

UNAPPROVED

CUMBERLAND SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

A regular meeting of the Cumberland School Committee was held on Thursday, September 23, 2010 at the Cumberland High School Auditorium, 2600 Mendon Road, Cumberland, Rhode Island.

Agenda Item #1: Chairman Convenes Meeting

Chairman Costa convened the meeting at 7:40 p.m.

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

Staff Present: Dr. Donna 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

Mr. Kelly asked Chairman Costa to move to suspend the rules of the committee and will move to take Item #13 which is the vote to go into Executive Session for discussion on items referred to in R.I.G.L. 42-46-5 specifically Item B-2 – Potential Litigation – move this to the top of the agenda, 2nd by Mr. Pearson, approved 7-0. Next Mr. Kelly

asked that the committee recess to Executive Session as referred to in R.I.G.L. 42-46-5 Exception (2) B – 2)Potential Litigation, 2nd by Mr. Pearson, approved 7-0.

The committee recessed at 7:45 p.m..

The committee reconvened at 8:07 p.m.

Agenda Item #4: Chairperson’s Report

There is no report at this time.

Agenda Item #5: Superintendent’s Report on Teaching and Learning

Dr. Morelle stated that an article was printed regarding Cumberland Public Schools and it was related to a budget item that the SC approved last week for the afterschool programs that they are funding for the upcoming school year and the same programs that ran last year at Ashton and B.F. Norton Schools. Dr. Morelle worked with Kathy Sanford from the Highlander Dunn Institute and they submitted an article for the magazine Perspectives on Language and Literacy, it is an international publication. The name of the article was “Using Extended Learning to Inspire Instructional Reforms” and it was published in the summer edition of the Perspectives magazine. This was a great accolade for the Cumberland School District as Cumberland was the only public school identified.

Agenda Item #6: Comments from the Public

No comments at this time.

Agenda Item #7: Reports of Standing Committees

Mr. Kelly stated that finance did not meet this week, but Mr. Prignano did provide the entire committee with two payment registers – one in the amount of \$28,729.81 FY 2010 and another in the amount of \$482,797.98 FY2011 for a total of \$511,527.79. Mr. Kelly made a motion to approve the two payments in the total amount of \$511,527.79, 2nd by Mr. Pearson, approved 7-0.

Mrs. Beaulieu mentioned that the curriculum sub-committee had met earlier and that one item that was discussed was that the committee will have a link available to them that is associated with the power point presentation that was given regarding grading policies and practices. She hopes to work with the schools to develop practices that can better support the range of students and now that we are in a standards based environment she thought they had some terrific examples.

Mr. Pearson noted that the personnel sub-committee met and reviewed item #1 – Administrators Salary Schedule and they did vote to bring it to the full committee for discussion and review. Mr. Pearson asked Chairman Costa to make sure it would be on the agenda at the next scheduled meeting.

Agenda Item #8: Approval of Minutes

A. - Mr. Pearson made a motion to take the following minutes off the table: Executive Session 7/7/10, 7/22/10, 7/27/10 and 8/18/10, Special Meeting 8/18/10 and Regular Meeting 8/26/10, 2nd by Mr. Kelly, approved 7-0. Mr. Pearson then made the motion to approve the

minutes of Executive Session 7/7/10, 7/22/10, 7/27/10 and 8/18/10 and Special Meeting 8/18/10 and Regular Meeting 8/26/10, 2nd by Mr. Kelly, approved 7-0.

B. – Mr. Pearson made a motion to approve the minutes of Executive Session 7/7/10, 7/22/10, 7/27/10 and 8/18/10, 2nd by Mr. Wood and Mr. Kelly, approved 7-0.

Agenda Item #9: New Business

A. Home School Instruction Requests 2010-2011 School Year – Dr. Carney stated that the SC had before them one request for a student to be home schooled and she noted that the letter from the parents stated that they would comply with all of the requirements set forth by the Rhode Island General Laws, she recommended that the SC approve this request. Mr. Pearson made the motion to approve the request, 2nd by Mrs. Beaulieu and Mr. Kelly, approved 7-0.

