

## **UNAPPROVED**

There was a regular meeting of the Cumberland School Committee held on Thursday, October 10, 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, Ray Salvatore

**Administration Present:** Dr. Phil Thornton, Superintendent, Atty. Stephen Adams

**Agenda Item #1:** Chairperson Convenes Meeting  
Chairwoman Beaulieu convened the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

**Agenda Item #2:** Pledge of Allegiance

**Agenda Item #3:** Approval of Agenda  
Mr. DiModica made a motion to approve the agenda, 2<sup>nd</sup> Mrs. Teel, approved 7-0.

**Agenda Item #4:** Consent Agenda

- A. Approval of Minutes – Regular Meeting 9/26/2013
- B. Approval of Minutes – Executive Session 9/26/2013
- C. Enrollment Report – 10/1/2013
- D. Truancy/Residency Report – 10/1/2013
- E. School Police Report – 9/1/2013

Mr. Fiorillo made a motion to approve the consent agenda, 2<sup>nd</sup> Mrs. Teel, approved 7-0.

**Agenda Item #5:** Report Out of Executive Session Meeting

- A. Report of Executive Session Meeting on 10/10/2013
  - 1) Report of Executive Session Vote – Mrs. Beaulieu said there were no votes taken. 2) Student Hearing Decision – no action taken on the student hearing. 3) Vote to Seal Minutes of Executive Session – Mrs. Teel made a motion to seal the minutes, 2<sup>nd</sup> Mr. Duffy and Mr. DiModica, approved 6-1 – Mr. Mutter voting in the negative.

**Agenda Item #6:** Superintendent's Report

- A. Wireless Initiative Update – Dr. Thornton reported that Mike Chandler and Alex Prignano met with RIDE and opened the bids for Cumberland and they are now hoping to secure a vendor in the next few weeks.
- B. NECAP Fall Testing – Dr. Thornton reviewed the testing schedule for the month of October.
- C. Discussion of Book – “Every Child, Every Day: A Digital Conversion Model for Student Achievement” – Dr. Thornton gave copies of this book – from a superintendent in South Carolina – to the members of the SC and they will be discussing this book periodically.

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

No report at this time.

**Agenda Item #8:** Comments from the Public

David W. was concerned about the attendance policy at the high school – he said to obtain an excused absence with a doctor's note could cost families up to \$100 if they do not have health coverage. He would like to see the policy re-visited.

Jason A. spoke about the new curriculum and the grading system. He has two children – one in the first grade and one in the fourth. He said that based on what his children are bringing home and what he has seen, he believes the grading system has unrealistic high expectations – he believes the only way a student can get a good score is if they get a perfect score – everything correct – always. He wondered how the kids would be grouped when they get to the middle school if they are all getting 2's and 3's – how will they be broken out - they will all have the same numbers.

Also, he mentioned that he thought that three different curriculums for Math in five years is too much – too many changes – no consistency – also disagreed with the amount of time 4<sup>th</sup> grade Math homework is taking. The Reading Street program was successful and the kids enjoyed it and were doing well and he stated that he disagrees with the new reading curriculum – the old one was successful and now it is going away – he believes the district is fixing things that are not broken.

Robert M. told the SC that his summer packet had material in it from the year before – nothing to prepare him for this year's curriculum.

Karen M. is concerned over the Math program – she said papers are coming home with no examples on them, teachers are sending home the answer keys so that parents can correct and review. She believes there is a lack of communication – she was under the impression that Engage NY was on hold. She also noted that Reading Street was showing results and now it is being switched.

**Agenda Item #9:** Reports of Standing Committees

- A. Payment of Bills – Mr. Mutter made a motion to pay invoices totaling \$1,357,449.76, 2<sup>nd</sup> Mr. Fiorillo, approved 7-0.
- B. Fiscal Management Sub-Committee Update – Mr. Mutter noted that the committee met Tuesday and discussed some invoices, SC-R-2013-17, the Confidential Administrative Assistant to the Director of Human Resources contract, and the bidding policy.
- C. Policy & Procedures Sub-Committee Update – Mrs. Teel noted that the committee met on 9/10 and discussed the DJA policy and said they amended the current policy but agreed that it still needs more work, they also discussed the electronics policy and need to make changes to it, and there are 54 policies that need to be reviewed and she said some can be deleted but the committee will try to meet every two weeks to get through them.
- D. Achievement & Communications Sub-Committee Update – Mrs. Beaulieu stated that the committee discussed the Science scores at the elementary level and met with the building principals to discuss and they will be meeting again very soon to get an update on what is being done.

