

CROMWELL PUBLIC SCHOOLS
CROMWELL BOARD OF EDUCATION
CHS Media Center

Regular Meeting
January 12, 2010

MINUTES

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Mrs. Banic at 7:01 p.m.

Roll Call

	Mrs. Banic	Mr. Fletcher	Ms. Fitts Ritter
	Mr. Sousa	Mrs. Trousdale	Mrs. Varricchio
Absent:	Mr. Emanuele	Mr. Camilleri	
	Mrs. Griffin		
Administrators	Dr. Bisceglia	Dr. Talty	Mr. Mandeville
	Mrs. Gittleman	Mr. Southland	Dr. Benigni
	Ms. Cocchiola	Mrs. DiTunno	Mr. Maloney
	Mrs. Lynch		
Student Reps	Ms. Lefebvre	Ms. Vickers	
BOF	Mr. Corlis	Mr. Neto	

Approval of Agenda/Additions and Deletions

Motion to approve the agenda made by Mr. Camilleri, second by Mr. Emanuele. Vote: Unanimous.

Student Representatives

The student representatives updated the Board about leadership activities, Unity Club, semi-formal on January 23rd, 8th grade tours and boys basketball being undefeated.

Correspondence

Letter from Town of Cromwell regarding Budget Amendment

The letter from the Finance Director informs the Board that the budget appropriation has been reduced by \$615,413 (the amount the school district received directly from the state).

Public Comments

Donna Vickers asked the Board to keep the Debate Team at the high school in the budget. She said that it is an academic club not a social club. The team gives the members experience in organization and public speaking among other things.

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Presentations/Reports

School Level Proposed Education Budgets 2010-2011

Dr. Bisceglia said that all of the budget requests are within reason.

Mr. Fletcher confirmed that ECS is the next school for the computer lease cycle.

Mrs. Trousdale asked about getting extra textbooks at the high school as the backpacks that the kids are carrying are too heavy. The kids should have a book in school and one to keep at home.

Dr. Benigni said that that would be ideal but it comes down to budget constraints.

Mr. Emanuele asked about an activity fee, parking fee or “pay to play” fee.

Ms. Lefevre responded that in the senior year there are a lot of expenses like college application fees and testing fees.

Dr. Bisceglia said that everything needs to be “on the table” as this is a hard budget year.

Edna C. Stevens School

Mrs. DiTunno highlighted the biggest percent changes in her budget and reported an overall decrease of 1.37%. She said that they all worked hard to maintain this year’s budget.

Woodside Intermediate School

Mrs. Lynch reported the biggest increases in equipment and supplies but said that overall the decrease is 10.07%.

Cromwell Middle School

Mr. Maloney said that this budget was built on needs not wants. The major increases are in the equipment lines. The overall decrease is 4.7%.

Cromwell High School

Dr. Bisceglia reported major decreases in textbooks as this addresses replacements only. There is also a decrease in Dues and Fees which should be alright but will have to be watched. The overall decrease is 7.93%.

Mrs. Banic thanked everyone for their hard work.

Old Business

Approval of 2010-2011 School Calendar

Motion to approve the 2010-2011 School Calendar as presented made by Mr. Fletcher, second by Mr. Emanuele. Vote: Unanimous.

Early Retirement Incentive Program

Motion to authorize the Superintendent of Schools to pursue an Early Retirement Incentive Program made by Mr. Emanuele, second by Mr. Fletcher. Vote: Unanimous.

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New Business

Motion to approve the Minutes dated December 8, 2009 Regular Meeting made by Mrs. Trousdale, second by Mr. Emanuele. Vote: Unanimous.

Motion to approve the Minutes dated December 8, 2009 Executive Session made by Mr. Fletcher, second by Mrs. Varricchio. Vote: Unanimous.

Motion to approve the Minutes dated December 29, 2009 Special Meeting made by Mr. Mr. Fletcher, second by Mrs. Varricchio. Vote in favor: Mr. Fletcher, Mrs. Varricchio, Mrs. Banic, Mrs. Trousdale, Mr. Sousa, Mr. Emanuele, Ms. Fitts Ritter. Abstention: Mr. Camilleri

Motion to approve the purchase of a new 19 passenger mini-bus and request that the First Selectman include this equipment as part of the Capital Non-Reoccurring portion of the town budget process made by Mr. Fletcher, second by Mr. Emanuele. Vote: Unanimous.

