

## **APPROVED-4-14-11**

**There was a regular meeting of the Cumberland School Committee on Thursday, March 24, 2011 at the Cumberland High School Auditorium, 2600 Mendon Road, Cumberland, Rhode Island.**

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

**Staff Present: Donna A. Morelle, Ed.D., Superintendent, Joseph A. Rotella, Esq., Director of Administration, Dr. Susan Carney, Assistant Superintendent, Fred Schockaert, Lisa Colwell, Director of Special Services, Dep. Director of Special Services**

### **Agenda Item #1: Chairman Convenes Meeting**

**Chairman Mutter convened the meeting at 7:35 p.m. and began with a moment of silence for Ron Bettencourt.**

### **Agenda Item #2: Pledge of Allegiance**

### **Agenda Item #3: Approval of Agenda**

**Mrs. Beaulieu made a motion to approve the agenda, 2nd Mr. Wood and Mrs. Teel, approved 6-0.**

### **Agenda Item #4: Consent Agenda**

**A. Discussion on 2011-2012 School Calendar – Version 1**

**B. Discussion on 2011-2012 School Calendar – Version 2**

**C. Approval of Minutes: 1) Special Programs 3/1/11, 2) Workshop 3/5/11, 3) Regular Meeting 3/10/11**

**D. Approval of Minutes: 1) Executive Session 3/10/11, 2) Executive Session 3/10/11**

**Mrs. Sanzi made a motion to approve this agenda, 2nd Mrs. Beaulieu, approved 6-0.**

**Agenda Item #5: Chairperson's Report**

**A. Commissioner Gist's Visit on Tuesday, April 5, 2011 – Mr. Mutter reminded everyone that the Commissioner will be in Cumberland on April 5th at the Cumberland Public Library, Edward J. Hayden Center Community Room, from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. He encourages everyone to come out and show a nice attendance for the Commissioner.**

**Agenda Item #6: Comments from the Public**

**No comments at this time.**

**Agenda Item #7: Reports on Standing Committees**

**Mr. Wood noted that the Fiscal Management Sub Committee met on Tuesday and said that Administration presented the FY2012 budget at that time. Also, Mr. Wood said that,**

**if necessary, there would be a follow-up meeting on 3/29 in the Superintendents Conference Room at 6:30. Mrs. Teel noted that there will be a Policies and Procedures meeting on Monday, March 28th in the Trans. Cafeteria at 7 p.m. It will be open to the public for general**

discussion regarding a couple of upcoming policies. Mr. Mutter then noted that there will definitely be a meeting on Tuesday, March 29th regarding the FY2012 budget and he would also like a full committee meeting on Thursday, March 31st, again to discuss and hopefully vote on the FY2012 budget – the deadline is April 4th.

#### **Agenda Item #8: Old Business**

**A. Appointment of District Health and Wellness Committee – Mr. Mutter apologized for the delay in getting this committee off the ground, but said that once the budget is passed he will definitely get this committee up and running. A complete listing of the names of committee members will be forthcoming from Mr. Mutter.**

**B. Discussion and/or vote on FY2011 Budget/Amendment – Mr. Mutter said this would be forthcoming because of Item C in New Business – and whether or not it gets passed tonight.**

#### **Agenda Item #9: New Business**

**A. Pursuant to the RIGL 42-46-5 – Exception (9) Grievance: 1) Vote on CTA Grievance: #10-11-05 – Mrs. Beaulieu made a motion to table this grievance, 2nd Mr. Wood, motion failed 4-2 – as follows: Sanzi – no, Gibbons – no, Wood – yes, Beaulieu – yes, Teel – no, Mutter – no. Mr. Gibbons then made a motion to approve, as presented, to deny grievance #10-11-05, 2nd Mrs. Sanzi, approved 5-1, Mr. Wood voted no.**

**B. Presentation of Superintendent's Proposed FY 2012 Budget – Dr. Morelle presented the FY2012 Budget but first thanked everyone for**

their input; she said it was not a solo act and that many people assisted in this budget and acknowledged several principals and assistant principals that were in the audience for all of their help also.

