

Unapproved

CUMBERLAND SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

A special meeting of the Cumberland School Committee was held on Thursday, June 3, 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 Donald Costa at 7:57 p.m.

Members Present: Lisa Beaulieu, Donald Costa, Brian Kelly, Jeff Mutter, Ryan Pearson, Earl Wood. Dan Pedro was not in attendance tonight.

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

Agenda Item #2: Pledge of Allegiance

Agenda Item #3: Approval of Agenda

Motion to approve agenda was made by Mr. Wood, 2nd by Mr. Pearson, approved 6-0.

Agenda Item #4: Chairperson's Report

No report at this time.

Agenda Item #5: Comments from the Public

No comments at this time.

Agenda Item #6: Reports of Standing Committees

A. Payment of Bills – the finance committee met earlier in the evening and discussed payment for two invoices totaling \$624,608.19, however, with a vote of 3-0 to table one of the invoices-which totaled \$36,121.01(Democracy Prep), it was agreed to amend the total payment to \$588,487.18. The motion to amend the total payment to \$588,487.18 was made to the full committee by Mr. Kelly, 2nd by Mr. Pearson and Mr. Wood, approved 6-0.

B. Discussion and/or Vote on Fiscal Note for purchase of K-5 Core Reading Curriculum – Mr. Kelly reported that the finance committee agreed, based on a motion of 3-0, to bring the K-5 revised payment schedule to the full committee. The revised schedule is paying out approximately \$220,000 in FY10, no payment in FY11 and splitting up the balance of \$118,000 in FY 12 and 13. This revised schedule is based on information provided to the committee by Alex Prignano. Mr. Kelly then made a motion to the full committee for recommended payment schedule and approval of the fiscal note for the purchase of K-5 Core Reading Curriculum, 2nd by Mr. Pearson, approved 6-0.

C. Communication regarding payment schedules for Durham Contract – the finance committee did discuss the payments, but, at

this time the information discussed was for informational purposes only because more information is due in from Durham. The committee did not take any action at this time. Mr. Prignano will check with Durham to see where the additional information is and also to see what they are suggesting for the number of busses that we will need next year– 27 or 28(which we currently use). It was also noted that there will be a meeting in mid to late June or July, to discuss the walking distance policy – this will be a public meeting.

Mr. Mutter noted that the sub-committee for Special Projects met on June 2nd at Ashton School. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the elementary school redesign – he stated that it was an organizational meeting and that they were still receiving informational documents. Points of interest discussed were added changes that would be needed to the middle schools and educational literature that would back-up specific information being used in discussions. Upcoming meeting locations will alternate between elementary schools.

Mr. Wood noted that the Properties sub-committee met last week and voted 3-0 to advertise for bids for the B.F. Norton School roof – bids will be due back June 16th. Also, Mr. Wood will meet with Captain Coyne and Chief Desmarais at the end of the month to discuss the “Cops Grant”, which is a grant used for security in our schools. Cumberland Schools would like to be a part of this grant and will actively pursue and be a part of the process. Also, Alex Prignano gave the sub-committee a spreadsheet regarding the custodian overtime salaries; it was reviewed and found to be very informational

and helpful in understanding the salaries.

Agenda Item #7: Approval of Minutes

Mr. Pearson made a motion to approve minutes of Special Meeting 4/7/10, Open Session 4/8/10, Special Meeting 5/4/10, Executive Session Meeting 5/13/10, Open Session 5/13/10, it was 2nd by Mr. Mutter, approved 6-0.

Mr. Pearson made a motion to approve minutes of Executive Session 5/4/10(amended), Executive Session 5/13/10, 2nd by Mr. Wood and Mr. Mutter, approved 6-0.

Agenda Item #8: New Business

A. Discussion and/or Vote to Approve a Resolution in Support of a Fair Education

Funding Formula – Mrs. Beaulieu reported that the committee believes that as a community we need a formula in place and that the committee will work with administration to identify some areas of concern in the Basic Education Program. Also, she stated that the committee did make a few modifications to the resolution and approved them as amended with a vote of 3-0. The changes are as follows: 1st change-Whereas, reports prepared by the Rhode Island General Assembly appear to indicate that the introduction of foundation formula would provide greater resources to the students of the Cumberland Public Schools and other students throughout Rhode Island, and offer those students a better quality education as described by the Basic Education Program and greater chance to

succeed; and 2nd change – Now, therefore, be it resolved, that the Cumberland School Committee urges the Mayor and the Town Council to join with them to:

3rd change-1. Approve a resolution that supports the passage of an education funding formula that will provide a fair, predictable, and equitable distribution of state funds to the Cumberland Public Schools and all other public schools within Rhode Island; and

*Please note that the above statements are only parts of the resolution and the amended additions are in italicized print.

Mr. Pearson made a motion to approve the amended resolution, 2nd by Mr. Kelly, approve 6-0.

