

## **UNAPPROVED**

**There was a regular meeting of the Cumberland School Committee held on Thursday, January 12, 2012 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, Erika Sanzi, Earl Wood**

**Administration Present: Dr. Philip Thornton, Superintendent, Joseph A. Rotella, Director of Administration**

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

**Chairman Mutter convened the meeting to order at 7:31 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. Wood and Mrs. Sanzi, approved 7-0.**

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

**Mr. Wood made a motion to approve regular meeting minutes for 12/8/2011 and executive session minutes of 12/8/2011, 2nd Mrs. Beaulieu, approved 7-0.**

## **Agenda Item #5: Presentation: CHS Math Intervention Proposal**

**Dr. Thornton started off the presentation by saying that all of our students should get to proficiency and we should have a plan to get them there – he then introduced Chris Scott who was going to talk about the pilot program. Basically this program includes four days of intervention, each week – students are tested in November, get a baseline – there will be two groups of students with different start dates. The students in this program will stay after school two days a week and then two days a week – during the school day – they will go to advisory – after three weeks of this intervention they are receiving, they will be tested to see if it is helping or not. It is a mandatory program – late busses will be provided – the program may also run through the summer months. Mr. Scott said the students being tested are the Geometry students. Mr. Pedro asked if a student has a 7th period commitment – how would that effect this mandatory program. Dr. Thornton said that Saturdays would be a possibility, but they are open to suggestions. Mr. Scott said he would work with the teachers to see if they had any suggestions. Mrs. Teel asked what grade was tested and Mr. Scott said it was the 10th grade and he said he has hopes of testing the 8th graders in the future. Mr. Scott is hopeful that when these students are retested, there is improvement and this improvement will show up in our NECAP's. Mr. Scott will keep everyone posted on test results and improvement. He is also looking at new Math books; he is currently in the process of reviewing different series.**

**Dr. Drolet – Principal at NCMS – then stated that K-8 Aimsweb will target and find students that need more intervention – these are intervention programs, they will show what is working and what is not working. Fred Schockaert, Deputy Director of Special Services, stated that they will be comparing Fall vs. Winter benchmarking and they can assess how our tier 1 intervention is going.**

#### **Agenda Item #6: Superintendent's Report**

**A. Update on Full-Day Kindergarten – Dr. Thornton said that earlier in the day he had a meeting with about 20 people and they spoke about various issues. Some thoughts that were discussed were phasing in one full day kindergarten school each year, spoke about the placement of students, grade counts. They spoke about how it will be harder for the adults to adjust than the students. Dr. Thornton would like to bring the SC something to think about in February – he said we need to do something early enough in the year so we can be prepared and ready to go if that is the outcome. We would be adding six teachers if we did this, and he believes with the economy the way it is, full day kindergarten is needed. He noted that the middle school boundaries would not be touched. Dr. Thornton said that parents and students could visit the schools during the summer if we move forward. Next meeting regarding full day K is January 26th at 2 p.m., it is an open meeting. Mr. Mutter asked Dr. Thornton, if this gets approved will something have to be thrown out? Dr. Thornton said that they could put the brakes on this and cut it or cut other things if need be. He will get facts and figures to the SC prior to the 1/26/12**

**SC meeting. Mrs. Beaulieu asked Mr. Rotella about charges associated with full day K and he said that they could not charge. Mr. Wood wants redistricting on the agenda with full day K, when it is back on the agenda for a meeting.**

**B. Discussion of Article: Making High School Grades Meaningful – this is ongoing homework for the SC members – Dr. Thornton asked for some of their reactions. Mr. Mutter asked about motivation in our system, for the students and Dr. Thornton said that after school help and Saturday help would be motivation for the students that are having problems. Dr. Thornton went on to say that he wants to know – through testing, etc., - what the students know and how to measure it and then hold the students accountable – he doesn't want the students getting zero's, he wants them to be tutored – after school and on Saturday's – accountability for all concerned.**

#### **Agenda Item #7: Chairperson's Report**

**There is no report at this time.**

#### **Agenda Item #8: Comments from the Public**

**Mrs. P. thought that full day K is a great idea. Mr. M. is concerned about redistricting – middle school boundaries need to be shared – social impact to our kids (they have friends and they have to change schools). Cumberland Hill School is a performing school, Ashton is a little different – what will you do about increasing the numbers for these schools that are a little lower. Location, since of community – he thought that all of these points needed to be addressed prior to**

making any decisions. Rep. McLaughlin wanted to wish all a Happy New Year – working with funding formula to try to get extra dollars for Cumberland. Mrs. St. J. said that as a child she got switched from school to school in Cumberland and now her kids will be switching and she said that her kids are fine and she was too!

#### **Agenda Item #9: Reports of Standing Committees**

Mr. Wood made a motion to pay invoices in the amount of \$1,500,591.36, 2nd Mr. Gibbons, approved 7-0.

Mrs. Beaulieu noted that the Achievement Sub Committee met last week and said that Amanda Letoile spoke about the History program at CHS and the great success rate it has – it is very high – also, they are looking to expand the AP program. Meeting with Music and PE next week.

