

APPROVED – 9/27/12

There was a regular meeting of the Cumberland School Committee held on Thursday, September 13, 2012 at the Cumberland High School Transitional Building Cafetorium, 2602 Mendon Road, Cumberland, Rhode Island.

Members Present: Jeff Mutter, Lisa Beaulieu, John Gibbons, Daniel Pedro, Erika Sanzi, Earl Wood. Linda Teel was absent.

Administration Present: Dr. Philip Thornton, Superintendent, Robert Mitchell, Assistant Superintendent, Atty. Stephen Adams.

Agenda Item #1: Chairman Convenes Meeting
Chairman Mutter convened the meeting to order at 7:38 p.m.

Agenda Item #2: Pledge of Allegiance
After the pledge of allegiance Chairman Mutter asked for a moment of silence for Jerry Egan, a long term employee in the district that had recently passed away.

Agenda Item #3: Approval of Agenda
Mr. Wood made a motion to approve the agenda, 2nd Mrs. Beaulieu, approved 6-0.

Agenda Item #4: Consent Agenda
A&B - Approval of Minutes – Regular Meeting 8/23/12 – Mrs. Sanzi made a motion to approve, 2nd Mrs. Beaulieu, approved 6-0. Mr. Wood then made a motion to table the following: approval of minutes for Special Meeting 8/29/12, Executive Session 8/9/12 and Executive Session 8/23/12, 2nd Mr. Pedro, approved 6-0.
C. Discussion and/or Vote to Approve Resolution: SC-PR-8-2012-08: CHS Pool Repairs – Mr. Mutter noted that this has been previously passed at a prior meeting, but there was no number assigned to it so this is why it is back on the docket tonight. Mr. Wood made a motion to approve, 2nd Mrs. Beaulieu, approved 6-0.
D. Discussion and/or Vote to Approve Resolution: SC-R-2012-06: Amended FY13 School Budget – Mr. Mutter noted that this is just to assign a number to this already passed budget document. Mrs. Beaulieu made a motion to approve, 2nd Mr. Wood, approved 6-0.

Agenda Item #5: Report of Executive Session Meeting on 9/13/2012

- A. Report of Executive Session Vote – Mr. Mutter stated that there were no votes taken.
- B. Vote to Seal Minutes of Executive Session – Mr. Pedro made a motion to seal the minutes, 2nd Mrs. Beaulieu, approved 6-0. Mr. Mutter noted that Mrs. Sanzi was absent for the Executive Session.

Agenda Item #6: Superintendent's Report

- A. Enrollment Update – Dr. Thornton stated that last year we had 4,817 students in the district and this year we have 4,705. Nesdec was predicting a

loss of 2% of students each year but Dr. Thornton said that is not the case – he thinks we are trending nicely. Full day K had a positive effect on enrollment and Dr. Thornton believes that the re-tooling of the district may bring some gains over the near future. He then reviewed grade enrollments at each school and noted that from the mid teens to a classroom size of 24 or 25 is not much of a difference. They did, however, add a section to the high school because of a little overcrowding in a particular class. Dr. Thornton also noted that sometimes students are signed up to attend classes, but then do not show up for class. Mrs. Beaulieu asked Dr. Thornton to find out additional information regarding kids going to the charter school and kids dropping out.

Agenda Item #7: Chairperson's Report

There was no report at this time.

Agenda Item #8: Comments from the Public

Courtney – student Athlete Ambassador at the high school. She noted that CHS is one of 3 public high schools in the state that has a swimming pool. She suggested offering swim clinics, lifeguard training and birthday pool parties as ways of making extra dollars to keep the pool going. She said it is physically and mentally great for everyone. She also believes that swim should be brought back to the gym classes. She does not think that making the swim team travel for practices, etc, is a good idea.

Heidi – swim coach at the high school – she thanked the SC for trying to fix the problems with the pool. She would like to see the pool made available to the kids at the high school not only during the year, but during the summer as well. She also believes that returning swim to the gym class would be good for the students and for the town of Cumberland.

Rep. McLaughlin – important to have a swim team. He will help in any way he can. Steven – a senior at the high school and on the swim team. He wanted everyone to note how many students, parents, grandparents and coaches were at tonight's meeting. He noted that there are swim clubs waiting to pay to use the pool and also noted that if the swim team had to travel to practice, the amount of time could go from 3 hours (currently) to one hour due to travelling.

Tim D. – parent of a swimmer and taxpayer. He noted that the curb appeal around our schools right now is great. He spoke about an alumni appeal for support – they will be asked to donate dollars to keep the pool running – parents doing this appeal will try to expedite the campaign. He believes the pool is an asset to the school and to the town. He commented on how nice the rest of the campus looks.