Dr. Morelle said that there are three major goals in the presentation of the budget – to discuss major recommendations/district initiatives, to provide an overview of key budget drivers and to create awareness of state and local fiscal issues. She began with the following: FY12 budget priorities are technology support for elementary and middle schools – this will accelerate student learning in the district, PBIS – up to this point it has been funded outside of the general fund – so a decision will have to be made on this, tier 2 and tier 3 academic interventions – math and literacy (real gap in math), personnel requests to support integration of Literacy and Mathematics, Facilities Capital Action Plan – we will be asking the town for some money and moving some money around. Advantages for student learning: Technology initiative – expand use of Netbooks and wireless technology – has educational applications but we need to think about the possibility of changing current policies or which type of additional policies do we need, introduce use of iPads to students, teachers, administrators – principals could use for walk-throughs and teacher evaluations and students can be more focused and move to proficiency quicker. Advantages for student learning – PBIS – this is ongoing instruction in the district from Pre-K to High School. It is a behavior and cultural change, it happens over time. It is very student and family oriented. Each school will learn how to promote positive behavior and hopefully students – over time – will learn the proper

behavior and will also learn what the consequences are for not playing by the rules. Advantages for student learning: Tier 2 and Tier 3 academic interventions – we would like to see this expanded to the secondary levels. Progress in the previous years is testimony to the fact that it is definitely working. The student's instruction would be accelerated and so the students will progress that much quicker. Dr. Morelle would really like the SC to support these initiatives and she said that there would potentially be some added staff, however, some positions that she discussed already exist and other may or may not be needed due to enrollment at particular schools and also they will be looking at the possibility of doing some reorganization – that will be revisited. Dr. Carney noted that the Tier 2 and Tier 3 interventions are in response to the RTI initiatives and she went on to say that the elementary levels were to be in full compliance last September (Cumberland – as did many other districts – asked for a waiver), but they will be in full compliance this September. Secondary levels should be in full compliance this fall, but we are asking for a waiver. Dr. Carney truly believes that these interventions are desperately needed to support the RTI initiatives. Dr. Morelle mentioned some budget drivers – pensions that are up and out of control, some of our utilities have gone down – due to Sodexo systems being in place, medical has gone down – we are managing the dollars very well, overall over six years the budget is showing a 5.4% increase in expenditures. The last two slides showed the Fiscal Year 2012 Proposed General Fund Budget revenue adjustments and expenditures - \$52,938,978. Some of the comments that were made

by SC members included a suggestion for advocating for master leases, will there be accountability on the technology that the district may be buying and will there be a system in place to track and monitor students progress, personnel reductions – some concessions, budget process – includes administration, faculty, principals – teams that present their needs and then work together to come to an agreement, did the transportation figures include the increasing walking distances – yes, effective July 1st, Tier 2 and Tier 3 education supplies – one time expense. Mrs. Beaulieu asked if Dr. Morelle could get her a listing of all the grants that come into the district and Dr. Morelle said that she would talk to Mr. Prignano about that. Mr. Mutter asked is Mr. Prignano could supply the accounting of Title 1 dollars – the dollars coming in on the revenue side and the expensing of those dollars and also would like an itemized listing of one time expenditures and if there are any final expenditures – like the last year of payments for something, he would also like a listing of those. It was also noted by Dr. Morelle that the Math Coach is the only request by elementary principals that is not in this budget, there is not adequate funding – we have a Math Coordinator full time. Dr. Carney thought that one person divided over five schools/one day each, would be no benefit – she would not recommend it. Maybe 2.5 days in each of two schools, but not in five schools. The next steps for this budget process would be the follow-up discussion scheduled for 3/29/11 and then discussion and/or vote on 3/31/11 and then the charter requirement says the SC approved budget needs to get transmitted to the Finance Director no later than the first Monday in

