

APPROVED – 2/9/2012

There was a regular meeting of the Cumberland School Committee held on Thursday, January 26, 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, approved 7-0.

Agenda Item #4: Consent Agenda

Mr. Wood made a motion to approve Regular Meeting Minutes of 1/12/2012 and Executive Session Minutes of 1/12/2012, 2nd Mrs. Beaulieu, approved 7-0.

Agenda Item #5: Student Government Report

Adopt A Family and the Teddy Bear Raffle were great successes! Now that the food and toy drives are over, members of Student Government will be brainstorming to see what their next endeavor will be. Midterms are going on between 1/24 and 1/27 and the Winter Ball will be held on January 27. On February 2nd there will be an 8th grade orientation and on February 14th there will be a blood drive - students that are 16 or 17 years old can donate if they have a parent sign the consent form and if the student is 18 years old he or she can sign their own form! Blood drive is open to everyone!

Agenda Item #6: Superintendent's Report

A. Update on full-day kindergarten/redistricting proposal – Dr. Thornton said that he met earlier in the day with about 25 people. They discussed information from the 2007 map and are still looking at other data from others maps – Dr. Thornton said that the data from Durham (first map) is not clean so he and his team are still “scrubbing the data” – they still show Cumberland Hill being too crowded. Map 2 that was reviewed showed some street changes and also incorporated school choice students, ESL students and Special Ed. Students (about 120 students) – after this review and information, it looks like six teachers would need to be added – but the Ashton border needs to be tweaked some more. Dr. Thornton is hopeful that by 1/30/12 – some maps will be viewable on line, a street list by school and full day K vs. ½ day K curriculum information will be

available –he will be sending out an email blast on the 30th of January. Mr. Wood asked what was being done about the Cumberland Hill lines – he thinks almost all are going to Ashton – Dr. Thornton said when a section is grabbed in Cumberland Hill, there are a lot of students in one chunk and he said that he needs to do this because they are so overcrowded and to achieve full day K, we need to do this. Mrs. Sanzi asked for an estimate on how many students go to private kindergarten and then come over to the public school system in first grade. Fred Schockaert said that he had looked at grades 1-5 and did some averaging and he thought that enrollment was about 360 students in 1-5 with enrollment in kindergarten being around 250. Mr. Mutter wanted everyone to know that we are only in the development of this proposal; we are not voting on this, this is simply an update – much more information to come.

B. 1st semester District Anti-Bullying Harassment Report – Mr. Jay Masterson, Assistant Principal at NCMS reported, he started out by saying that all the principals had sent Dr. Thornton a report on bullying from their perspective schools – this took place about three weeks ago. He said the reports are to see if they are doing better or not – there was a spike in the 8th grade level, but he said that is because the kids feel more comfortable about reporting bullying so more of them come forward. There is upcoming training to be done at all of the schools and he also mentioned an online form that anyone can fill out to report bullying. Mr. Masterson said he gets those forms and forwards them to the appropriate schools and then it is followed up. He said that overall it looked like cyber bullying and

bullying on the bus ride to and from school seem to be the issues. He is in the process of getting task forces together and he is also working with Paul Neves of Durham, to get a handle on these issues. Mr. Neves advised that they will be talking with all of the bus drivers and will be implementing PBIS training. Mr. Masterson also noted that another type of bullying where students alienate other students and also gang up on certain students, seems to be another issue that he deals with a lot, but they are working on all the issues and are hopeful to stay on top of the situations. Mrs. Sanzi congratulated Mr. Masterson on being named Assistant Principal of the Year for the State of Rhode Island – Congratulations Mr. Masterson!!!!!!

C. High School Foreign Exchange Student Program Proposal - Dr. Thornton said that Roosevelt International Academy has contacted the Cumberland School District to see if we are interested in having 10 students from China come to our high school to study next year, these students would either be juniors or seniors. Other schools contacted in the area are Moses Brown and Lincoln School. It would be a one-year cycle and then the students would go back to China. It would be a great experience for them and us! Our first response to RIA is that we would like more information on the program and tonight Dr. Thornton said that he is just bringing this information forward to see if the SC has any interest or not – Dr. Thornton said they do not have to take a vote on this, just a consensus would be good enough. Mr. Mutter asked the SC to notify Dr. Thornton individually, with their comments regarding this program.

