

UNAPPROVED

There was a regular meeting of the Cumberland School Committee held on Thursday, October 24, 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, Robert Mitchell, Assistant Superintendent, Atty. Stephen Adams

Agenda Item #1: Chairperson Convenes Meeting
Chairwoman Beaulieu convened the meeting to order at 7:48 p.m.

Agenda Item #2: Pledge of Allegiance

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

Agenda Item #4: Consent Agenda
A. Approval of Minutes – Regular Meeting 10/10/2013
B. Approval of Minutes – Executive Session 10/10/2013
Mr. Mutter made a motion to approve regular meeting minutes 10/10/2013 and executive session 10/10/2013, 2nd Mr. Duffy, approved 7-0.

Agenda Item #5: Report Out of Executive Session Meeting
A. Report of Executive Session Meeting on 10/24/2013 – 1) Report of Executive Session Vote – Mrs. Beaulieu stated that there were two hearings – Student 1 hearing, SC voted 7-0 denied the parent’s request. Student 2 hearing, SC voted 4-3, denied the parent’s request – Mr. Duffy, Mr. Salvatore and Mr. Fiorillo voted no. Mr. DiModica made a motion to seal the minutes of the executive session, 2nd Mr. Fiorillo, approved 7-0.

Agenda Item #6: Superintendent’s Report
A. Investigation – 1) Energy Management Systems – Dr. Thornton noted that he and Alex Prignano have been working with an outside vendor that has gone through all of our buildings and has made suggestions as to how we can modernize our systems – computerize the systems and save the district a lot of money. Alex stated they would like to ask the town for a two million dollar lease to buy new boilers, new hot water heaters, etc., to modernize what we currently have – the goal would be to borrow the money, make the improvements and continue to budget one million dollars each year for utility costs, but only use \$800,000 of it and put the remaining funds on the lease payment. According to the vendor the district should save a considerable amount of money so that is why the district would not be

- utilizing the entire one million dollars in the budget. The firm has reviewed the districts energy bills and buildings and they are predicting a 20% cost savings – Dr. Thornton and Alex have already spoken with Mayor McKee and the finance director – the SC members were given a booklet of information for their review. Mrs. Teel asked about air conditioning in some of the schools and Alex noted that this would be on existing equipment only. Mr. Salvatore asked about the Wellness Center – considering that it is not too old – and Alex said that the review of all the buildings and recommendations would be available from the vendor.
- B. Hassenfeld Institute for Public Leadership at Bryant University – 1) Annual Leadership Conference – October 29th – Dr. Thornton reminded everyone of this event and commented what a great event it is.

Agenda Item #7: Chairperson’s Report

- A. School Committee/Town Council Collaborative Workshop – Mrs. Beaulieu commented about the large turnout at the meeting – the meeting was to talk about leverage opportunities to work together – school budgets, shared services, etc, some SC and TC members were paired up to work together on some of these issues.

At this time Atty. Stephen Adams wanted to take a few moments to talk about the public comment portion of the SC meetings. He started off by saying that the SC meetings were open to the public but they were not a public meeting. The SC body is doing SC business during this meeting – they have an agenda – they are not permitted to take action on something if it is not on the agenda – public comment section means that someone can get up and say anything (within reason) that they want to say – even if it is not on the agenda, the public can still talk about it – if they want the SC to discuss a particular item they can send a written request to the SC members and ask that the item be put on the agenda – the SC does appreciate everyone’s comments – if they spoke on everything, their business would not get done. The SC can be contacted by email or phone.

Agenda Item #8: Comments from the Public

Mrs. A. said that she attended the Achievement & Communications Sub-Committee meeting where standards based grading for the middle schools was being discussed and when she left that meeting she had a list of questions and tonight she read them to everyone and she will also be sending the list of questions to the SC members so that she can get some answers.

Agenda Item # 9: Reports of Standing Committees

- A. Payment of Bills – Mr. Mutter stated that there were no payments tonight.
- B. Fiscal Management Sub-Committee Update – Mr. Mutter said that the sub-committee met October 22nd and discussed the Sodexo report, DJA policy, SC-PR-10-2013-05 recommended passage, SC-R-2013-18 recommended passage subject to questioning whether or not a building committee is needed, Information Technology Manager approved.