Nicole – doesn't want the pool to go away – she needs the pool and her teammates – the pool means a lot to everyone. She swam in this pool with a two time Olympian. Mrs. P. – bussing issues – she has a 9 year old daughter that has had two bus changes in the past three weeks – the first change was told directly to her daughter – no note home, no call – second change is on Wednesdays – 20 minutes late last week and 30 minutes late this week. She would like better communication to the parents.

Deirdre – has four children, two are at the high school and she is very concerned about the grading policy. She said she has asked the question at sub committee meetings, but would like to know what other school systems were evaluated when coming up with this policy. She is also concerned about students GPA's and wondered how the students can be competitive (with this new policy) when looking at colleges. She, and other parents, believes that this policy will group too many students at the same place – it is lacking accountability. She wants the SC to consider the moral of the successful students because she said some of them believe they are being thrown under the bus. She wants to make sure that these kids are being shown in the best light.

Rep. McLaughlin – said he would see what he could do about submitting a bill to the state for the swimming pool. Mr. Priganano said he does submit the costs to the state and 42% of the repair costs come back to the town.

Jonathan – a member of the swim team – wanted the SC to know that they have the support of everyone on the swim team and also the support of the community.

Rosanna – thought it would be a good idea to rent the pool out for birthday parties – believes the pool is an asset.

Kayla – the pool makes the students happy – teaches them a life skill – stated that her best friend does not know how to swim, but if swim were offered at the high school during gym – this could help her learn and could save lives – it helps everyone.

Agenda Item #9: Reports of Standing Committees

- A. Payment of Bills – Mr. Wood made a motion to pay invoices totaling \$963,426.27, 2nd Mrs. Sanzi, approved 6-0.
- B. Achievement & Communications Sub-Committee Update – Mrs. Beaulieu said she is working on a schedule with the Superintendent and Asst. Superintendent, to lay out all areas to cover. Also, they will be meeting on Tuesday nights (same as Policies Sub-Committee).
- C. Policy & Procedures Sub-Committee Update – Mrs. Teel was absent but briefed Mr. Mutter. The committee met on Tuesday night and reviewed the Food Allergy Policy – no action taken. They need a consistent peanut allergy policy. The GCBC Policy and the dress code policy will be on tonight's agenda and they are still discussing the volunteer policy – regarding the BCI checks.

Agenda Item #10: Old Business

- A. Discussion and/or Vote to Approve 1st Reading of the Following Policy:
1)GBCB Employee Dress Code Policy – Dr. Thornton noted that sneakers are going to be job specific (i.e. gym teachers). Mr. Mutter said this is the 1st reading and this will be on the next agenda.

Agenda Item #11: New Business

- A. Discussion of Grading Policy Roll Out – Mr. Mitchell – Asst. Superintendent stated that he believes this policy will raise the bar for the district. He said they would begin to have meetings with teachers so they can start unrolling this policy and understand it completely. All teachers will be trained and

more information will be sent to parents. He said the goal is to improve teaching and learning for all students in this district – we are not lowering the bar, we are raising the bar. Dr. Thornton said that a lot of time was spent discussing this last year, he said the SC can massage the roll out time frame at any point in time – it is a five year spread and the SC can move some things around. Mrs. Beaulieu said the SC will bring it back and look at it some more – they will be re-looking at everything. Mrs. Sanzi said information needs to be available to colleges telling them that we have changed some things and we need to make sure the students are recognized for what they have done. Mr. Mutter said if a student exceeds the standard – he thinks it is important to let everyone know how much you exceed the standard – we need to differentiate that – people should know how much the students exceed the standard-we need to accurately differentiate that.

- B. Discussion of Durham School Services Contract – the general manager and the operations manager from Durham were on hand to let everyone know that they will be modifying some stops to improve. They noted that some of the changes that were made late in the season – does effect their routing. They started in the spring, but some shifting happened in late August, so some of their work that had been going on for months, had been changed in late August. Mr. Mutter asked if something like the bell schedule needs to be on the docket during a specific timeframe. Durham suggested they be in place earlier than they were this year. Durham noted that they had five routes added after the 8/9 SC meeting, then in addition to that they lost several drivers prior to the start of school – so they had some strides to make before the start of school. Mrs. Sanzi noted that she received phone calls about Durham not having any phones the first day of school – and not notifying anyone, also students getting dropped off on Abbott Run Valley Road, students being passed by the bus, students being told to shut up, drivers not being able to speak English. Durham’s manager did apologize for these accusations, however, he said they did notify the schools about their phone problems and they did address the drivers about speaking inappropriately to the students. He also went on to say that some of their drivers have strong dialects, but all are required to speak English. Durham plans on doing “mock” am and pm runs in the future – this way they should be able to work thru the changes. They also noted that they have plans in place for better communication in the future. Mrs. Sanzi asked what was unique about Cumberland and the manager answered that the bell tiers have always been an issue, sometimes five tiers, and streets with no sidewalks are an issue also.
- C. Discussion and/or Vote to Approve Appointment of Middle School Assistant Principal – Dr. Thornton recommended Kristy Patten, Asst. Principal at NCMS-Mrs. Beaulieu made a motion to approve the appointment, 2nd Mr. Gibbons & Mr. Wood, approved 6-0.
- D. Discussion and/or Vote to Approve Employment Contract for Middle School Assistant Principal – Mr. Wood made a motion to approve a one year contract, 2nd Mr. Gibbons, approved 6-0.

