

APPROVED-10/10/2013

There was a regular meeting of the Cumberland School Committee held on Thursday, September 26, 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, Atty. Kane

Agenda Item #1: Chairperson Convenes Meeting
Chairwoman Beaulieu convened the meeting to order at 7:33 p.m.

Agenda Item #2: Pledge of Allegiance

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

Agenda Item #4: Student Government Report
A representative from student government reviewed some past events and announced some upcoming events. Past events included staff orientation – welcome breakfast for the teachers, election of officers on 9/13, first student government meeting of the year was held on 9/17. Upcoming events include Spirit Week from October 20 -26th, which includes talent show, homecoming, class colors. October 29th is the first blood drive of the year, and on November 1st collections for the turkey baskets will begin.

Agenda Item #5: Consent Agenda
A. Approval of Minutes – Regular Meeting 9/12/2013
B. Approval of Minutes – Executive Session 9/12/2013
Mr. Mutter made a motion to approve regular meeting 9/12/13 and executive session 9/12/13, 2nd Mr. Salvatore, approved 7-0.

Agenda Item #6: Report Out of Executive Session Meeting
A. Report of Executive Session Meeting on 9/26/2013 – 1) Report of Executive Session Vote – Mrs. Beaulieu said there were no votes taken at the meeting. 2) Vote to Seal Minutes of Executive Session – Mr. DiModica made a motion to seal the minutes, 2nd Mr. Mutter, approved 7-0.

Agenda Item #7: Superintendent's Report
A. Recognition of Achievement – Mr. Skitt recognized two staff members from Community School - Len Estrada and Sarah Primiano, for their role in the Jump Rope for Heart Program – they finished 1st place – statewide recognition – and raised

\$7,744. He went on to say that they are great physical education teachers and have a great repore with the students.

- B. K-5 Student Writing Exemplars – Dr. Thornton provided the SC with some examples of writing – he read a proficient example out loud and noted that Mike Chandler would be putting a template on the website so that parents, teachers and students can see what the exemplar narratives should look like – it would be what we are striving for.
- C. Residency Tip Line – Dr. Colwell noted that Mr. D’Angelis – the Attendance and Residency Officer – investigates students not living here in Cumberland and so he met with Dr. Colwell and they feel that this residency tip line will be an opportunity for residents to provide anonymous information on students that they believe are not living in Cumberland. The website will also be available to leave information. There are no start up costs for this program and Dr. Colwell said if they move forward with it they would announce it on the website and in the Valley Breeze- Dr. Colwell was basically looking for some feedback from the SC members. She went on to say that Mr. D’Angelis would be working closely with the school on all of the tips received so he is not running all over the place and chasing invalid leads – it would be good to give it a try.

Agenda Item #8: Chairperson’s Report

- A. School Committee/Town Council Collaborative Workshop – Mrs. Beaulieu said there would be a workshop on October 15th – they will be working with the Town Finance Committee and the workshop will focus on how the town committee’s can all work together to help improve our schools.

Agenda Item #9: Public Hearing

- A. 2nd Reading of the Following Policy:
 - 1) EFDA – Collection of Payment for School Meals – Mrs. Teel asked that this 2nd reading be read into the school record – Mrs. Beaulieu asked if anyone wanted to speak regarding this policy and no one did.

Agenda Item #10: Comments from the Public

No comments at this time.

Agenda Item #11: Reports of Standing Committees

- A. Payment of Bills – Mr. Mutter said there were no payments made.
- B. Fiscal Management Sub-Committee Update – Mr. Mutter said they met this past Tuesday at 5:30 p.m. they discussed SC-R-2013-16 Communications Coordinator Stipend and SC-R-2013-17 Designated Capital Funds – which was removed from consideration, and they also discussed the job descriptions.
- C. Policy and Procedures Sub-Committee Update – Mr. Mutter said they met last Tuesday and discussed the religious holiday policy and the audits policy.
- D. Achievement & Communications Sub-Committee Update – Mrs. Beaulieu said at the last meeting they discussed professional development opportunities, K-5 math experiences, common planning time, curriculum planning time, calendar of activities (keep up with activities in the district).

Agenda Item #12: Old Business

- A. Discussion and/or Vote to Approve the Following Job Descriptions: 1) Clerk, Accounts Payable, 2) Clerk, Purchasing, 3) Clerk, Payroll, 4) Statistical Clerk, 5) Senior Accountant, 6) Building Secretary – Mr. Mutter said that the job descriptions passed in Fiscal Management with a 3-0 vote and with that recommended passage, 2nd Mr. Fiorillo, approved 7-0.

