

CROMWELL PUBLIC SCHOOLS
CROMWELL BOARD OF EDUCATION
CHS Media Center

Regular Meeting
February 9, 2010

MINUTES

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Mrs. Banic at 7:02 p.m.

Roll Call

	Mrs. Banic	Mr. Fletcher	Ms. Fitts Ritter
	Mr. Sousa	Mrs. Trousdale	Mrs. Varricchio
	Mr. Emanuele	Mrs. Griffin	Mr. Camilleri
Administrators	Dr. Bisceglia	Dr. Talty	Mr. Mandeville
	Mrs. Gittleman	Mr. Southland	Dr. Benigni
	Ms. Cocchiola	Mr. Maloney	Mrs. Lynch
	Mr. Ryan		
Student Reps	Ms. Lefebvre		
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. Camilleri, second by Mrs. Griffin. Vote: Unanimous.

Move	VI. Public Comments to after Report of Administration
Add	XII. B. Personnel
	7. Confirmation – Camille Dmytryszyn, Lunch Duty Assistant, \$8.25/hr.
	D. Program
	1. Approval – Grade 5 (WIS) text book for Social Studies

Student Representatives

Ms. Lefebvre updated the Board about Unity Club coffee house, girls and boys basketball hosting a day to wear red, dinner for donations for Haiti raised over \$100., math night at ECS and two future problem solving teams going to the state conference.

Correspondence

Mrs. Banic asked Mr. Mandeville to respond to concerns regarding lighting at CMS.

Minutes February 9, 2010 – Page Two Cromwell Board of Education

Mr. Mandeville said that the lights go on at 5:30 p.m. and go off at 10:35 p.m. There are lights around the perimeter that are CL&P's. These might be the lights in question. Also, there is a light on the shed that costs approximately \$110. per year to run. This light is so the security cameras can record.

Dr. Bisceglia shared that the Playground Committee sent a letter regarding the donation of a paver that they made on behalf of the BOE. He also sent around the copy.

Dr. Bisceglia also told the Board that Cromwell will be receiving about \$8,800. less in state aid next year.

Presentations/Reports

None.

Old Business

None.

New Business

Motion to approve the corrected Minutes dated January 26, 2010 Regular Meeting made by Mr. Emanuele, second by Mr. Camilleri. Vote in favor: Mr. Emanuele, Mr. Camilleri, Mrs. Trousdale, Mrs. Varricchio, Mr. Fletcher, Ms. Fitts Ritter, Mr. Sousa, Mrs. Banic. Abstention: Mrs. Griffin.

Corrections: Page 3, para 2 – should read, Dr. Talty stated...not Mr. Mandeville
Page 3, para 3 – should read, Dr. Talty responded...not Mr. Mandeville
Page 3, para 5 – should read, The increase in this budget is driven primarily by the introduction of the next phase...not the final phase. Should read, as of 2011-2012, all four schools...not next year
Page 5, bottom of page, Mr. Emanuele that all programs and sports are also on the table for cuts.

Motion to approve the Minutes dated January 26, 2010 Executive Session made by Mr. Fletcher, second by Mr. Emanuele. Vote in favor: Mr. Emanuele, Mr. Camilleri, Mrs. Trousdale, Mrs. Varricchio, Mr. Fletcher, Ms. Fitts Ritter, Mr. Sousa, Mrs. Banic. Abstention: Mrs. Griffin.

Report of Administration

Overview of Budget

Dr. Bisceglia spoke about the percentage decreases that all of the schools have submitted in their budgets and the anticipated increase in enrollment. The increases in the proposed budget are in items that cannot be controlled (salaries, benefits, computer leases, energy and utilities, and transportation). He also spoke about the decrease of about 8,800. in state funding for next year. He talked about alternative financial resources including collaborative purchasing opportunities, possible union concessions and an early retirement incentive package for certified employees. The total proposed percentage increase is 2.34%. He also listed other potential cuts for an increase of 1.34% and 0% increase.

Patty Rizzo asked about grant funding.

Dr. Bisceglia said that they do apply for grant money.

**February 9, 2010 – Page Three
Cromwell Board of Education**

Carol Dewey asked about the combining of busses at CMS and CHS.

Dr. Bisceglia said that the savings to combine the routes would be about \$70,000. which is equal to one teacher.

Alison Griffin asked about NCLB changing during next year's budget.

Dr. Bisceglia said that changes would not happen that quickly. He is hoping that the only change will be in the 2014 date that all students must meet goal.

Public Comments

Collen and Richard Duffy's letter regarding not eliminating the Gifted & Talented program was read by Mr. Fletcher. If eliminated, then NCLB brings imbalance.

