

APPROVED-10/28/2010

CUMBERLAND SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

A regular meeting of the Cumberland School Committee was held on Thursday, October 14, 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 8:10 p.m.

Members Present: Lisa Beaulieu, Donald Costa, Jeff Mutter, Ryan Pearson, Earl Wood,

Brian Kelly. Dan Pedro was not present.

Staff Present: Donna A. Morelle, Ed.D., Superintendent, Joseph A. Rotella, Esq., Director of Administration, Dr. Lisa Colwell, Director of Special Services, Fred Schockaert, Dep. Director of Special Services, Alex Prignano, Business Manager.

Agenda Item #2: Pledge of Allegiance

Agenda Item #3: Approval of Agenda

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

Agenda Item #4: Chairperson's Report

There was 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 – Mr. Kelly stated that there were two payment registers, one for \$3,951.13 – 2009-2010 budget and one for \$478,278.99 – 2010-2011 budget for a total of \$482,230.12. Mr. Kelly then made a motion to approve these payments in the total of \$482,230.12, 2nd by Mrs. Beaulieu and Mr. Pearson, approved 6-0.

Agenda Item #7: Approval of Minutes

A. Mr. Pearson made a motion to approve the following minutes: Regular Meeting 9/9/10, Special Meeting 9/16/10 and Regular Meeting 9/23/10. Executive Session of 9/9/10 was cancelled and there was no action taken. Mr. Pearson's motion was 2nd by Mrs. Beaulieu and Mr. Wood, approved 6-0.

B. Mr. Pearson made a motion to approve the following minutes: Executive Session 9/16/10 and Executive Session 9/23/10. Executive Session of 9/9/10 was cancelled and there was no action taken. Mr. Pearson's motion was 2nd by Mr. Mutter, approved 6-0.

Agenda Item #8: New Business

A. Home School Instruction Requests 2010-2011 School Year – Dr. Carney brought three requests to the committee and requested that the committee approve them. She stated that she had received letters from the three families involved and that they all agreed to comply. Mr. Pearson made a motion to approve the requests, 2nd by Mr. Kelly, approved 6-0.

B. Pursuant to the RIGL 42-46-5 – Exception (9) Grievance: 1) Vote on ICSE Grievance: #10-11-01 – Mr. Wood made a motion to table this item, 2nd by Mr. Pearson, approved 6-0. 2) Vote on ICSE Grievance: #10-11-02 – this item was withdrawn.

C. Discussion and/or Vote on Administrator Salary Schedule – Mr. Pearson stated that this item has been in the Personnel Sub Committee for several months, it has also come before the full committee several times. He noted that the current system is tied to the teacher's contract and that there is no real basis for increases, other than when the teacher's salary goes up(negotiations). There needs to be some structure to the way the administrators are paid. Mr. Pearson went on to say that currently when they recruit principals, there is one salary to offer – this needs to change – salary should be based on experience, credentials, etc. Mr. Pearson also said that this is a working block and will be updated with other committees to come – it will help the district greatly when recruiting new personnel – the district will become more desirable and will attract more applicants. Mr. Pearson made a motion to approve this schedule as presented, 2nd by Mr. Wood. Mr. Mutter asked if the merit matrix still needed to be established. He was also wondering

where to find policies, legislations, resolutions, etc, once they have been created/passed. Mr. Mutter thought it would be a good idea to number them in some sort of format and asked Mr. Rotella if this was possible. Mr. Rotella said that they could be numbered and that there is a SC book with all of the policies in it. Mr. Pearson noted that the Rules and Regs committee has bills that they have been reviewing since last year regarding this very issue of numbering – so it is being reviewed. Mr. Pearson's motion to approve, 2nd by Mr. Wood, was approved 6-0.

D. Discussion and/or Vote on Transportation Routes – Durham has provided files/materials from the workshop last week – the SC has all of these files. Durham reps stated that all concerns from Chief Desmarais have been reviewed and addressed. Bus stop relocations and load count data has been provided and have satisfied the overload concerns. Currently the middle school and high school routes are almost the same as last years. The variance package explains why some routes are different, most of them were because families have moved or students have graduated, etc. Kindergarten routes will not be the same as last year. Durham addressed the arrival and dismissal times and stated that most busses will be on time – 10 minutes late should be the maximum amount of time for a bus to be late. Currently there are only a handful of busses not arriving on time. At present there are 23 large busses and 9 mini busses servicing this district – as compared to last years 21 large busses and 7 mini busses. Mr. Pearson asked Durham if they were still planning on a 10-25 – 10-27 window to implement. Dr. Morelle

stated that they would start to print letters for families either Wednesday or Thursday (10/20 or 10/21) so that the families of students could review the bus schedules prior to a 10/26 implement date. Mr. Mutter asked about the 4th tier – how is dismissal at Garvin – Durham reps have been to Garvin and could make recommendations to Garvin to improve their dismissal which will help the 4th tier problems. Mr. Mutter wanted to know if Durham would continue to comply with the district policy and have all requests from parents regarding transportation issues, go through Mr. Geiselman – Mr. Mutter wanted to make sure that the record reflected that the policy will remain the same and that Mr. Geiselman will review transportation requests as in the past and parents will not have to wait two weeks for the SC to approve these requests. Mr. Costa would like Durham reps to visit Garvin again and make the recommendations in writing – Mr. Costa would like a copy as well. Mr. Costa would also like the transportation requests to remain as is and continue to go through Mr. Geiselman unless they are major changes and the SC needs to approve them. Dr. Morelle stated that as soon as the routes are approved they will be put on our web site and the Valley Breeze will also post them again. Mr. Kelly made a motion to approve the transportation routes, 2nd by Mrs. Beaulieu, approved 6-0.