Motion to approve the Race to the Top (RTTT) Memorandum of Understanding made by Mr. Emanuele, second by Mr. Camilleri. Vote: Unanimous.

Dr. Talty explained that we are already doing some of the requirements and alternates that are listed including student database, high school – college collaboration and AP courses.

Report of Administration

ELL (English Language Learners) Data Results

Dr. Talty said that the ELL subgroup needed to make 72% progress in acquiring English language proficiency and 22 % must attain English language proficiency. In Cromwell, the percentages were 88.1% and 81.8% respectively.

Chairperson

Mrs. Banic said that the schools are doing good things. We are ahead of the game but cannot dismantle the progress. We need a lot of cooperation to stay where we are. We ask that everyone helps as the Board is here to help you.

Communications – Board of Education Committees/Liaisons

Budget

Mr. Emanuele reported that as of January 6th, there is a budget freeze. He also said that this will be the toughest year yet. We need to look hard at what we have and “tighten our belt”.

Cromwell School Lunch Program Financial Statement – October 2009

For information purposes.

Personnel

Sub-Committee Minutes – December 8, 2009

For information purposes.

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Motion to approve the Addendum to the Substitute List 2009-2010 to include Rachel Eleiott and Tara Pelletier made by Mrs. Trousdale, second by Mr. Emanuele. Vote: Unanimous.

Policy

Dr. Bisceglia reported that CABE has said they are under-manned and cannot accommodate our requests for information.

Program

There will be a meeting before the next BOE meeting.

Long-Range

The project is moving forward.

Safety/Transportation

Sub-committee meeting Minutes dated December 1, 2009

There will be a meeting in February.

CABE Contact

Everyone should be receiving mail.

Technology

There will be a meeting this week.

Board of Selectmen

Mr. Camilleri reported that they will be selecting the Town Attorney, will talk about budget issues, the ethics ordinance and the cut-thru on Newbury by WIS at the meeting tomorrow at 7 p.m.

Board of Finance

Mr. Corlis will ask where the \$615,413. was placed. This will be a tough year.

Public Comments

None.

Consent Agenda

Motion to approve the Consent Agenda dated January 12, 2010 made by Mr. Fletcher, second by Mr. Emanuele. Vote: Unanimous.

Topics for Future Agenda

January - Proposed Education Budget 2010-2011
February - Proposed Education Budget 2010-2011
March –
April - Announcement of CHS Graduation Date
May - 2009-2010 Budget Line Item Transfers
June - Milk Bid – Food Service Program
Class of 2010 Post-Graduation Plans
Stipend Approval for 2010-2011
Authorize the Superintendent to Hire Staff During Summer

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Good and Welfare

Ms. Fitts Ritter said that the tour of the schools that she was give by Mr. Mandeville was very good.

Mr. Camilleri commented that the buildings are impressive even with the budget constraints.

Mr. Fletcher thanked the public for attending the meeting and encourages more people to come.

Dr. Bisceglia said that at the next meeting Special Education, Facilities and Central Office will be presenting their budgets. Right now there is a 5.78% increase in the overall budget. We will need a lot of cooperation to keep the budget increase low. We are looking at using furlough days to help keep the increase down also. The Board is going to have to make some hard decisions.

Mr. Fletcher reminded the Board that this budget will not include any new personnel, only contractual obligations.

Executive Session

Motion to adjourn to Executive Session at 8:10 p.m. for the purpose of personnel matters and personnel contract with Dr. Talty as an invited guest made by Mr. Emanuele, second by Mr. Fletcher. Vote: Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,



Tammy A. McPherson
BOE Recording Clerk

Consent Agenda

January 12, 2010

Budget

Warrants for Approval

- December 8, 2009 \$71,583.92
- December 15, 2009 336,543.76
- December 22, 2009 77,552.58
- January 4, 2010 83,338.99