

SCHOOL COMMITTEE BUSINESS MEETING
School Administration Offices
1675 Flat River road

June 23, 2009

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Patenaude at 6:07 p.m.

Members present: Chairperson Katherine Patenaude, Vice-Chairman Andrew 'Ben' Perra, Member Thomas Hetherman, Member Lisa Tomasso, Member Nancy E. Sprengelmeyer, Superintendent Kenneth R. Di Pietro, Assistant Superintendents Michael Convery and James Erinakes, and Attorney Frederick Tobin.

Recording Secretary: Donna A. McDonald

Executive Session: Personnel, Litigation, Negotiation

Motion No. 09-6-1 by Vice-Chairman Perra, seconded by Member Tomasso, that the Committee recess into executive session at 6:08 p.m. to consider matter(s) relating specifically to personnel, litigation and negotiation; said action being taken in accord with Open Meetings Act, Sections 42-46-5(a)(1)&(2).

<u>Roll Call Vote:</u>	Chairperson Patenaude	<u>AYE</u>	
	Vice-Chairman Perra	<u>AYE</u>	
	Member Sprengelmeyer	<u>AYE</u>	(arrived at 6:30 p.m.)
	Member Hetherman	<u>AYE</u>	
	Member Tomasso	<u>AYE</u>	

Motion No. 09-6-2 by Vice-Chairman Perra, seconded by Member Sprengelmeyer, to recess to the Open Meeting at 7:04 p.m.

<u>Roll Call Vote:</u>	Chairperson Patenaude	<u>AYE</u>
	Vice-Chairman Perra	<u>AYE</u>
	Member Sprengelmeyer	<u>AYE</u>
	Member Hetherman	<u>AYE</u>
	Member Tomasso	<u>AYE</u>

Motion No. 09-6-3 by Vice-Chairman Perra, seconded by Member Tomasso that the records of the executive session be kept closed pursuant to Sections 42-46-4 and 42-46-5. Motion unanimously approved.

Business Agenda:

The regular business meeting reconvened at 7:09 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by a moment of silence for the pending school business. Chairman Perra notified the public of emergency exits. Member Sprengelmeyer read the Mission Statement.

Consent Agenda:

Field Trip: CHS – 8/1-8/8/09 – Environthon – Asheville, North Carolina

Superintendent approval of a foreign exchange student from Brazil to attend Coventry Public Schools for the 2009/2010 school year.

Motion No. 09-6-4, by Vice-Chairperson Perra, seconded by Member Hetherman, to approve the Consent Agenda as presented regarding a field trip and a foreign exchange student, subject to the CHS principal's approval* of the Environthon Field Trip.. Motion unanimously approved.

Note: Principal Hobin signed the field trip request the following day.

Personnel:

Administrator Contracts:

Superintendent Di Pietro met with administrators and informed them that contracts were being renewed but not extended. No three-year contracts will be awarded and current one-year or two-year contracts will only be renewed. This will allow for the School Committee to re-examine contract provisions without facing extended new contracts. Each contract currently states that if no contract is acted upon it is automatically renewed. Therefore, the proposed renewals allow for meeting contract requirements while allowing for a School Committee review. The contracts renewed are as follows:

Michael Convery, Assistant Superintendent	Michael Hobin, Principal, CHS
James Erinakes, Assistant Superintendent	<u>This Position is Vacant</u> , Director, CHS/Career & Tech
Mary Lou Buonaccorsi, HR Director	Joseph Lucian, Houseleader/Asst. Principal – CHS
Susan Lyons, Special Education Director	Lori Ferguson, Houseleader/Asst. Principal – CHS
Alicia Reniere-Castle, Principal, Blackrock	Susan Chandler, Houseleader/Asst. Principal – CHS
Tracey Whitehead, Principal, Hopkins Hill	Dr. Arthur Lisi, Houseleader/Asst. Principal – CHS
Denise Richtarik, Principal - Tiogue	Dr. Michael Almeida, Principal, ASFMS
Dr. Donna Raptakis, Principal – Washington Oak	Augusto Gomes, Asst. Principal – FMS
Jan Sullivan, Principal, Western Coventry	Kathleen Miner, Grade 6 Houseleader - FMS
Fran Murphy, Early Child/Transitions Coordinator	

In addition, administrator contracts include language that administrator salary increases annually would not be less than the teacher contract increase. Although teachers took a freeze on top step, they will receive 5 hours at base pay (approximately \$300) for one professional development day. District administrators were contacted to ask that they accept a salary freeze for the 2009/2010 school year.

Certified Recalls:

Motion No. 09-6-5 by Member Sprengelmeyer, seconded by Vice-Chairman Perra, to affirm the recommendation of the Superintendent to recall the following teachers from layoff for the 2009/2010 school year. Motion unanimously approved.

<u>Teacher</u>	<u>Recalled to</u>	<u>School</u>
Patrick Sharkey	.5 Foreign Language Teacher	CHS
Jennifer Donnelly-Taylor	1.0 Psychologist	ULSS
Adam Knight	1.0 Foreign Language Teacher	CHS
Michael Cook	1.0 Math Teacher	CHS
Laurel Auth	1.0 Business Teacher	CHS
Kendra Norigian	1.0 Self-Contained Teacher	CHS
Tiffany Kirch	1.0 Self-Contained Teacher	WO
Rebecca Henderson	1.0 Technology Teacher	FMS
Michelle Hicks	1.0 Librarian	District
Ana Lourenco	1.0 Foreign Language Teacher	CHS
Tara Correia	1.0 English Teacher	CHS
John Coen	Job Fair	
Carla Paquet	Job Fair	
Andrew Knutton	1.0 Social Studies Teacher	CHS
Jillian Morse	Job Fair	
James McGovern	1.0 Physical Education Teacher	CHS
Jeanne Bazalak	1.0 Social Worker	ULSS

These are only 17 of the 58 teachers on current layoff or past layoff. These are the teachers whose services are required despite budget implications. The remaining 30+ teachers who are currently on layoff from this year cannot be called back until the Financial Town Meeting (FTM). Given the late date of the FTM, this recall limits the exposure and cost of the district for unemployment to the extent possible without compromising the staff reductions needed or perceived to reconcile to the Town allocation for FY2010.