Agenda Item #7: Chairperson's Report

There is no report at this time.

Agenda Item #8: Comments from the Public

Mr. A. from New Clark Road stated that the new lines will affect his kids and his first question is if all the data used to make the decisions will be made available to the public. Dr. Thornton said that all that he can release, he would release – he said some information will be released on 1/30/12. Mr. A. then asked if the Superintendent would be making his decision based on facts and not interest groups. Mr. Mutter said that pressure would not influence their decision at all. Mr. A. also asked what the plan was for educational outcomes if his kids have to go to Ashton (because some testing results showed Ashton as a lower performing school than Cumberland Hill). Dr. Thornton said that he is working on launching new initiatives; some initiatives have already proven themselves on particular tests. Also, maintain good programming and parental involvement is also necessary. He will also launch a new report card next year in K-5 and a new grading policy in the spring – he will be standardizing some grading.

Mrs. P. thought that full day K was a good idea, but some schools are poor performing, they have raised some numbers but they need a few more years to get all of their numbers where they should be so she thought that maybe it would be better to wait until all of the schools were performing about the same, and then make the change. She was also concerned about losing some state funding and not seeing some of it for the next seven years.

Mr. E. asked if the full day K was funded already. Mr. Mutter said that we are not in the budget cycle yet. Mr. E. also noted that the research that he has seen does not justify the rush by March – to make a decision – he suggested that 4-6 year olds do better at home.

Mrs. F. said that she was not happy about sending her child to another school and added that some kids do not do well with change.

Mrs. P. said that her child does not have an IEP, but does receive services at the school that he is currently attending. If he has to change schools, will he still get services? Dr. Thornton said that if a student is in a choice school, ESL or has an IEP – they would have a choice.

Mr. A. said that transitions are difficult for kids, but Cumberland's kids are doing pretty well considering that our per pupil funding is one of the lowest in the state. He would like to see some improvement in Math though.

Agenda Item #9: Reports of Standing Committees

A. Payment of Bills – Per Mr. Wood, no payments at tonight's meeting.

Mrs. Beaulieu noted that the Achievement and Communication Sub Committee met last Thursday with Music and P/E. P/E is transitioning from a dodge ball to health and wellness curriculum – new draft by 2012. Next they will be meeting with Special Education group and World Language group and also the Guidance Department.

Mrs. Teel said that the Policy Committee would be meeting next Tuesday at 7 p.m. (1/31/12), Facilities Use is on the docket.

Agenda Item #10: Old Business

A. Discussion and/or vote to approve contracts for:

1) Confidential Secretary to the Superintendent/School Committee – Mr. Wood made a motion to approve as presented, 2nd Mrs. Beaulieu, approved 7-0.

2) Confidential Secretary to the Assistant Superintendent – Mr. Wood made a motion to approve as presented, 2nd Mrs. Beaulieu, approved 7-0.

3) Confidential Secretary to the Director of Special Education – Mr. Wood made a motion to approve as presented, 2nd Mrs. Sanzi and Mrs. Beaulieu, approved 7-0.

4) District Data Manager – Mr. Wood made a motion to approve as presented, 2nd Mr. Gibbons, approved 7-0.

It was noted that all of these contracts are for a two-year period.

Agenda Item #11: New Business

A. Discussion and/or vote to approve CHS Core Values and Belief Statement and Learner Expectations – Mrs. Gould explained that CHS is coming up for accreditation in 2013 (this is a 10 year cycle). She explained that there are various items that need to be completed by CHS so that when the team from New England Association of Schools and Colleges comes in to CHS they will have everything that they need for accreditation. Mrs. Gould explained that high schools need to adhere to seven standards to get or keep their accreditation and CHS is in the study portion of the accreditation cycle. What she

needed tonight from the SC was an approval for their (CHS) mission statement/core values – she read their core values, mission statement and CHS student expectations and Mrs. Beaulieu made a motion to approve, 2nd Mrs. Sanzi and Mr. Pedro, approved 7-0. Mrs. Gould thanked the SC and said that this would now be included in their packet for accreditation.

