UNAPPROVED
There was a regular meeting of the Cumberland School Committee held on Thursday, April 25, 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
Chairwoman Beaulieu convened the meeting to order at 7:32 p.m. Also, at this time Mrs. Beaulieu asked for a moment of silence for two of our students that passed away recently – Joshua Collette and Aydan Nyberg.

Agenda Item #2: Pledge of Allegiance

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

Agenda Item #4: Student Government Report
Student Activities – some past activities included Foreign Language Week where there were competitions and activities for the students all week, Pennies for Patients collection boasted $3,519 and was donated to the Leukemia Society, several jars of peanut butter were collected and given to the Rhode Island Food Bank. Upcoming events include the junior prom on 5/17 and the election of class officers on 5/24.

Agenda Item #5: Consent Agenda
Approval of Minutes – 1) Special Meeting 3/26/13 and Regular Meeting 4/11/13 and B. Approval of Minutes – 1) Executive Session 4/3/13 and Executive Session 4/11/13 – Mr. DiModica made a motion to approve minutes as listed, 2nd Mrs. Teel, approved 7-0.

Agenda Item #6: Report Out of Executive Session Meetings
Report of Executive Session Meeting on 4/11/2013 – 1) Report of Executive Session Vote – Mrs. Beaulieu noted that there were no votes taken. 2) Vote to Seal Minutes of Executive Session – Mr. Mutter made a motion to seal the minutes of 4/11/13 Executive Session, 2nd Mrs. Teel, approved 7-0.
Report of Executive Session Meeting on 4/25/2013 – 1) Student Hearing Decision – Mrs. Beaulieu noted that there was no hearing on 4/25/13.
2) Report of Executive Session Vote – Mrs. Beaulieu noted that there were no votes taken. 3) Vote to Seal Minutes of Executive Session – Mr. Fiorillo made a motion to seal the minutes, 2nd Mr. Mutter, approved 7-0.

Agenda Item #7: Superintendent's Report
Recognition of Achievements – Mr. Mitchell presented Laura Benjamin with Recognition of Excellence Certificate and Ms. Benjamin will be attending the Mickelson Exxon Mobil Teachers Academy in July, 2013. Also given certificates were Christine Naughton and Laura Valentine for recognition in receiving the CarMax Foundation Grant - $7,500 for the B.F. Norton School Library, and Carolyn Dooley for the STEM TO STEAM PROGRAM.
Joseph L. McCourt Middle School Presentation – STEM to STEAM – Mrs. Dooley gave a brief overview of this program which was launched by President Obama in 2009 to help move students up to the top in Math and Science. This is a program that is being led by an initiative to add Art and Design to the national agenda of STEM (Science, Technology, English and Math) education and research in America. Mrs. Dooley has attended several workshops and has brought in student mentors and also put together a Stem to Steam Day back in March, 2013 at NCMS where students came to this event on a Saturday and participated in all sorts of activities and workshops. These students made some new friends because it was both middle schools that were participating and also these kids received certificates for their participation. Some of the students that participated in this program were at the meeting and gave their thoughts and what they took away from the day. Mrs. Dooley also noted that she was very happy with the outcome of the day and went on to say that the students learned how to fill out applications (because they had to fill one out prior to attending), they were able to have hands on experiences with professionals in various careers, and returned to the classrooms with applied knowledge. All that attended seemed to thoroughly enjoy and benefit from this experience. Mrs. Dooley presented the SC with some material to review because she and Mr. Colwell would like to see this added to the curriculum.

Agenda Item #8: Chairperson's Report
Mrs. Beaulieu acknowledged that Councilman Murray was in attendance tonight.

Agenda Item #9: Comments from the Public
No comments at this time.

