

CORNISH SCHOOL BOARD

Cornish New Hampshire

January 22, 2007

MINUTES

Board Members Present: Theresa Scott, Chair, Dr. Palmer, Vice Chair, Mrs. Borchert, Ms. Rennie and Mrs. Simino. Also attending: Superintendent, Jacqueline Guillette, Assistant Superintendent, Allen Damren, and Principal Adrienne Noel.

Approval of Minutes – December 18, 2006 and January 2, 2007

Ms. Rennie made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 18, 2006 regular meeting and the January 2, 2007 budget study session as written. Mrs. Simino seconded the motion. There being no discussion on the motion, the minutes were approved.

Agenda Revision

Mrs. Scott added to the agenda before the discussion of the proposed well, the ratifying of the teachers contract. There was no objection to the addition.

Teachers' Contract

Mrs. Scott stated that this was a three-year contract and that further details of the contract will be presented at the public meeting on February 12, 2007. The teachers' union has ratified the contract. Dr. Palmer made the motion to ratify the contract. Mrs. Borchert seconded the motion. Ms. Rennie stated that she was going to vote against the contract, not that she was against the contract but that she felt increases should be based on evaluations and merit. Mrs. Simino stated that she agreed with Ms. Rennie and that pay increases should be based on merit. Mrs. Scott stated that the board is philosophically in agreement in regards to the contract and that there are not any schools in New Hampshire and very few in the country where the raises for teachers are based on evaluations and merit. The chair asked for further discussion; there being none the chair asked for a vote. The motion to ratify the teachers' contract passed with three board members voting in favor of the motion and two voting against the motion.

Proposed New Well (Discussion)

Mr. Damren gave a brief overview of the well proposal as presented to the board by JGI Eastern, Inc. He introduced Michael Burke and Jason Pelchat of JGI Eastern and Cynthia Klevens and Bernie Lucey of the Water Division of the NH Department of Environmental Services. Mr. Damren reported that in January of 2006 an unusual odor and taste associated with the drinking water was observed and become more apparent over time. Due to the unknown origin of the odor and taste, the school administration discussed with the NH Department of Environmental Services to see what could be done. Finding petroleum in the well, NHDES put a "no drinking order" on the water at the school and bottled water was brought in. Funds from the state have been used to pay for the bottled water, but will expire on March 31st. JGI Eastern was brought in to do further testing and analysis to determine the source of the pollution and alternatives for a new drinking system. Jason Pelchat gave a brief report on what JGI Eastern had done to find the source of pollution and suggest an alternative. Many tests were run and it was found that the water had petroleum in it, but that the contamination was within DES drinking water standards. The well was pumped down, but did not clear of the contaminates. Also tested was a 230 ft. bedrock well that is within the school building footprint. This well does not have capacity to supply the school. Two proposals were looked at for the possible replacement of the existing well. One is a bedrock well and one is an overburden well. The proposed location for the overburden well is across Townhouse Road. This location would require an increased cost for a pump, trenching and pipe installation. The utility pipes would travel under Townhouse Road. The discussion was opened up for questions from the public. The first question asked was if the existing well was a viable well. The well has some impact by petroleum. The state feels that the well water should not be used for drinking. The well could not be pumped dry.

Will the new well have impurities that would not taste horrible and could it be back flushed? If the well is back flushed, contamination could still continue to seep in.

Mrs. Simino stated that the residents of Cornish should know how contaminated the well is. The contaminants are not over standard. The standards are 10,000 parts per billion. The well is at 5,000 parts per billion. It is not a regulatory issue; it is an aesthetic issue.

The question was asked if there were systems that would clean and purify the present well water. It might be cheaper to install a system that will purify the water.

Mr. Damren reported that there is approximately \$20,000 available from the Department of Environmental Services and building aid is available at 30% and would be received over a five-year period. These amounts will reduce the cost of the well by approximately \$40,000.

The DES was originally in favor of treating the well, but the existing well is downhill of many of the contaminants that can cause problems. The new well is uphill from any contaminants and will be a one-time investment as compared to yearly investments in the filters needed for a filtration system.

Was it determined as to where the contamination came from? There was a 600-gallon loss of fuel oil at one point, but it was unknown where it went. When the 20,000-gallon fuel tank was removed, there was not any contamination around the tank, but it was discovered that the line from the tank had a leak.

Why wasn't the contaminated soil removed? The line that was leaking was under the school. During the excavation of the tank, an excavator hit the septic tank and raw sewage flowed into the hole of the tank. A smaller well will be drilled for testing of the well for impurities before a larger well is drilled to supply the school.

