

A Special Business meeting of the Cape Elizabeth School Board was held on Tuesday, November 23, 2009 at 7:45 a.m. in the Wm. H. Jordan Conference Room. Approximately 15 members of the community were also in attendance.

School Board members present:

Patricia Brigham, Chair  
Karen Burke  
Peter Cotter  
Rebecca Millett  
Mary Townsend  
Linda Winker

Alan H. Hawkins, Superintendent of Schools

Unable to attend: Kathy Ray

Board Chair, Patricia Brigham, called the meeting to order at approximately 7:50 a.m.

- I. Update on Meeting with Legislators (11/12)/State Budget Information
- II. Current financial outlook for Cape Elizabeth
- III. Brainstorm ways to deal with likely loss of state aid in FY 2009-10
- IV. Review 09-10 curtailment resolution - Mary Townsend moved that the Board accept the proposal presented by Rebecca Millett with one change. Karen Burke seconded. (Approved 6-0)

The Special meeting adjourned at 9:15 am.

Motion: Ms. Brigham Second: Ms. Burke Vote: 6-0 Time: 9:15 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Alan H. Hawkins  
Superintendent



**CAPE ELIZABETH SCHOOL**  
**SCHOOL BOARD**

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Patricia Brigham  
*Chair*

**WHEREAS**, for all Maine children and youth to reach the high educational standards that will allow them to succeed in school, work and life, the State of Maine must commit adequate resources to schools so they can comply with state and federal law; and

Linda Winker  
*Vice-Chair*

**WHEREAS**, emerging from the national recession requires that Maine make smart choices today that will avoid deepening our recession and hurting our state's capacity to recover and expand; and

Karen Burke

Peter Cotter

Rebecca Millett

Katharine Ray

Mary Townsend

**WHEREAS**, there is an undeniable correlation between success in school, earnings potential and economic growth; and

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Alan H. Hawkins  
*Board Secretary*  
*Superintendent of Schools*

**WHEREAS**, Maine law requires the state share of Essential Programs and Services (EPS) funding in FY 09 to equal 55%, and the current curtailment reduces the state share to 45% statewide and to just 10.94% in Cape Elizabeth; and

**WHEREAS**, the Governor's curtailment order further exacerbates the inequity in the state versus local share of public education funding; and

**WHEREAS**, the Governor's Executive Order Curtailing Allotments for FY 2009 – 2010 by \$63,144,713, \$38 million of which is from General Purpose Aid to Maine school districts representing the single biggest cut of state funds; and

**WHEREAS**, \$4,500 represents the only other cut to the Department of Education; and

**WHEREAS**, Cape Elizabeth stands to lose \$621,440 in addition to the \$504,339 cut in the original General Purpose Aid allocation as a result of the elimination of these resources; and

**WHEREAS**, this curtailment and the projected additional State funding cut to General Purpose Aid for FY 2010 – 2011 will result in a 50% cut in state funding over a one year period (77% without federal stimulus funds) for Cape Elizabeth public schools; and

**WHEREAS**, the Cape Elizabeth School District has taken very proactive cost-cutting measures to improve efficiency while supporting student performance to do its part to help minimize the impact on taxpayers during this economic recession; and

**WHEREAS**, the curtailment to General Purpose Aid poses a grave threat to Maine's School Districts' ability to increasing student achievement and meet federally mandated NCLB requirements, which will put state schools at risk of being labeled a 'failing schools';

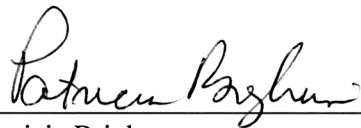
**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Governor and State Legislature must provide adequate and stable basic education funding for our schools by:

- Maintaining a minimum state funding level of no less than 20% of a school district's EPS expenditure level,
- Re-evaluating the allotment curtailment to reduce the impact on direct education programs, which have been asked to absorb the largest portion of the cut.
- Supporting established state goals regarding efficiency in school administration and excellence in student performance by rewarding and not penalizing schools that are already performing at a high level with low administrative costs.
- Recognizing that strong schools will be critical to the economic recovery of our state and nation, and the current fragile state of that recovery, and understanding that cuts that come directly out of our communities work in opposition to the need for rapid recovery.

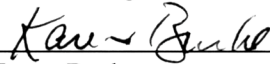
**BE IT RESOLVED** that we call upon citizens of Cape Elizabeth to help school districts obtain adequate and stable basic education funding by contacting state legislators and the Governor and expressing the urgency of this funding crisis and inequity of the current cuts.

**FURTHERMORE BE IT RESOLVED** that a copy of this resolution be submitted to all local newspapers, to Cape Elizabeth's elected State Senators and Representatives, to the leaders of the Legislature, to the chairmen of the Education and Appropriations Committees, and to the Governor of Maine.

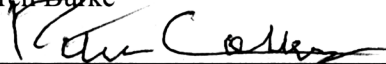
**ADOPTED** by Cape Elizabeth School Board at the meeting of November 23, 2009.



Patricia Brigham



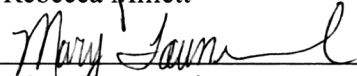
Karen Burke



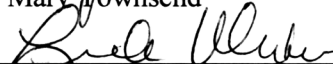
Peter Cotter



Rebecca Millett



Mary Townsend



Linda Winker