

APPROVED-MARCH 24, 2011

CUMBERLAND SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

There was a regular meeting of the Cumberland School Committee on Thursday, March 10, 2011 at the Cumberland High School Auditorium, 2600 Mendon Road, Cumberland, Rhode Island.

Members Present: Lisa Beaulieu, Linda Teel, Jeff Mutter, John Gibbons, Dan Pedro, Earl Wood. Erika Sanzi was absent.

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

Agenda Item #1: Chairman Convenes Meeting

Chairman Mutter convened the meeting at 7:35 p.m.

Agenda Item # 2: Pledge of Allegiance

Agenda Item #3: Approval of Agenda

Mr. Pedro made a motion to approve the agenda, 2nd Mr. Gibbons, approved 6-0.

Agenda Item #4: Consent Agenda

A. Discussion and/or vote to approve resolution SC-R-2011-02:

amendment to CPS Administrator Salary Schedule (SC-R-2010-001), approved October 14, 2010. Said amendment: Setting an implementation date of July 1, 2011 - Mrs. Beaulieu made a motion to approve (this motion is just to codify the date of implementation which is 7/1/11), 2nd Mrs. Teel, approved 6-0.

B. Approval of minutes – regular meeting 2/10/2011 and special meeting 2/17/2011 – Mrs. Beaulieu made a motion to approve, 2nd Mr. Pedro, approved 6-0.

Agenda Item #5: Chairperson's Report

Mr. Mutter reminded everyone to save the date for the Commissioner's visit on Tuesday, April 5, 2011, from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. at the Cumberland Public Library, Edward J. Hayden Center – Community Room, 1464 Diamond Hill Road. Also, Mr. Mutter reminded everyone about the Special Meeting on Monday, March 14th in the CHS Transitional Building Cafetorium at 6:15 p.m. – this meeting is going to review RFP #SS-001 – Executive Search/Recruitment Services. Mr. Mutter also wanted to recognize Dr. Peter Langton, for his support and assistance regarding the SC vision statement. Mr. Mutter listed a few names for Health and Wellness – formal approval will be at the next meeting – Tracey Ford, Janet Hook, Patricia Costa, Donna Carr, Selena Scott, Kathy Toselli, Scott Carpenter, Kerri Carpenter, Lee Smith, Mark Rocoloski, Andrea McGinn, Matthew Leone, Ellen Amore, Kara Cuccinata.

Agenda Item #6: Student Achievement

Dr. Morelle asked student government to give their report. Kyle and Leana gave the report as follows: New program implemented at CHS – DEAR (Drop Everything and Read) which is a program where everyday between 4th and 5th period students, faculty and staff take 15 minutes to read an article, paragraph, etc., in order to improve reading comprehension. Blood drive on 2/9/11 – donated 90 pints of blood. February 13, 2011 was the 8th grade orientation – students and parents were given tours. Daffodil Days raised \$400 for the Cancer Society. March 7-11 was Foreign Language Week – students celebrated with daily activities, trivia questions and class competitions. Pennies for Patients during the month of March, top 3 advisories will win a luncheon at the Olive Garden. Another blood drive on April 5th. April 9th is the Spring Fling which is the semi-formal dance for freshman and sophomores – combining the two classes saves a lot of money! April 18-22 is Spring vacation!

Next, Dr. Morelle introduced Dorothy Gould, CHS Principal. Mrs. Gould invited everyone in the audience and community to come watch a presentation of “Rachel’s Challenge” in the CHS Wellness Center on March 15 at 7 p.m. This presentation is one of the most life changing school programs in America – it is also being shown to the middle and high school students during the day. It is a simple challenge to anyone – treat others with kindness and compassion and we can change the world we live in. Mrs. Gould noted that the program costs a lot of money and the new PTO – lots and lots of parents – got together and raised over \$8,000 to bring Rachel’s

