

# **UNAPPROVED**

## **CUMBERLAND SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

**A regular meeting of the Cumberland School Committee was held on Thursday, April 8, 2010 at the Cumberland High School Auditorium, 2600 Mendon Road, Cumberland, Rhode Island.**

### **Agenda Item #1: Chairman Convenes Meeting**

**The meeting was called to order by Chairman Costa at 7:30 p.m.**

**Members Present: Jeff Mutter, Dan Pedro, Brian Kelly, Earl Wood, Donald Costa, Ryan Pearson, Lisa Beaulieu**

**Staff Present: Donna A. Morelle, Ed.D., Superintendent, Joseph A. Rotella, Esq., Director of Administration, Dr. Susan Carney, Asst. Superintendent, Alex Prignano, Business Manager**

### **Agenda Item #2: Pledge of Allegiance**

### **Agenda Item #3: Approval of Agenda**

**Motion made by Mr. Wood to approve the agenda, 2nd by Mr. Pearson, approved 7-0.**

### **Agenda Item #4: Recognition of Achievements**

**Dr. Morelle was awarding certificates to several students in various**

grades throughout the district for their achievements in the Spelling Bee and for their participation in Destination Imagination. The Director of Destination Imagination was present at the meeting and stated that there are five teams from Rhode Island going to globals and that two of the teams were from Cumberland! She also presented Dr. Morelle with a bag of Destination Imagination “goodies”.

#### **Agenda Item #5: Student Government Report**

Ms. Agostinelli and Ms. Chadwick reported that “Daffodil Days” was held in March and the students raised over \$400 for cancer patients! Also, on April 6th the students held a very successful blood drive. “Pennies for Patients” was held in March and the top three informational rooms received a free lunch from the Olive Garden – the students raised over \$1,700 for leukemia patients! The girls also noted that the “Spring Fling” was to be held on April 10th.

#### **Agenda Item #6: Chairpersons Report**

No report at this time.

#### **Agenda Item #7: Superintendent’s Report on Teaching and Learning**

Dr. Morelle wanted to explain the importance of a report that is included in her report to all of the School Committee members – a position statement on middle school sports. She noted that the middle school program should not be a mini high school program, whereas middle school students are unique and should be experiencing more of a team sport where the student can excel

**individually – such as swim or cross country. The position statement that she included in her report is a very good framework for School Committee members to utilize. This statement can be found on the internet under National Association for Sports and Physical Education or you can Google middle school sports programs. Dr. Morelle feels that this will be very helpful in building a wide and robust program for the middle school.**

#### **Agenda Item #8: Comments from the Public**

**Ms. Walton- has never heard of Destination Imagination and wondered how she could get teams from Ashton involved in the program. Lisa Beaulieu advised that April Edwards is the coordinator of the program and usually contacts the schools at the beginning of each school year to see who would like to get involved. The teams usually start working together in November and work until March.**

**Ms. Johnson – wondered if middle school sports could be self funded. She believes that certain soccer teams are self funded and was hoping the same could be done for other sports so as to keep the sport alive. Dr. Morelle spoke briefly in regards to resurrecting and old School Committee policy on self funding-this is going to be reviewed.**

#### **Agenda Item #9: Reports of Standing Committees**

**A. Payment of Bills – Mr. Kelly stated that the finance sub-committee met earlier in the evening and by a vote of 3-0 approved a total of \$298,559.73 to be brought to the full committee. Mr. Kelly then made**

**a motion to approve the payment of invoices totaling \$298,559.73, 2nd by Mr. Pearson, approved 7-0.**

**Agenda Item #10: Approval of Minutes**

**Mr. Pearson made a motion to approve the minutes of the Executive Session meeting 2/25/10, Special Meeting 2/25/10, Budget Workshop 2/27/10, Executive Session meeting 3/3/10, Special Meeting 3/3/10, 2nd by Mr. Pedro and Mr. Wood, approved 7-0.**