#### **Agenda Item #10: New Business**

A. Discussion and/or vote to approve ratification of the 2010-2014 ICSE Contract – some highlights were addressed – 4 year agreement with no change first year. Bring all employees to same health plan over the four years – Medicare plan 65 in place – less cost to them when they retire, pre-tax dollars into medical account, flexibility of custodian schedules, total of \$425,000 approximate savings over the life of the contract – savings for the district. Mr. Mutter recognized Mrs. Beaulieu for a number of hours in the discussion of this contract. Mrs. Beaulieu made a motion to approve the ratification of the 2010-2014 ICSE Contract, 2nd Mr. Pedro and Mr. Gibbons,

approved 7-0. Fiscal note needs to get attached to the contract and Mr. Rotella said that he would have Mr. Prignano do this.

**B. Discussion and/or vote to approve the amended KG-KGD Use of School Facilities Policy – Mrs. Teel reviewed some of the revisions that were made – eliminating the police and fire signatures regarding detail officers at some functions because of the estimated number that would be attending – Dr Thornton would be making that decision,**

**Custodial fee's – out of pocket fee's will be charged – school department incurred – Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts will not be charged, anyone can come before the SC if they are unhappy with the fee's being charged – the Superintendent will be involved and will also review it. Mr. Crawley from the Cumberland Recreation Department came up to the podium at this time and asked why some agencies are not being charged but the Cumb. Rec. Dept. is being charged. He strongly believes that they should be eligible to be free also. He also asked about lighting fee's, janitors fee's and Mr. Mutter told Mr. Crawley that their relationship with the Cumb. Rec. Dept. is fluid, it is a good relationship and they intend to keep it that way – he said this will not be in effect until next year and that there would be revisions. Mr. Crawley then noted that the current system of requesting the approvals through the Superintendents office takes way too long, he said he waits 3-4 weeks sometimes for approvals – he believes someone else should be doing this – when he goes to Mr. Geiselman for the Wellness Center, it is really fast. Mr. Mutter said they would take all of his concerns into consideration. Mr. Mutter said he would like the policy to go back to the Policy Committee one**

more time, to be tweaked – so at this time he is referring it back to the Policy Committee. Mrs. Teel made a motion to table this policy, 2nd Mr. Gibbons, approved 7-0. The next Policy Sub Committee meeting will be next Tuesday – this will not be on the agenda.

C. Discussion and/or vote to approve 1st reading of the IHCFC-A Preschool Tuition Policy – Mrs. Teel read the policy and then made a motion to approve, 2nd Mr. Pedro but then Mrs. Beaulieu said it was the first reading – so all was withdrawn.

D. Discussion and/or vote to approve contracts for: 1) Confidential Secretary to the Superintendent, 2) Confidential Secretary to the Assistant Superintendent, 3) Confidential Secretary to the Director of Special Education, 4) District Data Manager – Dr. Thornton stated that we have ICSE, CTA , Administration – all under some sort of a contract, except for these four positions – so we have come up with something on paper for these four. Mr. Mutter referred it to Mr. Wood in Fiscal Management.

## **Agenda Item #11: Personnel Recommendations**

**Mr. Rotella had the following personnel recommendations:**

### **Resignation**

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

**Andrea O'Donnell, .5 FTE Guidance Counselor at John J. McLaughlin Cumberland Hill Elementary School, effective 12/14/2011.**

## **Appointments**

**I request the advice and consent of the School Committee on the appointment of Dorothy Clifford, Special Education Clerk at Cumberland High School, effective 1/12/2012. (Budgeted)**

**I request the advice and consent of the School Committee on the appointment of Stephanie Townsend, .5 FTE Guidance Counselor at at John J. McLaughlin Cumberland Hill Elementary School, effective 1/30/2012. (FTE: .5; Step: 1;**

**Advance Lane: Masters; Co-pay: 16%. (Budgeted)**

**Mrs. Beaulieu made a motion to approve, 2nd Mrs. Teel, approved 7-0.**

## **Agenda Item #12: Comments from the Public**

**A member of the audience stood up and commented to Dr. Thornton that this was the first SC meeting that she attended about redistricting that was civil. She thanked him. She said it was quiet, but that everyone has their own thoughts and they are hot thoughts, but they are putting their faith in Dr. Thornton.**

**Mrs. C. commented that Kindergarten registration might want to be postponed until everyone knows what is going on with full day K.**

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

**Mrs. Sanzi acknowledged Community School for some beautiful painting over the weekend! Thank you!**

**Mr. Mutter wanted everyone to know that he expects the redistricting topic to get heated but he wanted to assure everyone that they understand and they are considering all of the children and they are doing their homework.**

**Agenda Item #14: Vote to go into Executive Session**

**Mr. Mutter said there is no Executive Session tonight.**

**Agenda Item #15: Adjournment**

**Mrs. Sanzi made a motion to adjourn, 2nd Mr. Pedro, approved 7-0.**

**Meeting was adjourned at 9:17 p.m.**

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