Agenda Item #10: Report of Standing Committees
Payment of Bills – Mr. Mutter noted that there were no payments tonight.
Fiscal Management Sub-Committee Update – Mr. Mutter said the FM Committee met on 4/23 and discussed the school start/end schedule and the pool proposal and noted that they withdrew the pool proposal because it needs to go out for bid and also noted that they passed the start/end time in FM on a 2-1 vote (Firorillo in the negative), but said it would be discussed further tonight later on the agenda.
Achievement and Communications Sub-Committee Update – Mrs. Beaulieu said the committee met on 4/23 and discussed common core alignment and discussed progress – with Mr. Scott - which the Math Department is making and also discussed some of the activities that they are working on.

Policy and Procedures Sub-Committee Update – Mrs. Teel noted that the committee met on 4/23 and discussed three policies.
Special Programs Sub-Committee Update – Mr. Duffy noted that the committee has done some research on high school and middle school start times. They have contacted other districts and have noted all changes after the times were changed at other schools. They have had lots of meetings to discuss their findings and have brought all of their information to the SC to see if this is something that should be done in our district. Some of the information that Mr. Duffy shared was that the latest time to release students in the afternoon would be 3:15 p.m., research shows that sleep deprivation impairs students concentration, teens internal clocks are different, research from various schools showed good things happened when school began later – research from around the country showed significant reduction in drop out rates, less depression, less tardiness, more students eating breakfast, teen driver crash rates were down, attendance was up, standardized test scores were up, athletics improved, and he went on to say that some parents from some schools that have changed the times actually said that they were not for the change in the beginning but would not go back – they approved and liked the new start times! Dr. Thornton then thanked Durham for all of their help and input and said that they are now reviewing a model that adds three buses to our schedule to accommodate the time change if we do decide to do this. In addition to adding the three buses, it also shows the middle schools starting at 7:30 a.m. and would increase the number of walkers to the high school. Another option would be to move the entire fleet forward ten minutes and the middle schools would be able to start at 7:40 but then some elementary schools would start around 9:20 a.m. and that was a problem last year so there is an awful lot to think about. The cost per bus – to add – is $53,000 to $54,000. At this point Dr. Masterson got up and said that he had compiled some research and noted that the middle schools do want to support the high school. He shared the following information – research shows that middle school students will bounce back from early starts, they will go to bed at the same time as they always have but will have to get up earlier if their times are changed to the earlier start times, some of the students would have to be at the bus stops by 6:45 a.m., students would be getting up between 5:45 a.m. and 6:15 a.m. so they probably would not be eating breakfast, in the afternoon there would be a longer period of self care time (so they may be getting into trouble), only 10% of the middle schools in the nation start at 7:30 a.m. or before. He went on to say that their band program would have to start at 6:30 a.m., afterschool programs at BFN would also be effected because the students would be out earlier, and some students would be standing at the bus stops in the dark in the morning for a good portion of the school year. Mrs. Teel asked about the possibility of increasing the walking distances for the middle school students and also wanted to look into larger bus stops – depoting. Mr. Duffy concluded by saying that if the district had the money, it would great to have the high school and middle school start at the same time.

Agenda Item #11: Old Business

A. Discussion and/or Vote to Approve School Start/End Schedule with Durham School Services – Mrs. Beaulieu noted that this item would be discussion only tonight. Mrs. Beaulieu also said that there would be a special meeting regarding this item next Thursday, May 2nd. She went on to say that although the right thing to do is to change the time, the finances are just not available. Mr. Mutter noted that this is not budgeted and it would force a walking amendment and all these hurdles will be discussed at the next meeting – but he said that they need to think about getting it done right and with the constraints they have he actually does not know if this can be done. Mr. Fiorillo said he agreed with Mr. Mutter – fiscal reasons and the 268 students that would be asked to walk to school need to be considered. Mrs. Beaulieu said that the district has asked Dr. Thornton to fix the high school and our problems are always dollars, but the answer or at least one of the answers to fixing the high school is right in front of us but we are constrained constantly and she wonders when we can have a good conversation to have a great program. Mr. Mutter said that for next Thursday's meeting he would request a budget amendment request – it should be on the agenda. Mrs. Teel said that creativity takes place at the family level and that maybe we should ask the family to step up to the plate – she would rather have the families helping out and have the academics come first and have the dollars in the budget spent on the academics not the bus ride to school – she wants to put the kids first. Mr. Fiorillo asked if we would still have 300 students at the high school that need Math intervention next year and if so if we add the buses will we lose the funding for the interventionists? Dr. Thornton said they had already added the interventionists into the budget. Mr. Duffy noted that he goes back and forth; he knows it is the right thing to do but also that it will cause other problems. He went on to say that there is no more meat to cut off the bones but that if we wanted to see positive changes and immediate changes, we should make the change – but we do not have the funds available.
B. Discussion and/or Vote to Approve Envious Swimming Club Pool Proposal at CHS – Mr. Mutter said this item has been withdrawn from Fiscal Management.