Challenge to our community – she wanted to thank them! She also noted that after the presentations, 150 students and faculty will be trained to keep the challenge going!! Dr. Morelle then reiterated that the PTO was great at raising all that money but she said she wanted to thank several behind the scenes people – Durham School Services, Cumberland Police Department, Chief Jackvony from the Valley Falls Fire Department, Cumberland Hill Fire Department, Richard Hilton from our grounds staff, Mike Chandler – technology, Dorothy Gould – CHS Principal, Andy Anderson – MMS Principal, Rich Drolet – NCMS Principal. Next, Dr. Morelle wanted to talk about the “Back to School Celebration” – it is an ongoing event in the district. It is a non profit organization that started in Providence. It is a partnership with Sodexo as well as Neighborhood Health Plan, Citizens Bank, and some other major contributors, so that students can start school with a new backpack and new supplies. Each and every year there is some fundraising that goes on for this program and it is a dinner at Roger Williams Casino and also raffle tickets, so if anyone is interested Dr. Morelle has them and hopes that as many people as possible will come out and support this great event – tickets are currently available through the Superintendent’s office.

Agenda Item #7: Comments from the Public

No comments at this time.

Agenda Item #8: Reports of Standing Committees

A. Payment of Bills – Mr. Wood made a motion to move passage of

the payment of invoices totaling \$951, 844.30, 2nd Mr. Gibbons, approved 6-0.

B. Special Programs Sub-Committee - the committee did meet the previous week to review the NESDEC Study, but declined on recommending any reorganization proposals until the SC reviews the budget.

Agenda Item #9: New Business

A. Report on Kindergarten Registration – Dr. Carney noted that K registrations took place on February 14 and 15. She noted that there are 244 students registered for 2011-2012 K, currently we have 299 students in K – but there are lots of registrations done during the summer and thereafter. Dr. Morelle said that in the past years they would use these numbers when doing the budget, but the final budget is very close this year and so they will not use these numbers and she also noted that Democracy Prep lottery is 4/7/11 – so these numbers could go up or down.

B. Discussion and/or vote on 2010-2011 School Calendar – Dr. Morelle noted that there are three primary changes – the last day of school for seniors will be 6/10 followed by their exams on 6/13 and 6/14 (block days, block classes), graduation on 6/20 and the last day of school 6/27. Mr. Gibbons made a motion to approve the 2010-2011 school calendar as amended, 2nd Mr. Wood, approved 6-0.

C. Discussion and/or Vote on 2011-2012 School Calendar – Dr. Morelle stated that this calendar is the first draft and it shows school starting before Labor Day. Mr. Wood asked if we could have another

version of the calendar that shows the elimination of February and April vacations and puts in a March vacation. Mrs. Teel asked Dr. Morelle if any other district in the state was doing this and what the implications would be. Dr. Morelle said that transportation is a big issue and that there would be a cost to our district, but she would ask Alex Prignano to look into the cost issues and she will draft this version. Mrs. Beaulieu also noted that starting on 8/31/10 could pose a problem because the teacher's contract ends that day – Mr. Rotella to check on this. Mrs. Beaulieu also wanted to know if our calendar could block out potential snow days because Foster/Gloucester does – Dr. Morelle said she would look into that. Mr. Gibbons noted that he agrees with Mr. Wood and thinks that school should start after Labor Day, he too would like to explore the mid-March vacation. Dr. Morelle said the deadline for approving this calendar is June 1, 2010. Dr. Morelle will draft different versions of the calendar and will add them to an upcoming agenda for discussion and/or approval.

D. Discussion of February 17, 2011 correspondence on Maintenance of Fiscal Effort – Temporary Reduction – Dr. Morelle noted that she received guidance from RIDE regarding maintenance of fiscal effort. Dr. Morelle went on to say that each district needs to identify its baseline maintenance of fiscal effort by looking back at FY 09, 10 and 11 and determining what the highest appropriation was – Cumberland has not received 100% of their appropriation during each of those years – but the district will review the numbers and the largest number will be the baseline for FY12. In Cumberland it would be the appropriation that we received in FY10 – so the increase in revenue to

the district would be \$362, 025 which is 1% reduction that the town reduced the appropriation by last year. Mr. Mutter wanted to make sure that the town does not interpret the letter differently and if they did he would want to know their reasoning, so he asked Dr. Morelle to send a letter to the Mayor and the Town Council president and attach a copy of the letter from RIDE – they will also request a meeting so that they can discuss the facts in person.