**April, which is 4/4/11.**

**C. Discussion and/or Vote to award bid on Superintendent's search firm – Mr. Mutter stated that the committee had met the week before with two presenters in response to the bid – there were three, but one withdrew that day. They met with NESDEC and FMS – both presenters were good – the committee interviewed them and asked several questions. Mrs. Beaulieu made a motion to award the bid to Future Management Systems, Inc. (FMS), itemized cost of the search at \$15,500 plus expenses covering all five phases and an additional cost of \$175/hr or \$1,400/day charged for work beyond the scope of the proposal, 2nd Mr. Gibbons, Mr. Mutter noted that if this passes, he will talk with Mr. Garr of FMS regarding community involvement. Mr. Gibbons then asked where the dollars would be coming from and Mr. Mutter said that there would be a budget amendment presented to Mr. Wood at the Fiscal Management Sub Committee meeting and that amendment would be the remainder of a Special Education Designator account – there is \$18,000 plus in that account – there are other options, but this option will be presented to the Fiscal Management Sub Committee. Mr. Wood said he was unable to attend that meeting with the two presenters so he will abstain from this vote, but he did want to know if there was a ranking of the two that was done and Mr. Mutter said there was not. At this time the vote was taken and it was approved 5-0, Mr. Wood abstained from voting.**

**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 Peter Capalbo, Boy's Lacrosse Coach, at Cumberland High School, for the 2010-2011 school year, effective 3/25/2011.**

**(Budgeted)**

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

**I request the advice and consent of the School Committee on the appointment of Bonnie Drezek, Girl's Softball Coach, at Joseph L. McCourt Middle School, for the 2010-2011 school year, effective 3/25/2011. (Budgeted)**

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

## **Resignation**

**I request the advice and consent of the School Committee on the resignation of Valerie Fleury, Grade 2 Teacher, at Community School, effective 6/30/2011.**

**Mr. Wood made a motion to approve this resignation, 2nd Mrs. Beaulieu and Mrs. Teel, approved 6-0.**

## **Retirement**

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

**Linda Bogdan, Grade 2 Teacher, at Garvin Memorial School, effective 6/30/2011.**

**Mrs. Beaulieu made a motion to approve this retirement, 2nd Mrs.**

**Teel and Mr. Wood, approved 6-0.**

### **Agenda Item # 11: Comments from the Public**

**Mr. Dowe was the first speaker tonight and he had read the article in the Valley Breeze about technology and he wanted to come and commend the district on their choice of technology. He said that the elementary teachers took on a task – a giant step. He also stated that he applauds the district for their choices and wanted to mention that as we move forward and look at other technology that we may want to purchase, we need to link them to the programs that we already have in place. He thinks that we need to move in the direction of iPads, he wants us to move ahead of everyone instead of just catching up.**

**Scott – talked about the Math Coach – wondered when he or she would be available because now some teachers stay after school every day to help the students that need help, they do whatever is necessary. He also wondered why the district spent \$50,000 + on copier repairs. Do we own the machines or lease them? The costs seemed extremely high to him. Asked about links to PBIS and Dr. Morelle said that there are lots of links/materials on the internet regarding PBIS. He then asked about the \$33,000 for the pool filter – Dr. Morelle said that the filter purchased replaced a 40 year old filter (that was only supposed to last 25 years), it included the filter and repairs to a broken pipe under the filter. Scott also asked about \$212,000 for grounds upkeep – does this include snow removal, is it contracted out – Dr. Morelle asked him to email her the line item and she would check into it for him.**

**Rep. McLaughlin asked if within the next two weeks he could get a tentative date from the SC to meet with them to discuss upcoming legislation.**

**Mr. Kirkpatrick – had a question regarding the federal job funds and Dr. Morelle said she could provide him with a spreadsheet of the details if he would like.**

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

**Mr. Wood commented that he attended the NCMS History Fair the other night and said it was a great job done by all the students! The Cumberland Hill 4th and 5th grades will be putting on a Secret Garden – he will get some dates and get back to us and also the Cumberland Hill Choir will be singing at an upcoming Pawsox game in the spring.**

**Mrs. Beaulieu noted that Destination Imagination would be happening at the CHS on 3/26/11. Also, the Cumberland Special Education Advisory Committee is meeting on 3/29/11 at NCMS at 6:30 pm. And Community School Silent Auction tickets are still available at this time for this weekend (3/26).**

**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**

**Mr. Mutter stated that there is no Executive Session tonight.**

**Item # Agenda 14: Adjournment**

**Mrs. Sanzi made a motion to adjourn, 2nd Mr. Wood, approved 6-0.**

**The meeting was adjourned at 9:57 p.m.**

**Meeting minutes respectfully submitted by Linda A. Jackvony**