

APPROVED – 3/28/2013

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

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

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

Agenda Item #1: Chairman Convenes Meeting
Vice Chairman Mutter convened the meeting to order at 7:32 p.m.

Agenda Item #2: Pledge of Allegiance

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

Agenda Item #4: Consent Agenda

- A. Approval of Minutes – Special Meeting 2/25/13 and Regular Meeting 2/28/13
- B. Approval of Minutes – Executive Session 2/28/13.
- C. Enrollment Report – 3/1/13.
- D. School Police Report – 2/1/13
- E. Truancy Report – 3/1/13

Mr. Mutter noted that the SC would not be voting on approval of Special Meeting of 2/25/13 – Mrs. Beaulieu did not submit them. Mr. DiModica then made a motion to approve all else on the consent agenda, 2nd Mr. Duffy, approved 6-0.

Agenda Item #5: Report Out of Executive Session Meetings

- A. Report of Executive Session Meeting on 2/28/13 – 1) Report of Executive Session Meeting on 2/28/13 – Mr. Mutter noted that there were no votes taken at this meeting and 2) Vote to seal minutes of Executive Session – Mr. Duffy made a motion to seal the minutes, 2nd Mr. Salvatore, approved 6-0.

Agenda Item #6: Superintendent's Report

Dr. Thornton stated that he would hold comments for the budget portion.

Agenda Item #7: Chairperson's Report

- A. Assignment of Special Programs Sub-Committee Members – Mr. Mutter said that Mrs. Beaulieu has assigned Mr. Di Modica to this committee, removing Mrs. Teel.

Agenda Item #8: Comments from the Public

No comments at this time.

Agenda Item #9: Reports of Standing Committees

- A. Payment of Bills – Mr. DiModica made a motion to pay invoices in the amount of \$1,462,432.37, 2nd Mr. Fiorillo, approved 6-0.
- B. Fiscal Management Sub-Committee Update – Mr. Mutter noted that at the last meeting the committee discussed the pool management study, the bus contract and the Sodexo resolution.
- C. Achievement & Communications Sub-Committee Update – Mr. Mutter stated that Mrs. Beaulieu said that at the last meeting the committee had discussed standards based grading and also got a NECAP update from Dr. Drolet.
- D. Policy & Procedures Sub-Committee Update – Mrs. Teel noted that there are policies on tonight’s agenda for discussion and/or vote and also she said they reviewed the Policy Manual to see what is next.
- E. Special Programs Sub-Committee Update – Mr. Duffy said the committee met earlier in the evening and they discussed the start times at the high school and they also reviewed data from other schools and they are waiting for bus information.

Agenda Item #10: Old Business

- A. Discussion and/or Vote to Approve 2013-2014 School Calendar 1) Calendar A and 2) Calendar B – Mrs. Teel made a motion to table, she said they are meeting with RIDE on Monday 3/18/13 and will hopefully find out if the district needs to pay transportation if we are not in session – so she wanted to wait until after this meeting to make a decision on the calendar. The motion was 2nd by Mr. DiModica, approved 6-0.
- B. Discussion and/or Vote to Approve Resolution SC-R-2013-06: Amended Sodexo Facilities Management Agreement – Mr. Mutter stated that there was no decision from Fiscal Management on this resolution yet.

Agenda Item #11: New Business

- A. Review of CHS Master Schedule – Mr. Tenreiro gave a brief review – he said he has two very important goals for discussion, increase academic aspirations and greater equity in learning. He reviewed some of the changes such as increased AP offerings – five new AP courses, they have increased by 8 sections of students in AP, increased the number of intervention classes, reduced the class size in grade 9, offer extra support to adaptive EP program, new electives like guitar, two new sections in PE, topics in Holocausts, digital photography – these are some of the classes that would be offered in the early morning. Mr. Tenreiro noted that they did not increase FTE’s, but still achieved a lot of what they wanted to do. He did note that ninth grade teaming may not happen, but did say they would continue to keep working towards it. Also, pathways and advisories are on the horizon.
- B. Discussion and/or Vote to Approve Amended Policies: 1) IKFC – High School Proficiency Based Graduation – Mr. Mutter stated that he would like to refer

