

## **APPROVED-2.28.13**

There was a regular meeting of the Cumberland School Committee held on Thursday, February 14, 2013 at the Cumberland High School Transitional Building Cafetorium, 2602 Mendon Road, Cumberland, Rhode Island.

**Members Present:** Lisa Beaulieu, Jeff Mutter, Paul DiModica, Craig Duffy, Mark Fiorillo, Raymond Salvatore – Linda Teel was absent.

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

**Agenda Item #1:** Chairman Convenes Meeting  
Chairperson Beaulieu called the meeting to order at 7:38 p.m.

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

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

**Agenda Item #4:** Consent Agenda

- A. Approval of Minutes – Regular Meeting 1/24/13
- B. Approval of Minutes – Executive Session 1/10/13 and 1/24/13
- C. Enrollment Report – 2/1/13
- D. School Police Report - 1/1/13
- E. Truancy Report – 2/1/13

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

**Agenda Item #5:** Report Out of Executive Session Meeting

- A. Report of Executive Session Meeting on 2/14/13 – 1) Report of Executive Session Vote: a) Student J. Doe – Student Hearing Decision – Mrs. Beaulieu reported that with a 6-0 vote, the committee upheld the recommendation of Dr. Thornton. b) ICSE Grievance #12-13-06 – Mrs. Beaulieu reported the motion was to deny the grievance, the committee voted 5-1, it passed and Mr. Duffy was in the negative. c) ICSE Grievance #12-13-07 – Mrs. Beaulieu reported the motion was to deny the grievance, the committee voted 4-2, it passed and Mr. Fiorillo and Mr. DiModica were in the negative. d) ICSE Grievance #12-13-10 – Mrs. Beaulieu reported the motion was to deny the grievance, the committee voted 3-3, it passed and Mr. Duffy, Mr. Fiorillo and Mr. DiModica were in the negative. Mr. Mutter made a motion to seal the minutes, 2<sup>nd</sup> Mr. Salvatore, approved 6-0.

**Agenda Item #6:** Superintendent's Report

Dr. Thornton asked that item "C" – CHS Artwork Rental Program be moved to this position so that Mr. Tenreiro – Principal of CHS, could leave for another appointment – the SC approved the request. Mr. Tenreiro talked briefly about the

program and how it would work. Local businesses could make a donation to the CHS Art Department in exchange for having framed student work and/or ceramics delivered to their place of business to be displayed for two months – the artwork would be replaced every two months with new pieces. All of the proceeds from the program would go to the CHS Art Department and leftover funds would go to the Mural Program. A member of the audience brought up one question and she asked if the program could also be rent to own – Mr. Tenreiro said he did not know but would find out the answer.

- A. School Improvement Update – Joseph L. McCourt Middle School – Dr. Masterson reported that the school is closing their achievement gaps and is making progress. He reviewed the NECAP results from the fall of 2012 and noted that the results were good – Math gained 6% to be at 66% proficiency and Reading scores were at 74% proficient. Mrs. Coughlin reviewed the scores of students that have IEP's and students that receive reduced lunch – again the numbers were good, most were up in Math and Reading, only a couple of decreases – lots of improvement. Dr. Masterson noted that some major changes to this school year were things like adding a 45 minute block to the students schedule for intervention, screening the students four times/year, data review teams reviewing all of the data, decisions being made are all tiered, decisions are all coded. Ms. Santos reviewed the screening results for January 2013 – she explained the tiers, also how the students are being placed in individual programs for Math, and calculation and application - students are being placed in small groups. She said that students are given specific objectives and they work on them in small groups with their teacher. They are progress monitored. Dr. Masterson noted that for the students that are at benchmark he is asking teachers to develop intervention ideas for Science and other subjects – these ideas have included the Chess Club, Chorus and Music Appreciation, Art Club, Yearbook Club. Ms. Santos broke the data down into student data – she said several students moved to enrichment, others succeeded in their intervention but moved to another intervention priority. She noted that a good number of students have showed growth but have not completed enough to get out or complete the intervention. Mrs. Yacino reviewed rubrics – writing skills – organization – she reviewed scores in each of the sections, showed essay examples, had rubrics associated with each of the essays. She said that students are monitored throughout the year. Dr. Masterson wanted the SC to realize how lucky the district was to be a part of the Gemsnet Program. This program is aligned to the new common core – every time a student completes a new task they analyze the data, discover cause and effect, they do a lot of contrasting and a lot of writing – they become active participants. The Science teachers noted that they get a lot of training and a lot of support – the students are doing a process, making a prediction, recording and organizing data, talking to each other, sharing data with each other and the classroom, writing conclusions. Everyone is extremely pleased and satisfied with the program and how it is progressing. Mrs. Palumbo reviewed DBQ's (Document Based Questioning) for Social Studies. She said the students are using this to write

- it helps students support their conclusions, they write about multiple perspectives, students have more of a focus of what they have to do – they use a rubric to review them, they will get days of practice before they write their final essay. They prepare and then bring it to class – they are able to put their ideas together. Mrs. Palumbo showed some examples of the rubrics. She did go on to say that sighting evidence is a weakness but she feels that this will get better as they work with the DBQ's – eventually they will use all of the documents in the DBQ. Dr. Masterson finished by saying that he appreciated the time given to them and felt that it was very important to do this and wanted to acknowledge all of the staff at McCourt Middle School for their hard work.
- B. 1<sup>st</sup> Semester District Anti-Bullying Harassment Report – Dr. Masterson noted that the number of incidents has gone up but attributes that to the fact that more and more students are caring about what happens to their peers and are reporting more incidents than they ever have in the past. He noted that the schools counselors are working with the bully's that are repeat offenders and also noted that the students will eventually have exit interviews with Mrs. Coughlin.