- E. Discussion and/or Vote to Approve Appointment of Elementary Principal – Dr. Thornton recommended Cindy Giroux, Principal at Community School- Mr. Wood made a motion to approve the appointment, 2nd Mrs. Beaulieu, approved 6-0.
- F. Discussion and/or Vote to Approve Employment Contract for Elementary Principal – Mr. Wood made a motion to accept contract as presented, 2nd Mr. Pedro and Mrs. Beaulieu, approved 6-0.
- G. Discussion and/or Vote to Approve the Following Amended Policy: 1) GCB Personnel Benefit Policy for Non-Unit Administration and Support Personnel – Dr. Thornton reviewed some of the changes that were made to this policy. Mr. Pedro made a motion to amend the GCB policy to include 2012-2013 actual salaries, 2nd Mrs. Beaulieu, and at this point Mrs. Beaulieu asked Atty. Adams if they should list the names with the salaries – he said he would get back to her with this information and Mr. Mutter said to take addendum as is, so the motion was approved 6-0. Mr. Wood made a motion to approve GCB as amended, 2nd Mrs. Beaulieu, approved 6-0.
- H. Recalls – Ms. Fogell said there were no recalls tonight.
- I. Discussion and/or Vote to Approve Girls’ Co-Op Cumberland/Lincoln Ice Hockey Team – Mr. Gibbons made a motion to approve, 2nd Mr. Pedro, approved 6-0.
- J. Discussion and/or Vote to Approve Resolution: SC-PR-8-2012-09 CHS Pool Repairs – Mr. Wood made a motion to approve, 2nd Mr. Gibbons, (Mr. Wood noted that FY2103 needed to be changed to FY2013). Mr. Mutter noted that \$93,550 in total had been budgeted for repairs. Mr. Prignano explained that \$33,550 would be coming from Designated Fund Capital – this fund has money in it for various projects such as venting at some locations, how water heater at MMS, etc. Mr. Prignano did note that revenue from two pool clubs cover the costs of the lifeguards, chemicals, etc., normal operating costs for the pool, but not any major improvements. The pool filter will need to be replaced in the next couple of years – things like that are not covered. Mr. Draper (from the audience) pointed out that several of their students are lifeguards and would be happy to lifeguard at their pool. Mr. Prignano noted that the pool is breaking even right now. Mr. Mutter noted that the swim team members made a good presentation tonight and maybe they will go one more year with the pool – but he is looking for suggestions/help on where to come up with \$33,550. Mrs. Sanzi noted that all of the students that were in attendance were very respectful. The SC members each gave their recommendations for this approval, approved 6-0.
- K. Home School Instruction Requests 2012-2013 School Year – Mrs. Beaulieu made a motion to approve, 2nd Mrs. Sanzi, approved 6-0.

Agenda Item #12: Personnel Recommendations
Resignations

I request the advice and consent of the School Committee on the resignation of **Neil Gagnon, Social Studies Teacher .6, at Cumberland High School,** effective **8/24/2012.**

I request the advice and consent of the School Committee on the resignation of **Thomas Masse, Jr.**, Student Truancy /Residency Services, for the Cumberland School Department, effective 9/28/2012.

Mrs. Beaulieu made a motion to approve, 2nd Mr. Pedro, approved 6-0.

I request the advice and consent of the School Committee on the resignation of **Margaret Wharton, Chairperson for Nursing Department**, for the **Cumberland School Department**, effective **9/30/2012**.

Ms. Fogell noted that Mrs. Wharton's request would be tabled.

Appointments

I request the advice and consent of the School Committee on the appointment of **Brett Concilio, Social Studies Teacher .6**, at **Cumberland High School**, effective **8/27/2012**. (FTE: 0.6; Step 1; Lane: n/a; Co-pay: 20.0%; budgeted)

I request the advice and consent of the School Committee on the appointment of **Nicole Delanos, Art Teacher .7**, at **Systemwide**, effective **8/27/2012**. (FTE: 0.7; Step 2; Lane: n/a; Co-pay: 20.0%; budgeted)

Mr. Pedro made a motion to approve, 2nd Mr. Wood, approved 6-0.