Can the well be used for non-drinking usage and a smaller well be dug for drinking and cooking? It would cost more in the long term to have two systems. It is not viable to have two systems for use by the children.

Everett Cass stated that a bedrock well could be dug by the corner of the school lot and the road and would cost between \$5,000 and \$6,000. The utilities would not have to be run under the road. Jason stated that drilling a bedrock well is uncertain without knowing what type of rock there is and what type of cracks you would find that would reveal water. The old well that is under the school was pumped down and a camera was used to see what was in the bedrock.

It was stated that the well should not be near the beaver that live in the area. Maybe time is needed to look at filtration of the existing well.

Concern was expressed in regards to parking in the field near the well during fair time and other times when the field is used for parking. The well would be cordoned off and be above any possible contamination from problems with cars with leaky fuel tanks.

There was concern about the monitoring well not being tested on a regular basis. If testing is not done, how do the residents know that the contamination is still there? Is this proposal being presented without all the facts?

Questions were asked about the cost of \$15,000 for permitting fees. These fees will cover all the designs, permits, and testing required by the state. The cost of electric is for an in-line pump that will pump the water up to the present storage tanks.

Could the bedrock well that is under the school be hydro-fractured? It is not viable to do as the well is under the school and would be very difficult to get a machine into the well area. The camera showed that there were not any fractures that could be opened to allow a better water supply.

The discussion kept coming back to filtration. There are two kinds of filtration systems. One is a carbon system and one is a virgin carbon filtration system. The virgin system is more expensive.

The flow rates are determined by geological surveys.

Questions were asked about the feasibility of continuing the use of bottled water. It cost approximately \$2,000 per month for the bottled water. At the present time, the state is reimbursing the school for the use of the bottled water, but that funding will run out on March 31st. If bottled water usage is continued, the cost would soon be more than the proposed new well. The school will continue to use bottled water until a new well is on line. Also, the use of bottled water as a long-term solution would not be compliant with state regulations.

The residents at the meeting were reminded that the cost is the worst case scenario and the project would have to go out to bid. The monies from DES are guaranteed and the state aid is guaranteed. The monies from the DES is still available if a filtration system is put in. Different contaminates will require different filters. Once all the permits are completed the well could be drilled in 2-3 days. The system would need to be flushed out before the new well is put on line.

There being no further discussion, Mrs. Simino made a motion to adjourn. Dr. Palmer seconded the motion. The motion passed and the meeting adjourned at 9:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Woodman, Recording Secretary

CORNISH SCHOOL BOARD

Cornish New Hampshire

January 2, 2007

MINUTES

Board Members Present: Theresa Scott, Chair, Dr. William Palmer, Vice Chair, Susan Borchert arrived at 7:05 p.m., Carol Rennie and Alicia Simino. Also Attending: Superintendent Jacqueline Guillette, Assistant Superintendent Allen Damren, Principal Adrienne Noel and Maren Ardell, Director of Special Education.

Mr. Damren gave the outline of topics to be covered at the Budget Meetings.

January 2, 2007	Special Education and Regular Education
January 15, 2007	Athletics, Health and Media
January 22, 2007	School Board, Maintenance and Office of Principal
February 12, 2007	Tentative Date for Public Hearing

The well will be reviewed after someone from JGI Eastern can attend a meeting and explain the different proposals.

Maren Ardell, Director of Special Education presented the budget proposal for special education. She stated that the decrease in paraprofessionals in special education is due to a student going into high school. The

decrease will show as an increase in the high school portion of the budget. This is also true in the out of state tuition as that student is going into high school and therefore that money is going to be in the high school budget. Windsor charges \$4,200 for case management for any special education student from Cornish who is attending Windsor High School. If one of the students also attends classes at Hartford High School there is an additional \$2,000 paid to Hartford for that student. These amounts are in addition to the regular tuition. If a student has a need for one-on-one assistance there would be a charge plus tuition for that additional help if the student attended Stevens or Lebanon High School, but there would be no charge for case management. Salaries have been kept at level spending. Mrs. Simino asked if there were any high school special education students out of compliance. There are no Cornish students out of compliance. Mrs. Borchert asked if Cornish could assign their own case management personnel for Windsor or Hartford students. The answer is no and it would cost more money. If students are out of compliance, Cornish will lose money. There is a liaison between Cornish and Windsor to monitor the students to be sure that no student is out of compliance. There will be 12 special education high school students. Three are graduating and three are entering high school. There are 26 special education students at the Cornish School. This is the same as the '06-'07 school year. Mrs. Simino asked what makes a student become classified as needing special education. Ms. Ardell responded that there are 13 categories of assessment that have to be considered in the making of an IEP for a student. If a student only needs extra time for testing, has a medical condition, or some type of consideration, these students usually have a 504 plan and are not classified as special education.

