

UNAPPROVED

There was a regular meeting of the Cumberland School Committee held on Thursday, April 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, Attorney Adams

Agenda Item #1: Chairman Convenes Meeting

Chairman Mutter convened the meeting to order at 7:30 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

A. Approval of Minutes – Regular Meeting 4/12/12 and B. Approval of Minutes – Special Meeting/Executive Session 4/11/12 - Mr. Wood made a motion to approve minutes for Regular Meeting 4/12/12 and

minutes for Special Meeting/Executive Session 4/11/12, 2nd Mrs. Sanzi, approved 7-0.

Agenda Item #5: Report of Executive Session Meeting on 4/25/2012

A. Report of Executive Session Vote – Mr. Mutter stated that the SC met the night before and with a 7-0 vote, they voted to go straight to arbitration regarding CTA Grievance # 11-12-13.

B. Vote to Seal Minutes of Executive Session – Mr. Wood made a motion to seal the minutes, 2nd Mrs. Beaulieu and Mr. Gibbons, approved 7-0.

Agenda Item #6: Report of Executive Session Meeting on 4/26/2012

A. Report of Executive Session – Mr. Mutter said there were no votes taken.

B. Vote to Seal Minutes of Executive Session – Mrs. Sanzi made a motion to seal the minutes, 2nd Mrs. Beaulieu, approved 7-0.

Agenda Item #7: Student Government Report

Past events included the Academic Showcase where parents had the opportunity to see the work the students are doing and talk with the teachers, Foreign Language Week, Pennies for Patients – donations were taken and given to the Leukemia Society, Spring Fling dance for the freshman and sophomores, Peanut Butter Drive – donations of peanut butter were given to the Rhode Island Food Bank.

Upcoming events include the Junior Prom on May 4th, Class Elections on May 17th, Staff Week from 5/21 thru 5/25 – students

provide food for the teachers and administrators, 5/29 thru 6/1 is Senior Week – there will be activities planned during lunch each of those days, Grad Nite – going to Disney on 4/27.

Agenda Item #8: Superintendent's Report

A. Refurbished Clipper Ship at CHS – Dr. Thornton noted that the Clipper Ship is back up and it is firmly mounted, has a solid coating on it and looks very nice. He wanted to thank Sodexo for funding the project.

B. Ongoing discussion – Achievement and Student Success Policy – 1) Grading Policy, 2) Cheating and Plagiarism Policy and 3) Homework Policy - tonight Dr. Thornton noted that he and Dr. Drolet would be reviewing the Cheating Policy and the Homework Policy. Dr. Thornton talked about the cheating policy being different for elementary, middle and high school students. There would be different forms of punishment – elementary students would be asked to bring in parents/guardians to meet with the principal, students would be asked to redo the work. In middle school in addition to the meeting with the principal, there may be detention, may have to redo work, could be suspended and this could be very similar with high school students, but if asked to redo the task – their grade on the retake would be averaged with the zero that they received the first time – Dr. Thornton said that this is not necessarily good practice, but it is what happens currently. Dr. Drolet spoke about the homework policy and noted that Coventry – with whom he worked closely and wanted to thank them for their assistance with this policy – has a very

similar policy. Dr. Drolet explained how important homework is and that parents and teachers should also have an essential role in the student's homework. Students must complete their homework assignments or they will get an incomplete for that assignment. Homework can be used to inflate or deflate the student's grade. He did note that an extension of learning homework assignment, if used as a product grade, cannot count for more than 15 percent of the student's overall quarterly grade and the teacher needs to inform the student when or if a particular assignment is going to be counted for a grade. Mr. Mutter asked why 15% and Dr. Drolet said for now they have agreed on 15%, but this could be changed. Dr. Drolet reviewed expectations and responsibilities for students, teachers and the parents as well. The subject of students GPA's came up because of the numeric grading system that will be put in place and Dr. Thornton touched on it by saying that he believes that is a conversation for the future, but did note that some colleges look at how rigorous the high school is because a "B" can be different in every high school. He went on to say that half the schools in the United States are doing away with GPA's.

Agenda Item #9: Chairperson's Report

There was no report tonight, but Mr. Mutter asked Dr. Thornton to give an update on the redistricting. Dr. Thornton stated that the final map is up but Durham is still having problems making a clean street listing. Bus routes are being worked on and should be completed shortly.

Agenda Item #10: Comments from the Public

Bill asked Dr. Thornton and the SC about a bill that would be in place by 2014 regarding seniors graduating within a certain proficiency percentage. Dr. Thornton noted that Rhode Island is asking for a waiver regarding this bill, but Rhode Island is among many states that are doing the same – no child left behind is not realistic right now. He went on to explain that even some students in Barrington would not be able to graduate if this bill were to pass - and Barrington's scores are among the highest in the state. Dr. Thornton said that a lot is being done at the high school – lots of improvements are being made – it takes time for some changes for kick in, but he and the SC are working very hard at making improvements. Mrs. Beaulieu noted that the Achievement and Communications Sub-Committee is reviewing what needs to be changed and implemented as far as curriculum goes and noted that they are trying to be pro-active and have been making great strides already and will continue to do so.

Agenda Item #11: Reports of Standing Committees

- A. Payment of Bills – Mr. Wood said there were no payments tonight.**
- B. Achievement and Communications Sub-Committee Update – Mrs. Beaulieu said the committee met last night and talked about high school Math and some changes for the Fall. They all agreed that the students need to be assessed more regularly and also talked about NECAP practice tests. The committee also met with the Social Studies folks and talked about the changes they are making and**

some modifications that would include history being revised all the way up through high school.

