

APPROVED – 6.14.2012

There was a regular meeting of the Cumberland School Committee held on Thursday, May 10, 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

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

Agenda Item #4: Consent Agenda

The SC was not ready for this agenda item so Chairman Mutter moved it over to right before the Chairperson's Report and at that time Mrs. Sanzi made a motion to approve A) approval of minutes for Regular Meeting of 4/26/12 and B) approval of minutes for Special

Meeting/ Executive Session 4/25/12 and Executive Session 4/26/12, 2nd Mrs. Beaulieu, approved 7-0.

Agenda Item #5: Recognition of Achievement

A. 2012 District Teacher of the Year - Mrs. Gould, Principal of CHS, introduced the Cumberland Teacher of the Year, Mr. Christopher Scott. She said that he has been here in the district for 17 years, he is a dedicated Math Teacher and Department Chair. Very hard worker, very conscientious – his normal workday is 6:30 in the morning until around 5 in the afternoon. He is also Director of the Summer School Program. She went on to say that he is admired by students, parents and co-workers and has also won the Crystal Apple Award, which is given to teachers that are nominated for it by their peers. Mr. Scott is also the steering committee head on the NEASC team. Mrs. Gould said that everyone is very proud to have him as a teacher and co-worker here at CHS.

Agenda Item #6: Superintendent's Report

A. Recognition of Town Assistance of McCourt Middle School Entrance – Dr. Thornton wanted to publicly thank Mayor McKee and Frank Stowik for getting the brush cleared away near the entrance of MMS.

B. Ongoing Discussion – Achievement & Student Success Policy – 1)Grading Policy, 2)Cheating & Plagiarism Policy, 3)Homework Policy – Dr. Thornton gave an update with some grading faq's. He noted that there had been some conversation relating to what colleges think

about changing the grades and he said that they had contacted URI, RIC, BU, BC and some others as well, and so far all the responses have been the same – a “B” in one school is not necessarily a “B” in another school. They all noted that they look at how challenged the student is and look at the high school profile, so if there is a GPA at the high school it really would not matter to them. Dr. Thornton also noted that there was an article in the Principal Leadership Magazine regarding grade books and how all teachers grading practices are different, they all factor academics and non-academics into grades. In fact some teachers typically grade how they were graded in high school and Dr. Thornton said that this was very dated. Dr. Thornton reminded everyone about the Tom Guskey Grading Practices Presentation on May 23rd at 2:30 and 6:30 – more information available on the website.

C. Update on Full Day Kindergarten – Dr. Thornton said that on Tuesday they did a mail merge and sent out 2,040 letters – he asked parents to call if there were errors on their letters. Welcome Night will be held on May 16th and this is also mentioned in the letter. On May 24th Durham will be at the SC meeting to give everyone an update.

Agenda Item #7: Chairperson’s Report

Mayor McKee and Dr. Thornton will hold a forum entitled “Getting Ready to Compete” at the Cumberland Library on May 15th at 6:30 p.m. Some of the SC members will also be in attendance.

Agenda Item #8: Comments from the Public

No comments at this time.

Agenda Item #9: Reports of Standing Committees

A. Payment of Bills – Mr. Wood made a motion to pay invoices in the amount of \$851,913.90, 2nd Mr. Gibbons, approved 7-0.

B. Achievement and Communications Sub-Committee Update – Mrs. Beaulieu noted that the committee met on 5/3 with the English-Language Arts, on 5/7 Middle School Science and elementary principals, on 5/9 with the Math Department – they discussed progress in elementary schools – Aimsweb Benchmarking – growth in the district is very significant and it shows when data driven decisions are made - it is paying off – some NECAP results have shown improvement. Middle School Science scores were not good and because of this there was a practice NECAP given and because of some decisions that were made, improvements were noticed in these practice tests. High School Math department is currently working on some things to improve their test scores.

C. Policy and Procedures Sub-Committee Update – Mrs. Teel noted that on 5/1 the committee met and worked on four different policies – two of which are on tonight’s agenda and the next meeting will be on Tuesday, May 29th at 6:30 p.m.

Agenda Item #10: New Business

Mr. Mutter noted that he would like policies to come before the full committee to be reviewed by all, and then SC members can attend the sub-committee meetings if they would like to make recommendations or changes to the policies.

A. Discussion and/or Vote to Approve to Abolish the Following Policies: 1) JHC Policy Relating to Student Pregnancy – Mrs. Teel made a motion to have this policy stricken from the District Policy Manual – abolish, 2nd Mrs. Sanzi, approved 7-0. 2) GBE Regulations for School Health Program – Mrs. Teel asked that this policy be referred back to the sub-committee (okayed by Atty. Morriss), Mr. Mutter approved this request.

B. Discussion and/or Vote to Approve Amendments to the Following Policies: 1) GBE/JHCC-B Blood Borne Disease Policy: HIV/AIDS and Hepatitis – Mrs. Teel asked that this policy be referred back to the sub-committee, Mr. Mutter approved this request. 2) IGAE Anti-bullying/Teasing/Harassment Policy – Mrs. Teel asked this policy be referred back to the sub-committee, Mr. Mutter approved this request. 3) JHCG Food Allergy Policy – Mrs. Teel asked that this policy be referred back to the sub-committee, Mr. Mutter approved this request.

