

MINUTES OF THE CORNWALL BOARD OF EDUCATION SPECIAL MEETING  
HELD ON MARCH 1, 2010 AT 8:30 A.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; and Robert Vaughan, Principal; three CCS parents; and two members of the press.

Mrs. B. Hurlburt called the meeting to order at 8:35 a.m.

**A motion was made by Mrs. I. Hurlburt and seconded by Mrs. Matsudaira, to accept Mr. Vaughan's proposal to install a camera and buzz-in system at the front door, with three monitors and buzz-in capability at each location. (main office, nurse's office, and Board clerk's office). After discussion voting aye were Mrs. B. Hurlburt, Mr. Levine, Mrs. Kavanagh, Mrs. I. Hurlburt, and Mrs. Matsudaira. Voting nay was Mr. Hart.**

Discussion prior to vote: Although the buzz-in system is a good solution to a defined problem, does the problem exist? How can the school protect students when a protective order (from the court) exists? The safety of the children is a charge to the Board and this system would be a deterrent to potentially dangerous situations - Cornwall is not immune to violence and there are no disadvantages to the proposed system. CCS should be a structure of learning and studying and not like home - people (parents) should not be routinely entering classrooms.

Mrs. B. Hurlburt read the following petition with 63 signatures:

*We are coming together to make a community statements about proposed safety deterrents to be used at the Cornwall Consolidated School. We are parents, former students, and community members, who all want to address this issue with information and knowledge and not to react out of fear and complacency. We want decisions based on research of identified threats. We want to find ways to prevent violence in the schools that are effective. We are a community that has excelled at finding alternatives that are consistent with our values. We want the best for our children and the future of Cornwall.*

Ms. Chamberlain said that CABA (Connecticut Association of Boards of Education) has policies for a variety of security issues, but no directive to Boards regarding level of security, etc.

Mrs. B. Hurlburt stated that all Board members have spend a lot of time reviewing all sides of the front door security issue and that the bottom line for her is the responsibility of protecting students and staff in the school.

**On a motion by Mr. Levine, seconded by Mr. Hart, the Board voted to send the budget to the Board of Finance on March 4<sup>th</sup> (currently at \$3,895,920), anticipating some changes to that number (such as health insurance costs), as discussed at the meeting.**

Mr. Hart discussed the 10' and 12' benches that Jim Terrall has agreed to build, to be installed in the entryway and made from the wood from the old maple tree cut down to make room for the new gym. The Fire Marshall is checking regulations. Mr. Hart will speak with Head Custodian Peter Selino about the asphalt walkway from the first/second grade door down to the playground, and about the need for insulation near the custodian closet and in the PE teacher's office.

**On a motion by Mr. Hart, seconded by Mr. Levine, the Board voted to commit \$3,800 in capital expenses to install additional baseboard heat in the front office.**

**On a motion by Mr. Hart, seconded by Mr. Levine, the meeting was adjourned at 9:52 a.m.**

Susan F. Gingert  
Board Clerk