Principal Adrienne Noel presented the regular education budget. She stated that health insurance has increased by 7.7%, the NH Retirement increased 36%, and there is no line item for Internet as everything is connected to the cable system. There is the addition of one paraprofessional. There is an increase in regular instruction assessment. The Accelerated Reader is now Web based, there are new fees for the MAP testing of each pupil in Grades 3-8, and there will be an additional cost for the Stepping Stones training for teachers to understand the MAP program. The cost of the training will be shared with Claremont and Unity.

The purchase of new software will help build the library of software to promote and enrich curriculum through challenging math and science software. Textbooks are up due to the addition of the MAP programs and other materials for literacy skills and promote success in reading. Workbooks are needed to go along with the programs that are being used and those that are being considered. Mrs. Borchert asked if there were enough computers for the students to work. Principal Noel stated that there are some associated costs with these new programs. She is still working with Dan Suse on what is needed. Merilynn Bourne stated that she has some computers that have been donated to her that she cannot use and if they are suitable for these programs, the Cornish School may gladly have them. Most of the new equipment will be placed in the lab and the classes will go to the lab to work on the computers. The teachers are still reviewing the programs. The cost for the programs are all within a close range and the higher cost has been placed in the budget. Visits will be made to schools that are using the programs, so staff may observe the lessons, see the programs and talk to the teachers that are using the programs.

New equipment that is being considered is the purchase of musical instruments that will allow more students to participate in the music programs and computers that will replace ones that cannot be upgraded. Mrs. Scott stated that with the increase in the budget and the unknowns with a new well, should we ask for new musical instruments and computers. Dr. Palmer asked if the new programs will work on the computers we now have? There are 25 computers in the lab and some have received new memories. Grades 3 through 8 are using the labs. Principal Noel stated that new state standards require for all eight-grade students to have an electronic portfolio before graduating. These standards are called ICT Standards and stand for Information, Communication and Technology. Mrs. Borchert also felt that musical instruments are not a necessary item and perhaps if the word is put out through the school newsletter and the Town of Cornish Website, perhaps there are residents that will donate instruments that are no longer being used. Principal Noel stated that newer computers are part of the technology vision. Some of the computers need to be upgraded. Dr. Palmer stated that computers are very important, but perhaps this is the year to add fewer computers. Mrs. Simino asked if the

students learn and retain information they receive from computers. Superintendent Guillette stated that computers are becoming the native language, in a sense, of the children growing up today. She has not seen any research on how important computers are in a child's learning. It should be a tool, but not the ultimate way to learn. Mrs. Simino stated that she hates to see a child not take advantage of sitting by a window and reading. Mrs. Borchert stated that it is important to relay to the music teacher that the board supports the music program but that this is a very tricky budget year and that Cornish has been lucky in receiving donations and hopefully will do so this year.

Mrs. Scott asked why there is the addition of another paraprofessional. Principal Noel stated that this stems from the needs of the students in the classrooms. She also stated that only two were budgeted in the '06-'07, but there are three working. A special education paraprofessional has moved to regular education. This person was doing half time in special education and half time in regular education. Caroline Storrs spoke in support of the paraprofessionals. She also stated that more students need extra help. The lower wing is showing a real need. Mrs. Simino wondered with the lower number of students in a classroom is this person necessary. Principal Noel stated that not all students are in the same area of skills within a grade. Superintendent Guillette stated that some students need extra time to master skills and therefore more adult bodies are needed. Dr. Palmer stated that students work at many different levels. People are needed that can also help the gifted student to excel. Mrs. Simino asked if a paraprofessional teaches a class or do the teachers teach the class and then the paraprofessional works with the student that need extra help. There are some paraprofessionals that can teach a class but the paraprofessional usually works with the students that need extra help with understanding their work.

As there was time to consider other budgets, it was decided to review the athletic, guidance and health budgets. Principal Noel stated that athletics shows an increase in the area of supplies due to the need to purchase new soccer nets. Guidance shows an increase due to benefits and program materials. The textbook increase is for the purchase of a book on careers. Part of the health budget increase is due to an increase in the amount of hours that the school nurse will be available. Other increases are in supplies that are needed by the nurse, textbooks to build the library of health texts and there is an increase in the cost of preventive maintenance on equipment and calibrations.

Media and school board services budgets were discussed next. There is a retirement in the library and a stipend is included. This also affects the benefits, but benefits may show a decrease if someone is hired that does not need health insurance. This person might also be a half-time person in the library as well as a half-time media person. The board needs to identify what the need is in these positions before considering applicants for the positions. The only increase to the school board services budget is due to an increase in the auditors fees.