B. Discussion and/or Vote on Resolution for Use of School Facilities – Mr. Pearson stated that this resolution was after a few conversations with PTO's and several other organizations in the district and their desire to have fundraisers and other events in our schools throughout the school year but have to pay custodial fee's, so as a compromise to the current policy the resolution in front of the SC tonight will give each school 8 hours of free custodial time at the discretion of that building principal – this is so that the organizations can maximize their fundraising abilities without incurring the custodial expenses. At this point Mr. Pearson made a motion to approve the resolution as presented before the SC, 2nd by Mrs.

Beaulieu, approved 7-0.

The Resolution is as follows:

**RESOLUTION OF THE
CUMBERLAND SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

USE OF SCHOOL FACILITIES

WHEREAS, The Cumberland Public Schools have a number of school buildings that may be used for various events, and;

WHEREAS, the Cumberland School Committee has adopted a “Use of School Facilities Policy” that allows community and other groups to use the facilities, and;

WHEREAS, The Cumberland School Committee is desirous of allowing school groups and organizations at the various schools in the district access to the school facilities for various meetings, programs, and related activities.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Cumberland School Committee, in amendment to the present “Use of School Facilities Policy” does hereby adopt the following amendment;

1. Each of the schools operating within the Cumberland School District are allowed eight (8) hours of free custodial service for school events during each school year at the discretion of the building principal.

2. The Principal of the school where the event is taking place shall

give his/her approval for the use of the facility, as required by the “Use of School Facilities Policy.”

3. The Principal shall be required to maintain a record of the free custodial time used in his/her respective school and report such time that shall not be charged to the Business Manager.

4. That all other provisions of the “Use of School Facilities Policy” remain in full force and effect.

Approved this 23rd day of September, 2010.

Ryan Pearson Donald Costa
Clerk Chairperson

C. Update on Class Size at Cumberland High School – Mrs. Gould gave an overview and she started with the number of students at the high school is 1,574, there are currently 70.3 teachers that teach 352 sections of classes in Math, Social Studies, English, Science and World Languages. Every student must take six classes for a total of 990 hrs/year – there are specific classes needed to graduate. Average class size this year in English is 22, Social Studies 26, Math 24 and Science 21. Over each of the last three years the class size has risen. Currently 27 of the 352 classes have over 29 students (7.6%) and that 27 includes 10 sections of the 352 classes

that have over 30 students (2.8%). Mrs. Gould pointed out that no classes have over 32 students in them. Some of the contributing factors to the overcrowded classes are things like timing for the budget – it is done late in the year and this leads to uncertainty in staffing, budget has been decreased in the last three years which relates to less staffing and fewer class selections, in past years the schedules were built by hand (due to software issues) but this summer there was a turnover to a new student management software and although the system is great, the turn around time reduced the time that guidance and administration could adjust the schedules, so right now some schedules are still trying to be balanced, coordination between the middle school and high school for eighth graders coming to the high school needs to be refined to include an earlier scheduling timeline. On a positive note, next year Mrs. Gould believes that by letting the computer build the schedules, we will have a lot fewer conflicts.

At this point Mrs. Gould asked the SC to allow a p/t .6 teacher to become a full time teacher from this point until the end of the school year – this teacher could bring some relief to the Social Studies department and she would also like the SC to consider additional staffing for all the schools when reviewing future budgets. Dr. Morelle noted that they are unsure at this point whether or not the district will be receiving funds from the state to do some hiring with, if they do get the funds they will look at 2nd semester hiring, but at this point they are unsure. Mrs. Gould said that over the past three years they have had about the same number of students but less

staffing.

D. Discussion and/or Vote on the Non-Renewal of Superintendent Morelle's contract

for the school year 2011-2012 and authorizing the Chairman and/or Clerk to provide written notice to Superintendent – Mr. Pearson stated that he was in receipt of a Superior Court document in the matter of Donna Morelle vs. the Cumberland School Committee – today there was a temporary restraining order issued upon the School Committee - he read in part that the motion was granted and that a temporary restraining order may issue as follows, status cause maintain between the parties and the defendant, the Cumberland School Committee, is temporarily restrained from taking action upon the non-renewal of the plaintiff's contract until further hearing in order of this honorable court. Mr. Pearson also went on to say that the town solicitor has assisted the School Committee with this legal matter and that he recommends that the School Committee table the item, so Mr. Pearson made a motion to table this item, 2nd by Mr. Kelly, approved 7-0.