**Agenda Item #10:** Old Business

- A. School Safety (Interior/Exterior Doors) Update – Dr. Thornton noted that the district is working with a vendor and that the vendor has confirmed the districts review of information from last winter – quotes should be available in a couple of weeks – there is a bond process for the funding, but Dr. Thornton is hoping to start the project during the winter. There are 286 interior doors that need to be replaced, exterior doors and also locksets. By June the project should be well underway. The state will be reimbursing the district 40 cents on the dollar.
- B. Discussion and/or Vote to Approve Resolution SC-R-2013-17:  
Designated Capital Funds – Mr. Mutter stated that Fiscal Management had made some changes to this resolution and that it passed with a 2-0 vote and made a motion to recommend passage, 2<sup>nd</sup> Mr. DiModica, approved 7-0.

**Agenda Item #11:** New Business

- A. Engage NY Math Mini-Lesson Presentation – Ms. Johnson gave a quick presentation of what the students are currently learning – she began by showing everyone the “white board” that they use in class – the white side is for when the students are working and the red side means that they are finished with the assignment. She said that each lesson in Engage NY has an application problem – she gave an example of a word problem – next she showed an example of concept development, she said that different strategies are being taught and that at the end of the day there is an exit problem given to the students so that the student and the teacher feels comfortable with what they have learned that day.
- B. Discussion and/or Vote to Approve the Employment contract for the Confidential Administrative Assistant to the Director of Human Resources – Mr. Mutter said this was passed in Fiscal Management with a 3-0 vote and made a motion to pass, 2<sup>nd</sup> Mr. Fiorillo, Mr. Mutter noted that the contract follows GCB and all other applicable policies of the Cumberland School Department, motion approved 7-0.
- C. Discussion and/or Vote to Approve the Appointment of Confidential Administrative Assistant to the Director of Human Resources – Mr. Mutter made a motion to approve, 2<sup>nd</sup> Mrs. Teel, approved 7-0.
- D. Discussion and/or Vote to Approve Home School Instruction Requests 2013-2014 School Year – Dr. Thornton recommended approval as indicated, Mr. Mutter made a motion to approve, 2<sup>nd</sup> Mr. DiModica, Mr. Fiorillo asked if steps are being taken to make sure that they get what they need if the kids are being home schooled and Dr. Thornton said he has no authority over it in terms of rigor, but that the district does work with the families – motion was approved 7-0.
- E. Discussion and/or Vote to Approve Amended Policy: 1) DJA – Purchasing Authority Policy – Mrs. Teel made a motion to table this policy so that it could go back to Fiscal and Policy, 2<sup>nd</sup> Mr. Salvatore, approved 7-0.

**Agenda Item #12:** Personnel Recommendations

Dr. Lisa Colwell had the following personnel recommendations:

Revised: 10/10/13

### **Appointments**

I request the advice and consent of the School Committee on the appointment of [Linda Jackvony](#), Special Education Clerk, Cumberland High School, effective 10/14/2013. **(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 [Michael Forrest](#), Special Educator, Cumberland High School, effective 10/11/2013. **(FTE: 1.0; Step 1; Lane: Masters; Co-pay: 21.0%; budgeted).**

I request the advice and consent of the School Committee on the appointment of [Malinda DeWaele](#), Interdisciplinary Coordinator for STEM at Cumberland High School, effective 9/30/2013. **(FTE: 1.0; Step 4; Lane: n/a; Co-pay: 21.0%; stipend \$7,000.00; budgeted)**

### **Middle School Team Leaders for the 2013-14 School Year**

I request the advice and consent of the School Committee on the appointment of Kimberly Slowik, Team Leader, McCourt Middle School, effective 10/15/2013. **(FTE: 1.0; Step 10; Lane: n/a; Co-pay: 21.0%; stipend \$500.00; budgeted)**

I request the advice and consent of the School Committee on the appointment of Mary Ann Guerin, Team Leader, McCourt Middle School, effective 10/15/2013. **(FTE: 1.0; Step 10; Lane: n/a; Co-pay: 21.0%; stipend \$500.00; budgeted)**

I request the advice and consent of the School Committee on the appointment of Marilyn Ackaway, Team Leader, McCourt Middle School, effective 10/15/2013. **(FTE: 1.0; Step 10; Lane: n/a; Co-pay: 21.0%; stipend \$500.00; budgeted)**

I request the advice and consent of the School Committee on the appointment of Karen Brodeur, Team Leader, McCourt Middle School, effective 10/15/2013. **(FTE: 1.0; Step 10; Lane: n/a; Co-pay: 21.0%; stipend \$500.00; budgeted)**