Agenda Item #13: New Business

- A. NECAP Science Score Results – Spring 2013 – Mr. Mitchell noted that Science NECAPs are given in the springtime. He received the scores last week for grades 4, 8 and 11. Both middle schools showed improvement, the high school had a 4% decrease and the elementary schools had decreases as well. McCourt Middle School had a 7point gain (teachers are using Gems-net). North Cumberland Middle had a 4% improvement – Mrs. Coughlin will work with MMS, the staff at the high school has already met and is working on an action plan, all elementary schools are analyzing the results and have also had meetings to determine what needs to happen to turn the results around. Mr. Mitchell said that the Gems-net program needs to be implemented with fidelity. He also said that he thinks the elementary schools are struggling with time – fitting Science into the schedule is a problem. Administration will be looking at this problem and he also said that principals will be randomly interviewing students and will be checking their notebooks. They would also be looking into teaming teachers and establishing a schedule for Science – he will also consider sending a team of 4th grade teachers to a district that is doing well and review what they are doing. Gems-net is also concerned about the results and has been consulting with the district and reviewing the scores. Mr. Mitchell did say that after speaking with some of his colleagues he discovered that most of the districts that use Gems-net did well. Dr. Thornton noted that some schools went up so he knows that we can do it – and they will do what they can to get there. Mr. Salvatore stated that he wants the district to be pro-active on this and wanted to make sure that the teachers are teaching the right material. Mr. Mitchell noted that NECAP is just one measure – teachers give multiple assessments over the year and everything needs to be looked at. Mr. Mutter noted that he remembered that this plagued the district a couple of years ago and wondered if the numbers from elementary to middle could even be corrected. Dr. Thornton said they could be corrected and Mr. Mitchell said that good teachers can move the students up – it can be done. Mr. Mitchell also noted that the inquiry piece of the testing seems to be the problem but that it was being addressed by the district and by the Gems-net.
- B. Discussion and/or Vote to Approve Employment Contract for Preschool Administrator – Mr. Mutter said that the contract was approved in Fiscal Management with a 3-0 vote and with that he recommended passage, 2nd Mr. Fiorillo, (position went from .8 to 1.0) approved 7-0.
- C. Discussion and/or Vote to Approve Overnight Student Field Trips: 1) South Africa 2015 – Ashley Proulx was at the meeting and brought information regarding the trip – places to be visited, itinerary, pricing, fund raising information, chaperones, parents, vaccinations, answered several questions and provided a vast amount of information. She said the trip is open to all of student body, but usually one bus of

50 students is the norm. Mr. Salvatore made a motion to approve the trip, 2nd Mr. Fiorillo, approved 7-0.

- D. Discussion and/or Vote to Approve Home School Instruction Requests 2013-2014 School Year – Mr. Mitchell recommended approval as presented and with that Mrs. Teel made a motion to approve, 2nd Mr. Mutter and Mr. Fiorillo, approved 7-0.
- E. Discussion and/or Vote to Approve Resolution SC-R-2013-16 – Communications Coordinator Stipend – Mr. Mutter said the resolution was approved in Fiscal Management and recommended passage, 2nd Mr. DiModica, approved 7-0.
- F. Discussion and/or Vote to Approve Resolution SC-R-2013-17 – Designated Capital Funds – Mr. Mutter said this was discussed in Fiscal Management and asked for this to be withdrawn, he said they talked about it but they do not want to move forward with it. Mrs. Beaulieu asked Atty. Kane what the SC had to do – anything in particular – he responded and Mr. Mutter made a motion to withdraw the SC-R-2013-17, 2nd Mrs. Teel, approved 7-0.
- G. Discussion and/or Vote to Approve Amended Policies: 1) DI – Fiscal Accounting & Reporting and 2) DIE – Audits – Mr. Mutter said there was nothing presented in the policy sub committee meeting regarding DI, but that DIE was passed in the meeting with a 2-0 vote, so Mr. Mutter recommended passage of DIE-Audits, 2nd Mr. Salvatore, approved 7-0.
- H. Discussion and/or Vote to Approve 2nd Reading and Final Approval of Policy: 1) EFDA – Collection of Payment for School Meals – Mrs. Teel made a motion to approve, she said the policy was approved in sub committee 2-0, 2nd Mr. Mutter, approved 7-0.

Agenda Item #14: Personnel Recommendations

Mrs. Fogell had the following personnel recommendations:

Revised 9.25.13

Resignations

I request the advice and consent of the School Committee on the resignation of **Jane Lazaras**, Special Educator, Cumberland High School, effective 9/27/2013.

I request the advice and consent of the School Committee on the resignation of **Manuel Santos**, Custodian, North Cumberland Middle School, effective 10/02/2013.

Mr. DiModica made a motion to accept the resignations, 2nd Mrs. Teel, approved 7-0.

Appointments

I request the advice and consent of the School Committee on the appointment of **Sheila Gonzalez**, Teacher Assistant – ELL, B.F. Norton Elementary School, effective 9/23/2013. **(FTE: 1.0; Step n/a; Lane: n/a; Co-pay: 11.0%; budgeted).**

I request the advice and consent of the School Committee on the appointment of **John Hoxsie**, Girls JV Soccer Coach, at **Cumberland High School**, effective **9/28/2013. (budgeted)**

I request the advice and consent of the School Committee on the appointment of **Shannon McClure**, Science Teacher, Cumberland High School, effective 9/30/2013. **(FTE: 0.8; Step 3; Lane: n/a; Co-pay: 21.0%; budgeted).**

I request the advice and consent of the School Committee on the appointment of **Katie Vespia**, Girls Soccer Head Coach, at **Joseph L. McCourt Middle School**, effective 9/28/2013. **(budgeted)**

Mr. Mutter made a motion to approve the appointments, 2nd Mrs. Teel, approved 7-0.

Agenda Item #15: Comments from the Public
No comments at this time.

Agenda Item #16: School Committee Comments (School Liaison Reports)

Mr. Fiorillo said that on 10/23/13 at 6 p.m. at the Haven Center, the first meeting of the Special Education Committee will be held. Mr. Duffy said that the Science numbers are troubling – wondering if we are trying to do too much at once and we are missing on filling some of the holes. Mr. DiModica said that we have great PTO's in this town and that the Valley Breeze did not get it right in one of their recent articles – he said our parents are involved!

Agenda Item #17: Vote to go into Executive Session for Discussion on Items Referred to in R.I.G.L. 42-46-5 – Mrs. Beaulieu said there would not be any executive session tonight.

Agenda Item #18: Adjournment

Mr. Mutter made a motion to adjourn, 2nd Mrs. Teel, approved 7-0.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:54 p.m.

Meeting minutes respectfully submitted by Linda A. Jackvony