

**CROMWELL PUBLIC SCHOOLS
CROMWELL BOARD OF EDUCATION
CHS Media Center**

Unapproved

**Regular Meeting
February 23, 2010**

MINUTES

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Mrs. Banic at 7:06 p.m.

Roll Call

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

Approval of Agenda/Additions and Deletions

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

Change	VIII. Old Business
	B. Change from action item to discussion
Delete	XII. Communications
	B. Personnel
	1. Action: Approval of Addendum to Substitute List

Student Representatives

Ms. Vickers and Ms. Lefebvre updated the Board about Unity Club Coffee House, the school play this weekend, girls and boys basketball and the Debate Team.

Correspondence

Dr. Bisceglia sent around a letter from a parent for the Board members to read. He also shared that the Cromwell Fire Dept. has given a plaque to each school regarding Arbor Day plantings.

Public Comments (2-3 minutes per speaker— general information or agenda items)

Jen Lepore spoke in favor of the Gifted and Talented Program. She has been involved for 7 years and said that Mrs. Daniels is a great coach.

Bud Durand said that comparing the cost for all students to go to parochial school would be less than half of what the proposed budget for Cromwell is.

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Alison Griffin spoke in favor of the Gifted and Talented Program.

Julie Braun gave the Board copies of letters from parents regarding the Gifted and Talented Program. She also said that the parents will support the BOE with the BOS and BOF. Every student is important.

Shalan Braun said that he learns more with Mrs. Daniels.

Matthew Sbriglio said that Mrs. Daniels is more challenging and makes him think harder.

Jen Cheshire spoke in favor of the Gifted and Talented Program. She also read a letter from Alison Wood about the Gifted and Talented Program. All the students deserve the best. We don't want any student to be overlooked. Without the program there would be boredom and underachievement.

Sophia Durand commented that if there is no Gifted and Talented Program, test scores would drop.

Jeff Polk spoke in favor of the paraprofessionals in the library. He also said that teachers need the additional support in the classrooms. He also asked if the public was on the committee for the teacher's contract.

Dr. Bisceglia said that the public was not part of the committee, but once the contract is complete, then it is on file at Town Hall for 30 days for public access.

Peter Girardi said that he appreciates all of the efforts of the teachers and the administration. He questioned why the budget was cut \$615,000 and said that the town should take that into consideration when they are doing this budget. He asked if there was anything in the contract about class size.

Dr. Bisceglia said that they try to keep the number of students per classroom under 25.

Peter Girardi said that the Board should negotiate for larger class size and a shorter contract.

Mr. Flanders said that the state sent the \$615,000 directly to the school system and then shorted that amount from the Town. That is why the budget was decreased by that amount.

Mannan Lefebvre said that paraprofessional support is very helpful. The paraprofessional at CHS is very important.

Kevin Braun spoke about the Gifted and Talented Program. The Board has a tough job. This budget cuts many programs that shouldn't be. Why not "pay for play"? Sports shouldn't be more important than teachers, music and other programs.

Peter Keithan said that everyone should give back a little and he hopes that this budget will keep the current level of education.

Presentations/Reports

None.

Old Business

Dr. Bisceglia informed the Board of any changes since the last meeting including three early retirements, which unions gave concessions and the latest percentage increase for medical benefits.

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He reiterated that this is a “work in progress” because we do not know the exact figures yet for energy/fuel costs, retirement salaries, special education, etc. He also said that the 10-year average for budget increases is close to 5.34%. Contractual obligations and benefits play a large roll in the budget increase. We will keep status quo with 2.34%. The actual line-item cuts are still a work in progress. We are very appreciative to the unions that gave concessions.

Mr. Girardi said that he would like to see the grounds work combined with the Town. He would rather see the grass a little longer than cut a teacher. Why wouldn't you ask for 5.35% since that is what you need? Let the townspeople make the decision.

Dr. Bisceglia reminded the public that by law the budget cannot be any lower than the June 30th budget. He encouraged the public to go to the BOS and BOF meetings and let your voices be heard.

