

## **APPROVED-6/13/13**

There was a regular meeting of the Cumberland School Committee held on Thursday, May 23, 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:** Chairman Convenes Meeting

Chairwoman Beaulieu convened the meeting to order at 7:38 p.m. and asked for a moment of silence for Deb Martino who recently passed away. Ms. Martino was with the Cumberland School District for 25 years.

### **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:** Student Government Report

- A. Student Activities – past events included the junior prom, which was held at Kirkbrae Country Club, Week of Gratitude for the teachers and administration, Senior Grad Nite Trip to Florida. Upcoming events include class elections which will take place on 5/24, the Senior Reception at Lake Pearl, and Senior Week which will take place between 5/31 and 6/7.

### **Agenda Item #5:** Consent Agenda

- A. Approval of Minutes – Special Meeting 5/7/13 and Regular Meeting 5/9/13
- B. Approval of Minutes – Executive Session 5/7/13 and Executive Session 5/9/13 - Mr. Fiorillo made a motion to approve the consent agenda minus the Executive Session minutes for 5/9/13, which were not available for this meeting, 2<sup>nd</sup> Mr. DiModica and Mr. Salvatore, approved 6-0.

### **Agenda Item #6:** Report Out of Executive Session Meetings

- A. Report of Executive Session Meeting on 5/23/2013 – 1) Report of Executive Session Vote, 2) Vote to Seal Minutes of Executive Session – Mrs. Beaulieu noted that there was no vote taken at the meeting and Mr. DiModica made a motion to seal the minutes of the meeting, 2<sup>nd</sup> Mr. Mutter, approved 6-0.

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

- A. Recognition of Achievements
  - 1) Principal Recognition – Principal of the Year – Nidia Karbonik, Principal of Ashton Elementary School was named Rhode Island's Principal of the Year for K-5 and Dr. Richard Drolet, Principal of North Cumberland

Middle School was named Rhode Island's Principal of the Year for Middle Schools. Congratulations to Mrs. Karbonik and Dr. Drolet!!!!!!

- 2) District Teacher of the Year – Mrs. Fogell announced that the 2013 Cumberland District Teacher of the Year is Nellie Normand, Special Educator at B.F. Norton School. Ms. Normand's expertise is in supporting children with behavioral challenges and is admired for her humility, rigor and persistence.
- 3) Student Recognition – 2013 Division V Project Unify Basketball Team – Coach Mark Primiano congratulated the team and handed out certificates to the team members that were at the meeting. The following received the certificates: Tyler Avelar, Andrew Bassett, Caleb Bedard, Jeremy Godin, Vincent Grant, Kyley Laurie, Benjamin Major, Joseph Dupuis, Zachary Call-Fregeau, Aimee Malboeuf, Katherine McCaffrey, Nathaniel Rainone, David Rosa, Joseph Vela, Kevin Tobon, Coach Adam Ryder, Coach Primiano also was given a certificate. Tar Wars Poster Competition – Peg Wharton announced the winner, Robert Colomey, 2<sup>nd</sup> Place winner in the Statewide Rhode Island Medical Society's "Tar Wars Poster Competition". Mrs. Wharton presented Robert with a certificate. 2013 LeGrand Concours – Ms. Shaw announced the winners as Marc-Olivier Arcand, Paul-Hugo Arcand, Sofia Rossi and Arianna Ket. National Spanish Exam – Ms. Sara Brady announced the winners as David Cabatingan – Honorable Mention and Spohia Fernandes – Silver Medal Award. R.I. Association of School Committees Leadership Development Academy Program – Mrs. Beaulieu announced the members of the SC that recently completed this program – Craig Duffy, Mark Fiorillo and Paul DiModica.

At this point Dr. Thornton announced that Ashley Proulx, who is a teacher at Cumberland High School, received the Golden Apple Award today. Patrice Wood of Channel 10 and Commissioner Gist came and presented the award to her. Congratulations Ms. Proulx!!!!!!!

There was a five-minute recess at this point.

