

## **UNAPPROVED**

**There was a special meeting of the Cumberland School Committee held on Tuesday, March 20, 2012 at the Cumberland High School Transitional Building Cafetorium, 2602 Mendon Road, Cumberland, Rhode Island.**

**Members Present: Jeff Mutter, Lisa Beaulieu, Linda Teel, Erika Sanzi, Earl Wood.**

**John Gibbons and Daniel Pedro were absent.**

**Administration Present: Dr. Philip Thornton, Superintendent, Alex Prignano, Business Manager**

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

**Chairman Mutter convened the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.**

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

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

**Mr. Wood made a motion to approve the agenda, 2nd Mrs. Sanzi, approved 5-0.**

### **Agenda Item #4: Budget Workshop**

**1) FY 13 Budget Discussion – Dr. Thornton started off by noting that the SC has had the budget for a few days – he wanted to talk about**

any revisions that they may want. He asked Alex to go over some of the bigger items like town appropriation, etc. Mr. Mutter thought that in the future, public hearings would be a good idea for reviewing the budget. Alex began with the revenue side of the budget. Some highlights were as follows: seeking additional \$1.0m from the town, state aid funding formula would be looking at almost \$2.2m, federal job funds shows \$542,000 – Obama job fund – Cumberland’s share so that we can layoff less teachers than normal – we are using it to pay guidance teachers. Exchange students from China will bring in \$110,000 (10 students), rentals, pre-school etc., net reduction \$93,000 (there is a discount to families with more than one student going to the preschool). \$1.4m fund balance – if schools do not spend all of the dollars, we reserve the dollars and spend on educational supplies, also \$450,000 set aside for healthcare. Alex noted that the state has lifted some restriction on the aid, there is more flexibility, and he also noted that the funding formula may be accelerated, but he thought that would be a very difficult challenge. Alex began the expenditures by stating that in the past speech therapists, social workers, etc, would be placed into the SPED budget, however, now they are going in to each individual school. One of the major increases was \$994,000 salaries – biggest portion was for the teacher contracts – last year and this year teachers are getting a raise of 1.75% and ICSE contract – 3rd year of contract, 1.5% increase for ICSE staff. There are 11 new positions with full day K, net jobs are still down two positions, 7 or 8 people are retiring. Health claims – last year budgeted \$6.2m, but thru February we are \$269,000 ahead –

**this may hold, but we may need to re-examine – Mr. Mutter asked Alex if they could potentially use \$48,858 of the increase and Alex said yes they could. Alex mentioned that they could see more people coming into the health plan and if so this would increase the risk, but it is too much of an unknown. Charter schools \$626,881 is an increase that includes what we missed last year and an increase for this year (last year more students went to Charter and blew out the budget). Dental coverage is up \$36,000 and Alex suggested that when the current contract is up this year that we may think about going elsewhere – he would like to see this looked into before the contract expires. No savings for pension reform – teacher side increased over \$500,000 – state has added on 2.6%. 2010 CTA fringes (which was deferred) \$157,000 net changes, but \$300,000 additional in spending. Alex said that there is a \$69,000 payment (final payment) for a master lease that was for furniture – it allowed him to get the items upfront and pay each year after. Mr. Mutter and Alex have been meeting with various sales reps from copy machines companies – they said there are currently 91 copies in the district and they are trying to get this number down and are trying to replace 6 or 7 of these machines this year. \$30,000 snow removal – we use Sodexo, but they have agreed to bring in one extra employee at night and so we agreed to pick up the first \$30,000 (to help defer salary and fringe benefits for this employee) in snow removal and then after that they are responsible. \$84,000 increase in textbooks – Dr. Thornton noted that we needed to spend more money on books in this district. A good portion of that will be spent on Math books for the middle schools – a decision on**

which program they go with should be made this week. Accreditation at the high school is \$18,250 – occurs every 10 years. Alex said they are having a meeting with the union next Monday to see if they can get the \$594,000 down by any amount. Dr. Thornton said they need to be very careful what they spend in the budget – he noted that at the high school there will be one less guidance clerk, two less teachers at the middle school, .5 speech therapist is out, .8 nurse is out, librarian at the middle school – will not fill that position, they are using a clerk. Cumberland Hill nurse will be reduced to .8 and all that will happen is that she will be there less time during the day – Mrs. Wharton and Lisa Colwell would know the best times to be there. The pre-school director is modeled at .2 reduction, payroll clerk at .2 reduction, facilities maintenance person 1.0 reduction, T/A's for kindergarten 4.0 reduction, but will use recess monitors, two custodians may come off, high school time change – looking at 7 period day, but not adding staff, middle school sports and freshmen sports not in budget. Alex noted that middle school sports would be about \$38,000 and the booster club picks up another \$30,000 per year – he also pointed out that \$17,000 to transport these teams has been reflected in the transportation budget. Mr. Mutter asked Alex for documentation if freshmen sports were to come back. Mrs. Beaulieu asked Alex for the cost of using TA sub's at the beginning of the kindergarten school year. Mrs. Sanzi asked if we would be able to use nurse techs, but Dr. Thornton said we would not be able to.

**Agenda Item #5: Public Comment**

**Mr. S. asked if the \$1.5m for charter schools included transportation. Mr. Mutter said no it did not, just tuition. He went on to say that we are responsible for it and it is in our budget. Mr. S. also encouraged the SC to look at sports again – said it was important.**

**Mr. G. said that losing sports is hard – his family has been in sports in Cumberland for 45 years. He went on to say that we fund the charter school but our schools are being cut. Mr. Mutter said that the money follows the students. Mr. G. asked if they could try to work something out regarding sports.**

**Ms. L. wanted to see more dollar projections for sports – she disagreed with a couple of the figures.**

**Ms. L. noted that there are a number of booster clubs for sports, some for individual teams, banquets, jackets, etc., but she would like all of the booster clubs to look at paying for some of the operational expenses also.**

**Ms. V. is concerned about the amount of time some of these children will be spending on busses. Dr. Thornton said that 1.5 hours is unacceptable on a bus and that he will have the first model from Durham hopefully during the first week of April and they will tweak from there. SC will get them first and then they will be put on the website.**

**Mr. Wood asked Alex how much money was taken out for library books and Alex said about \$20,000.**

**Mr. Mutter said that the first potential vote is 3/27 for the SC and if a vote is taken then it could be sent to the town hall and then the ball is in their court.**

**Agenda Item #6: Adjournment**

**Mr. Wood made a motion to adjourn, 2nd Mrs. Sanzi, approved 5-0.**

**The meeting was adjourned at 8:37 p.m.**

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