

UNAPPROVED

There was a special meeting of the Cumberland School Committee held on Thursday, May 2, 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. Phil Thornton, Superintendent, Atty. Stephen Adams

Agenda Item #1: Chairwoman Beaulieu convened the meeting to order at 7:00 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. Mutter, approved 6-0.

Agenda Item #4: Public Hearing

A. First Reading of Policy: 1) GCD Personnel Assignment System – Mr. Mutter said this policy was passed in the Policy Sub-Committee Meeting with a 2-0 vote – he said there were just two minor changes to the policy, one being that it needed a title and the other was a word changed under c) Layoff's.

B. Discussion of School Start/End Schedule with Durham School Services – Mr. Duffy read the following statement: After months of research and discussion on the proposal of a later start time at Cumberland High School we have come to the conclusion that a later start time at CHS would be beneficial for our students academically, medically and for their overall well-being. Research conducted on other districts clearly show later start times have an immediate and positive impact on students, and this School Committee and this community cannot afford to overlook this data.

I would first like to make clear to the community that the model presented last week was not a recommendation by the superintendent or the school committee, the model presented last week was the best model that could be created under our current budget constraints.

With that being said, the current proposal presented by Dr. Thornton last week to start later at the high school would have cascading results on the elementary schools, middle schools, high school walking distances as well as having a financial impact on the district. The proposal discussed last week to create a later start time at the high school would have in essence placed one group of students needs ahead of another group of students needs and that is not something we are prepared to do. The issue of transitioning to a later start time at the high school has made us realize we have before us a bigger issue that needs repair. The real issue we have facing us is how do we optimize start times for ALL of our students K-12 to allow for better student learning. Due to our low funding from the town we currently have a five tier bus structure in which we have elementary schools with different start times and a

high school that starts at 7am which as we have discussed in previous meeting does not meet the biological needs of high school students.

What we have today is a K-12 school start time schedule that is not optimized for learning, but is set to best allow us to stretch our transportation dollars and those days need to end. We must as a community, going forward, work collectively to create a new model of start times for all schools K-12 which takes into account our students educational needs, health needs as well as the financial implications of any changes. Parents, students, faculty, administration, town council, mayor's office school committee... all of these stakeholders should play a role in creating a start time schedule which works for everyone and first and foremost is based on education and learning and not on solely on finances.

Agenda Item #5: Public Comment

No comments at this time.

Agenda Item #6: Discussion and/or Vote to Approve First Reading of Policy:

- A. GCD Personnel Assignment System – Dr. Thornton said that prior to the second reading of this policy, it needs to be sent to RIDE for review – this policy was requested by RIDE.

Agenda Item #7: Discussion and/or Vote to Approve School Start/End Schedule with Durham School Services

Mr. Duffy made a motion to amend the document as follows: We will maintain all start times at all schools for the 2013-2014 school year to mirror the current 2012-2013 school year with continued exploration of a model to achieve an education and learning start time model for K-12 in the future. This motion was 2nd by Mr. Salvatore and Mr. DiModica, approved 6-0.

At this point Mr. Duffy noted the following before taking the formal vote: We the Cumberland School Committee recognize the importance of transitioning to a later start time at CHS for our students' health, educational needs and their general well-being.

We the Cumberland School Committee will continue to pursue a model which creates a later start time for Cumberland High School and is inclusive of all students sleep and educational needs K-12.

We the Cumberland School Committee will work collaboratively with the community, elected officials and school administration to create and recommend a new district wide model of start times and a busing model K-12 which follows best practices for learning.

Mr. Mutter made a motion to approve the start times as amended, 2nd Mr. Fiorillo, approved 6-0.

Agenda Item #8: Adjournment

Mr. Fiorillo made a motion to adjourn, 2nd Mr. DiModica, approved 6-0.

Mrs. Beaulieu recognized Councilman Schmidt and Councilman Murray.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:17 p.m.

Meeting minutes respectfully submitted by Linda A. Jackvony