**Agenda Item #8:** Chairperson's Report  
There was no report given at this time.

**Agenda Item #9:** Public Hearing

A. 1<sup>st</sup> Reading of the Following Policies:

- 1) JHCC – Control of Communicable Disease – Mrs. Beaulieu said this policy was approved in sub-committee and will be on the next agenda for a reading and a vote.
- 2) IKFC – High School Proficiency Based Graduation Policy – Mrs. Beaulieu said there would be no action taken on this policy tonight.

**Agenda Item #10:** Comments from the Public

Tricia C. was very concerned about the bid review process for the Before & After School Program. She was disappointed with how it was handled – no flyer, no emails, nothing – she would like to see the process changed. She wants the parents to be involved in the process. Didn't feel like the process was transparent. Several questions need to be addressed – are professional days included and is there an additional cost, drop-off and pick-up times, can the kids opt out of structured times, any discount for additional kids, why is there a 25% discount for Cumberland School Employees, vacations weeks will cost more than they currently do, is three months enough time to hire staff and get licenses, can this bid be cancelled and re-opened?

Kerry F. said she is happy with the current program and felt like this process was handled very quietly. She said it is the parents that know what they are looking for and she has the following concerns – does the new vendor have a concrete plan for hiring and training, what is their background check policy, snow days – who does the plowing, additional charges for professional days and vacations, do they charge when the kids are not there, what is their staffing plan if someone gets sick or quits, do they provide breakfast and snacks, what happens if something goes wrong in the next six months while they have a provisional license, if the state requires any renovations to be done who will be paying for these renovations, will there be middle school care? She believes this was done too quickly, the superintendent asking the PTO presidents to keep this quiet for a day was not right, she would like the SC to give this more thought and hopefully make an informed decision.

Jodi L. said this was not a secret process. The Kid's Club and the Y knew about the bid process. The sub-committee reviewed the bids then it went to the superintendent and then went to the SC for votes – she compared this process to the same process that the Mayor would use when he is putting together his budget – and when the process is completed everyone sees the outcome.

Tricia C. thinks that the SC and parents have not been well versed in Alpha Best costs and also still believes that this was not an open process.

**Agenda Item #11:** Report of Standing Committees

- A. Payment of Bills – Mr. Mutter said there were no payments tonight.
- B. Fiscal Management Sub-Committee Update – Mr. Mutter said they met on 5/21 and discussed the CHS pool agreement (which will be discussed later on the agenda). He said they also discussed FY14 pension contributions and read the following letter from Alex Prignano:” Last week I learnt that letter sent out last November to my office from the State ERSRI that stated the pension contribution rates for Fiscal 2013 were not the 12.26 that was stated in the letter, but are in fact going to be 15.86%. The increase in the letter received did not include the new defined contribution rates but only the defined benefit portion and when I called to confirm the total rate required, there must have been some confusion with the person I spoke with as they did confirm the 12.26%

rate, but must not have felt the defined contribution portion was also what I was inquiring about. I have since learnt of this and the additional pension requirement will be over \$600,000, and when I asked why the November letter did not include the missing portion was told that those rates were set by stature and hadn't changed so they were not mentioned in the correspondence. This new rate required for pension costs will mean our contribution has gone from \$3.2 million in FY12 to approx. \$4.4 million for FY14, which seems almost unbelievable after the significant pension changes that were enacted. Finally I have received information that the rate will increase approx. another 10% for FY15. This latest information will require us to make additional budget amendments before we approve a final budget, which Dr. Thornton and I will be discussing with the SC." Mr. Mutter also said they discussed playground maintenance and rubbish and recycling at the schools.

- C. Achievement & Communications Sub-Committee Update – Mrs. Beaulieu said they met on 5/21 and reviewed the presentation for the preferred vendor for the before and after school program and that it was approved on 3-0 vote. She went on to say that more discussion and information will come later on in the agenda.
- D. Policy & Procedures Sub-Committee Update – Mr. Mutter said they met on 5/21 and approved JHCC Policy with a 2-0 vote, approved KGD with a 2-0 vote and discussed the high school proficiency based graduation policy.