I request the advice and consent of the School Committee on the appointment of Rhonda Silva, Team Leader, McCourt Middle School, effective 10/15/2013. **(FTE: 1.0; Step 10; Lane: n/a; Co-pay: 21.0%; stipend \$500.00; budgeted)**

I request the advice and consent of the School Committee on the appointment of Holly St. Pierre, Team Leader, McCourt Middle School, effective 10/15/2013. **(FTE: 1.0; Step 10; Lane: n/a; Co-pay: 21.0%; stipend \$500.00; budgeted)**

I request the advice and consent of the School Committee on the appointment of Kyle Santos, Team Leader, McCourt Middle School, effective 10/15/2013. **(FTE: 1.0; Step 9; Lane: n/a; Co-pay: 21.0%; stipend \$500.00; budgeted)**

Middle School Team Leaders for the 2013-14 School Year (continued)

I request the advice and consent of the School Committee on the appointment of Jane Paquet, Team Leader, North Cumberland Middle School, effective **10/15/2013**.  
**(FTE: 1.0; Step 10; Lane: n/a; Co-pay: 21.0%; stipend \$500.00; budgeted)**

I request the advice and consent of the School Committee on the appointment of Kim Gaboury, Team Leader, North Cumberland Middle School, effective **10/15/2013**.  
**(FTE: 1.0; Step 10; Lane: n/a; Co-pay: 21.0%; stipend \$500.00; budgeted)**

I request the advice and consent of the School Committee on the appointment of Conor Geary, Team Leader, North Cumberland Middle School, effective **10/15/2013**.  
**(FTE: 1.0; Step 9; Lane: n/a; Co-pay: 21.0%; stipend \$500.00; budgeted)**

I request the advice and consent of the School Committee on the appointment of Sarah McLellan, Team Leader, North Cumberland Middle School, effective **10/15/2013**.  
**(FTE: 1.0; Step 6; Lane: n/a; Co-pay: 21.0%; stipend \$500.00; budgeted)**

I request the advice and consent of the School Committee on the appointment of Jean Therien, Team Leader, North Cumberland Middle School, effective **10/15/2013**.  
**(FTE: 1.0; Step 10; Lane: n/a; Co-pay: 21.0%; stipend \$500.00; budgeted)**

I request the advice and consent of the School Committee on the appointment of Kayla Emery, Team Leader, North Cumberland Middle School, effective **10/15/2013**.  
**(FTE: 1.0; Step 4; Lane: n/a; Co-pay: 21.0%; stipend \$500.00; budgeted)**

I request the advice and consent of the School Committee on the appointment of Keith Colwell, Team Leader, North Cumberland Middle School, effective **10/15/2013**.  
**(FTE: 1.0; Step 6; Lane: n/a; Co-pay: 21.0%; stipend \$500.00; budgeted)**

Mr. Fiorillo made a motion to approve personnel recommendations as presented by Dr. Colwell, 2<sup>nd</sup> Mrs. Teel, approved 7-0.

**Agenda Item #13:** Comments from the Public

Jason A. commented about the Engage NY Math mini lesson that was presented earlier – he said it took 10 minutes to solve the problem and he was flabbergasted as to how the children are learning Math.

Mrs. A. remembered a remark from Mr. Duffy two weeks ago where he said he wondered if there were too many projects going at one time – she has four kids in the school system and she said she has had all kinds of issues – said she had to sign a schedule last year without knowing all the information, AP books were not distributed to the 8<sup>th</sup> graders at the end of the year so they could prepare for their freshman classes, she has college admissions concerns, she thought standard based grading was supposed to be held back, she believes that decisions are being made that are manipulating the children's records, hoping that the SC will back off the standards based grading.

Mrs. H. asked the SC and administration to slow down; she believes the standards based grading is hurting the kids. She went on to say that a lot of parents are upset and some students are feeling bad about their grades. Grades vs. NECAP issues, the only way to know if the curriculum is working is to not change the grading system, everything cannot change.

Mrs. J. brought an article on standards based grading from an administrations point of view – she read some comments/opinions and finished by saying that this could be a fad and that it should be well thought out.

**Agenda Item #14:** School Committee Comments (School Liaison Reports)  
There were no comments at this time.

**Agenda Item #15:** 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 an Executive Session tonight.

**Agenda Item #16:** Adjournment  
Mr. DiModica made a motion to adjourn, 2<sup>nd</sup> Mr. Fiorillo, approved 7-0.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Meeting minutes respectfully submitted by Linda A. Jackvony