**Agenda Item #7:** Chairperson's Report

Mrs. Beaulieu wanted to publicly thank the town's Highway Department for doing such a great job with the snow removal.

- A. Senate Bill SO188 – The Education Equity and Property Tax Relief Act – Mrs. Beaulieu asked that everyone show their support for this bill because it could mean an extra \$3.5m for Cumberland.

**Agenda Item #8:** Public Hearing

- A. 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading of the Following Policies: 1) LGA – Title I Parental Involvement with Local Education Agencies and 2) IICC – School Volunteers – Mrs. Beaulieu noted that these two policies are listed under New Business for discussion and/or vote.

**Agenda Item #9:** Comments from the Public

Mrs. Wharton – School Nurse Coordinator for the district reported that she and Dr. Lisa Colwell have made several changes to the Peanut and Tree Nut Procedure and she read some of the changes to the SC and also noted that they had added language to the policy for severe allergies.

**Agenda Item #10:** Reports of Standing Committees

- A. Payment of Bills – Mr. Mutter made a motion to pay invoices in the amount of \$954,470.14, 2<sup>nd</sup> Mr. Salvatore and Mr. DiModica, approved 6-0.
- B. Achievement and Communications Sub-Committee Update – Mrs. Beaulieu noted that the committee had met last Tuesday and they had discussed the high school data and also the middle school report card. They will meet again in two weeks.

- C. Policy and Procedures Sub-Committee Update – Mr. Mutter (for Mrs. Teel) said the committee had met last Tuesday and discussed early entry to kindergarten and made some changes to the policy and the revised policy will be on the next agenda.

**Agenda Item #11:** New Business

- A. NECAP Test Results – Fall 2012 – Mr. Mitchell reviewed the results that had been released to the public on 2/8/13. He said there was not a lot of movement statewide. He did note that Cumberland was improving – district wide – in Math and Reading. Cumberland is #12 out of the 31 districts in this state. Mr. Mitchell reviewed data from each of the schools and also grade levels and said that Cumberland is exceeding a lot of the state averages for both Math and Reading. Progress is being made at all grade levels.
- B. Home School Instruction Requests 2012-13 School Year – Dr. Thornton recommended approval, Mr. Mutter made a motion to approve, 2<sup>nd</sup> Mr. DiModica, approved 6-0.
- C. Discussion and/or Vote to Approve Resolution SC-R-2013-03: Support of June 1 Layoff Notification Date/2013 – S0049 & H5066 – Mr. Mutter recommended passage, 2<sup>nd</sup> Mr. Fiorillo, approved 6-0.
- D. Discussion and/or Vote to Approve Resolution SC-R-2013-04: Opposition of Contract Continuation – Mr. Mutter recommended passage, 2<sup>nd</sup> Mr. Fiorillo, approved 6-0.
- E. Discussion and/or Vote to Approve Resolution SC-R-2013-05: Opposition of Binding Arbitration – Mr. Mutter recommended passage, 2<sup>nd</sup> Mr. Fiorillo, approved 5-1, Mr. Duffy in the negative.
- F. Discussion and/or Vote to Approve the Following Policies: 1) LGA – Title I Parental Involvement with Local Education Agencies – Mr. Mutter made a motion to approve, 2<sup>nd</sup> Mr. DiModica, approved 6-0. 2) ICC – School Volunteers – Mr. Mutter made a motion to approve, 2<sup>nd</sup> Mr. Duffy, approved 6-0.

**Agenda Item #12:** Personnel Recommendations

Ms. Fogell had the following personnel recommendations:

**Retirement**

I request the advice and consent of the School Committee on the retirement of **Robert Brides, Custodian-days, at John J. McLaughlin Cumberland Hill Elementary School, effective 2/1/2013. (budgeted)**

**Leave of Absence**

I request the advice and consent of the School Committee on the FMLA of **Kiara Tracey, Grade 3 Teacher, at Community School, effective 3/25/2013 to the end of the 2012-2013 school year. (budgeted)**

## Appointment

I request the advice and consent of the School Committee on the appointment of **Lauren Scott**, Art Teacher, at **Cumberland High School**, effective **11/14/12. From .9 FTE to 1.0 FTE.**

Mr. Mutter made a motion to approve all of the personnel recommendations as presented by Ms. Fogell, 2nd Mr. Salvatore, approved 6-0.

**Agenda Item #13:** Comments from the Public  
No comments at this time.

**Agenda Item #14:** School Committee Comments (School Liaison Reports)  
Mr. Fiorillo wanted everyone to know that there are a lot of wonderful things happening at B.F. Norton! At this point Rep. McLaughlin came to the podium and apologized for missing the public comment portion, but wanted the SC members to know about the grant for \$1,000 for the reading program – more details forthcoming.

**Agenda Item #15:** 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. Security – Exception (9) – 1) Buildings & Grounds  
Mr. Fiorillo made a motion to go into Executive Session, 2nd Mr. Duffy, approved 6-0. The SC went into Executive Session at 9:38 p.m. and that session adjourned at 10:15 p.m. – no votes taken.

Meeting minutes respectfully submitted by Linda A. Jackvony