudaira was absent. Others present were: Patricia Chamberlain, Superintendent of Schools; Diane Goncalves, Assistant Superintendent of Schools; Robert Vaughan, Principal; HVRHS teachers Nora Abdulhayoglu and Damon Osora; two community members; and two members of the press.

Mrs. Hurlburt called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

**On a motion by Mr. Levine, seconded by Mr. Hart, the Agenda was accepted as presented.**

**On a motion by Mr. Levine, seconded by Mr. Hart, the minutes of the April 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting were approved.**

Correspondence and Communications to the Board:

- Bradford Scholarship request – the Board clerk will respond to a request for consideration for the Bradford Scholarship, which is not available for another three years.
- Freshman Initiative – Ms. Abdulhayoglu and Mr. Osora spoke about the difficult transition from a K-8 elementary schools to the high school. It is important at the freshman orientation to provide connection for the students and an understanding of day-to-day life at the high school. The 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Data Team reviewed information on incoming freshmen and were better able to focus on identifying at-risk students. They are working to build interdisciplinary visits to the elementary schools, and to have those visits will take place earlier in the year. Responding to a question about addressing social issues, along with other initiatives, they are choosing younger peers now, i.e. closer in age to the freshmen.

Mr. Hart reported from the Region One Board that they voted to move from Anthem as the Region #1 health insurance carrier to AETNA, effective July 1. The Night School graduation takes place on June 10<sup>th</sup> and the HVRHS graduation on June 18<sup>th</sup>.

Mrs. Hurlburt reported that the ABC Committee had also voted at their meeting on May 3<sup>rd</sup> to change from Anthem to AETNA.

There was no report from the Board of Finance. It was noted that although the Board budgeted for Title I expecting grant money as usual, there will be no grant money for Cornwall next year. The Board of finance will be advised, although the budget number will not change.

Ms. Chamberlain – Superintendent’s Report

- Overview of Race to the Top grant papers. Cornwall could receive over \$100,000 if the state received all it expects. This will be reviewed in September.

- Boards and Commissions are no longer required to post minutes on the Internet, but Cornwall will continue to do so in order to keep communication current.

#### Principal's Report

- Four quotes were reviewed for the monitoring and rekeying, the two main components of the new security system.

**A motion was made by Mrs. I. Hurlburt, and seconded by Mr. Levine, to accept the principal's recommendation to contract with TEC Control in Torrington for \$10,740 to install a security system. Voting aye were Mrs. B. Hurlburt, Mrs. I. Hurlburt, Mrs. Kavanagh, and Mr. Levine. Mr. Hart abstained.**

- Mr. Vaughan informed the Board of all the activities that have happened in the past month, and those scheduled in the next.
- Aaron Boucher, P.E. teacher, has requested that some workout equipment (which has been offered to the school) be installed in the gym area – possibly in his office. It would only be used under supervision. Mr. Vaughan can make that decision.

The Social Networking Policy was reviewed briefly, but it was decided that a few Board members would work on it and then present the proposed policy to the rest of the Board.

Mr. Hart has confirmed the graduation speaker and is working on the volunteer of the year award.

Gender Equity in Education was discussed. It was suggested that a summary of recent research be put together for a future meeting and to definitely keep it on the agenda. The Youth Services Bureau has been doing a series on this issue.

**As Cornwall School does not participate in the National School Lunch Program, on a motion by Mr. Hart, seconded by Mr. Levine, the Cornwall Board of Education did not certify compliance with the Connecticut Nutrition Standards.**

**On a motion by Mr. Hart, seconded by Mr. Levine, the meeting was adjourned at 6:59 p.m.**

Susan F. Gingert

Board Clerk