Motion to approve the Proposed Education Budget 2010-2011 as presented with an increase of 3% made by Mr. Emanuele, second by Mr. Fletcher. Vote: Unanimous.

Ms. Fitts-Ritter reminded the Board that the money “just isn't there”.

Mrs. Banic thanked everyone who gave concessions to help make the budget work. We couldn't do this without you.

Mr. Fletcher said that the job was tougher because some unions did not give concessions.

Mr. Sousa expressed that parents are upset that all unions did not give concessions.

Dr. Bisceglia also commented that salaries at the parochial schools are less as those teachers may not hold certification.

Motion to extend the concession deadline to March 2, 2010 made by Mr. Camilleri, second by Mr. Sousa. Vote: Unanimous.

Ms. Fitts-Ritter is afraid that since some unions did and some did not give concessions the work environment will be difficult for some.

Mrs. Varricchio said that it is our job to provide a good, sound budget. Now it is the citizens chance to vote for it.

Discussion: Combining Bus Routes – Cost Analysis
None.

New Business

Motion to accept the ECS and CMS New Fire Alarm System made by Mr. Camilleri, second by Mr. Sousa. Vote: Unanimous.

Motion to approve the Board of Education Minutes dated February 9, 2010 Regular Meeting made by Mr. Emanuele, second by Mrs. Varricchio. Vote: Unanimous.

Motion to approve the Board of Education Minutes dated February 9, 2010 Executive Session made by Mrs. Trousdale, second by Mrs. Varricchio. Vote: Unanimous.

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Report of Administration

None.

Chairperson

None.

Communications – Board of Education Committees/Liaisons

Budget

Cromwell School Lunch Financial Statement – January 2010

For information purposes.

Personnel

Approval of Addendum to Substitute

None.

Policy

The committee needs to meet.

Program

Program Committee Minutes – February 9, 2010

For information purposes.

Long-Range

None.

Safety/Transportation

Safety Committee Meeting – 2/23/10

The minutes will be distributed in the next Board packet.

CABE Contact

Mrs. Banic commented that it is hard to go to the workshops as most are during the day.

Other: Technology, and Liaisons from Board of Selectmen, Board of Finance, P.T.O.s, Parent Advisory Councils

Technology

There will be a meeting in March.

Board of Selectmen

Mr. Spotts said that the next meeting is on February 25th regarding bonding. The BOS will also be having budget workshops on March 1st and March 4th.

Board of Finance

Mr. Corlis said that the next meeting is on February 25th at 7:30 p.m. in Room 224 at Town Hall.

Public Comment (*Agenda items only – 2-3 minutes per speaker*)

Jeff Polk said 3% increase is interesting. We have a strong education system. All positions are personal. Any concessions will help in the budget process. We all need to work together.

Doreen Nash asked why teachers were not being cut given that they didn't give any concessions.

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Mrs. Banic said that what the Board has to do is not easy. There are a lot of opinions but they will do what is best for the system. The students deserve the best we can give them.

Consent Agenda (attached)

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

Topics for Future Agendas

March –

April – Announcement of CHS Graduation Date

May – 2009-2010 Budget Line Item Transfers

June – Milk Bid – Food Service Program

Class of 2010 Post-Graduations Plan

Stipend Approval for 2010-2011

Authorize Superintendent to Hire Staff During Summer

Good and Welfare

Mrs. Ritter said that she liked getting the packet via email.

Mr. Camilleri went to a workshop about FOI and Parliamentary Procedures. He will forward information to everyone.

Dr. Talty said that Cromwell has been recognized for “promising practices”. She also informed the Board that Dr. Benigni has had an article published. He will forward a copy to the Board members.

Executive Session

None.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 8:58 p.m. made by Mr. Emanuele, second by Mr. Fletcher. Vote: Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Tammy A. McPherson
BOE Recording Clerk

CONSENT AGENDA

February 23, 2010

Budget

Warrants for Approval

- February 9, 2010 - \$104,811.37