Team Leaders: Joseph L. McCourt Middle School

I request the advice and consent of the School Committee on the appointment of **Marilyn Ackaway, Middle School Team Leader**, at **Joseph L. McCourt Middle School**, effective **9/14/2012**. (budgeted)

I request the advice and consent of the School Committee on the appointment of **Karen Brodeur, Middle School Team Leader**, at **Joseph L. McCourt Middle School**, effective **9/14/2012**. (budgeted)

I request the advice and consent of the School Committee on the appointment of **Mary Ann Guerin, Middle School Team Leader**, at **Joseph L. McCourt Middle School**, effective **9/14/2012**. (budgeted)

I request the advice and consent of the School Committee on the appointment of **Charlene Luiz, Middle School Team Leader**, at **Joseph L. McCourt Middle School**, effective **9/14/2012**. (budgeted)

I request the advice and consent of the School Committee on the appointment of **Rhonda Silva, Middle School Team Leader**, at **Joseph L. McCourt Middle School**, effective **9/14/2012**. (budgeted)

I request the advice and consent of the School Committee on the appointment of **Kimberley Slowik, Middle School Team Leader**, at **Joseph L. McCourt Middle School**, effective **9/14/2012**. (budgeted)

I request the advice and consent of the School Committee on the appointment of **Holly St.Pierre, Middle School Team Leader**, at **Joseph L. McCourt Middle School**, effective **9/14/2012. (budgeted)**

Team Leaders: North Cumberland Middle School

I request the advice and consent of the School Committee on the appointment of **Keith Colwell, Middle School Team Leader**, at **North Cumberland Middle School**, effective **9/14/2012. (budgeted)**

I request the advice and consent of the School Committee on the appointment of **Sarah Cuddy, Middle School Team Leader**, at **North Cumberland Middle School**, effective **9/14/2012. (budgeted)**

I request the advice and consent of the School Committee on the appointment of **Kimberly Gaboury, Middle School Team Leader**, at **North Cumberland Middle School**, effective **9/14/2012. (budgeted)**

I request the advice and consent of the School Committee on the appointment of **Conor Geary, Middle School Team Leader**, at **North Cumberland Middle School**, effective **9/14/2012. (budgeted)**

I request the advice and consent of the School Committee on the appointment of **Louise Mailloux, Middle School Team Leader**, at **North Cumberland Middle School**, effective **9/14/2012. (budgeted)**

I request the advice and consent of the School Committee on the appointment of **Jane Paquet, Middle School Team Leader**, at **North Cumberland Middle School**, effective **9/14/2012. (budgeted)**

I request the advice and consent of the School Committee on the appointment of **Jean Therien, Middle School Team Leader**, at **North Cumberland Middle School**, effective **9/14/2012. (budgeted)**

Mr. Wood made a motion to approve, 2nd Mr. Gibbons, approved 6-0.

Coaches

I request the advice and consent of the School Committee on the appointment of **Mark Primiano, Boys Soccer Coach**, at **North Cumberland Middle School**, effective **8/27/2012. (budgeted)**

I request the advice and consent of the School Committee on the appointment of **Jonathan Pais, Boys Soccer Co-Coach**, at **Joseph L. McCourt Middle School**, effective **8/27/2012. (budgeted)**

I request the advice and consent of the School Committee on the appointment of **Kevin Seixas, Boys Soccer Co-Coach**, at **Joseph L. McCourt Middle School**, effective **8/27/2012. (budgeted)**

Mr. Wood made a motion to approve, 2nd Mr. Pedro, approved 6-0.

Agenda Item #13: Comments from the Public

Mrs. D. spoke about food allergies – she gave a quick review about food allergies – she said there is no cure for food allergies, but we need to be pro-active – there should be designated tables in the lunchroom. She said Cumberland Hill has a policy and it works well, she thinks the other schools need to get on board.

Matt – owner of Lynch Arena – described how a person feels when they have an allergic reaction. He stated that the peanut policy at Cumberland Hill is great and believes that we need to implement this across the board – the entire district.

Meghan – wants to make sure that someone on the SC is looking at these changes.

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

No reports tonight.

Agenda Item #15: Vote to go into Executive Session for Discussion on Items

Referred to in R.I.G.L. 42-46-5

Mr. Mutter said there was no Executive Session tonight.

Agenda Item #16: Adjournment

Mr. Wood made a motion to adjourn, 2nd Mr. Gibbons, approved 6-0.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:01 p.m.

Meeting minutes respectfully submitted by Linda A. Jackvony