B. Discussion and/or Vote on Budget Adjustment for FY 2010 Budget – Alex

Prignano reviewed several budget transfers in facility salaries, pensions, health care, unemployment compensation – some increases, some decreases – the changes will be made to the 2010 budget and Mr. Kelly made a motion to approve the amended budget transfers to the FY 2010 budget, 2nd by Mr. Pearson, approve 6-0. Mr. Mutter asked if he could get a copy of the original FY10 budget, so that he can see how the budget started and compare it to where it is today – Mr. Prignano will get him a copy.

C. Discussion and/or Vote on FY 2011 Budget – Mr. Kelly stated that this item was also discussed earlier during the finance meeting – Mr. Kelly made a motion to

transfer \$120,000 reduction in reading curriculum, an assistant superintendent

line item, and removal of \$120,000 on the revenue side for designated fund balance for text book purchases, 2nd by Mr. Mutter, approve 6-0.

D. Discussion and/or Vote to Approve Addendum to Assistant Superintendent's

Contract – Mr. Pearson stated that the personnel sub-committee met last Tuesday and a few minor changes were made and a new document was brought forward

changing the terms to .6 FTE, minor change to specific fringe benefits which will be pro-rated to .6 and remove the language regarding life insurance because it was redundant. Mr. Pearson made a motion to approve the addendum to the Assistant Superintendent, Dr.Susan Carney's contract, as amended, 2nd by Mr. Wood, approve 6-0.

E Discussion and/or Vote to approve contract for District Support Technician – the personnel sub committee also met regarding this item and tabled it with a 2-1 vote, so Mr. Pearson made a motion to table this item, 2nd by Mr. Wood, approve 5-1, Mr. Kelly voted no.

F. Discussion and/or Vote on Consent Judgment/Order Regarding Truancy Court –

C.A. No. 2010-1858 – Mr. Rotella stated that several towns/cities as well as Cumberland are involved in this lawsuit – it is regarding town activity in truancy court – the town solicitor – Thomas Heffner has recommended that Cumberland

agree to sign the consent order – which others have already done – in doing so we will adhere to certain provisions of this order, such as

dealing with judging students truant as a result of the number days they have been absent and we will not take any action against a student if they are absent as a result of illness or excused absence from school, also the district would agree to dismiss the current truant cases in Cumberland – this action would stop proceedings in Cumberland, but will not stop actions being taken in Family Court in Providence, if the state chooses to take action. We will have the option at some point in time, if this action is resolved, to opt back in to prosecuting truancy cases here in Cumberland. At this time we will refrain from any action in truancy court until further notice. Mr. Pearson made a motion to authorize Dr. Morelle and/or Mr. Rotella to sign the consent order, 2nd by Mr. Mutter, approve 6-0.

Mr. Wood just clarified that Cumberland will still be sending students to truancy court, it will be in Family Court in Providence, not in the high school like it is currently. Cumberland will basically be wiping the student's slate clean but sending the information to Providence, they will make the determination to move forward or not – this is only for cases that are currently in our system-any new cases will be sent to Providence for action.

Agenda Item #9: Old Business

A. Discussion and/or Vote to Purchase K-5 Core Reading Curriculum – Mr. Kelly

made a motion to remove this agenda item from the table, 2nd by Mr. Pearson, approve 6-0. Mr. Kelly stated that this item was discussed earlier in the evening at the finance meeting, so Mr. Kelly made a

motion to approve the purchase of the K-5 Core Reading Curriculum-Pearson Reading Street Curriculum, 2nd by Mrs. Beaulieu, approve 6-0. It was noted that the finance sub-committee had also approved this earlier in the evening with a 3-0 vote and Mrs. Beaulieu wanted to reiterate how much time and work and effort went into this program. She wanted to thank everyone involved for their efforts and also Dr. Morelle was very happy that this item was approved, she thought it was a testament to the committee that it was approved.

Agenda Item # 10: Personnel Recommendations

Dr. Morelle requested the advice and consent of the School Committee on the appointment of David Fanning, Softball Coach, at North Cumberland Middle School, effective 5/28/2010(budgeted) and also requested the advice and consent of the School Committee on the appointment of Vanessa Molloy, Assistant Girls Track Coach, at Cumberland High School, pending receipt of coaching certificate, effective 5/28/2010(budgeted). Mr. Pearson made a motion to approve both appointments, 2nd by Mr. Mutter, approve 6-0.

Agenda Item #11: Comments from the Public

No comments at this time.

Agenda Item #12: School Committee Comments (School Liaison Reports)

Both Mr. Wood and Mrs. Beaulieu wanted to comment on the Senior

Awards Night at the high school, both thought that the performance was very nice. Mrs. Beaulieu, Mr. Costa and Mr. Wood were at the Distinguished Scholars Ceremony on June 1st and once again wanted to congratulate all of the scholars. Mr. Costa also noted that he received a letter in the mail from East Greenwich noting that they had passed a resolution on the contract continuation.

Agenda Item #13: Vote to go into Executive Session for Discussion on Items Referred to in R.I.G.L. 42-46-5: Personnel Matters, Negotiations/Litigation, Security Matter, Investigative Proceedings – Mr. Pearson made a motion to go into Executive Session, 2nd by Mr. Mutter, approve 6-0.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:27 p.m.

Meeting minutes respectfully submitted by Linda A. Jackvony