Agenda Item #12: New Business

A. Discussion and/or Vote to Approve 2014-15 School Calendar – Dr. Thornton said that the district is still waiting for some testing dates from RIDE which could be in late March of 2015 which would effect the calendar so Mr. DiModica made a motion to table this item for 60 days, 2nd Mr. Salvatore, approved 7-0.
B. Discussion and/or Vote to Approve Amended Policy: 1) AA School District Legal Status – Name and Boundaries – Mrs. Teel made a motion for passage to reflect the correct legal name, 2nd Mr. Mutter, approved 7-0.
C. Discussion and/or Vote to Approve Employee Contracts for Secondary Assistant Principals (2) – Mr. Mutter noted that both contracts were in Fiscal Management earlier in the evening and he would like to make a motion to

amend both contracts to make the change (if greater) on line #6, 2nd Mr. DiModica, approved 7-0. Mr. Mutter then made a motion to approve both employee contracts as amended, 2nd Mrs. Teel, approved 7-0.

D. Discussion and/or Vote to Approve Appointment of Secondary Assistant Principals (2) – Mr. Mutter made a motion to approve the appointment of Jessie Ann Butash, Assistant Principal for Teaching and Learning at Cumberland High School, per contractual agreement, effective 7/1/2013, 2nd Mr. DiModica, approved 7-0. Mr. Mutter then made a motion to approve the appointment of Adolfo Costa, Assistant Principal for Teaching and Learning at Cumberland High School, per contractual agreement, effective 7/1/2013, 2nd Mr. Salvatore, Mr. DiModica, approved 7-0.

Agenda Item #13: Personnel Recommendations
Ms. Fogell noted that there were no recommendations this evening.

Agenda Item #14: Comments from the Public
Rene H. stated that the elementary students are up at six o'clock in the morning and if the times are adjusted they could be waiting to start school until 9:20 a.m. Also, she was concerned about the potential vacation changes to the school calendar – some families have children in different schools/districts and this could cause a problem for family vacations.
LouAnne noted that little kids are ready to be in school early, middle school kids are not ready to leave early and she believes if the times are changed that we will have a lot of tardiness and the middle school kids would be on their own for a longer period during the day. She also noted that kids between 11 and 18 years of age need to sleep later, but the younger ones can go in earlier.
Rep. McLaughlin stated that the house passed a bill tonight for mandatory fire drills – 15 of them.
Mrs. Beaulieu noted that there is a bill to accelerate the funding formula and she urges everyone to come to the state house and speak up so that it gets passed.
One member of the audience was concerned about the start times because she has three kids and she thinks that we need to do it right, with 10 buses, but she said she supports the late start but does not want to compromise the little kids.

Agenda Item #15: School Committee Comments (School Liaison Reports)
No comments at this time.

Agenda Item #16: Vote to go into Executive Session for Discussion
Dr. Thornton said there would be no Executive Session tonight.

Agenda Item #17: Adjournment
Mr. DiModica made a motion to adjourn, 2nd Mr. Salvatore, approved 7-0.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:32 p.m.

Meeting minutes respectfully submitted by Linda A. Jackvony