

MINUTES OF THE CORNWALL BOARD OF EDUCATION
HELD ON NOVEMBER 16, 2010 AT 4:00 P.M. AT
CORNWALL CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL

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

Mrs. Hurlburt called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

On a motion by Mr. Levine, seconded by Mrs. Kavanagh, the Board approved the Agenda as presented.

On a motion by Mr. Levine, seconded by Mrs. Kavanagh, the Board approved minutes of the October 19th meeting.

Communications – none

Region One Board – Mrs. Kavanagh reported that Ward Belcher is heading a public/private schools collaborative, which currently exists between Hotchkiss and HVRHS, with students to visit each others' schools, and student/faculty forums set up to discuss common topics. The coordinators are looking at a flexible and open-ended process. Three Cornwall students will be honored at this year's LCSA (Litchfield County Superintendants Award dinner. The two HVRHS students chosen (by faculty members) were Reilly Lynch and Camilla Busby, and the CCS student is Lydia MacDavid. The assistant principal search has been posted with a salary range of between \$100 and \$108K. The indoor track program was approved. Linda DiCorleto will be coordinating the school business/community relations program.

ABC Committee – Mrs. B. Hurlburt urged anyone interested in middle school athletics to attend a forum on the issue at the ABC Committee meeting on Tuesday, January 11th at 5:30 p.m. at the high school. There are many opinions about how to prepare middle school students for high school athletics, as well as issues like practices and games scheduling. Principals and P.E. teachers are urged to attend as well.

Standing Building Committee – Mr. Vaughan reported that rather than push through a bid for redoing the Gathering Room Floor in December, bid documents will be prepared for vendors to bid on either a tiled or a poured floor, and the project will be done when school is out in June. The Board will also put out to bid grounds and snow-plowing for the 2011-2012 school year.

Board of Finance – no communication

Superintendent's Report

- Ms. Chamberlain asked Board members to consider being on the Negotiating Committee for upcoming Classified Staff negotiations, reminding them that last year the union took a freeze in pay and benefits.

- A downward shift in Cornwall enrollment at the high school would result in a 2011-2012 assessment decrease of over \$100K if there were a 0% budget increase. The April assessment
- The April 2011 Assessment will be reduced by \$20,632.
- The recent Kitchen Tour successfully raised over \$10,000 and will fund the spring 2011 musical.
- Many applications have been received for the assistant principal position.

Principal's Report

- Mr. Vaughan reported that the 8th Annual Walk-a-Thon, with a combination of student-raised pledges of just over \$8,000, \$2,000 from an anonymous donor, and \$1,800 from sponsors, will send checks for \$2,955 to the Haitian Health Foundation and to the IBRRC (International Bird Rescue Research Center). The remainder goes toward each class's 8th grade trip. The 7th grade Class of 2012 raised the most money and 100% of the Kindergarten Class of 2019 participated.
- After discussion, the request from Mr. Vaughan for the Board to contribute up to \$3,000 towards the 8th grade trip transportation costs was tabled until the December meeting, when trip costs and 8th grade funds will be known.
- CMT scores were discussed and a table of figures distributed indicating vertical scale scores (a means of comparing achievement across grade levels) for Mathematics and English, following the same class from 3rd through 8th grade, and showing Connecticut scores, CCS scores, and a number representing CCS average growth. When parents receive their child's scores, they will be able to see similar growth scores for their child. Although CCS scores higher than the state average, Mr. Vaughan would like to see that "growth number" for CCS students exceed that of Connecticut as a whole. Continuing to offer a good solid educational program should see that number increase. Ms. Goncalves reminded the Board that this is one part of a student's assessment. Mr. Vaughan mentioned also that CCS's small number of students means greater fluctuation in scores.
- Ken Considine has been hired to coach the Girls' Basketball team.
- Three CCS students, Ella Matsudaira, Marina Matsudaira, and Madison Caruso received Honorable Mention by the World Awareness Children's Museum for their entries in the Sakura Colorful World Cray-Pas contest. Their artwork will be included in the International Youth Art Exchange sent to countries around the world.
- 7th and 8th graders took a field trip to Hyde Part and Howe Caverns last week
- The Wellness Committee met recently and had questions about the condition of the Geoffrey T. Lake Fitness Trail The Senior Risk Control Consultant from CIRMA came to school yesterday to review what is currently in place

and made suggestions about what would be needed now to reconstruct the trail (20 years later).

On a motion by Mrs. Matsudaira, seconded by Mr. Levine, a committee will be formed to investigate reinstalling the Geoffrey A. Lake Fitness Trail.

Old Business

There was a first reading of the following policies:

0200 Mission-Goals-Objectives District Goals

6172.6 Virtual/online Courses – after much discussion about differentiated learning, needs of students, and learning progression, coming down to how to equitably implement such a policy, it was decided that this does not need to be a Board of Education policy.

Mrs. I. Hurlburt nominated and Mr. Levine seconded the nomination of Phil Hart as Region One Board Representative from Cornwall. Mr. Hart was appointed Region One Rep by unanimous vote.

Mrs. I. Hurlburt nominated and Mr. Levine seconded the nomination of Wynne Kavanagh as Region One Board Alternate Representative from Cornwall. Mrs. Kavanagh was appointed Region One Alternate Rep by unanimous vote.

Mr. Levine asked about having recent CCS graduates (HVRHS freshmen) speak to the Board about their elementary school preparation for high school. Ms. Goncalves described the Freshman Activity group that meets once a week and offered to bring questions to them before January. She'll alert Mr. Levine to time and date and invited him to attend.

Ms. Gingert mentioned that representatives from an energy efficiency company came to look at CCS today to offer services and commented that they couldn't believe that this was a public school, that it was so clean and well-maintained, and ended by saying that we can't do any better regarding energy efficiency and that CCS is a showcase. This says a lot about the work of Mr. Selino and his staff and about the Board's support for maintaining the building.

Mrs. Matsudaira met yesterday with over 10 CCS staff members to discuss learning styles particular to boys.

On a motion by Mrs. Matsudaira, seconded by Mrs. I. Hurlburt, the Board went into Executive Session at 5:42 p.m. to discuss pending litigation. Mr. Vaughan, Ms. Chamberlain, and Ms. Goncalves were invited to attend.

The Board came out of Executive Session at 6:19 p.m.

On a motion by Mrs. I. Hurlburt, seconded by Mr. Levine, the meeting was adjourned at 6:20 p.m.

Susan F. Gingert
Board Clerk