

APPROVED-1/24/13

There was a regular meeting of the Cumberland School Committee held on Thursday, January 10, 2013 at the Cumberland High School Transitional Building Cafetorium, 2602 Mendon Road, Cumberland, Rhode Island.

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

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

Agenda Item #1: Chairman Convenes Meeting

Chairperson Beaulieu convened the meeting to order at 7:36 p.m.

Prior to the pledge of allegiance, Mrs. Beaulieu asked for a moment of silence for the victims of Sandy Hook Elementary School.

Agenda Item #2: Pledge of Allegiance

Agenda Item #3: Approval of Agenda

Prior to approving the agenda, Mrs. Beaulieu asked if item 7A could be moved up to right after the approval of the agenda – the members agreed.

Mr. Mutter made a motion to approve the agenda, 2nd Mr. Duffy, approved 7-0.

Agenda Item #7A – Recognition of U.S. Marine's Toys for Tots Program – Staff Sergeant Crennen from the United States Marines came to acknowledge the students of the district for their outstanding work during the Toys for Tots Program. He said that there are basically two marines that run this program and he said that the help from the Cumberland students was absolutely phenomenal. Students from all of the schools were working with the marines. Over 60,000 toys were distributed. He presented some awards to Dr. Thornton, Cumberland High School, McCourt Middle School, North Cumberland Middle School and B.F. Norton School. The sergeant noted that over 4,000 families were recipients of this program. He especially wanted to thank Brooke McLaughlin – he presented her with an award as well and expressed his thanks to her – it started out to be a smaller project but grew into a community service project for Brooke – thank you Brooke! The sergeant thanked everyone involved again and hopes that this will be the beginning of a partnership for the coming years!

Agenda Item #4: Consent Agenda

- A. Approval of Minutes – 1) Special Meeting 12/11/12, 2) Regular Meeting 12/13/12
- B. Approval of Minutes – 1) Executive Session 12/11/12, 2) Executive Session 12/13/12
- C. Enrollment Report – 1/1/13
- D. School Police Report 12/1/12
- E. Truancy Report 1/1/13

Mr. DiModica made a motion to approve, 2nd Mr. Salvatore and Mrs. Teel, approved 7-0.

Agenda Item #5: Report Out of Executive Session Meetings

- A. Pursuant to the RIGL 42-46-5 – Exception (8) Student Disciplinary Hearings: 1) Student J. Doe – Student Hearing Decision – Mrs. Beaulieu reported that the SC was going to uphold the superintendent’s recommendation to suspend the student – the vote was a 7-0.
- B. Report of Executive Session Meeting on 1/10/2013 – 1) Report of Executive Session Vote – Mrs. Beaulieu noted that it was a 7-0 vote to uphold the superintendent’s recommendation to suspend the student. 2) Vote to seal the minutes of Executive Session – Mrs. Teel made a motion to seal the minutes, 2nd Mr. Fiorillo, approved 7-0.

Agenda Item #6: Superintendent’s Report

- A. Building Security Update – Dr. Thornton gave an overview of information that he has put together regarding the safety of our schools. He reviewed the types of doors – both interior and exterior – which are the safest. He reviewed slides of our schools and showed what doors were good and which ones would need to be replaced and also with what type of doors they will be replaced with. Windows in the doors were also discussed – sizes, materials, etc. Dr. Thornton noted that there were three schools that needed attention to their exterior doors – the two middle schools and the high school. The only two schools that had good interior doors were the high school and McCourt Middle – the balance would need attention. Dr. Thornton said that the interior doors would cost around \$1,600 each and the exterior door sets would cost between \$7,000 to \$10,000 each. The entrance to the high school is also being reviewed to see if they could change the entrance to a location that would be more visible. The total estimate for the safety changes to the district would be about \$500,000. Mike Chandler reviewed the communications portion for all of our schools and said that most of our schools are in good shape – thinking about a repeater on the roof of the high school but frequencies, etc., would need to be checked out before anything. He did note that the intercoms in the classrooms are aging and are really not worth putting any more money into them so they are looking at VOIP (voice over IP) this system would be the better choice to put in rather than updating the intercom system – also looking at walkie talkies that could be used between the schools.
- B. “Great by Choice” Book – 1) Discussion of pages 39-99 – Mr. Mitchell asked members of the SC to give their thoughts. Mr. DiModica began by saying that on page 56 it talks about the no blame game when students are not learning – he thinks that Cumberland is addressing this issue. Dr. Thornton talked about the pursuit of excellence, the collaboration of teachers. Mrs. Teel talked about critical components and knowing what your benchmarks are – she believes that the SC is going in the right direction. Mr. Duffy noted that on page 83 they talked about bullet points, bullets converge into a cannonball – fire a bunch of bullets and see what works and if it works then move full speed ahead. Mr. Mitchell said that decisions need to be thought through very thoroughly before making the final decision. Mrs. Beaulieu thinks that performance markers are good, challenge the administration for clear performance markers and then check to see if progress is being made. Mr. Mutter said that the SC can make a difference and they should not lose that thought by getting stressed out over certain things. Next assignment will be to finish reading the book.
- C. Grading Panel Discussion – January 16th – Dr. Thornton noted that on January 16th at 6:30 p.m. at the Cumberland High School Auditorium, there will be a Grading Practices Panel Discussion – panel 1 will discuss “Why Standards-Based

Grading?" and panel 2 will discuss "Impact on College Admissions" – panel 1 begins at 6:30 and panel 2 begins at 8:00 p.m. – Dr. Thornton hopes to see everyone there. Mr. Salvatore urged parents to come to the panels. Dr. Thornton noted that there will be a time for questions and answers and Mrs. Beaulieu said that this would be on the website.