E. Vote on Non-Renewal of Superintendent Donna Morelle's Contract for School Year 2011-2012 – this issue was addressed earlier during Executive Session and again during the public hearing– the SC was given a letter from Dr. Morelle stating that she would not be seeking a

renewal of her contract and Mr. Pearson said that the committee voted with a 6-0 vote to accept the non-renewal of Dr. Morelle's contract.

Agenda Item #9: Personnel Recommendations

Dr. Morelle had the following Personnel Recommendations:

Appointments

I request the advice and consent of the School Committee on the appointment of Diane Bennett, Reading Specialist, at Systemwide, effective 10/15/2010. (FTE: 1.0; Step 4; Lane: MA; Co-pay: 15.5%; Budgeted)

I request the advice and consent of the School Committee on the appointment of Mary Chandler, Special Educator, at Cumberland High School, effective 10/15/2010. (FTE: 0.5; Step 1; Lane: MA; Co-pay: n/a; Budgeted)

I request the advice and consent of the School Committee on the appointment of Tina Conway, Grade 2 Teacher at JJM Cumberland Hill Elementary School, effective 10/15/2010. (FTE: 1.0; Step 2; Lane: n/a; Co-pay: 15.5%; Budgeted)

I request the advice and consent of the School Committee on the appointment of Lisa-Marie Ricci, Reading Specialist, at Systemwide, effective 10/15/2010. (FTE: 1.0; Step 1; Lane: MA; Co-pay: 15.5%; Budgeted)

I request the advice and consent of the School Committee on the appointment of Frank Salisbury, Assistant Football Coach, for the

2010-2011 school year at Cumberland High School, effective 9/15/2010. (Budgeted)

Mrs. Beaulieu made a motion to approve these appointments as presented, 2nd by Mr. Mutter, approved 6-0.

Leave of Absence

I request the advice and consent of the School Committee on the FMLA Maternity Leave of Erin Tiberi, Special Educator, at B.F. Norton School, effective 12/20/10 with a return date of 4/4/2011. (Budgeted)

Mr. Mutter made a motion to approved this leave of absence, 2nd by Mr. Kelly, approved 6-0.

Resignation

I request the advice and consent of the School Committee on the resignation of Bruce Calvert, Swim Coach, at Cumberland High School, effective 9/29/2010.

Mr. Mutter made a motion to approve this resignation, 2nd by Mrs. Beaulieu, approved 6-0. Mr. Wood wanted to Thank Mr. Calvert for all of his years of dedicated service and also wanted to wish him the best of luck. The entire School Committee echoed the same feelings and went on to say that he will be missed by everyone.

ADDENDUM #1

Leave of Absence

I request the advice and consent of the School Committee on the Unpaid Educational Leave of Absence of Julie Szumita, Teacher

Assistant, at Cumberland Public Schools, effective 10/15/2010 with a return date of 1/3/2011.

Mr. Pearson made a motion to approve this leave of absence, 2nd by Mr. Mutter, approved 6-0.

Agenda Item #10: Comments from the Public

Cheryl – was concerned about the teacher’s budgets for supplies – she stated that last year they ran out of copy paper and she did not want this to happen again – she runs lots of copies at Ashton and just wanted to bring the issue to someone’s attention. Dr. Carney stated that if there was a problem, the principal of that school would come to her, but as of this meeting no one has brought any such problem to her attention – if it does get brought to her, the situation will definitely be reviewed.

Maggie – Durham referred to the middle school and high school routes not changing very much, but asked about the elementary level.

Mr. Pearson said that was just an oversight and that there are not many changes at all to elementary. Maggie also asked about the School Committee binder with all the policies, etc., in it – she wondered if she could view the binder – Dr. Morelle said she should call her office and make an appointment to come and review the binder. Mr. Mutter also said that she could call a School Committee member.

Jeff – asked about the status of his request to change the bus stop in Lippitt Estates – he brought this issue up at the workshop meeting the week before and was hoping that this was one of the stops that

would be changed. He had spoken with Dr. Morelle earlier in the week but at that point there was no decision. Mr. Geiselman's and Chief Desmarais' email addresses were given to Jeff so that he could contact each of them for a response.

Agenda Item #11: School Committee Comments(School Liaison Reports) – Mr. Wood noted that Cumberland Hill had their PTO meeting last night and that there would be a Halloween Dance on 10/29, Family Picture Night on 10/22 and Bingo Night on 11/11. He also wanted to thank everyone concerned for cleaning up the grounds - he thought it was an outstanding job!

Agenda Item #12: 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. Pearson made a motion to go into Executive Session for discussion on both A and B, 2nd by Mr. Wood, approved 6-0.

Agenda Item #13: Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:17 p.m.

Meeting minutes respectfully submitted by Linda A. Jackvony.