E. Pursuant to RIGL 42-46-5 – Exception (9) Grievance:

1. Vote on ICSE Grievance: #10-11-04 – Mrs. Beaulieu made a motion to table this item to the next regularly scheduled SC meeting, 2nd Mr. Pedro, approved 6-0.

2. Vote on ICSE Grievance: #10-11-05 – Resolved and Passed

3. Vote on ICSE Grievance: #10-11-06 – Resolved and Passed

4. Vote on ICSE Grievance: #10-11-07 – this grievance is going to be tabled and sent back to Mr. Prignano to work on and Mr. Mutter has asked that this matter be cleared up by the end of March – Mr. Wood made the motion to table this grievance, 2nd Mr. Gibbons, approved 6-0.

5. Vote on ICSE Grievance: #10-11-08 – Mrs. Beaulieu made a motion to deny this grievance, 2nd Mr. Wood, approved 6-0.

Agenda Item #10: Personnel Recommendations

Dr. Morelle requested the following personnel recommendations:

Appointment

I request the advice and consent of the School Committee on the

appointment of Sherri Heard, Assistant Girl's Lacrosse Coach, at Cumberland High School, for the 2010-2011 school year, effective 3/11/2011. (Budgeted)

Mrs. Beaulieu made a motion to approve this appointment, 2nd Mr. Wood, approved 6-0.

Leaves of Absence

I request the advice and consent of the School Committee on the Parental Leave of Kristen Murphy, English Teacher, at Cumberland High School, effective 4/4/2011 with a return date of 5/16/2011. (Budgeted)

I request the advice and consent of the School Committee on the FMLA Maternity Leave of Sarah Primiano, PE/APE/Health Teacher, at B.F. Norton School, effective 3/23/2011 to the end of the 2010-2011 school year. (Budgeted)

I request the advice and consent of the School Committee on the FMLA Maternity Leave of Stephanie York, School Psychologist, at Cumberland High School, effective to the end of the 2010-2011 school year. (Budgeted)

Mrs. Beaulieu made a motion to approve the above leaves, 2nd Mr. Wood, approved 6-0.

Retirements

Certified

I request the advice and consent of the School Committee on the

retirement of Patricia Dias, Guidance Counselor, at Joseph L. McCourt Middle School, effective 6/30/2011.

I request the advice and consent of the School Committee on the retirement of Catherine Smith, Grade 3 Teacher, at John J. McLaughlin Cumberland Hill Elementary School, effective 6/30/2011.

Non-Certified

I request the advice and consent of the School Committee on the retirement of Cathy Kron, Teacher Assistant, at Community School, effective 6/30/2011.

Mr. Wood made a motion to approve the retirements listed above, 2nd Mrs. Beaulieu, approved 6-0.

Agenda Item #11: Comments from the Public

No comments at this time.

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

Mrs. Beaulieu wanted to thank the school department for their assistance in bringing Rachel's Challenge to the district – they donated about \$2,000 to help offset the costs.

Mr. Pedro visited Woonsocket Vocational – open house went well – if any committee member would like to make a visit, please let him know and he will arrange for a tour. Mr. Pedro also wanted everyone to know that there will be an American Band Concert on 3/17/11 at

McCourt Middle School at 7:30 p.m.

Mr. Mutter mentioned the launch of Cumberland Students Success Website and he encourages everyone to take a brief survey on the website and also wanted to thank the Valley Breeze for the article and pictures associated with this website.

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

3) Contract Negotiations

Motion was made by Mr. Wood to go into Executive Session, 2nd Mrs. Beaulieu and Mr. Gibbons, approved 6-0.

Agenda Item #14: Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:38 p.m.

Meeting minutes respectfully submitted by Linda A. Jackvony