Agenda Item #7: Chairperson's Report – Mrs. Beaulieu recognized Senator Ryan Pearson and Rep. Jim McLaughlin

- A. Was moved up to the beginning of the meeting.
- B. Bid Request for Contracted School Bus Transportation – Mrs. Beaulieu noted that what they are looking for is the best service and the best bid for the district.

Agenda Item #8: Comments from the Public
There were no comments at this time.

Agenda Item #9: Reports of Standing Committees

- A. Payment of Bills – Mr. Mutter made a motion to pay invoices totaling \$1,230,821.77, 2nd Mr. DiModica, approved 7-0.
- B. Achievement and Communications Sub-Committee Update – Mrs. Beaulieu noted that the committee had met on Tuesday, 1/8/13 and discussed the leadership model at the high school – Dr. Thornton has some reorganization to complete for effectiveness. Also discussed the grading panels. Next meeting is in two weeks.
- C. Policy and Procedures Sub-Committee Update – Mrs. Teel noted that the committee will meet two times each month – at the first meeting the administration will bring the policies for discussion/review and the second meeting the committee will work on the policies. She noted that there is more work being done on the peanut allergy policies and the volunteer policy (requiring background checks). Next meeting at 6:30 p.m. on January 22, 2013.

Agenda Item #10: New Business

- A. Home School Instruction Requests 2012-2013 School Year – Mr. Mitchell asked that they be approved as recommended and Mr. Mutter made a motion to approve, 2nd Mrs. Teel, approved 7-0.
- B. Discussion and/or Vote to Approve Resolution SC-R-2013-01: Urging the Governor and Members of the General Assembly to Approve a Plan to Accelerate the Allocation of the Proposed Phase-in of the State School Funding Funds – Mr. Mutter said that this was brought to Fiscal Management earlier and on a 3-0 vote was recommended for approval, so Mr. Mutter made a motion to approve, 2nd Mr. Fiorillo and Mr. Salvatore, approved 7-0.
- C. Discussion and/or Vote to Approve Amended Durham Contract Payment Schedule – Mr. Mutter noted that this item was in Fiscal Management earlier and was discussed, but he is recommending that this item gets referred back to Fiscal Management for further discussions – Mr. Mutter stated that it looks like they are paying more than what was initially approved.

Agenda Item #11: Personnel Recommendations

Mrs. Fogell had the following personnel recommendations:

Resignations

I request the advice and consent of the School Committee on the resignation of **Matthew Grochowski**, Asst. Varsity Baseball Coach, at Cumberland High School, effective **1/10/2013. (budgeted)**

Appointments

I request the advice and consent of the School Committee on the appointment of **Kathleen Scanlon**, Senior Accountant, at Cumberland School Department, effective **1/14/2013. (FTE: 1.0; Step n/a; Lane: n/a; Co-pay: 10.0%; budgeted)**

Leaves of Absence

I request the advice and consent of the School Committee on the FMLA of **Dayna Cianci**, Kindergarten, at BF Norton School, effective **3/25/2013 with an expected return date of 6/21/13. (budgeted)**

I request the advice and consent of the School Committee on the Parental of **Lauren Hammond**, Kindergarten, at Community School, effective **2/8/2013 with an expected return date of 2/8/14. (budgeted)**

I request the advice and consent of the School Committee on the Parental of **Catherine Knasas**, Grade 4, at Community School, effective **8/26/2013 with an expected return date of 8/24/14. (budgeted)**

I request the advice and consent of the School Committee on the FMLA of **Elizabeth Langlois**, Grade 6, at North Cumberland Middle School, effective **1/31/2013 with an expected return date of 4/8/13. (budgeted)**

I request the advice and consent of the School Committee on the FMLA of **Nora Swartwout**, School Psychologist, at North Cumberland Middle School, effective **3/19/2013 with an expected return date of 6/21/13. (budgeted)**

Mr. DiModica made a motion to approve all of the personnel recommendations, 2nd Mr. Duffy, approved 7-0.

Agenda Item #12: Comments from the Public

There were no comments at this time.

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

Mr. Duffy noted that Ashton School was featured on Whole Child.org – the school is being considered for a Vision and Action Award.

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 Employee Disciplinary Hearing and 2)CTA/ICSE
- B. Negotiations/Litigation – Exception (2) – 1)CTA/ICSE and 2)Potential Litigation
- C. Reconvene into Open Session
- D. Report Out of Executive Session Vote(s) – 1)CTA Employee Disciplinary Hearing

E. Vote to Seal Minutes of Executive Session

At this time Mrs. Teel made a motion to go into Executive Session – 8:38 p.m. – 2nd Mr. Duffy, approved 7-0.

Agenda Item #15: Adjournment

The Executive Session was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Meeting minutes respectfully submitted by Linda A. Jackvony