- C. Policy & Procedures Sub-Committee Update – Mrs. Teel noted that the sub-committee met on October 22nd and reviewed several policies – they started with a 167 policies to review and are down to 33 – she thanked everyone for their help, also discussed DJA policy. They will meet once in November.
- D. Achievement & Communications Sub-Committee Update – Mrs. Beaulieu noted that the sub-committee met on October 22nd and discussed standards based grading at the middle school level.

Agenda Item #10: New Business

- A. Discussion and/or Vote to Approve Employment Contract for Information Technology Manager – Dr. Thornton said the new manager is Phil Sawyer – Mr. Mutter made a motion to approve the employment contract for the Information Technology Manager (18 month contract), 2nd Mr. Fiorillo, approved 7-0.
- B. Discussion and/or Vote to Approve Appointment of Information Technology Manager – Mr. DiModica made a motion to approve the appointment of the Information Technology Manager, 2nd Mr. Fiorillo, approved 7-0.
- C. Discussion and/or Vote to Approve Home School Instruction Requests 2013-2014 School Year – Dr. Thornton said there were none this evening.
- D. Discussion and/or Vote to Approve Resolution SC-R-2013-18: Town Master Lease Reimbursement for School Security – Mr. Mutter made a motion to approve SC-R-2013-18, 2nd Mr. DiModica, approved 7-0.
- E. Discussion and/or Vote to Approve Resolution: SC-PR-10-2013-05: Installation of Exterior Lighting at Cumberland High School – Mr. Mutter made a motion to approve SC-PR-10-2013-05, 2nd Mrs. Teel and Mr. DiModica, approved 7-0.
- F. Discussion and/or Vote to Approve Amending the Following Policy: 1) DJA-Purchasing Authority – Mrs. Teel noted that this policy needs two readings, she also noted that it was accepted as amended in sub-committee, this is the 2nd reading – Mr. Mutter read the changes – Mrs. Beaulieu asked if anyone wanted to speak regarding this policy and no one did. This policy will be on the next agenda.
- G. Discussion and/or Vote to Approve on Deleting the Following Policies: 1) DI – Fiscal Account and Reporting, 2) GCMA – Criminal Identification Records, 3) ICA – School Calendar, 4) IGDJA-AC – Title IX in the Health and Athletic Departments, 5) IHB – Superintendent’s Recommendation for Class Size, 6) IHBA – Class Size – Mrs. Teel made a motion to delete the policies as listed, 2nd Mr. Salvatore, approved 7-0.

Agenda Item # 11: Personnel Recommendations

Mrs. Fogell had the following personnel recommendations:

Appointments

I request the advice and consent of the School Committee on the appointment of Christina Begin, Special Educator, B.F. Norton Elementary School, effective 10/22/2013. **(FTE: 0.5; Step 1; Lane: n/a; Co-pay: 21.0%; budgeted).**

I request the advice and consent of the School Committee on the appointment of Nicholas Oliveira, Special Educator, John J. McLaughlin Cumberland Hill Elementary, effective 10/21/2013 for the remainder of the 2013-2014 school year. **(FTE: 1.0; Step 1; Lane: n/a; Co-pay: 21.0%; budgeted).**

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

Agenda Item #12: Comments from the Public

No comments at this time.

Agenda Item #13: School Committee Comments (School Liaison Reports)

Mr. Salvatore noted that on October 25th there would be a Halloween event at Ashton School. He also said that on November 4th the Harlem Wizards would be at the Wellness Center – great event – tickets can be bought in advance and at the door.

Mr. Fiorillo noted that on October 23rd the Special Education Adv. Committee met – they set up objectives and by-laws. November 20th is the next meeting. Special thanks to Dr. Colwell for all of her help and input with this committee.

Agenda Item #14: Vote to go into Executive Session for Discussion on Items Referred to in R.I.G.L. 42-46-5

Dr. Thornton said there would not be any executive session tonight.

Agenda Item #15: Adjournment

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

The meeting was adjourned at 8:39 p.m.

Meeting minutes respectfully submitted by Linda A. Jackvony