

## **APPROVED 10.25.12**

There was regular meeting of the Cumberland School Committee held on Thursday, October 11, 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, Earl Wood. Erika Sanzi was absent.

**Administration Present:** Dr. Phil Thornton, Superintendent, Robert Mitchell, Asst. Superintendent

**Agenda Item #1:** Chairman Convenes Meeting  
Chairman Mutter convened the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m.

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

Mr. Mutter noted that he would be moving up agenda item # 10-D – Discussion and/or Vote to Approve Overnight Student Field Trip – CHS Grad Nite 2013 – to right after agenda item #5 – Superintendent’s Report.

**Agenda Item #3:** Approval of Agenda  
Mr. Pedro made a motion to approve the agenda, 2<sup>nd</sup> Mrs. Beaulieu and Mr. Gibbons, approved 6-0.

**Agenda Item #4:** Consent Agenda  
A & B - Approval of minutes for Regular Meeting 9/27/12 and Executive Session 9/27/12 – Mrs. Beaulieu made a motion to approve, 2<sup>nd</sup> Mr. Wood, approved 6-0.  
C – Report of Executive Session Meeting on 9/27/12 – Report of Executive Session Vote – Mr. Mutter said there was no vote take and Vote to Seal Minutes of Executive Session – Mr. Wood made a motion to seal the minutes, 2<sup>nd</sup> Mr. Pedro, approved 6-0.  
D – Report of Executive Session Meeting on 10/11/12 – Report of Executive Session Vote – Mr. Mutter said there were no votes taken and Vote to Seal Minutes of Executive Session – Mr. Gibbons made a motion to seal the minutes, 2<sup>nd</sup> Mr. Pedro, approved 6-0.

**Agenda Item #5:** Superintendent’s Report  
1)Golden Apple Award Recipient - Mr. Mitchell introduced Carol Bibeault, a Golden Apple Award winner, courtesy of RIDE and Channel 10 – Mrs. Bibeault has been in Special Education at the high school since 1996, she was a department chair, she always volunteers, she is a model for her colleagues, always has the can do attitude, always has a professional manor – she is a top notch teacher. A former student of hers nominated her for the award. Dr. Thornton also presented her with a certificate. Mrs. Bibeault said a few words of thanks to everyone, but said that it is the many great people that she works with that have made this possible. Congratulations Mrs. Bibeault!!

2) Ashton School – Whole Child Initiative Award – Rosemary Reilly Chamant of Rhode Island A.S.C.D. stated that Ashton School is Rhode Island’s first recipient of the Whole Child Initiative Award. Nidia Karbonik, Principal of Ashton School, thanked Rosemary and everyone at Ashton for helping to put everything together to submit the grant – she said it was a team effort and she also thanked Rosemary for her help in achieving this award. Ms. Chamant said that Ashton will be nominated for the national recognition now. Dr. Thornton presented Ms. Karbonik with a certificate.

At this point Mr. Mutter went over to Agenda Item #10, New Business, D-Discussion and/or vote to approve overnight student field trip – CHS Grad Nite 2013 – Sue Paquette addressed the SC and said that the seniors have been taking this trip every year since 1989. It is a 4 day, 3 night trip – was always the Magic Kingdom, but now Universal. Students do fund raisers all year for this trip – poinsettias before Christmas, carwashes, etc. The price for the trip includes the following: 3 nights in a hotel, transportation, Disney transportation, 4 meal vouchers, 3 breakfast vouchers, meal at the all night party, refillable mugs, lanyards for each student, round trip airfare. They have used the same travel agency for 18 years. Students are only allowed to go if they have not been absent for more than 9 days thru the third quarter, there is also a grade requirement and there is a suspension clause where if the student does get suspended – he or she cannot go on the trip. Ms. Paquette went on to explain about a contract that the students sign up-front so that they are aware of the rules and regulations of being permitted to go on this trip. Dr. Thornton suggested that the SC send the requirements, etc., for this trip over to the Policy Sub Committee for review. Mr. Mutter noted that the SC could still approve the trip tonight and have the sub committee review the policies at a later date. Mr. Wood made a motion to approve the trip, 2<sup>nd</sup> Mr. Gibbons, approved 6-0.

**Agenda Item #6:** Chairperson’s Report

There was no report this evening.

**Agenda Item #7:** Comments from the Public

Carolyn commented on the new grading policy – wanted to know why they were making this so difficult. She asked how the data would be analyzed and who was going to analyze it. She is not sure that this policy will help us reach our goal – she would like to see some back up materials like names of schools that have done this sort of grading and also she wants some research material. Her concern is that this is being rushed along and she wants to make sure that the policy gets implemented correctly. She thinks that there are too many changes taking place at the same time – the teachers are learning and being trained for too much at once. Years of data being analyzed is what she would like to see happen. An email will be sent to all of the members of the SC so that they can answer all of her questions.

Debra said there are a lot of unanswered questions. She said she has contacted several colleges on her own and has asked lots and lots of questions and found that colleges are not okay with this new policy – she has distributed some of the information that she has put together all over the district.