Agenda Item #10: Personnel Recommendations

Dr. Morelle had the following personnel recommendations:

Appointments

I request the advice and consent of the School Committee on the appointment of Megan Rowe, Mathematics Teacher, at Cumberland High School, effective 9/27/2010. (FTE: 1.0; Step 1; Lane: Masters; Co-pay: 15.5%; Budgeted)

I request the advice and consent of the School Committee on the appointment of Anthony Silva, Girls' Soccer Assistant Coach, at Cumberland High School, for the 2010-2011 school year, effective 9/24/2010. (Budgeted)

Mr. Pearson made the motion to approve these appointments, 2nd by Mrs. Beaulieu, approved 7-0.

Leave of Absence

I request the advice and consent of the School Committee on the FMLA Maternity Leave of Absence for Melissa Kusinitz, English Teacher, at Cumberland High School, effective 11/1/2010 with a return date of 1/31/2011.

Mr. Pearson made the motion to approve this leave of absence, 2nd by Mr. Wood, approved 6-0 (Mr. Kelly was absent for this vote).

ADDENDUM #1

Middle School Team Leaders - Joseph L. McCourt Middle School

I request the advice and consent of the School Committee on the appointment of Karen Brodeur, Middle School Team Leader, at Joseph L. McCourt Middle School for the 2010-2011 school year, effective 9/23/2010. (budgeted)

I request the advice and consent of the School Committee on the appointment of MaryAnn Guerin, Middle School Team Leader, at Joseph L. McCourt Middle School for the 2010-2011 school year, effective 9/23/2010. (budgeted)

I request the advice and consent of the School Committee on the appointment of Charlene Luiz, Middle School Team Leader,

at Joseph L. McCourt Middle School for the 2010-2011 school year, effective 9/23/2010. (budgeted)

I request the advice and consent of the School Committee on the appointment of Stephanie Sadler, Middle School Team Leader, at Joseph L. McCourt Middle School for the 2010-2011 school year, effective 9/23/2010. (budgeted)

I request the advice and consent of the School Committee on the appointment of Rhonda Silva, Middle School Team Leader, at Joseph L. McCourt Middle School for the 2010-2011 school year, effective 9/23/2010. (budgeted)

I request the advice and consent of the School Committee on the appointment of Kimberly Slowik, Middle School Team Leader, at Joseph L. McCourt Middle School for the 2010-2011 school year, effective 9/23/2010. (budgeted)

I request the advice and consent of the School Committee on the appointment of Holly St. Pierre, Middle School Team Leader, at Joseph L. McCourt Middle School for the 2010-2011 school year, effective 9/23/2010. (budgeted)

Mr. Pearson made the motion to approve these team leaders at Joseph L. McCourt Middle School, 2nd by Mrs. Beaulieu, approved 7-0.

Middle School Team Leaders – North Cumberland Middle School

I request the advice and consent of the School Committee on the appointment of Kerry Carlson, Middle School Team Leader, at North Cumberland Middle School for the 2010-2011 school year,

effective 9/23/2010. (budgeted)

I request the advice and consent of the School Committee on the appointment of Bethany Coughlin, Middle School Team Leader, at North Cumberland Middle School for the 2010-2011 school year, effective 9/23/2010. (budgeted)

I request the advice and consent of the School Committee on the appointment of Kimberly Gaboury, Middle School Team Leader, at North Cumberland Middle School for the 2010-2011 school year, effective 9/23/2010. (budgeted)

I request the advice and consent of the School Committee on the appointment of Louise Mailloux, Middle School Team Leader, at North Cumberland Middle School for the 2010-2011 school year, effective 9/23/2010. (budgeted)

I request the advice and consent of the School Committee on the appointment of Jane Paquet, Middle School Team Leader, at North Cumberland Middle School for the 2010-2011 school year, effective 9/23/2010. (budgeted)

I request the advice and consent of the School Committee on the appointment of Paula Vadenais, Middle School Team Leader, at North Cumberland Middle School for the 2010-2011 school year, effective 9/23/2010. (budgeted)

Mr. Pearson made the motion to approve these team leaders at the North Cumberland Middle School, 2nd by Mr. Wood and Mr. Kelly, approved 7-0.