**Agenda Item #12:** New Business

- A. Sodexo Education Services Appoints Facilities General Manager for the Cumberland School Department – Wayne Alexander will replace Juan Garcia as the General Manager and Facilities Manager for the Cumberland School Department. He has been with Sodexo for over five years and is very happy and excited to be starting his new position here in Cumberland. Juan Garcia has been promoted to Project Engineer – we wish them both well!
- B. Sodexo Facilities Report – April, 2013 – Wayne Alexander reviewed some projects that have been worked on – auditorium lighting replaced, installed a slide at Community School, routine plumbing maintenance, grounds maintenance/cleanup, cleaned out storage areas, routine maintenance on roof exhaust at the high school.
- C. Discussion and/or Vote to Approve Bid for CHS Pool Management Agreement – Mr. Mutter said they met on 5/21 and reviewed the recommendation from Administration but had one question regarding the CHS swim team and how they would be affected by the proposal. Dr. Thornton said that CHS swim team would get what they wanted first. Mr. Mutter said they approved this with a 3-0 vote – subject to a contract with Envious Swimming. Mr. Mutter then made a motion to approve the bid with Envious Swimming, subject to a contract, 2<sup>nd</sup> Mr. Fiorillo, approved 6-0.

D. Discussion and/or Vote to Approve Bid for Before & After School Program – Judy from Alpha Best came to the podium to answer questions from the SC. She began by showing a three-minute video of a current Alpha Best facility. She also noted that when they open facilities in various communities, they hire people from that community - so there will be all local people working at this facility. Mr. Duffy asked the following questions: Q. What is the date to obtain your license? A. R.I. Licensing said it would take about 6 weeks. Q. Rough date for when employees will be in place? A. We will advertise immediately and hire a manager first and then he will hire site managers, etc. Q. Plan for extra staff for when people are out sick or quit? A. We have contingent staff, floaters. Q. Snow day plan? A. Dr. Thornton said that plowing the facilities is the districts responsibility. Q. Discount for 3<sup>rd</sup> child? A. 10% discount for 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, etc. Q. Enrollment meter for having the program at each elementary school? A. Ten or more at each school. Q. If you don't reach that number at each school who will handle the bus costs. A. Mr. Prignano said he did not think that would be an issue, but if it does become an issue they can work it out in the contract. Q. Can a child just play and not take any enrichment opportunities? A. Kids can play – no one is forced to do anything. Q. Financial stability of Alpha Best? A. No debt, in business for 8 years. Q. Professional Development Day - extra costs? A. No additional costs if the child is enrolled for the week. Q. Vacation week pricing – different? A. Yes it is for a full week – it would be \$160 week. Q. Laptop replacement? A. Absolutely replaced. Q. Background checks? A. State and Federal. Q. Snacks provided? A. Yes, before and after. Mr. DiModica asked Dr. Thornton about the middle school kids. Dr. Thornton said this was a K-5 bid, but middle school kids would like this program so they intend to do an interest survey to explore and if it looks good the program would be offered at both middle schools. Mr. DiModica said he went online and said there were 10 complaints several years ago against Alpha Best. Judy said they haven't had any in three years. Mr. DiModica wanted to know how many they have had in 8 years of being open – Judy said she would get that information. She also noted that the beauty of being licensed is that everything is transparent. She said there was one complaint recently but it had to do with a staff member not having completed CEU's and they did correct it. Another minor issue regarding a schedule not being posted, was also corrected. A complaint from one parent in Texas that was not happy with the manager of the facility ended up with the manager being fired and the parent is now happy with the facility and the new manager. Mr. Fiorillo asked about food allergy precautions – Judy said they follow what the school does and staff members do have epi pens. Mr. Fiorillo also asked about the summer program cost and structure and Judy noted that they would need to know approximately how many families would be utilizing such a program. Mr. Fiorillo then noted that he is against the 25% discount for Cumberland School employees. Mr. Duffy asked Dr. Thornton if there was