Chairperson Patenaude reported out from Executive Session regarding the School Committee engaging counsel of the law firm of Edwards Angell Palmer & Dodge. As a group, the Committee is concerned about the proposal given to them. The Town will pay, but the Committee is concerned because at a meeting held with Superintendent Di Pietro, Town Manager Sprague Town Council President Cloutier, representative from EAP&D and herself, they were told the legal services would go out to bid. Although the Committee is not obligated to pay for the services, they do feel that the fee is high. Historically there are many special education cases that can take many hours. The Committee is willing to go forward with the contract. Knowing the depth of special education services, it is not fiscally responsible to do it at this time when we've had someone for years at a reasonable rate.

Motion No. 09-6-6 by Member Tomasso, seconded by Member Sprengelmeyer, to accept the agreement from Edwards Angell Palmer & Dodge for legal services effective 7/1/09.

<u>Roll Call Vote:</u>	Chairperson Patenaude	<u>AYE</u>
	Vice-Chairman Perra	<u>NAY</u>
	Member Sprengelmeyer	<u>AYE</u>
	Member Hetherman	<u>NAY</u>
	Member Tomasso	<u>AYE</u>

The CTA union president questioned whether or not there is a legal issue in signing the agreement. A resident asked what would happen if there were a conflict of interest between the Town Council and the School Committee. Attorney Tobin responded that the Town Council and the School Committee would each have to find separate counsel; they would not be able to use Edwards Angell Palmer & Dodge.

Public Workshop:

2009/2010 School-Year Calendar:

The new teacher contract requires a reduction to a 180-day school year in 2009/2010. As a result, the calendar must reflect a reduction of two days. The adoption of a new schedule at CHS no longer requires that a December 21-23 schedule be provided for the three-day sequence of the former Mod-7 schedule. As a result of these two changes and the need to address a possible transition of both teachers and students to new schools due to redistricting, the new school year calendar proposes to move forward Kindergarten Orientation by one day to August 26th followed by a teacher orientation on August 27th and a planned professional day for teachers on August 28th to address transition needs. Students would begin on Monday, August 31st. The two remaining changes to the calendar include initiating the December vacation on December 22nd rather than December 23rd (one day earlier) and adding one day to the end of the school year to make up for the lost day.

Motion No. 09-6-7 by Member Sprengelmeyer, seconded by Member Tomasso, to approve the modifications to the 2009/2010 School Year Calendar as presented. Motion unanimously approved.

End-of-Year Report/Graduation:

Superintendent Di Pietro summarized the CHS graduation and end-of-year activities closing out the 2008/2009 school year.

Redistricting Plan:

Superintendent Di Pietro reported on the progress to date providing families with notification of the projected school assignments due to the redistricting. Meetings are planned for principals to schedule visits and orientations for incoming families. The calendar was modified to allow teachers an extra day to discuss and consider incoming students and their needs. All schools had facilities reviewed by Mr. Erinakes and Mr. Steverman and limited reconstruction is needed to accommodate the adjusted enrollments with the noted challenge that most program rooms (art, music, technology) are being repurposed for classroom instruction.

Decision on Food Service Provider:

Coventry is currently investigating a change from Chartwells to the State bid for Aramark Food Services to address the rising deficit of the school lunch program in Coventry over the past years.

Motion No. 09-6-8 by Vice-Chairperson Perra, seconded by Member Hetherman, to table the discussion on the Food Service Provider for Coventry Public Schools for the 2009/2010 school year until the next School Committee meeting of July 14, 2009. Motion unanimously approved.

Pension Committee Representation:

Director of Business and Finance Ferrucci said that he and Town Council President Raymond E. Spear have agreed to remain on the Pension Committee until replacements are found. It was agreed that a member of the School Committee, as well as the new incoming Finance Director, should be the new replacements. However, the Committee decided to table this motion until the next School Committee meeting. CTA Union President Erinakes said that the SRP pension is an unfunded liability, and that she expects solvency in a few years. Change is not a good thing – not legally or ethically in the best interest.

Motion No. 09-6-9 by Member Hetherman, seconded by Vice-Chairperson Perra, to table the discussion of the SRP Pension committee for the 2009/2010 school year until the next School Committee meeting of July 14, 2009. Motion unanimously approved.

At this time, the Committee acknowledged the services of Anthony Ferrucci, Director of Business and Finance. The Committee thanks Mr. Ferrucci for his ten years' of service; and Mr. Ferrucci remarked how he enjoyed his experience here and wish everyone well.

Citizens' Comments:

There were no comments.

Scheduling of Next Meeting:

Motion No. 09-6-10 by Vice-Chairperson Perra, supported by Member Sprengelmeyer, that the next meeting of the School Committee be scheduled for Tuesday, July 14, 2009. Motion unanimously approved.

Adjournment:

Motion No. 09-6-11 by Member Tomasso, supported by Member Hetherman, that the meeting be adjourned at 9:55 p.m.