ADDENDUM #2

Appointments

I request the advice and consent of the School Committee on the appointment of Katherine Amsden, Science/Chemistry Teacher, at Cumberland High School, effective 9/23/2010. (FTE: 1.0; Step 1; Lane: n/a; Co-pay: 15.5%; Budgeted)

I request the advice and consent of the School Committee on the appointment of Janita Ducharme, Music Teacher, at Systemwide, effective 9/23/2010. (FTE: 1.0; Step 1; Lane: n/a; Co-pay: 15.5%; Budgeted)

I request the advice and consent of the School Committee on the appointment of Bethany Hilton, Art Teacher, at Systemwide, effective 9/23/2010. (FTE: 0.2; Step 1; Lane: n/a; Co-pay: 15.5%; Budgeted)

I request the advice and consent of the School Committee on the appointment of Colleen McMichael, School Nurse/Teacher, at Systemwide, effective 9/23/2010. (FTE: 1.0; Step 1; Lane: n/a; Co-pay: 15.5%; Budgeted)

I request the advice and consent of the School Committee on the appointment of Edward Packhem, Technology Education Teacher, at Cumberland High School, effective 9/23/2010. (FTE: 0.5; Step 10; Lane: MA; Co-pay: 15.5%; Budgeted)

Mr. Pearson made the motion to approve these appointments, 2nd by Mr. Wood, approved 7-0.

Agenda Item #11: Comments from the Public

Cheryl - stated that she was still concerned about the bussing issues,

she also didn't care for the fact that the school was asking for volunteers for the reading program, she doesn't think that the teachers are prepared for it if they are already asking for volunteers, she is also concerned about CHS schedules not being ready – she thinks the district needs to prepare for next year.

Jennifer – she chose her home here in Cumberland because of the schools, but right now she is frustrated and thinks that everyone is frustrated about the bussing, CHS drinking issues back in June, etc.

Jim M. – he is the State Representative Elect and he is offering his services to the School Committee so that everyone can work together to make Cumberland Public School System the best in the state. He also asked if the hiring of the full time Social Studies teacher could be on the next agenda, so that we can start working on the overcrowded classroom situation.

At this time Dr. Carney wanted to make a comment about the reading program that the district has recently purchased (and was a very large expense to the district) – on 8/31 all elementary teachers had some training for the new reading program and then again on this past Monday they all had some additional training. The program that is currently in our teachers hands has just been published – it is brand new – this version will go a long way – it is the most current version of the Reading Street program.

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

Mrs. Beaulieu would like “Clerk Base” to go to Finance next week so

that the committee could discuss the benefits and finance impact. Also, Mrs. Beaulieu would like to schedule a workshop, prior to any transition of routes, so that the SC could be brought up to speed on all that is happening with the current bussing situation.

Mr. Mutter asked about the fact that the SC has 30 days after the start of school to approve routes – Mr. Rotella commented and said that at this point the Chief of Police has reviewed some route changes and has hand delivered them to Durham, the process is ongoing at this time and the next step is for Durham to address those issues that the Chief has brought forward and get a response back to not only the Chief but to the school district so that the process can move forward.

Mr. Rotella went on to say that there is no provision in the state law about penalty, etc., all it says is that it will be reviewed within 30 days and will come to the SC – he assumed that the action of the Chief today in providing those routes to Durham will expedite the process – which he feels is already moving rapidly – to the conclusion. Mr.

Pearson asked if the Chief received all routes for all of the schools and Mr. Rotella stated that all of the routes that were supplied to the Chief by Durham were returned to Durham today. A copy of this was provided to the school department and he believes that Dr. Morelle was in the process of moving those recommendations to the SC in the near future. Dr. Morelle added that they have an agreement with Durham that Durham will provide the district with a response, in writing, by Monday, and if they are not able to do that they will let the district know why. The next step would be a face to face, across the table type forum so that the issues can be discussed and resolutions

achieved in order to move the implementation forward.

Agenda Item #13: 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/ICSE

2) Potential Litigation

Mr. Rotella suggested that the SC adjourn to Executive Session, so Mr. Pearson made the motion to go into Executive Session discussion under R.I.G.L. 42-46-5 Item 1- Personnel Matters CTA/ICSE and Item 2- Potential Litigation, 2nd by Mrs. Beaulieu, approved 7-0.

Agenda Item #14: Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Meeting minutes respectfully submitted by Linda A. Jackvony