- this back to the policy committee. 2) JFCJ – Weapons and Firearms – Mrs. Teel noted that the policy committee voted 2-0 with Mr. Mutter absent, so she made a motion to approve as amended, 2nd Mrs. Salvatore, approved 6-0.
- 3)GBE/JHCC-B – Blood Borne Disease: HIV/Aids & Hepatitis - Mrs. Teel noted that the policy committee voted 2-0 with Mr. Mutter absent, so she made a motion to approve as amended, 2nd Mr. Salvatore, approved 6-0.
- C. Home School Instruction Requests 2012-13 School Year – Dr. Thornton stated that there were no requests at this time.
- D. Discussion and/or Vote on the Superintendent’s Recommended FY 2014 Budget – Mr. Mutter said he would refer this to Fiscal Management so it will just be discussion tonight. Dr. Thornton started off by saying that he had sent Mrs. Beaulieu a letter talking about all of the work that was done in the past year – full day K, multi media stations at the Elementary level – lots of good things going on in the district. He said there is a \$3.5m gap for next year, the state level funding formula was supposed to give us \$731,000 this year, but actually the state still owes us over \$2.0m. We have received \$710,000 of the \$1.0m from the town – we had counted on the full amount. He went on to say that Cumberland has done well in years past because the administration has looked into various strategies for cutting costs – bus contracts, utility costs, plan 65, etc. Also, Special Education has been going down each year. Based on current information from RIDE, it shows Cumberland in last place in the state – spending \$11,037 on each child – Dr. Thornton said that last is not acceptable and the children in Cumberland deserve much more. Some positive additions that Dr. Thornton would like to see next year are a deputy technician person to help Mike Chandler, full time band/chorus, additional money for textbooks, middle school interventionists, clerks at the middle school, attendance clerk at the high school, class size reduction, two high school hall monitors, second shift custodial supervisor, exterior and interior door upgrades, social worker, high school lockers, white boards at the high school, math interventionists. Dr. Thornton said that three big items drive the budget – fund balance, charter school increase and busses. Dr. Thornton noted that we are performing better than a previous model had expected because we are 200 students above that model. He would like the SC to consider technology when reviewing the budget – we are looking to replace 500 machines – need more capacity for our students – he reviewed how these and several other items are in the master lease. Dr. Thornton reviewed several highlighted items and Mr. Mutter said that this would now be referred to Fiscal Management – 3/29/13 to the Finance Director and the Mayor.

Agenda Item #12: Personnel Recommendations

Ms. Fogell requested the following personnel recommendations:

Retirements

I request the advice and consent of the School Committee on the retirement of Margaret Wharton, School Nurse/Teacher and Nursing Department Chairperson, at Systemwide, effective 6/30/2013. (budgeted) Retiring after 22 years.

Appointments

I request the advice and consent of the School Committee on the appointment of Robert Crozier, Girls' Softball Coach, at Joseph L. McCourt Middle School for the 2012-2013 school year, effective 3/4/2013. (budgeted)

Mr. DiModica made a motion to approve as presented by Ms. Fogell, 2nd Mrs. Teel, approved 6-0.

Agenda Item #13: Comments from the Public

Jenny and Amy - from CSA presented certificates to Mrs. Beaulieu (absent), Mr. Mutter and Mr. Mitchell for all of their help in the Harlem Wizards event that took place on 3/11/13. They raised over \$3,000 – sold 925 tickets and it was a wonderful success for Community School – everyone came out for a fun time!

Mr. T. – teacher at CHS wanted to thank Dr. Thornton for pointing out that Cumberland students are underfunded – he is hoping for the best in the future.

Rep. McLaughlin gave a brief update on some bills that he is working on and invited anyone that is interested to come to a HEW meeting every Wednesday night – he said it could help get bills passed – check the states website for location and time. He also said he is checking on the grant for BFN for reading.

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

Mr. Salvatore noted that on 4/10/13 Ashton teachers vs. Harlem Wizards. Mr. Mutter thanked Jenny and Amy for all of their hard work for this past week's Harlem Wizards Event at Community School. He would like to see that much school spirit in every one of our schools! Mr. Duffy said that he is very vested in the high school and he is sure their day will come. Mr. Mitchell noted that there was a Unified Basketball team game at the high school on Wednesday, 3/13/13, against Burrillville and he said there were lots of people in attendance – great support. He also commented on the Community School Harlem Wizards event – great job by Community School!!!

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

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

Before going into executive session, the school committee shall state for the record that any persons to be discussed pursuant to subsection (1) have been notified and this statement shall be noted in the minutes of the meeting.

- A. Personnel Matters – Exception (1)
 - 1) CTA/ICSE
- B. Negotiations/Litigation – Exception (2)
 - 1) CTA/ICSE
 - 2) Potential Litigation
 - 3) CTA Contract

Mr. DiModica made a motion to go into Executive Session, 2nd Mr. Fiorillo, roll call vote as follows: Teel – yes, Fiorillo – yes, Salvatore – yes, Duffy – yes, DiModica – yes, Mutter – yes.

The SC went into Executive Session at 8:55 p.m.

The SC reconvened into open session at 9:19 p.m. and meeting was adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

Meeting minutes respectfully submitted by Linda A. Jackvony