

APPROVED-10/14/10

CUMBERLAND SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

A special meeting of the Cumberland School Committee was held on Thursday, September 16, 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 7:14 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, Fred Schockaert, Dep. Director of Special Services.

Agenda Item #2: Approval of Agenda

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

Agenda Item #3: Update on 2010-2011 School Year Enrollments

Dr. Carney listed enrollments as of September 7, 2010. Elementary was at approximately 2,100 students, middle school was at

approximately 1,150 students and the high school was at approximately 1,575 students. The school choice figures were as follows: Garvin had 47 students, Community had 30 students and Cumberland Hill had 2 students – total of 79 students, this number was only increased by 20 students from the previous year. The 79 students had the option to choose these schools over B. F. Norton and Ashton (where they would normally have attended) because these two schools did not make AYP, however, both schools did make it this past year. Dr. Carney was a little concerned about some of the class sizes at the high school. At present 12% of the English classes are over the 26 student limit, 15% of the Math classes are over, 15% of the Social Studies classes are over and 8 % of the Science classes are over. The overages are in all levels at the high school. Dr. Morelle stated that the Guidance Department and Administration at the high school are trying to keep the situation under control, but she also pointed out that they were uncomfortable with the budget back in January and are now sitting here still feeling not comfortable with the condition that the town is in regarding the budget. Everyone is doing the best they can and Dr. Morelle asked Mrs. Gould to give an update at next week's meeting as far as overage numbers are concerned. Mr. Pearson was very concerned about the overages and is looking for recommendations.

Agenda Item #4: Update on 2010-2011 School Year Programs

Dr. Carney spoke about one of the highest priorities this year, Literacy at the elementary level. In this year's budget we were very

fortunate to have funding for a core reading program for K-5, Reading Street. This past Monday Dr. Carney pointed out that all of the elementary and special educators had been trained for use of this program. She went on to say that at the secondary level, the English/Language Arts teachers created new English curriculum maps from grades 6-12. Currently there are 8 or 9 of these maps being used in each of those grades. What Dr. Carney was really pleased about was the fact that the middle schools now have 4 out of 9 common units between the two schools. Dr. Carney went on to say that we are benefitting from a grant through RIDE – who is contracting with the Dana Center to do some work on Math and Science in the area, and we were fortunate enough to be chosen to do some work in the Math area. We have just begun to roll out a scope and sequence for all grades, K-12, that aligns to the standards for each grade level in mathematics for the Rhode Island standards – we are doing this collaboratively with Lincoln and Woonsocket. This program is so in line with the state standards that Dr. Carney believes we will see the percentage of students demonstrating proficiency increase. Another significant area is Positive Behavioral Intervention (PBIS), all schools are now embracing this initiative. Cumberland Hill is in its 5th year, B.F. Norton in its 4th year, Ashton in its 3rd year, Community and North Cumberland Middle in their 2nd year and CHS and Garvin are in their first year, in terms of the initiative. This initiative establishes an academic environment in a school community that is most conducive for learning.

Dr. Carney also reviewed FY11 budget impacts on programs – K-12

math scope and sequence- teachers are being trained with grant money. Text books for certain Chemistry classes are being provided by a grant. We are expanding the middle school intramural programs, instead of just offering them in the Spring, we will offer them in the Fall as well. Enhanced music at the middle level – all students will now experience general music – as opposed to some students that used to take band or chorus. The middle schools are also looking at enhancing the music program and may add instrumental or band music one day/week either before or after school – funding will be available for these programs if the interest is there for the students.

Agenda Item #5: Discussion and/or Vote on Administrator Salary Schedule

Mr. Pearson stated that the Personnel Sub Committee had met regarding this issue and he felt he was going to make a motion to table it, but wanted to give a brief overview to the full committee as to what the sub committee has been doing. He said they began the task back in April or May on reviewing the contract template that they use for administrators line by line, benefits, salaries, etc. and the committee called out a few areas of concern. One of those areas was salary, another was evaluation of sick time, vacation time – all the different elements were reviewed. There are several pieces that the committee is still working on in regards to the template and benefits package (next item on agenda) – they did receive sample contracts from other districts but are still being reviewed. The salary schedule was immediately addressed and there has been a proposal on the

table for several months, it has been refined and reviewed in the sub committee. The intent is to create a plan that incentivizes administrators to stay with us and also reward them for their hard work. Mr. Pearson asked the members to pay close attention to the discussions that are going on and asked for any feedback. Mr. Pearson then made the motion to table this item, but Mr. Costa pointed out that items 5 and 6 had already been tabled, so Mr. Pearson withdrew his motion and asked the committee to take no action on these items at this time. The committee may ask for these items to be on the agenda for the first meeting in October.

Agenda Item #6: Discussion and/or Vote on Administrator Contract Template/Potential Benefits – no action taken at this time.