Assistant Superintendent Damren passed out a sheet that he had put together for the board to look at if they wished to have the costs of the well presented as a bond issue. He gave information on a 5 or 10 year bond. It would need to be a special article on the warrant and will need 2/3 majority vote in order to pass. There was a lot of discussion of other areas near the school that could be utilized for the well. JGI Eastern is still looking at other options, but at this time there is concern about the quantity of water available from other sources. The bottled water reimbursement funds will run out in March. Ms. Rennie suggested talking to others to see what options are available. Mrs. Bourne asked what type of a well they are suggesting that will cost \$75,000. Part of the costs are related to the construction of the pipe under the road. It is very important that JGI Eastern attend a meeting, as well as the annual school district meeting to explain the different plans and the costs. There is \$10,000 to \$20,000 available from the state to help in the cost of the well.

Mr. Damren passed out a financial report. He stated that the special education line item is under budget. The back billing from Windsor High School for tuition is an area that needs to be further discussed with Windsor. Mrs. Scott suggested that the board might have to increase the high school tuition line to help offset this problem for future budgets. Many questions were asked about what would happen to the high school students if

the monies were not paid. There are several things that could happen. Cornish School District could be sued or Cornish students might be denied the right to graduate. Mrs. Guillette and Mr. Damren will be talking with Windsor to see what can be done.

There being no further discussion, the meeting adjourned at 9:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Mary Woodman, Recording Secretary

CORNISH SCHOOL BOARD

Cornish New Hampshire

December 18, 2006

MINUTES

Board Members Present: Theresa Scott, Chair, Dr. Palmer, Vice Chair, Mrs. Borchert, Ms. Rennie and Mrs. Simino. Also Attending: Superintendent, Jacqueline Guillette, and Maren Ardell, Director of Special Education.

The meeting was called to order by the Chair, Terrie Scott, with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Minutes – November 20, 2006.

Dr. Palmer moved that the minutes of the November 20, 2006 meeting be approved. Ms. Rennie seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Motion passed.

Agenda Revisions – Superintendent Guillette reported that she was going to be the Principal, and give the SAU Reports with the support of Ms. Ardell in the absence of Assistant Superintendent, Allen Damren, Principal Adrienne Noel and Wendy Siebrands, Curriculum Director, who were sick.

Citizens' Comments – A citizen asked if anything had been decided on the sign at the entrance to the school. Superintendent Guillette reported that it would be addressed in her report.

Committee Reports

French Committee – No meeting

Enrichment Committee – Will try to get the committee together after the holidays.

Tech Committee – Gathering information on software to be included in the budget.

Athletic Committee – Will meet again after basketball season.

Building and Maintenance Committee– Mrs. Simino, Mrs. Noel, Jim Jordan and Mike Monette met and reviewed the projects that need to be included in the budget. They are trying to get estimates for painting the rest of the school, and looking at electrical updates. There is no update on the AC. No complaints have come in about the traffic flow. It seems to be working well at this time. Talked about adding lockers at the school and put cost in next year's budget. They talked about the well. There is always new information coming in on the well. The new sink has been installed in the kitchen. Health Inspector was happy to see the sink had been installed. Still working on the security door and the second grade room's door. Have talked to a couple of companies that install the security doors, and estimates seem to run closely in price. Nate Cass is going to check the size of the front door for handicap access. New Hampshire Local Government Center came and did a safety inspection last year and identified some areas that needed correcting. They returned recently and were pleased to see that all areas have been corrected.

Wellness and Nutrition Committee – They are looking into the possibility of using local foods with the Farm to Schools Program. They are working on information on whole grains. Fitness is using recess time and other times for hiking and other activities

