

APPROVED-NOVEMBER 10,2011

There was a regular meeting of the Cumberland School Committee held on Thursday, October 27, 2011 at the Cumberland High School Transitional Building Cafetorium, 2602 Mendon Road, Cumberland, Rhode Island.

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

Administration Present: Dr. Susan Carney, Assistant Superintendent, Joseph A. Rotella, Director of Administration

Agenda Item #1: Chairman Convenes Meeting

Chairman Mutter convened the meeting to order at 7:34 p.m.

Agenda Item #2: Pledge of Allegiance

Agenda Item #3: Approval of Agenda

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

Agenda Item #4: Consent Agenda

Chairman Mutter asked that this be moved to after the School Committee Comments portion of the meeting.

Agenda Item #5: Student Government Report

Two representatives from Student Government shared the following information: Back to School Night held on October 6, 2011 was a great success. Spirit Week was held from 10/16 thru 10/22 – various events throughout the week, class clean-up, television game show, ended the week with the Clippers Win!! On October 11th they held a very successful blood drive. Upcoming events include the annual clothing drive, and turkey baskets – this year’s goal is 85 baskets!

Agenda Item #6: Chairperson’s Report

There was no report given.

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 stated that there were no payments to report.

Agenda Item #9: Old Business

A. Pursuant to the RIGL 42-46-5 – Exception (8) Student Disciplinary Hearings:

1) Student B. Doe – Student Hearing Decision – SC voted 5-0 in support of Dr. Thornton’s recommendation. Mr. Gibbons and Mrs. Sanzi were not present for the vote.

2) Student J. Doe – Student Hearing Decision – SC voted 5-0 in support of Dr. Thornton’s recommendation. Mr. Gibbons and Mrs.

Sanzi were not present for the vote.

3) Student R. Doe – Student Hearing Decision – SC voted 5-0 in support of Dr. Thornton’s recommendation. Mr. Gibbons and Mrs. Sanzi were not present for the vote.

4) Student E Doe – Student Hearing Decision – SC voted 4-1 in support of Dr. Thornton’s recommendation, but felt that he could have actually been a little harsher. Mrs. Teel voted against. Mr. Gibbons and Mrs. Sanzi were not present for the vote.

Agenda Item #10: New Business

A. Home School Instruction Requests 2011-2012 School Year – Dr. Carney had one request and she asked that the SC approve the request. Mr. Gibbons made a motion to approve, 2nd Mrs. Beaulieu, approved 6-0.

B. Preamble to the Spring 2011 NECAP Science Scores – Dr. Carney showed a slide of the NECAP Science Results from the May, 2011 test. These results were just released and the Cumberland student’s proficiency was greater than the States in each grade level that was tested. Dr. Carney said that was great but the States average is not where it should be, so there is improvement to be done in every case.

She thought that it was great that the Achievement and Communication Committee looked at the Science curriculum a couple of weeks ago and will now move on to Math and English too – she would like to see these folks from the various departments come to the SC meetings and present where their strengths and weaknesses are and what their plans are to improve and correct. She believes it

would be time well spent for all. Dr. Carney also mentioned that some administrators and teachers sat in on a presentation given by Betty Young of GEMSNET – Dr. Thornton has worked in districts where the GEMSNET program proved to be very beneficial-GEMSNET is Guiding Education in Mathematics and Science Network – it engages children, links them to technology and gives them the chance to explore and work with principles and different concepts.

C. Discussion and/or vote on advertising of School Committee meetings – Mr. Rotella stated that the requirement to advertise in the newspaper has been deleted from the approved budget – if the SC wants to advertise they can, but it is not a requirement – they will put the agenda on our website, post it on the Secretary of State Website and post it in the town hall and library. A short discussion on potential advertising savings was discussed but it was determined that it is very hard to calculate due to the fact that each agenda is different – if they choose to advertise in the Valley Breeze instead of the Call and the Times – there could also be a savings, but again, whether they do not advertise at all or advertise in the Valley Breeze – the savings will be hard to calculate. If the SC does want to advertise each meeting in the Breeze, Mr. Rotella suggested that they put the agenda in the week before the meeting, but Mr. Mutter disagreed and said that the Secretary of States Website needs 48 hour notice, so he would like to go with that and be able to make changes to the agenda up until the 48 hour notice period – he wants the agenda that may be advertised the same as what is on the Secretary of States Website. Mr. Mutter said that they are scratching for every dollar so he thought

that the \$5,000 or \$6,000 that they could spend on the Breeze – annually – based on the costs of the last two meetings that they did advertise in the Breeze, he thought that the money could be spent on something else. At this point Mrs. Teel made a motion to continue to advertise in the Valley Breeze for another three months, but asked that Mr. Mutter create the ad and that it clearly reads that for a FULL agenda you need to go to the Cumberland School District Website (by doing this the cost of the smaller ad in the Breeze will be reduced and the SC will see if this causes a problem or if the community will be happy with the Secretary of States Website, our website, the town hall and the library-this will be in effect for November, December and January and then will be reviewed again). Motion was 2nd by Mr. Gibbons, approved 6-0. Mr. Mutter said this would be back on the agenda in three months.

