

UNAPPROVED

CUMBERLAND SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

A special meeting of the Cumberland School Committee was held on Thursday, July 22, 2010 in the Cumberland Transitional Building, Writing Center, 2602 Mendon Road, Cumberland, Rhode Island.

Agenda Item #1: Chairman Convenes Meeting

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Costa at 7:38 p.m.

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

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

Agenda Item #2: Approval of Agenda

Mr. Wood made a motion to approve the agenda, 2nd by Mr. Pearson, approved 6-0.

Agenda Item #3: Recalls

Dr. Morelle had the following recalls:

I recommend that the action taken by the school committee on February 25, 2010 not to renew the employment of the following for

the 2010-2011 school year, be rescinded:

-Nicole Franco, (#270), recall to the position of Grade 5 Teacher at Community School, effective 7/23/2010.

-Michelle Potrzeba, (#271), recall to the position of Grade 1 Teacher at Community School, effective 7/23/2010.

-Kerri Caplette, (#275), recall to the position of Grade 5 Teacher at John J. McLaughlin Cumberland Hill Elementary School, effective 7/23/2010.

-Lori Beauregard, (#278), recall to the position of Grade 1 Teacher at Garvin Memorial School, effective 7/23/2010.

-Crystal Trudeau, (#279), recall to the position of Grade 4 Teacher at Community School, effective 7/23/2010.

-Jennifer Stafford, (#288), recall to the position of Grade 2 Teacher at John J. McLaughlin Cumberland Hill Elementary School, effective 7/23/2010.

-Alissa Monaghan, (#291), recall to the position of Grade 4 Teacher at Community School, effective 7/23/2010.

-Nancy Gillardi, (#292), recall to the position of Kindergarten Teacher

at Community School, effective 7/23/2010.

Mr. Pearson made a motion to approve the recalls as presented by Dr. Morelle, 2nd by Mr. Kelly, approved 6-0.

Agenda Item #4: Personnel Recommendations

Dr. Morelle had the following personnel recommendation:

I request the advice and consent of the School Committee on the retirement of Thomas Stepka, Principal, Garvin Memorial School, effective 8/13/10.

The vote went as follows: Mr. Pearson – no, Mr. Kelly – no, Mrs. Beaulieu – yes, Mr. Mutter – yes, Mr. Wood – yes, Mr. Costa – yes - approved 4-2.

Mr. Mutter stated that Mr. Stepka was with our school district for 34 years as a teacher and administrator. It was agreed by all at the meeting that Mr. Stepka will be truly missed, he was a loyal soldier of the Cumberland School Department and has lots of admirers and everyone will miss him.

Agenda Item #5: Discussion and/or Vote on Designated Fund Balance Transfer – Special Programs Committee met earlier in the evening and voted 3-0 to undesignate \$11,796 from Special Education line item and add to purchase services/Superintendents portion of the budget. Mr. Kelly made the motion to undesignate \$11, 796 (2011

budget), 2nd by Mrs. Beaulieu, approved 6-0.

This line item will show on the revenue side and Mr. Prignano also noted that the 2011 budget still needs to be reconciled.

Agenda Item #6: Discussion and/or Vote to Award Bid on “Elementary and Middle School Best Use of Facilities Study” – Mr. Mutter stated that the Special Programs Sub Committee met on July 20th – the meeting was with the low bidder, NESDEC, two representatives from the company, John Kennedy and Don Kennedy did a great job making a presentation to the committee and answered all of the concerns/questions that the committee had. The sub-committed voted 2-0 to bring the recommendation to the full committee. Mr. Mutter made a motion to award the contract to NESDEC for \$11, 796, 2nd by Mrs. Beaulieu. Discussion was as follows:

Mr. Mutter noted that they will have a public forum to discuss the study, monthly updates will be given to faculty and town government, any suggestions/input would be greatly appreciated and so he encourages people to bring their thoughts forward. Mr. Wood hopes that the community does something with the study and with the information gathered. Mr. Mutter realizes that there were studies done in the past, but he said there is no option of doing nothing, we need to do something, we are aware of the fact that we are spending the dollars for this study and this committee is committed to bring forward a recommendation. Mr. Pearson believes that the output of this study will be worth the effort, he has confidence in the

committee. Mr. Costa wanted to thank the sub committee for including the middle schools in this study this time, before it was just the elementary schools being reviewed. Mr. Kelly asked what will happen if they do not meet the 10/15/10 timeline. Mr. Mutter said he had every confidence that they will be able to do it by 10/15/10. Dr. Morelle said they have been very responsive to everything that has been asked of them and that they have already completed 125 of these studies and the team that will be working on our study has completed over 100 studies together. Mrs. Beaulieu noted that the sub committee spent over two hours with them and they answered all the questions and concerns and are very willing to work with town administrators. She found them tremendously helpful. The motion by Mr. Mutter was approved 6-0.

Agenda Item #7: Public Comment

Cheryl wanted to know if the Department of Education set specific percentages for the number of Title 1 students in a given school. Dr. Morelle answered the question and said the Department of Education has no set percentages.

Holly P. was concerned about the students in the ESY Program during the hot days. She stated that it is getting very hot in the building. Dr. Morelle answered the concern and said that administration is monitoring the temperatures and if there would be a situation where they would have to cancel the class, then they would do so. Dr. Morelle is going to follow-up with Holly. The situation is at the Garvin Memorial School.

Agenda Item #8: Vote to go into Executive Session for Discussion on Items Referred to in R.I.G.L. 42-46-5:

A. Personnel Matters – Exception (1)

1) CTA/ICSE

B. Negotiations/Litigation – Exception (2)

1) CTA Contract

2) Litigation

Mr. Pearson made a motion to go into executive session, 2nd by Mr. Kelly, approved 6-0.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:08 p.m.

Meeting minutes respectfully submitted by Linda A. Jackvony