The following people spoke in favor of keeping the music program:

- Peter Dewey – helps develop brain and organization skills
- Claudia Emanuele – 90-signature petition
- Cara McNeff – 90-signature petition
- Michelle Roper – vital part of school
- Linda Demetriades – uphold the mission statement
- Linda Zaino – not all students like sports
- Christine Barillaro letter – why less important than core subjects
- Karen Rider letter – very impressive music program
- Sarah Tobias – will affect the high school band
- Ann Kelly – music always cut – high school will be affected
- Hui Wang – agree with all comments
- James Demetriades – creative and emotional development – not all like sports
- Julie Schmidt – all kids are our future
- Michaela Savinelli – mission statement says to inspire all
- Meghan Savinelli – looking forward to playing an instrument
- Caitlin Savinelli – 73% of band students are on honor roll
- Tory Spadaro – creative outlet
- Wendy Jones – builds self esteem, team spirit, good grades
- Joy Cannata – well balanced education
- Jeff Polke – need to give all students a chance
- Paula Goldstein – universal language – CT DOE says arts in curriculum is important
- Jen Tine – we need music in the schools
- John Trousdale – go to a performance!
- Ann Halibozek – well rounded students - teamwork
- Chip Dorias (?) – big part of life
- Alicia Santofeier (?) – cannot imagine no music in school

The following people spoke in favor of keeping the Gifted and Talented Program:

- Peter Dewey – not in our best interest to cut
- Susan Boucher-Durand – need to focus on students at both ends of the spectrum
- Michelle Roper – vital program in school
- Patty Rizzo – essential – should not let these programs slip away
- Julie Braun – need to challenge the students
- Hui Wang – agree with all comments

Minutes February 9, 2010 – Page Four Cromwell Board of Education

- Julie Schmidt – these kids are our future
- Alison (Partridge) – we are all created equal but were given different gifts
- Jeff Polke – students should be inspired
- Jen Tine – we need programs for all students
- John Trousdale – go to invention convention – what will be next?

Julie Schmidt also spoke against combining CMS and CHS bus routes.

Jeff Polke spoke against combining bus routes and paraprofessional positions. Where is the inspiration? We need to fight for this budget against the Town. All Boards need to see what is important to the BOE. The education of the students – We all have to work together.

Jen Tine also spoke against eliminating paraprofessionals. She said that 0% increase should not even be spoken. Townspeople need to support this budget. Bring comments to the BOF.

Peter Gerard asked what would happen to the budget if 10% more students went to magnet school. He also asked about the union concessions and pay to play.

Dr. Bisceglia said that there would be an approximate 3% increase if 10% more students went to magnet school.

John Trousdale said that the BOF gives the BOE the budget and the BOE has to make it work.

Chip Dorias asked the Board to think outside the box. He encouraged the public to go to BOF with their comments. We need to fight for what we have – it is worth it!

Caitlin (?) spoke about keeping the paraprofessionals and presented the board with a 290-signature petition.

Chairperson

Mrs. Banic said they are listening and will do the best that they can.

Communications – Board of Education Committees/Liaisons

Budget

Mr. Emanuele encouraged everyone to go to the BOF meeting on February 25th and tell them what you told us tonight.

Personnel

Motion to approve the Leave of Absence of Sal Morello as per memo from Dr. Benigni made by Mrs. Trousdale, second by Mr. Emanuele. Vote: Unanimous.

Motion to approve the following Personnel Items made by Mrs. Trousdale, second by Mr. Emanuele. Vote: Unanimous.

- Sal Morello, CHS Girls JV Basketball Coach, \$3,984.
- Emily Fanelli, CHS Girls Varsity Soccer Coach, \$4,809.

Motion to accept the resignation of Jane Fleming, .5 FTE special education paraprofessional/bus aide made by Mrs. Trousdale, second by Mrs. Griffin. Vote: Unanimous.

Motion to accept with regret the retirement of Deborah Carroll, CMS Teacher made by Mrs. Trousdale, second by Mrs. Griffin. Vote: Unanimous.

Minutes February 9, 2010 – Page Five
Cromwell Board of Education

Motion to approve Camille Dmytryszyn, Lunch Duty Assistant, \$8.25/hr. made by Mrs. Trousdale, second by Mrs. Griffin. Vote: Unanimous.

Policy

Dr. Bisceglia asked that the committee look at the Student Electronic Device Use Policy as it has not been revised since 2000.

Program

Motion to approve the Grade 5 (WIS) text selection for social studies as presented made by Mr. Fletcher, second by Mr. Sousa. Vote: Unanimous.

Long-Range

Mr. Sousa reported that the committee is moving forward. Drawings are done and will be going out to bid soon.

Safety/Transportation

There will be a meeting on February 23rd at 6 p.m.

CABE Contact

Everyone should be receiving mail.

Board of Selectmen

Mr. Spotts said he will take the comments back to the BOS.

Board of Finance

Mr. Corlis said the roof and solar panel committee is ready to go out to bid.

Public Comments

None.

Consent Agenda

Motion to approve the Consent Agenda dated February 9, 2010 made by Mr. Emanuele, second by Mr. Fletcher. Vote: Unanimous.

Topics for Future Agenda

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

Minutes February 9, 2010 – Page Six
Cromwell Board of Education

Good and Welfare

Mrs. Griffin said the cost savings in benefits are good and would not affect families.

Mr. Fletcher went to the Math Counts competition. 8 student will be going to the state finals.

Executive Session

Motion to adjourn to Executive Session for Personnel Matters and Contract Negotiations at 9:18 p.m. made by Mrs. Griffin, second by Mrs. Trousdale. Vote: Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Tammy A. McPherson
BOE Recording Clerk

Consent Agenda

February 9, 2010

Budget

Warrants for Approval

- January 26, 2010 \$405,929.28
- January 27, 2010 14,985.00
- February 2, 2010 259,976.29