D. Discussion of Achievement and Communication Sub-Committee Meeting Schedule – Mrs. Beaulieu noted that this committee is going to be working on making good decisions in the best interest of the students. They will do learning walks – during the day, they will discuss where we are and where we would like to be, they will set goals, and they will review what happens at the beginning of the school year. They will be meeting every two weeks – began with Science next is Math, followed by Technical Arts, Physical Education, Language Arts, etc., they will review all curriculum – they will try to determine successes, weaknesses, etc. Mrs. Beaulieu will post results on the website. Mr. Mutter is very optimistic about this committee; he stated that he thinks this committee will take us where

we want to go.

E. Discussion and/or vote to approve Resolution: SC-PR-10-2011-017 – Lighting Replacements –Joseph L. McCourt and North Cumberland Middle Schools – Mr. Wood made a motion to approve passage of Resolution SC-PR-10-2011-017, 2nd Mrs. Beaulieu, approved 6-0.

F. Discussion and/or vote to approve Resolution: SC-PR-10-2011-018 – Purchase 2007 Ford E-250 Cargo Van – Mr. Wood made a motion to approve passage of Resolution SC-PR-10-2011-018, 2nd Mr. Pedro, approved 6-0.

G. Discussion and/or vote to approve 2011-12 Transportation Routes – Mr. Mutter noted that they did not have the transportation routes at this meeting so he wanted this tabled until the next meeting. Mr. Pedro made a motion to table the discussion and/or vote on the 2011-12 transportation routes to the first meeting in November, 2nd Mrs. Beaulieu, approved 6-0.

Agenda Item #11: Personnel Recommendations

Mr. Mutter noted that at the last meeting the SC was asked to vote in the negative on a personnel recommendation, he asked Mr. Rotella if, in the future, could they have advance notification – Mr. Rotella answered, yes it will be duly noted.

Mr. Rotella had the following personnel recommendations:

Resignations

I request the advice and consent of the School Committee on the resignation of Anna Maneca-Fernandes, Classroom Assistant, at

Cumberland High School, effective 10/14/2011.

I request the advice and consent of the School Committee on the resignation of Erin Auclair, Girl's Basketball Coach, at Joseph L. McCourt Middle School, effective 10/18/2011.

Appointment

**I request the advice and consent of the School Committee on the appointment of Carol Fineout, Special Education Classroom Assistant - ALP at Cumberland High School, effective 10/28/2011.
(Budgeted)**

ADDENDUM #1

Appointment

**I request the advice and consent of the School Committee on the appointment of
Kristen Fougere, Field Hockey Assistant Coach at Cumberland High School for the 2011-2012 school year, effective 10/28/2011.
(Budgeted)**

Mr. Gibbons made a motion to approve all of the above personnel recommendations, 2nd Mr. Pedro and Mrs. Beaulieu, approved 6-0.

Agenda Item #12: Comments from the Public

Tom from the Valley Breeze commented on the agenda advertising. He suggested that the SC do their research over the next three months. He said that the VB prints 10,500 copies, the Call and the

Times – less than 2,000 papers and the VB will offer a savings – said that the VB is in 70% of the homes in this area. He suggested that if the ad is put in the VB the same day of the meeting, that the SC puts “Meeting Tonight” in bold letters – see if people see it in the VB and if there is a difference in attendance – if there is no value in advertising, he said as a taxpayer, he does not want it advertised either.

Agenda Item #13: School Committee Comments (School Liaison Reports)

Mrs. Beaulieu noted that some of the bus routes state that the children will be picked up and dropped off at specific times, but actually the busses are picking the kids up at the schools later than they are supposed to and the teachers are watching them until the bus does arrive and they are getting home later than expected. Mr. Mutter will be looking into this situation with the bus company.

At this point the Consent Agenda was addressed – Approval of Minutes for Regular Meeting 10/13/11 – Mr. Pedro made a motion to approve, 2nd Mrs. Beaulieu, approved 5-0 – Mr. Gibbons abstained. Approval of Minutes for Executive Session 10/3/11 – Mrs. Beaulieu made a motion to approve, 2nd Mr. Pedro, approved 5-0 – Mr. Gibbons abstained. Approval of Minutes for Executive Session 10/13/11 – Mrs. Beaulieu made a motion to approve, 2nd Mr. Wood, approved 5-0 – Mr. Gibbons abstained. Approval of Minutes for Executive Session 10/17/11 – Mrs. Teel made a motion to approve, 2nd Mrs. Beaulieu, approved 5-0 – Mr. Wood abstained.

Agenda Item #14: Vote to go into Executive Session for Discussion on Items Referred to in RIGL 42-46-5 – Mr. Rotella stated that there would be no Executive Session tonight.

Agenda Item #15: Adjournment

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

Meeting was adjourned at 8:26 p.m.

Meeting Minutes respectfully submitted by Linda A. Jackvony