

APPROVED – 12/12/2013

There was a regular meeting of the Cumberland School Committee held on Thursday, November 14, 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. Stephen Adams

Agenda Item #1: Chairperson Convenes Meeting
Chairwoman Beaulieu called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m.

Agenda Item #2: Pledge of Allegiance

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

Agenda Item #4: Student Government Report

- A. Student Activities – Past activities included Spirit Week in October – everyone was well behaved and had a good time and the seniors won the Spirit Award! The blood drive was a success – 62 pints of blood were donated. Turkey basket drive is ongoing until 11/25, baskets will be donated to approximately 170 needy families. November 21st is the Junior Ring Ceremony. Teddy Bear raffle will be held again this year and proceeds will go to the Make a Wish Foundation. Adopt a family will also be done again this year and in addition to getting their wish list fulfilled, the families will also be getting a complete turkey dinner.

Agenda Item #5: Consent Agenda

- A. Approval of Minutes – Regular Meeting 10/24/2013
- B. Approval of Minutes – Executive Session 10/24/2013
- C. Enrollment Report – 11/1/2013
- D. Truancy/Residency Report – 11/1/2013
- E. School Police Report – 10/1/2013

Mr. Mutter made a motion to approve the consent agenda, 2nd Mr. Fiorillo and Mrs. Teel, approved 7-0.

Agenda Item #6: Report Out of Executive Session Meeting

- A. Report of Executive Session Meeting on 11/14/2013 – 1) Report of Executive Session Vote – Mrs. Beaulieu noted that there were no votes taken. 2) Student Hearing Decision – SC voted 6-1, Mr. Mutter in the negative. 3) Vote to Seal Minutes of Executive Session – Mr. DiModica and Mrs. Teel made a motion to seal the minutes, 2nd Mr. Fiorillo, approved 7-0.

Agenda Item #7: Superintendent's Report

- A. Schedule Workshop for Discussion of Book – “Every Child, Every Day: A Digital Conversion Model for Student Achievement” – Dr. Thornton said he would like to schedule some time with the SC members to have a conversation regarding this book – it coincides with the wireless grant money that Cumberland will be

receiving shortly – final approval was given earlier in the day for \$131,000 – Mike Chandler said they would be starting Christmas week.

Agenda Item #8: Chairperson's Report

Mrs. Beaulieu said she had no report this evening.

Agenda Item #9: Comments from the Public

Ariel commented on the standards based grading – the rubrics are unclear, there is grading inequality, top performers are not being treated fairly, could cause issues with class rank/colleges, seems like top performers have no where to go – impossible to get a 4.

Several other students got up to speak and were also opposed to standards based grading – other comments included – rubrics being an issue, some teachers are grading differently than other teachers, standards based grading benefits lower achieving students, students are not understanding the rubrics at all, no details or information regarding the rubrics before a test, teachers are not consistent, what happens after you receive a 4 on the pre-test, do you have to take the actual test also.

Emily A. noted that the number of items wrong can be 5 for one student or 3 for another but they still get the same grade – this type of grading is not fair and it is very confusing for colleges, lower achievers are getting the same grades as the top achievers.

Ms. K. said that the grading was inconsistent – all teachers are not grading the same way. Ms. L. said that her sister graduated at the top of her class and she would like to follow in her footsteps but with standards based grading she cannot.

Jennifer A. spoke for her son and noted that colleges will not see the difference in students grades, so this is a competitive disadvantage for the students, also she asked what the benefits were of the 4-3-2-1 report card – any benefits for the students? If there were, she would like to see them posted somewhere.

Agenda Item #10: Reports of Standing Committees

- A. Payments of Bills – Mr. Mutter made a motion to pay invoices in the amount of \$1,560,819.18, 2nd Mr. DiModica, approved 7-0.
- B. Fiscal Management Sub-Committee Update – Mr. Mutter said that the FM sub-committee met earlier in the evening and discussed the energy analysis from Siemens Industry.
- C. Policy & Procedures Sub-Committee Update – Mrs. Teel said they did not meet tonight but would be meeting next month.
- D. Achievement & Communications Sub-Committee Update – Mrs. Beaulieu encouraged everyone to attend one of the A&C sub-committee meetings because they are discussing standards based grading and would like everyone to comment. The committee will meet in December.