Discussion/Action Items

Mrs. Scott stated that the following policies were on second reading and need to be adopted: BBA-R: Duties of School Board, BCA/BCA-R: School Board Member Ethics, BCB: Board Member Conflict of Interest, BEC: Non-Public Sessions, BHE: School Board use of Email, CA-R1: Duties of Superintendent, CA-R2: Duties of Principal, CBI: Evaluation of the Superintendent, DBJ: Transfer of Appropriations, DH: Bonded Employees, EBCB: Fire Drills, EBCB-R: Fire Drills, EBCC: Bomb Threats, EBCF: Pandemic/Epidemic Emergencies, ECAF: Audio/Visual Surveillance on School Buses, EEA: Student Transportation, EEAE: School Bus Safety Program, GBEBB: Employee-Student Relations, GBI: Staff Participation in Political Activities, GCAA: Highly Qualified Teachers, GCCAD: Military Leave, GCF: Professional Staff Hiring, IHBG: Home Education Instruction, IJK: Supplemental Materials Selection and Adoption, ILBA: Assessment, IMBA: Online/Virtual Education, IMC: Controversial Speakers, IMDA: Patriotic Exercises (revised - replaces Pledge of Allegiance), JICDD: Student Discipline – Out of School Activities, JICI: Weapons on School Property, JICK: Pupil Safety and Violence Prevention, JIJ: Student Protests, Demonstrations and Strikes, JJAA: Participation by Non-enrolled Resident Students, JKA-R: Use of Physical Restraint Procedures, JLCC: Communicable Diseases, KA: School, Community, and Home Relations, KDCA: Flyers/Materials Distribution, and KFA: Public Conduct on School Property. There being no further corrections or changes, Ms. Rennie moved that the policies be placed on second reading and moved their adoption. Mrs. Borchert seconds the motion. The motion passed and the policies were adopted.

Principal's Report – Superintendent Guillette presented the Principal's report. Report cards have been distributed. The ski sign up was held and over thirty-five parents filled out the paperwork for the background checks and were fingerprinted. Approximately 2/3 of the students will go skiing while 1/3 will be involved with swimming lessons, rock climbing/fitness yoga, and snowshoeing. Graduation is scheduled for June 9, 2007 and will be that date even if there are snow days to make up as St. Gaudens is booked for weddings and other functions all summer long. It is hoped that this year Cornish School will see delays in school openings and not cancellations in the case of snow. A community member, who wishes to remain anonymous, donated a shed that will be used to store recyclables. Ms. Rennie made a motion to accept the shed and to authorize Mrs. Noel to write a thank-you note to the donor. Mrs. Borchert seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Superintendent's Report – Superintendent Guillette presented her report. She reminded the board members of the SAU 6 budget hearing and adoption of the budget on Thursday, December 21, 2006 at the John Goodrich Room in the Sugar River Tech Center in Claremont at 7:00 p.m. She has scheduled a joint gathering with all three school boards of SAU 6 to meet in the Teal Room at the Sugar River Tech Center on January 8, 2007 with the legislators and senators that represent the three Schools in the SAU. At this time she has heard from only Senator O'Dell. She passed around a proposal for the new sign at the entrance to the school to replace the sign that many residents did not like. She also reported that Windsor School District has billed Cornish School District an additional \$34,006.98 for tuition for the High School Students. More information will be presented at the January meeting. Hartford High School has not sent a bill for additional tuition for Cornish students. Special Education students that attend Stevens High School pay the same tuition as any other Cornish student, whereas if that student attends Windsor High School there is also a charge for Case Management. Dr. Palmer wondered if there can be a safety net added into the budget for these emergencies.

Water Report – Superintendent Guillette presented a report that had been received the afternoon of the meeting. It gives a couple of different proposals for placement of the wells. It was suggested that perhaps someone from the well companies could be at a future board meeting and at the Annual School District Meeting to answer questions and explain the different proposals.

Draft Budget 2007-08 Budget Presentation – Superintendent Guillette presented the draft budget for 2007-2008 and gave a brief overview. Health insurance premiums have increased 7.7% but there is no increase in the dental insurance. No salary increases are included at this time as contract negotiations are ongoing. Building improvements need to be discussed in regards to feasibility and funding. High school tuition rates need to be finalized. Windsor and Hartford rates are estimates and as such a bill for an additional \$34,000 has just been received. The New Hampshire has passed on a mandatory increase of 33% for its retirement system. Revenues from the state funding of education have decreased by \$102, 665. This revenue decrease alone causes the tax rate to rise \$1.22 or 10.9%. Mrs. Guillette also reviewed the proposed revenue. There may be more Medicaid monies. The budget show a decrease in paraprofessionals as one special education student is moving on to high school. The special education budget shows a decrease in elementary monies but an increase in high school tuition. There is a decrease of twelve students going to high school.

Future Planning

December 21, 2006 – SAU Board Meeting – Public Hearing on Budget
January 2, 2007 – Budget Session
January 8, 2007 – SAU 6 meeting with legislators – Teal Room - Claremont
January 15, 2007 – Budget Session
January 22, 2007 – Budget Session
January 29th or 30th, 2007 – Budget
February 5, 2007 – Public Hearing on Budget

There being no further business to come before the board, Mrs. Simino made a motion to adjourn. Ms. Rennie seconded the motion. Motion passed and the meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted
Mary Woodman, Recording Secretary