**Agenda Item #8:** Reports of Standing Committees

- A. Payment of Bills – Mr. Wood made a motion to approve the payment of invoices in the amount of \$1,644,359.38, 2<sup>nd</sup> Mrs. Beaulieu, approved 6-0.
- B. Achievement & Communications Sub-Committee Update – Mrs. Beaulieu stated that the next meeting will be Tuesday, 10/16 at 7:15 p.m. to discuss the grading policy.
- C. Policy & Procedures Sub-Committee Update – Mrs. Teel stated that they will also meet on Tuesday, 10/16, prior to the Achievement & Communications meeting. One of the items being discussed will be background check on volunteers.

**Agenda Item #9:** Old Business

- A. Discussion and/or Vote to Approve 2012-2013 Bus Routes – Mr. Mutter said this would be on the next meeting agenda – 10/25/12.
- B. Discussion and/or Vote to Approve 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading of the Following Policy: GBCB Employee Dress Code Policy – Mrs. Teel said she has revised the policy to include the changes from the last meeting, so she made a motion to approve the policy as amended, 2<sup>nd</sup> Mr. Gibbons, approved 6-0.

**Agenda Item #10:** New Business

- A. Technology Update – Bandwidth and Budget Implications – Dr. Thornton discussed computer ratio – he noted what the ratios were for our schools and then said that he would like to know what the correct ratio is – he would like this information from the state so that he can budget appropriately. He also talked about bandwidth and has asked the state what bandwidth our district will need to run the assessments. Mike Chandler discussed some of the costs for this and he said that RIDE may offer to offset some of the costs – he also explained about the \$20 million dollar grant that RIDE has come up with – he noted that the district is looking to work closely with RIDE on that grant. Mike noted that some of the work that has already been done in the district may help our district be about one year ahead of the other districts in the state – hopefully this will help us get to the top of the list. Dr. Thornton reviewed the new ticket system that we have and also the copier project – projects that we have moved forward on. Mike Chandler said we will need to look at replacing or refreshing most of the districts servers in the near future – some of them require constant maintenance and so we will need to add the costs of replacing or refreshing these servers into our budget.
- B. K-5 Standards Based Report Card & Sample Rubric – Dr. Thornton reviewed the report cards and the rubrics associated with the different grades. He noted that, as this rolls out there will be plenty of meetings and professional development throughout the year. Dr. Thornton stated that he was glad that they decided to scale back the high school roll out. He showed a You Tube video entitled “The Game of School” – standards based grading – every grade should be connected to a standard – the video also explained 4 point scale,

formative assessment (what kids need to do to get better), collaboratively written rubrics.

- C. Discussion of Student Handbooks – 1)Elementary, 2) Middle School and 3)High School – Mr. Mutter said this would be on the next agenda (10/25 meeting). Mrs. Beaulieu asked if all the handbooks were available to the SC – Dr. Thornton said yes, but Elementary was a paper copy – he will get the SC copies of it though. Dr. Thornton also noted that middle and high have had changes – Mr. Masterson said that they have put in some points of reference to refer to policies – he noted that students and parents sign the handbooks.
- D. Covered this item earlier in the meeting – Overnight Student Field Trip.
- E. Home School Instruction Requests 2012-2013 School Year – no requests this evening.

**Agenda Item #11:** Personnel Recommendations

Dr. Lisa Colwell has the following personnel recommendations:

Resignations

I request the advice and consent of the School Committee on the resignation of Lane Sisak, Inclusion Teacher, at Community School, effective 10/19/12.

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

Appointments

I request the advice and consent of the School Committee on the appointment of Guy DeAngelis, Attendance/Truancy Officer, Systemwide, effective 10/15/2012.

(FTE:n/a; Step n/a; Lane: n/a; Co-Pay: n/a; budgeted)

Mrs. Beaulieu made a motion to approve, 2<sup>nd</sup> Mr. Wood, approved 6-0 – Mr. Mutter asked if there would be a contract and Dr. Colwell said there would be, so this approval is subject to a contract which will be on the 10/25 SC agenda.

Leaves of Absence

I request the advice and consent of the School Committee on the FMLA of Claire Restivo, Grade 1 Teacher, at B.F. Norton School, effective 10/3/2012 with an expected return date of 1/2/2013. (budgeted)

Mr. Wood made a motion to approve, 2<sup>nd</sup> Mrs. Beaulieu, approved 6-0.

**Agenda Item #12:** Comments from the Public

Carolyn asked Dr. Thornton where she would see the differences – if the child was proficient or not – on the report card and Dr. Thornton told her that the teachers will be putting their comments in the text box – there could be several boxes.

Deann R. commented about the rubrics and the report card – she loves the standard based grading – when it is done correctly it can be beneficial, but when it is not done correctly it can be disruptive and confusing – actually conversations between parents and teachers can be awkward if this is not done correctly. She doesn't think the teachers are ready to move forward with this in a positive way – she thinks we are behind on the education part of this to the teachers and the parents. She

believes more preparation is needed so this can be done correctly. She believes there is too much going on and the teachers are being overwhelmed.

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

Mr. Gibbons said he listened to all of the comments and he believes that 4-3-2 is not that difficult, it is the change that scares people. Colleges work with the various grading systems every day. His comment to the person that said “why the rush” is because we have not done a lot in the last few years and we need to change here in Cumberland.

**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. Pedro made a motion to adjourn, 2<sup>nd</sup> Mr. Wood, approved 6-0.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:09 p.m.

Meeting minutes respectfully submitted by Linda A. Jackvony