

APPROVED – 12/13/2012

There was a regular meeting of the Cumberland School Committee held on Thursday, November 8, 2012 at the Cumberland High School Transitional Building Cafetorium, 2602 Mendon Road, Cumberland, Rhode Island.

Members Present: Lisa Beaulieu, Jeff Mutter, Linda Teel, Craig Duffy, Ray Salvatore, Mark Fiorillo, Paul DiModica

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

Agenda Item #1: Chairman Convenes Meeting
Mrs. Beaulieu convened the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

Agenda Item #2: Pledge of Allegiance

Agenda Item #3: Approval of Agenda
Mr. Mutter made a motion to approve the agenda, 2nd Mrs. Teel, approved 7-0.

Agenda Item #4: Consent Agenda
A. Approval of Minutes – Regular meeting of 10/25/12 and B. Approval of Minutes – Executive Session of 10/12/12 – Mr. Mutter made a motion to approve the minutes, 2nd Mrs. Teel, approved 7-0.

Agenda Item #5: Student Government Report
The recent blood drive was a great success, 53 pints were collected – could save 159 lives. Turkey basket collection will run through 11/20 – the goal is 170 turkey baskets to area needy families. The junior’s ring ceremony will take place on 11/15. The clothing drive is ongoing and will run through December – collecting winter clothing for CHS students that need them and area families in need. Teddy Bear raffle will benefit Make A Wish Foundation. The students will also Adopt A Family – with the help of the Guidance Department – one family will be chosen and the students will provide a turkey dinner and all the trimmings and also will buy them several items from their “wish list”.

Agenda Item #6: Superintendent’s Report
A. Extraordinary Educators – Dr. Thornton wanted to let everyone know that Christopher Scott of CHS Math Department is highlighted in an article on Extraordinary Educators – way to go Mr. Scott and CHS!
B. Discussion of the Book – “Great by Choice” – Dr. Thornton gave all the members of the SC this book – it refers to how great organizations thrive – the SC was also given some homework by Dr. Thornton!

Agenda Item #7: Chairperson’s Report
Mrs. Beaulieu thanked the town council and Mayor McKee for the \$700,000+ that they allotted to the school department.

Agenda Item #8: Comments from the Public

Mr. Pedro congratulated the SC and told them that someone once told him to “find your function” – give yourself goals and try to achieve them – he thought the past SC did a great job in achieving their goals and would like to see this SC do the same. He wanted to remind the SC to keep in mind the addition of band and chorus during the school day at the Middle School for the coming year. He also noted that he is available to help if anyone needs it.

Agenda Item #9: Reports of Standing Committees

- A. Payment of Bills – Mr. Mutter made a motion to pay invoices totaling \$849,463.10, 2nd Mr. Fiorillo, approved 7-0.
- B. Achievement and Communications Sub-Committee Update – No update at this time.
- C. Policy and Procedures Sub-Committee Update – No update at this time – will have a meeting later in this month or early December.

Agenda Item #10: New Business

- A. Update on CHS Pool Repairs – Mr. Prignano reported that the grout project would be finished tomorrow and by the last week of November, they will begin to fill the pool. He said he is currently meeting with two swim clubs to negotiate the possibility of adding on some additional hours.
- B. Moving Forward with K-8 Math – Ms. Johnson, Math Coordinator, reviewed some slides of where Literature was and where it is now – much better in 2012 – they did a lot of work but it shows – and this is what she wants to see happen with the Math programs. She said we have already begun the process, hired Math Interventionists, in 2012-13 school year the Common Core State Standards were adopted by the Math Department in Grades K-5, response to intervention will maximize student learning, there is one Math Interventionist per building (Elementary) thanks to the dollars from the town! There are different pieces of curriculum – Fastt Math, Exemplars, Focus Math. Aimsweb screening at the beginning of the year put students in tiers – tier 1 general, tier 2 needs help, tier 3 needs more intensive help. Test results and overall scores from the Fall 2012 testing for K-5 and similar for 6-8 have been reviewed. Students need more explicit instruction –we need time before we will see any significant results. Ms. Johnson said that more materials to work with are needed. When asked how the interventionists will be measured, she said that the numbers from the fall and winter data would be compared. The interventionists service about 180 students at the elementary level. She said that the interventionists were hired so that the students could be given more time – their goal is to help all of the students meet proficiency. Mr. Duffy asked is we were going to roll out the Aimsweb program at the high school. Mr. Scott answered this question and said no not the Aimsweb (not suitable for H.S.). Mr. Scott explained about the progress monitoring they are using at the high school and the middle school. He also added that the Aimsweb data is used until the 8th grade. The Sims program is still happening at the high school also – this year it seems they are targeting