a contingency plan if they don't get their license. Dr. Thornton said they need to apply for the license by 5/30 – there are no other options. Mr. DiModica made a motion to table this bid until the background check on Alpha Best could be completed – there was no second, so the motion failed. Mr. Mutter made a motion to approve Alpha Best, 2<sup>nd</sup> Mr. Fiorillo, Mr. Mutter noted that this process received 5 bidders and that it was on the up and up and in fact the number 2 scorer said it was an open process and they had no complaints about the process. Mr. Mutter went on to say that he had a few issues with the RFP process and some things could be changed but that there is currently no policy in place. He didn't think that people could say it was "behind closed doors" – he said that needed to be proved before someone could say it. Dr. Thornton then noted that when he met with the PTO presidents, he asked them not to spread the word because he was telling the other bidders the following morning – he wanted to be the one giving them the news – it was the fair and right thing to do. Mr. DiModica asked if the contract will come back to the SC for review and Mrs. Beaulieu said that it would. Vote taken 5-1, approved, Mr. DiModica in the negative.

- E. Discussion and/or Vote to Approve Superintendent's Goals: 1) Goal #1 – Educational Gaps in the District, 2) Goal #2 – Most Effective Personnel and 3) Goal #3 – Communicate and Advocate for the District – Mr. DiModica made a motion to accept the Superintendent's goals, 2<sup>nd</sup> Mr. Salvatore, approved 6-0.
- F. Discussion and/or Vote to Approve Amended Policy: 1) KGD – Use of School Facilities Policy – Mr. Mutter noted the only change was the custodian rate change to \$31.74. He then made a motion to approve KGD Use of School Facilities Policy, 2<sup>nd</sup> Mr. DiModica, approved 6-0.
- G. Discussion and/or Vote to Approve 1<sup>st</sup> Reading of Policies: 1) JHCC – Control of Communicable Disease – Mrs. Beaulieu noted no vote tonight, first reading and 2) IKFC – High School Proficiency Based Graduation Policy – Mrs. Beaulieu noted that this policy would not be read tonight.

**Agenda Item #13:** Personnel Recommendations

Mrs. Fogell had the following personnel recommendations:

**Appointments:**

I request the advice and consent of the School Committee on the appointment of Chris Skurka, Dean of Students & School Culture, at Cumberland High School, effective 7/1/2013. (FTE: 1.0; Step 10; Lane: Masters; Co-pay: 20.0%)

I request the advice and consent of the School Committee on the appointment of Scott Carpenter, Dean of Students & School Culture, at Cumberland High School, effective 7/1/2013. (FTE: 1.0; Step 10; Lane: n/a; Co-pay: 20.0%)

Mr. Mutter made a motion to approve appointments as presented by Mrs. Fogell, 2<sup>nd</sup> Mr. DiModica and Mr. Salvatore, approved 6-0.

**Agenda Item #14:** Comments from the Public

Brian M. was very disappointed with the decision regarding the before and after school program. He asked the SC how many of them had kids in the program - none of them do - he went on to say that he wondered how they could make a decision without the knowledge. He said they say they can do better, but it doesn't happen and decisions are still being made too quickly. Bob C. is the Executive Director at Macoll YMCA and wanted to thank the SC for the last 25 years and he then welcomed Alpha Best. He asked if their program would continue through this June and Dr. Thornton said yes it would. He thanked everyone for allowing them to bid on this job. Jennifer G. has two special need kids and loves the Y and is disappointed with the decision to go with Alpha Best. She said the Y revenue stays in Rhode Island. She thinks the SC should have met with the Y and told them what they wanted - she said she knows everyone says the decision was not made behind closed doors, but yet, none of the parents knew about it. She will continue to send her children to the Y.

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

**Agenda Item #16:** Vote to go into Executive Session

Dr. Thornton said there would be no Executive Session tonight.

**Agenda Item #17:** Adjournment

Mr. Fiorillo made a motion to adjourn, 2<sup>nd</sup> Mr. Salvatore, approved 6-0.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:37 p.m.

Meeting minutes respectfully submitted by Linda A. Jackvony