

APPROVED-6.14.2012

There was a regular meeting of the Cumberland School Committee held on Thursday, May 24, 2012 at the Cumberland High School Transitional Building Cafetorium, 2602 Mendon Road, Cumberland, Rhode Island.

Members Present: Jeff Mutter, Linda Teel, John Gibbons, Daniel Pedro, Erika Sanzi. Lisa Beaulieu was absent. Earl Wood was at the Town Council Budget Hearing.

Administration Present: Dr. Lisa Colwell – Director of Special Services, Atty. Stephen Adams

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 #7: Student Government Report

THIS AGENDA ITEM WAS MOVED UP PER CHAIRMAN MUTTER.

Some past events included class elections, junior prom held on May 4th, staff appreciation week from May 23 – May 27th, grad nite trip to Florida from April 27 – April 30th. Upcoming events include the senior prom on June 1st – which will be held at the Crowne Plaza, senior week from May 29 – June 1st and graduation will be held on

Monday, June 11, 2012.

Agenda Item #3: Approval of Agenda

Mr. Pedro made a motion to approve the agenda, 2nd Mr. Gibbons, approved 5-0.

Agenda Item #4: Consent Agenda

A. Approval of Minutes – Regular Meeting 5/10/12.

B. Approval of Minutes – Executive Session 5/15/12.

Mr. Gibbons made a motion to table this item, 2nd Mrs. Sanzi, approved 5-0.

Agenda Item #5: Report of Executive Session Meeting on 5/15/2012

A. Report of Executive Session Vote – Mr. Mutter noted that the SC voted 5-0 to send a statement of cause letter to a teacher.

B. Vote to Seal Minutes of Executive Session – Mr. Pedro made a motion to seal the minutes, 2nd Mrs. Teel, approved 5-0.

Agenda Item #6: Report of Executive Session Meeting on 5/24/2012

A. Report of Executive Session Vote – Mr. Mutter noted that there was no vote taken.

B. Vote to Seal Minutes of Executive Session – see above.

Agenda Item #8: Superintendent's Report

A. Recognition of Achievement – Dr. Colwell and Mr. Mutter awarded Lisa Beaulieu and Erika Sanzi an award from the State of Rhode Island Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education and Department of Elementary and Secondary Education in recognition of successful completion of the Rhode Island Association of School Committee’s Leadership Development Academy Program.

B. Follow-up to the May 23rd Presentation – “A Conversation on Grading Practices” with Keynote Speaker, Dr. Thomas Guskey – Mrs. Teel commented on the presentation and said that Cumberland currently has a grading policy in draft and the presentation definitely assisted them with certain issues – she said it was a great presentation and a very good experience for Cumberland. Lots of helpful notes to take back and help with the grading policy currently being worked on.

C. Transportation Update – Fall 2012 – Paul Neves of Durham Transportation reviewed a couple of the changes for September. One big change to transportation is the full day K addition and some of the boundaries have changed. Also, the kindergarten students are now at the schools where they should be going so some of the arrival and departure times will be changing at the schools. Durham is also adding three full size busses to the line up. Mr. Mutter asked what the status was with the routes and Mr. Neves said that the routes should be done between the second and third weeks of June. They will be sitting down with Chief Desmarais to review. Mr. Gibbons asked about the late start at Ashton and if this could be a potential day care issue and also asked if we could review not changing any arrival and

departure times. Dr. Colwell said that she would ask Dr. Thornton to review this issue with Durham and see if anything can be done. Mrs. Sanzi asked about the YMCA programs and Dr. Colwell said that Dr. Thornton's office would be working on the YMCA programs. Mr. Pedro asked if the late busses and field trip busses would still be available and Mr. Neves said that they would be. Mr. Mutter asked Mr. Neves for an update on the tiers and times at the June SC meeting.

Agenda Item #9: Chairperson's Report

Mr. Mutter did not have a report, but did ask Atty. Adams if he needed to disclose the name of the teacher that they sent the statement of cause letter to and Atty. Adams said he did not – the letter was sent and that is what he reported.

Agenda Item #10: Comments from the Public

No comments at this time.

Agenda Item #11: Reports of Standing Committees

A. Payment of Bills – there were no payments at this time.

B. Achievement and Communications Sub-Committee Update – no updates at this time.

Agenda Item #12: New Business

A. Presentation on Full-Day Kindergarten Program – Donna Correiro – Principal of Cumberland Hill and Nidia Karbonik – Principal of Ashton

presented what a full day of Kindergarten would look like. The day would have 365 minutes in it -15 minutes for arrival time, 120 minutes of Literacy, 90 minutes of Science/60 minutes Writing, 20 minutes for lunch, 15 minutes for recess, itinerant 40 minutes which would include Music one time, Art one time, Physical Education two times. It was noted that this is just a draft – they had visited some full day K programs locally and came up with this draft – this is basically what they envision a full day K to look like. Mrs. Correiro said the Reading portion would be the Reading Street Program that they are currently using and the Math program will be the Investigations Math Program. She said for Science it would be the Gemsnet program because it has lots of hands on and it also has a writing component. They plan on establishing routines for the children during the first six weeks of school during the instructional blocks. They will utilize additional support staff to help establish these routines. A Speech Pathologist and Math Interventionists will also be in the picture. Mr. Mutter asked is the SC had to approve the curriculum and Dr. Colwell said she thought it would go to the Achievement Sub-Committee for review. Mrs. Sanzi thanked all involved for a job well done!