- more 10th grade students. Mr. Salvatore asked if a student is failing in Math, how does the student get help. Ms. Johnson said the teacher knows which kids are failing – the interventionist will take 2 or 3 students from each class and group them so that they all go to learn at once – this will avoid singling out kids and have them be embarrassed, etc. Letters get sent to the parents and a hard covered book is available to parents explaining the math problems/examples. Ms. Johnson said they are not ignoring kids that are above average, but for now they will stay put and make some more moves in the future – after the winter data gets assessed. Ms. Johnson stated that Exemplars has an easy version and a more difficult version. Math interventionists are working in putting in the Exemplars problem solving approaches – we did a full day of training and the elementary teachers said it was a great experience. With some schools struggling, the SC would like to see another brief presentation between now and January. Ms. Johnson said that would be no problem – she could provide some progress monitoring.
- C. Discussion of Special Olympics Project Unify – Dr. Colwell introduced this new program between the R.I.I.L and Special Olympics. She said that the Coach will be Mr. Primiano from CHS and he will be recruiting typical athletes and special Olympians for basketball in the spring. Teams will be made up of students of similar age and ability with and without intellectual disabilities. This program is all grant funded – uniforms, equipment, transportation, and stipends for the coaches. Cumberland is just one of many participating high schools in the state. This program unifies the school community and the scoring will also create a fair playing level for all abilities. It is a national project funded by the United States Department of Education.
- D. Professional Development Update – Mr. Mitchell stated that November 5th was a professional day and every certified staff person in the district was involved in the day. There were two different groups in a variety of different sessions. Mr. Mitchell also noted that we are in the process of training all of the teachers in specific Gemsnet training – data has shown that testing scores are increased in districts that have had this training. He also said that teachers were asked for feedback from the day and most had positive comments. Everyone is grateful for these professional days and Mr. Mitchell noted that the only way to improve the performance of students is to train ourselves – so he again stated that the days are appreciated by all and that he wants the teachers to use what they are learning at these sessions, in their classrooms. February 1st will be the next professional day and he knows that the teachers will once again be collaborating with each other – he said they enjoy doing that and learn and share a lot of information. It is definitely time well spent for everyone.

Agenda Item #11: Personnel Recommendations
There were no recommendations at this time.

Agenda Item #12: Comments from the Public

One parent commented on Math rubrics. She was concerned about the fact that all of the kids need to be handled at all levels – not just the kids that are having problems. She would like to see something for all of the students – rubrics are coming home and it seems like getting a 4 is almost impossible. She is also hearing that some of the teachers do not understand the rubrics. She thinks that teachers need more guidance and that they are not prepared.

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

There were no reports at this time.

Agenda Item #14: Vote to go into Executive Session for Discussion on Items

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

- A. Personnel Matters – Exception (1) - 1) CTA/ICSE
- B. Negotiations/Litigation – Exception (2) - 1)CTA/ICSE, 2)Potential Litigation
- C. Reconvene into Open Session
- D. Report of Executive Session Vote
- E. Vote to Seal Minutes of Executive Session

Mr. Mutter made a motion to go into Executive Session, 2nd Mr. Fiorillo, approved 7-0.

Agenda Item #15: Adjournment

Mr. Mutter made a motion to adjourn the meeting, 2nd Mr. DiModica, approved 7-0.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:13 p.m.

Meeting minutes respectfully submitted by Linda A. Jackvony