B. Discussion and/or vote to approve 2012-2013 school calendar – Mr. Gibbons made a motion to approve the calendar, 2nd Mrs. Beaulieu, approved 6-1 (Mr. Wood voted no). Mr. Wood said that once again, a one-week vacation needs to be looked at again this year – he wants to know why we cannot be the first to do this. Dr. Thornton said he has a couple of concerns about it and sports and bussing were just a couple. Mr. Wood said that bussing issues should not be one of his concerns.

C. Presentation on Facilities Capital Asset Protection Plan (FCAP) – Alex Prignano explained that this document (which was given to the SC) is basically a maintenance plan that is done by Sodexo here in our district. It is a document that changes regularly and it lists various areas that need maintenance, some areas will require assistance from the town. The plan is reviewed by many people, it takes about two months to get a final copy – which will be on the website as soon as it becomes available. Jason – from Sodexo – said that this report encompasses everything from obvious imperfections like leaky roofs to energy efficiencies on equipment, etc., naturally the obvious problems get fixed first and some of what is on the list are things that the district would like to do, not necessarily things

that have to be done right away. This document will eventually be sent to RIDE. Mr. Mutter commended Sodexo because he thinks it will be good to get this report out so that the town people can review it and see that we are being pro-active in our district.

D. Discussion and/or vote to approve amended policy – JHCE Child Abuse Reporting Policy – Mrs. Teel made a motion to approve as amended, 2nd Mr. Pedro, approved 7-0. Mr. Rotella said that they did not have to read the entire policy.

E. Discussion and/or vote to approve Resolution SC-PR-1-2012-01: Restoration of CHS Clipper Ship – Mr. Wood made a motion to approve as presented, 2nd Mr. Gibbons, approved 7-0.

F. Discussion and/or vote to approve Resolution SC-PR-1-2012-02: Painting of CHS Clipper Ship – Mr. Wood made a motion to approve, 2nd Mr. Pedro, approved 7-0.

Agenda Item #12: Personnel Recommendations

Mr. Rotella had the following personnel recommendations:

Resignation

I request the advice and consent of the School Committee on the resignation of Susan C. Carney, Assistant Superintendent of Schools for the Cumberland Public Schools, effective 1/31/2012.

Mr. Wood made a motion to approve, 2nd Mr. Pedro, approved 7-0.

Mrs. Beaulieu and the entire SC wanted to thank Dr. Carney for her many years of service and said that they would all miss her very much. Everyone wishes Dr. Carney the best in the future.

Addendum #1

Resignation

I request the advice and consent of the School Committee on the resignation of Derek Davenport, Social Studies Teacher at Cumberland High School, effective 1/27/2012.

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

Agenda Item #13: Comments from the Public

Rep. McLaughlin noted that Cumberland is taking the lead on cell phones, he said there is a bill currently going through now regarding cell phones – he asked for the SC and the Superintendent’s input. He also asked for their input on school bus advertising.

Agenda Item #14: School Committee Comments (School Liaison Reports)

Mr. Pedro wanted everyone to know that he is a resident of Cumberland and has taught in some capacity, in every school in Cumberland (except NCMS) and he said they were all different but all are wonderful. He said that change can be detrimental in the beginning but wanted to assure everyone that they are trying to better populate the schools. He also said that if anyone had any questions, they could email him – he went on to say that Ashton is a great, very well run school and all of the schools are doing a great job and we

will find a good solution.

Mr. Wood noted that just by looking at the information again, it looks like Cumberland Hill will be the largest group to be moved around – he would like to see it be equal across the board. Mr. Mutter noted that everyone received the same information today at the same time, there will be no vote today, it is to be reviewed and the information just became available today – he wanted everyone to know this.

Agenda Item # 15: Vote to go into Executive Session

Mr. Mutter asked Mr. Rotella if there would be an Executive Session tonight and Mr. Rotella said that there would not be one tonight.

Agenda Item #16: Adjournment

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

The meeting was adjourned at 9:33 p.m.

Meeting minutes respectfully submitted by Linda A. Jackvony