**Mr. Pearson made a motion to table the minutes of the Open Session 3/11/10, Special Meeting 3/18/10, Special Meeting 3/22/10, Special Meeting 3/25/10, Executive Session Meeting 3/25/10, 2nd by Mr. Wood, approved 7-0.**

**Mr. Pearson made a motion to approve the minutes of the Executive Session 2/11/10, Executive Session 2/18/10, Executive Session 2/25/10, 2nd Ms. Beaulieu, approved 7-0.**

**Mr. Pearson made a motion to table the minutes of Executive Session 3/3/10, Executive Session 3/11/10, Executive Session 3/25/10, 2nd Ms. Beaulieu, approved 7-0.**

**Agenda Item #11: New Business**

**A. Discussion and/or vote on the Retirement Incentive Proposal – Dr. Morelle stated that in a previous School Committee meeting the members approved the retirement incentive for fiscal 2011 budget. There were certain conditions and one of them was a proposal for 20 certified teachers to take action on the retirement incentive. The administration indicated that they would bring an analysis back to the**

members once they had the letters from the teachers that were planning on retiring – this would allow us to discuss the incentive and the dollars that would be involved. Mr. Prignano reviewed the retirement incentive analysis and identified 19 teachers that submitted letters and that totaled about \$1.2 million dollars in salaries– after careful review by Mr. Prignano, Dr. Morelle and Mr. Rotella, it was determined that they would need to hire 12 new teachers to fill in for the 19 – they would take 5 back from the layoff list. After all was calculated it looks like it is around \$515,000 savings, non-certified staff savings was about \$47,600. At this point Mr. Pearson made a motion to change the request for “20” certified teachers to take the retirement incentive to “19” certified teachers to take the retirement incentive, 2nd by Ms. Beaulieu, approved 7-0. Mr. Kelly stated that the finance sub-committee did discuss this potential savings earlier in the evening and that originally the savings was thought to be around \$497,000, so at this point they are actually ahead by about \$66,000 in savings if the figures hold true.

B. Discussion on FY 11 Budget – Dr. Morelle stated that she is very happy about exceeding the retirement incentive goal of about \$66,000. She is very concerned about the structural budget shortfall that could start with the 2010 budget – it could be a dominoes effect on next year’s budget. The problem is lack of revenue – very simple – they are all trying to figure out where to get the dollars needed from. Some thoughts were taxpayers, employees(less compensation), retirement incentive (already noted) and the elementary design proposal. Some of the savings are unidentified. Mr. Prignano also

reviewed some figures and noted that there will be not stimulus money in 2012-it is very difficult to find the dollars in this budget, there is only so much they can do with what they have to work with – it is not like a town or city budget, there is not much room and it is not easy to recoup. Dr. Morelle reiterated that they are all here to make an informed decision and stresses the fact that she does not want to put the burden of unemployment on any family unless it is absolutely necessary.

### **Agenda Item # 12: Personnel Recommendations**

**Dr. Morelle read the following requests for retirements:**

#### **Certified**

**I request the advice and consent of the School Committee on the retirement of Susan Angell-Kubiak, Family and Consumer Sciences, at Joseph L. McCourt Middle School, effective 6/30/2010.**

**I request the advice and consent of the School Committee on the retirement of Kathleen Breslin, World Language Teacher, at North Cumberland Middle School, effective 6/30/2010.**

**I request the advice and consent of the School Committee on the retirement of Craig Burgoyne, Mathematics Teacher, at Joseph L. McCourt Middle School, effective 6/30/2010.**

**I request the advice and consent of the School Committee on the retirement of Maureen Burns, Grade 1 Teacher, at John J. McLaughlin**

**Cumberland Hill Elementary School, effective 6/30/2010.**

**I request the advice and consent of the School Committee on the retirement of Donna Cimerol-D'Arezzo, Art Teacher, at Joseph L. McCourt Middle School, effective 6/30/2010.**

