

MINUTES OF THE CORNWALL BOARD OF EDUCATION SPECIAL MEETING
HELD ON SEPTEMBER 21, 2010 AT 4:00 P.M. AT
CORNWALL CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL

Board members present were: Becky Hurlburt, Phil Hart, Irene Hurlburt, Wynne Kavanagh, Thomas K. Levine, and Rachel Matsudaira. Others present were: Patricia Chamberlain, Superintendent of Schools; Diane Goncalves, Assistant Superintendent of Schools; Robert Vaughan, Principal; Susan Romeo, CCS teacher; one parent; Lawrence VanValkenburgh, citizen; and two members of the press.

Mrs. Hurlburt called the meeting to order at 4:04 p.m.

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

On a motion by Mrs. Matsudaira, seconded by, the Board approved minutes from June 17th, (on first bullet on page 1 The Board *members* will respond...and on motion to adjourn ...Mrs. ~~Mr.~~ I. Hurlburt ...) July 13th, July 27th, and September 9th with addition and correction.

A receipt of a letter to Board members from Mr. VanValkenburgh was acknowledged.

The Board regrettably accepted that Bonnie Burdick and Patty Rovezzi will be stepping down as CCS girls' basketball coaches, with thanks for their work over the past five years.

Mr. Hart reported that the high school opening was smooth despite August stress. Mr. Ping Pank will be looking into issues surrounding the resignations of the principal and Assistant principal. Choo Singer is retiring in October and the Central Office is searching for a new assistant Business Manager. Enrollment stands at 503. Anne Grant, CCS teacher for 35 years, was honored at the staff opening day meeting. Reilly Lynch of Cornwall is the HVRHS student representative to the Region One Board. Mr. Hart thanked Mrs. Kavanagh for her diligent service as alternate representative. Judge Manning remains chairman.

There was no communication from the Board of Finance.

Superintendent's Report

- Smooth opening days throughout the region
- The American Field Service (AFS) held their 60th anniversary at Katie and Michael Gannet's house in West Cornwall.
- David Bayersdorfer is standing in as interim assistant principal. An interim principal will be hired to finish the school year, followed by the hiring of an assistant principal, followed by the hiring of a principal.
- The State of Connecticut received no funding for Race to the Top grants, although Region One schools will be receiving money over the next two years (CCS gets \$3,476) from the Education Jobs Fund Program.

- 59 students attended summer school and the administration is currently reevaluating the program.

Principal's Report

- Mr. Vaughan thanked Carla Whiteside and the PTA for coordinating First Day of School activities.
- Enrollment stands at 115, down 5 students from last year.
- A request has been made for financial help to cover an online enrichment course for a student. The Board will look at policy and respond next month.
- Connecticut Mastery Test (CMT) results are in and have been sent to parents. Ms. Chamberlain said that the goal is to score above the state average.
- Mr. Vaughan is looking into extracurricular activities for CCS such as the Geography Bee and Spelling Bee.
- Open House will be on Wednesday, September 22nd
- A speaker was engaged to speak to students in all grades about the U.S. Constitution on Friday the 17th, Constitution Day.

Old Business

Mr. Hart asked that the Standing Building committee be on the agenda for October.

Mrs. Matsudaira has spoken with Pam Wilson about Gender Inequity issues and asked that it be on a future agenda.

The cost of the Gathering Room floor was considerably more than anticipated and will be reviewed in October.

New Business

Mr. Vaughan met with Tim Oppenheimer regarding pay for the new library assistant position, which requires more autonomy than a classroom teacher assistant. As there was no Memo of Understanding to add to the current Classified Staff contract, the issue was tabled until the October meeting.

The Board will consider changing the regular meeting time of day and day of the week and likely vote on the calendar in October.

Due to the high Title I case load (services must be provided) for CCS students, and after review of the budget, the following motion was voted:

On a motion by Mrs. Matsudaira, seconded by Mr. Levine, the Board approved increasing the time for Title I teacher Linda Massucci from .5 FTE to 1.0 FTE for the current school year, to meet intervention needs of CCS students under SRBI (Scientific Research Based Interventions).

On a motion by Mr. Levine, seconded by Mrs. Matsudaira, on the superintendent's recommendation, the Board approved the hiring of William Vincent to teach Language Arts 1.0 FTE at MA step 2 for \$43,089.

On a motion by Mr. Levine, seconded by Mrs. Kavanagh, on the superintendent's recommendation, the Board approved the hiring of Paul Honig to teach Math .6 FTE at BA step 5 for \$25,693.

There was considerable discussion about the following motion. Some Board members thought that support should be made individually and that it is inappropriate for the Board as a whole to be, in effect, choosing sides.

A motion was made by Mr. Levine to approve the following letter of support for the Central Office.

The Cornwall Board of Education has consistently found the Region One Central Office to be helpful, supportive and cooperative in assisting the Board and the Cornwall School in its efforts to create the best education possible for the school children in our community. The extensive experience of the Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent and Business Manager, has supplied the Cornwall Consolidated School with a level of dedication, knowledge and professional response that has served Cornwall well.

The motion was seconded by Mrs. I. Hurlburt. Voting aye were Mrs. I. Hurlburt, Mr. Levine, and Mrs. B. Hurlburt. Abstaining were Mrs. Matsudaira, Mr. Hart, and Mrs. Kavanagh. The motion didn't pass.

There was a first reading of the following policies:

- 0200 Mission-Goals-Objectives District Goals
- 0521 Non-Discrimination
- 6172.6 Virtual/online Courses

On a motion by Mr. Levine, seconded by Mrs. I. Hurlburt, the meeting was adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

Susan F. Gingert
Board Clerk