C. Discussion and/or Vote to Approve the Following Policies: 1) IHBF Homebound/Hospitalized Instruction Policy – Mrs. Teel asked that this policy be referred back to the sub-committee, Mr. Mutter approved this request. 2) JHCC-A Tuberculosis Policy – Mrs. Teel made a motion to approve this policy-accept as written, 2nd Mrs. Beaulieu, approved 7-0.

Agenda Item #11: Personnel Recommendations

Dr. Thornton had the following personnel recommendations:

Appointments CHS Department Chairpersons

I request the advice and consent of the School Committee on the appointment of Faye Enright, English Department Co-Chairperson, at Cumberland High School, for the 2012-2013 School Year, effective 5/11/2012. (Budgeted)

I request the advice and consent of the School Committee on the appointment of Amanda Letoile, Social Studies Department Chairperson, at Cumberland High School, for the 2012-2013 School Year, effective 5/11/2012. (Budgeted)

I request the advice and consent of the School Committee on the appointment of Luann Mesick, English Department Co-Chairperson, at Cumberland High School, for the 2012-2013 School Year, effective 5/11/2012. (Budgeted)

I request the advice and consent of the School Committee on the appointment of Vanessa Molloy, World Language Department Chairperson, at Cumberland High School, for the 2012-2013 School Year, effective 5/11/2012. (Budgeted)

I request the advice and consent of the School Committee on the appointment of Dale O'Dell, Physical Education Department Chairperson, at Cumberland High School, for the 2012-2013 School Year, effective 5/11/2012. (Budgeted)

I request the advice and consent of the School Committee on the appointment of Suzanne Paquette, Science Department Chairperson, at Cumberland High School, for the 2012-2013 School Year, effective 5/11/2012. (Budgeted)

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

appointment of Joyce Polucha, Media/FATA (Fine Applied Technical Arts/Library) Chairperson, at Cumberland High School, for the 2012-2013 School Year, effective 5/11/2012. (Budgeted)

I request the advice and consent of the School Committee on the appointment of David Rosen, Special Education Department Chairperson, at Cumberland High School, for the 2012-2013 School Year, effective 5/11/2012. (Budgeted)

I request the advice and consent of the School Committee on the appointment of Kristin Ross, Guidance Department Chairperson, at Cumberland High School, for the 2012-2013 School Year, effective 5/11/2012. (Budgeted)

I request the advice and consent of the School Committee on the appointment of Christopher Scott, Mathematics Department Chairperson, at Cumberland High School, for the 2012-2013 School Year, effective 5/11/2012. (Budgeted)

I request the advice and consent of the School Committee on the appointment of Christopher Scott, Summer School Program Director, at Cumberland School Department for the 2012-2013 School Year, effective 5/11/2012. (Budgeted)

Retirements

I request the advice and consent of the School Committee on the retirement of Flora DiRosario, Kindergarten Teacher Assistant at B. F. Norton School and Garvin Memorial School, effective 6/30/2012.

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

retirement of Jose Tomas, Custodian at Cumberland School Department, effective 6/15/2012.

Leave of Absence

I request the advice and consent of the School Committee on the Unpaid Parental Leave of Lauren Snell, Elementary Guidance Counselor, at Cumberland School Department, for the 2012-2013 school year, effective 6/30/2012. (Budgeted)

Mrs. Beaulieu made a motion to approved the personnel recommendations as outlined by Dr. Thornton, 2nd Mrs. Teel and Mr. Wood, approved 7-0.

Agenda Item #12: Comments from the Public

Cheryl B. commented that she was very happy with Dr. Thornton and thanked him and the SC for the positive changes that have been made and for the SC asking the right questions, working toward solutions, putting in new policies, etc., she is also very happy with full day K and the re-districting. She thanked everyone for all of their hard work and dedication.

Norma noted that coupon books were on sale to benefit the middle schools. She also asked about the CHS Fine Arts addition – was it amended to .5 – Dr. Thornton said he believed it was amended to a .5 position.

Dr. Thornton mentioned that by the time school ends in June the teachers will know their status and callbacks will happen then also.

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

Mr. Pedro noted that last week All Band Night at MMS went smoothly and he said there was a noticeable improvement across the board – he did say that the 5th grade band was the strongest so far (in the past 10 years).

Mrs. Sanzi noted that a Professor from Bryant University will also be at the forum at the library on May 15th that Mayor McKee and Dr. Thornton will be speaking at.

Agenda Item #14: Vote to go into Executive Session for Discussion on Items Referred to in R.I.G.L. 42-46-5

Mr. Mutter said there would be no Executive Session tonight.

Agenda Item #15: Adjournment

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

The meeting was adjourned at 8:28 p.m.

Meeting minutes respectfully submitted by Linda A. Jackvony