**I request the advice and consent of the School Committee on the retirement of Debra Gagnon, Grade 6 Teacher, at North Cumberland Middle School, effective 6/30/2010.**

**I request the advice and consent of the School Committee on the retirement of Steven Gordon, Physical Education Teacher, at Cumberland High School, effective 6/30/2010.**

**I request the advice and consent of the School Committee on the retirement of Diane Howley, Speech/Language Pathologist, at B.F. Norton School, effective 6/30/2010.**

**I request the advice and consent of the School Committee on the retirement of Thomas Kenwood, Physical Education Teacher, at Cumberland High School, effective 6/30/2010.**

**I request the advice and consent of the School Committee on the retirement of Virginia LaFlamme-Zurowski, Special Educator, at Cumberland High School, effective 6/30/2010.**

**I request the advice and consent of the School Committee on the retirement of David Meikle, Physical Education Teacher, at Garvin Memorial School, effective 6/30/2010.**

**I request the advice and consent of the School Committee on the retirement of Paul Nadeau, Health/Physical Education Teacher, at Joseph L. McCourt Middle School, effective 6/30/2010.**

**I request the advice and consent of the School Committee on the retirement of Philip Pare, Reading Specialist, at John J. McLaughlin Cumberland Hill Elementary School, effective 6/30/2010.**

**I request the advice and consent of the School Committee on the retirement of Jacquelyn Plante, Special Educator, at Joseph L. McCourt Middle School, effective 6/30/2010.**

**I request the advice and consent of the School Committee on the retirement of Carol Riccitelli, Speech/Language Pathologist, at Joseph L. McCourt Middle School, effective 6/30/2010.**

**I request the advice and consent of the School Committee on the retirement of Elisabeth Rubin, Medica Specialist, at John J. McLaughlin Cumberland Hill Elementary School, effective 6/30/2010.**

**I request the advice and consent of the School Committee on the**

**retirement of Phyllis Sale, Grade 1 Teacher, at Ashton School, effective 6/30/2010.**

#### **Non-Certified**

**I request the advice and consent of the School Committee on the retirement of Bruce Calvert, Pool Manager, at Cumberland High School, effective 6/30/2010.**

**I request the advice and consent of the School Committee on the retirement of Michael Carey, Custodian, at BF Norton School, effective 6/30/2010.**

**I request the advice and consent of the School Committee on the retirement of Marguerite Dailey, Teacher Assistant, at Community School, effective 6/30/2010.**

**I request the advice and consent of the School Committee on the retirement of Joan Speight, Teacher Assistant, at Ashton School, effective 6/30/2010.**

**Dr. Morelle also noted that the retirees will be asked to attend a June School Committee meeting so that they can be appropriately acknowledged.**

**Motion was made by Mr. Pearson to accept all personnel recommendations, 2nd by Mr. Kelly, approved 5-2, no-Mr. Wood, Mr. Pedro.**

**Agenda Item # 13: Comments from the public**

**No comments at this time.**

**Agenda Item #14: School Committee Comments (School Liaison Reports)**

**Lisa Beaulieu wanted to thank Garvin School for inviting her to Reading Week. Also, two bills currently in the General Assembly, House Bill 75-81 Support Binding Arbitration and Senate Bill S2603 Contract Continuation Bill – the School Committee does not support these bills – we ask that you do not support them! Mr. Mutter and Mr. Costa also offered an apology to Dr. Morelle for some inappropriate comments that were made during the “Comments from the Public” portion of last night’s meeting.**

**Agenda Item #15: Vote to go into Executive Session for Discussion on Items Referred to in GLRI 42-46-5**

**A. Personnel Matters**

**B. Negotiations/Litigation-Mr. Rotella noted that he had several issues and would be brief. Mr. Pearson made a motion to go into Executive Session, 2nd Mr. Pedro, approved 6-1.**

**Agenda Item #16: Adjournment**

**Meeting adjourned.**

**Meeting minutes respectfully submitted by Linda A. Jackvony**