B. Discussion and/or Vote to Approve District Strategic Plan – Fred Schockaert, Deputy Director of Special Services highlighted some different points for the SC. He started off by saying that the plan’s focus is on action steps. Some things have remained the same from the previous strategic plan. Fred believes that the essence of a good school department is learning, achievement and involving the parents. He wants to see the good work in the elementary schools

continue. Next year is a big year for the high school because they have their NEASC accreditation and another important task is the grading policy that Dr. Thornton is working on. Fred also believes that the full day K will bring Cumberland Schools to the next level. Also, there is a committee forming to better understand the high-end learners and they will set plans and goals for these students – Mrs. Teel would like updates from this committee on a regular basis. There is a lot of data information, data systems, and professional development in this plan. Mrs. Teel asked what was being done to strengthen the school profile and Dr. Colwell believes that with the new high school principal coming in the fall, that this will help. The plan stresses the importance of IPADS, the budgets need to be pro-active, and resources need to be aligned. Curriculum and instruction assessments is a strategy that wants all parents to be confident with all of the schools – they should not have to worry about which school their child is going to – they will all be good. The school calendar will be adjusted for professional development days so that teachers can be well verse in catching problems and issues early on. A professional dashboard will soon show NECAP scores, grades, etc., all in one location. There will be a newsletter to the families and the community will know what is going on at the schools. New grading system – report cards – more information, user friendly. Fred also asked the SC to continue to support PBIS because it is a powerful program which will continue to make significant changes to the Cumberland Public Schools. Mr. Mutter asked is there was a time line for passage. Dr. Colwell said she was hoping to get

approval tonight because there is a time line for some of the grants that they need to prepare and apply for – she would like to see it back on the agenda for the first meeting in June. Mr. Pedro asked what the model is that we would like to become (the profile). Fred said the plan doesn't list everything, there will be adjustments to be made, but it provides guidance for the district. Mrs. Teel agreed that this was a good question and they should figure out what their profile is going to be so that they can spend the dollars in the correct places. Dr. Colwell said one reason for this plan is because it is mandated by RIDE. Mr. Mutter said they would wait for the June meeting to do a vote. Mr. Mutter also said that any input for the Superintendent regarding this plan, needs to get to him by the next SC meeting in June. Mr. Pedro made a motion to table this item to the next SC meeting in June, 2nd Mrs. Teel, approved 5-0. Mrs. Sanzi asked if they could change this draft and Dr. Colwell said no they could not, if it got voted down then it would go back to the District Committee Strategic Plan Team for revisions. Mr. Mutter asked Atty. Adams if they could vote to make changes and Atty. Adams said yes they could because the SC is the governing body.

C. Update on Middle School Writing Rubric – Dr. Masterson, Assistant Principal at NCMS gave a brief overview. He started off by saying that there was a committee from both middle schools that developed the rubric – they met from November 2011 thru April 2012. They agreed that teachers should be allowed to assign only from the rubrics that they developed. Students need feedback; so all rubrics have a scoring sheet. No matter what subject the student is working on,

consistent expectations are needed. Rubrics will be on the website so students will get to see examples of good writing. Dr. Masterson hopes that someday soon students will be able to submit their work electronically and then be graded by teachers and sent back to them electronically as well.

D. Update on CHS Pool Maintenance – Mr. Pedro made a motion to table this item, 2nd Mr. Gibbons, approved 5-0.

E. Discussion and/or Vote to Approve Overnight Student Field Trip:

1) International Thespian Festival – University of Nebraska – Mr. Gibbons made a motion to approve, 2nd Mr. Pedro, approved 5-0.

Agenda Item # 13: Personnel Recommendations

Dr. Colwell had the following recommendations:

Appointment

I request the advice and consent of the School Committee on the appointment of Margaret Wharton, Nursing and Health Services Department Chairperson, at Cumberland School Department for the 2012-2013 School Year, effective 5/24/2012. (Budgeted)

Retirement

I request the advice and consent of the School Committee on the appointment of Susan Pascale, Classroom Assistant, at Joseph L. McCourt Middle School, effective at the end of the 2011-2012 school year.

Although above request refers to an “appointment of Susan Pascale”, Dr. Colwell read it as “retirement of Susan Pascale”, as it should have

been noted.

Mr. Gibbons made a motion to approve as outlined by Dr. Colwell, 2nd Mrs. Teel, approved 5-0.

Agenda Item #14: Comments from the Public

Jennifer had concerns about the writing rubric and the new grading policy. Dr. Masterson said he would be reviewing the report card after the new policy is approved. Also had a concern about tier one and tier two times – Dr. Colwell said there is a slight difference and Mr. Mutter said he would bring it to Mr. Neves attention.

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

Mr. Pedro wants to make sure that they look at the number of children that could potentially have to go to before and after school programs due to the transportation time changes. He thinks this could be exhausting for some of the students.

Agenda Item #16: 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 #17: Adjournment

Mr. Pedro made a motion to adjourn, 2nd Mr. Gibbons, approved 5-0.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Meeting minutes respectfully submitted by Linda A. Jackvony