Agenda Item #7: Discussion and/or Vote on Amendments to FY 2011 Budget

Mr. Prignano went through the revenues line by line – some numbers of concern were removing \$20,000 from the budget for the loss of a swimming group that will not be utilizing our pool next year, another was the Sodexo reimbursement – negative impact of \$115,000, and the 1% reduction from the town came out to \$362,000. Mr. Kelly made the motion to approve the revenue adjustments with a total revenue for 2010-2011 budget of \$51,248,791.00, 2nd by Mr. Mutter, approved 7-0. The next category in the budget is expenditures and some significant dollar items were reviewed by Mr. Prignano - \$5,800 in the Title II budget for the Dana math program substitutes, Dunn Hill

contract was renegotiated by Dr. Morelle for a savings of \$31,245, the contract will now cost \$143,755 and with the savings Dr. Morelle has asked the committee to allocate the funds to B.F. Norton and Ashton for their afterschool programs, ASPEN computer software costs were around \$120,000 (about \$31,600 will be paid with ARAA Idea Part B money per Dr. Colwell) balance will be taken out of the general fund, \$8,500 allocated to the business office to do fixed assets, \$32,000 to fund middle school sports, \$99,000 for two extra busses (only about \$35,000 is really added to the budget – balance was elsewhere in the budget). At this point Dr. Morelle asked Mrs. Wharton to come to the podium and talk about the nursing situations at the schools and also thanked Mrs. Wharton for a nursing analysis that she provided to Dr. Morelle and the committee – this was done partly because B.F. Norton and Cumberland Hill only have .7 nurse (this year) – the preference would be to have a full time nurse and in order to do this instead of hiring a .4 nurse (that is in this budget), a 1.0 nurse would have to be hired to add to the nursing staff and keep all the schools covered all the time. The need at the high school is so great that two nurses had to be assigned to the high school – so if we want the level of nurses the same as last year and keep the two nurses at the high school, we would need to add a 1.0 nurse. After listening to Mrs. Wharton and reviewing some of the information, Mr. Pearson made a motion to amend page 7 of the budget, the school nurse line, from \$51,705.29 to \$64,800.31 and page 11 under school nurse, to adjust that number from \$48,080.35 to \$75,411.41, it was 2nd by Mr. Mutter and Mrs. Beaulieu and then he went on to continue his motion, page

46, health coverage self insured , change from \$6.6m to \$6,559,574 for a change of \$40,426 – which will balance the budget, 2nd by Mr. Mutter and Mrs. Beaulieu, approved 7-0. Mr. Pearson went on to make another motion to make the following amendments – page 29 of the budget – tuition system wide – amend \$1.25m to \$1.24m, page 42 of the budget(will also incorporate the changes to the middle school sports)the following adjustments – stipends/new positions- amend to \$142,838, pupil transportation- amend to \$65,300, students fees and registrations- amend to \$45,800, educational supplies/high school- amend to \$20,400 – these adjustments would go explicitly towards funding middle school soccer and jv lacrosse programs in the district, motion was 2nd by Mrs. Beaulieu and Mr. Pedro, approved 7-0. Overall net change was \$10,000. Mr. Kelly made a motion to approve the budget adjustments on the expenditure side as read and explained by Mr. Prignano, 2nd by Mr. Pearson, approved 7-0. Mr. Pearson noted that the overall expenditure line should read \$51,248,791. Mr. Mutter would like a dated copy of the amended budget – Mr. Prignano stated that he would have a dated copy for the next meeting.

Agenda Item #8: Public Comment

Several of the public comments were related to bussing issues, parking concerns at the schools because several parents are picking up their children until the bussing situation is corrected, comments were made regarding the bus drivers acting in a professional manner when approached by upset parents. There were also comments

regarding the 1.0 nurse being hired, parents were appreciative of the additional nurse so that all schools have nursing coverage all day.

Mrs. Beaulieu asked is there was a timeline for the route changes – some changes have gone to the police department for review (this requires 48 hours) – then after their approval how will the information get out to parents – we need to make sure that the parents receive the updated information. Mr. Costa did remind us about the website that is continuously being updated for all concerned.

Agenda Item #9: Vote to go into Executive Session for Discussion of Items Referred to in R.I.G.L. 42-46-5:

Mr. Pearson made a motion to go into Executive Session pursuant to 42-46-5 for A.-Personnel Matters – Exception (1) –1) CTA/ICSE 2) Superintendent's Job Performance and B.- Negotiations/Litigation – Exception (2) -1)CTA/ICSE 2) Potential Litigation, 2nd by Mr. Mutter, Mr. Pearson also stated that he was required to report that the superintendent did receive prior notice, that this was being held tonight on the agenda and also that she did have the option to have an open or closed session this is pursuant to notice requirements under 42-46-5, approved 7-0.

Agenda Item #10: Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:38 p.m.

Meeting minutes respectfully submitted by Linda A. Jackvony