Agenda Item #11: Old Business

- A. Discussion and/or Vote to Approve Amended Policy: 1) DJA – Purchasing Authority Policy – Mrs. Teel made a motion to approve as amended, 2nd Mr. Fiorillo and Mr. Mutter, approved 7-0.

Agenda Item #12: New Business

- A. Discussion and/or Vote to Approve Deleting the Following Policies:
 - 1) IIAA Challenged Materials
 - 2) IIAA Textbook Modernization
 - 3) IIAA Textbook Selection and Adoption

- 4) IIAC-IIAB-KLB Challenged Materials
- 5) IICB Community Resource Persons
- 6) IM Evaluation of Instructional Programs
- 7) IND Religious Ceremonies
- 8) JHA Student Insurance Policy
- 9) JN Student Fees, Fines and Charges

Mr. Salvatore noted that some of these policies were antiquated and redundant and Mrs. Teel said that some of them were combined into other policies. Mr. DiModica made a motion to delete the policies as read, 2nd Mr. Salvatore, approved 7-0.

- B. Discussion and/or Vote to Approve Overnight Student Field Trips: 1) CHS Disney Grad Nite – Orlando, FL – April 2014 – Miss Ward noted that this trip has been happening since 1989 and only students with good grades and attendance and positive behavior are allowed to go. The students conduct various fundraisers to lower the costs of the trip – currently it is \$1,200 but this cost should go down. Students must come in to school the next day – on time – or they will spoil it for next year’s class. Mr. Fiorillo made a motion to approve CHS Disney Grad Nite, 2nd Mr. Salvatore, approved 7-0. 2) National Music Festival – Annapolis, MD – April 2014 – Ms. Ducharme said the students would be competing in April – it is a national competition and this is the first time that CHS would be going. Cost is approximately \$500 per student but fundraisers should lower the cost. She is hoping for 75 students to go and there would be at least 10 chaperones. Mr. Mutter made a motion to approve the National Music Festival trip, 2nd Mr. Duffy, approved 7-0.
- C. Discussion and/or Vote to Approve Home School Instruction Requests 2013-2014 School Year – Mr. Mutter made a motion to approve, 2nd Mrs. Teel, approved 7-0.

Agenda Item #13: Personnel Recommendations

Mrs. Fogell requested the following personnel recommendations:

Revised-11/14/13

Appointments

I request the advice and consent of the School Committee on the appointment of **Kyle Black, Boys & Girls Head Swim Coach, at Cumberland High School, effective 12/2/2013. (budgeted)**

I request the advice and consent of the School Committee on the appointment of **Brien Keller, Girls Head Basketball Coach, at North Cumberland Middle School, effective 11/7/2013. (budgeted)**

I request the advice and consent of the School Committee on the appointment of **Erica Pagano, Teacher Assistant, at JJM Cumberland Hill School, effective 11/14/2013. (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 **Jillian Pullano, Elementary Teacher Grade 4, one year position at Community School, effective 11/12/2013. (FTE: 1.0; Step 1; Lane: n/a; Co-pay: 21.0%; budgeted)**

Resignation

I request the advice and consent of the School Committee on the resignation of **Scott Carpenter, Girls Lacrosse Head Coach, at Cumberland High School, effective 11/12/2013. (budgeted)**

Mr. DiModica made a motion to approve the personnel recommendations as presented, 2nd Mr. Salvatore, approved 7-0.

Agenda Item #14: School Committee Comments (School Liaison Reports)
Mr. Fiorillo noted that the Special Ed meeting will be held on November 20th at the Hayden Center (library). Mr. Salvatore thanked all of the students for coming to the meeting tonight and speaking about standards based grading – he said they all did a great job and he appreciated it. Mr. Duffy also thanked all of the students and said that the SC needs their perspective.

Agenda Item #15: 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 #16: Adjournment
Mr. Mutter made a motion to adjourn, 2nd Mr. DiModica, approved 7-0.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:18 p.m.

Meeting minutes respectfully submitted by Linda A. Jackvony