C. Policy and Procedures Sub-Committee Update – Mrs. Teel noted that the next meeting would be on May 1st at 6:30 in T-319 – one policy to be discussed would be regarding pregnancy/homebound policy. Another meeting has been scheduled for 5/29, same time, same location.

Agenda Item #12: New Business

A. Discussion and/or Vote to Approve Appointment of Assistant Superintendent of Schools subject to the Approval of an Employment Contract – Dr. Thornton recommended Robert Mitchell for the position. Mr. Mitchell is currently the Principal at Chariho High School. Mrs. Beaulieu made a motion to approve Mr. Robert Mitchell for the position of Assistant Superintendent pending the approval of an employment contract, 2nd Mr. Gibbons, approved 7-0. Mr. Mitchell was in attendance and got up and thanked Dr. Thornton and the SC for their approval. He said he is very anxious to start his new position.

B. Sodexo Facilities Report – February/March 2012 – Juan Garcia went over various slides showing what Sodexo has been recently working on. Noted items were asphalt repairs to the parking lot at Ashton, HVAC servers – some schools have updated units and Sodexo routinely checks them out to make sure they are working efficiently, MMS had some pneumatic controls replaced and rewired, Wellness Center had some new faucets, plumbing installed – other

school buildings to follow, NCMS gymnasium floor was refinished, CHS had a main waste line replaced, CHS transitional building had a fan installed in the boiler room, renovations have been started in the now vacant workshop area at CHS. Lots going on and some of these projects are things that should have been done in the past, but were neglected. Sodexo has also put together a Preventative Maintenance Schedule that includes boilers, elevators, pest control, etc. After Mr. Garcia's presentation, Alex Prignano noted that some of the repairs mentioned appeared on the FCAP Plan, and all of repairs noted were done on Sodexo's dollars. Mr. Prignano also told the SC that the FCAP Plan is now completed and he will be giving each member a copy.

C. Home School Instruction Requests 2011-2012 – Dr. Thornton had one request and Mrs. Beaulieu made a motion to approve, 2nd Mrs. Teel, approved 7-0.

D. Discussion and/or Vote to Approve Amended Acceptable Use Policy – IGT-RA Computer/Internet/Electronic Device Usage – Mrs. Teel made a motion to approve amended acceptable use policy – IGT-RA Computer/Internet/Electronic Device Usage, 2nd Mr. Pedro and Mrs. Beaulieu, approved 7-0.

E. Discussion and/or Vote to Approve Amended – JECB Early Admittance Policy – Mrs. Teel stated that this is a brand new policy with amendments and with that recommended approval of amended JECB Early Admittance Policy, 2nd Mrs. Beaulieu, approved 7-0.

F. Pursuant to the RIGL 42-46-5 – Exception (1) Personnel Matters – 1) Discussion of CTA Grievance - #11-12-13 – Mr. Mutter stated that last

evening the SC met and voted 7-0 to go straight to arbitration regarding CTA Grievance #11-12-13.

G. Discussion and/or Vote on Superintendent's Recommendation on the Non-Renewal of Administrator's Contract – Mr. Mutter said this was not relevant.

H. Discussion and/or Vote to Approve Employee Contracts for – 1) Director of Special Education, 2) Deputy Director of Special Education, 3) Business Manager, 4) Assistant to the Business Manager, 5) Middle School Principals, 6) Elementary Principals, 7) High School Assistant Principals, 8) Middle School Assistant Principals, 9) Preschool Director, 10) Director of Information Technology, 11) Network Manager, 12) District Support Technician, 13) Assistant Superintendent of Schools – Mr. Wood made a motion to accept Dr. Thornton's recommendations for the renewal of contracts mentioned above (#1 - #13), 2nd Mr. Gibbons, approved 7-0.

Agenda Item #13: Personnel Recommendations

Dr. Thornton had the following personnel recommendations:

Appointments

I request the advice and consent of the School Committee on the appointment of William Hayes as a Volunteer Boy's Assistant Lacrosse Coach at Cumberland School Department, effective for the 2011-12 school year.

I request the advice and consent of the School Committee on the appointment of Dale O'Dell as a Volunteer Boy's Assistant Baseball

Coach at Cumberland School Department, effective for the 2011-12 school year.

Leaves of Absence

I request the advice and consent of the School Committee on the FMLA Maternity Leave of Megan Black, Special Educator at John J. McLaughlin Cumberland Hill Elementary School, effective 5/29/2012 to the end of the 2011-12 school year. (Budgeted)

I request the advice and consent of the School Committee on the Paternity Leave of Peter Caplette, Physical Education Teacher, at John J. McLaughlin Cumberland Hill Elementary School, effective 5/7/2012 with a return to work date of 5/29/2012. (Budgeted)

Resignation

Dorothy Gould, Cumberland High School Principal, effective 6-30-12.

Mrs. Beaulieu made a motion to approve all of the above personnel recommendations, 2nd Mrs. Teel, approved 7-0.

Agenda Item #14: Comments from the Public

Jason K. noted that Dr. Drolet, Principal of NCMS, was runner up for Principal of the Year – great job Dr. Drolet! Congratulations!!!

Agenda Item #15: School Committee Comments (School Liaison Reports)

Mr. Pedro stated that this evening Ashton and Cumberland Hill performed a concert in the high school auditorium and he said they

did a great job!

Agenda Item #16: Vote to go into Executive Session for Discussion on Items Referred to in RIGL 42-46-5

Mr. Mutter stated that there was no Executive Session tonight.

Agenda Item #17: Adjournment

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

The meeting was adjourned at 8:42 p.m.

Meeting minutes respectfully submitted by Linda A. Jackvony