

UNAPPROVED

There was a regular meeting of the Cumberland School Committee held on Thursday, January 23, 2014 at the Cumberland High School Auditorium, 2600 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 convened the meeting to order at 7:30 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
Two representatives from Student Government reported past events which included the Adopt-A-Family Program – four families were adopted, two from B.F. Norton and two from CHS – the students reported that it was a very successful program and the recipients were very grateful – a thank you card from BFN was read to everyone – much appreciated! Upcoming events include the Winter Ball on January 31st, the blood drive in February and from March 3rd thru the 31st Pennies for Patients – this year’s goal is \$7,500.

Agenda Item #5: Consent Agenda

- A. Approval of Minutes – 1) Regular Meeting 1/9/14 and B. Approval of Minutes - 1) Executive Session 1/9/14 – Mr. Mutter made a motion to approve the minutes, 2nd Mr. DiModica and Mr. Duffy, approved 7-0.

Agenda Item #6: Report Out of Executive Session Meeting

- A. Report of Executive Session Meeting on 1/23/2014
 1. Report of Executive Session Votes – Mrs. Beaulieu said there were no votes taken.
 2. Superintendent’s Employment Contract – No action taken.
 3. CTA Employee Disciplinary Hearing: Teacher A – No action taken.
 4. CTA Employee Disciplinary Hearing: Teacher B – No action taken.
 5. 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. Rhode Island Department of Education Presentation: The Common Core State Standards – Mr. Mitchell introduced Dr. Michael Barnes, Superintendent of Foster-Glocester and Dr. Renee Palazzo, Assistant Principal of Smithfield High School, they would be giving a presentation of Common Core State Standards (CCSS). Dr. Palazzo started off by explaining that CCSS is basically learning standards that are targets that we are setting for our students to meet – standards have been around for a very long time, so this is not new to anyone – these targets will provide learning goals that reflect what students need to know and be able to do. We need CCSS because by 2018 60% of all jobs will require some college education – if our children are not proficient in the first year of college they may get discouraged and drop out – hopefully we can reduce remediation – this will help children talk the “same language” across the country and across the world. She went on to say that CCSS will focus classroom instruction on fewer, clearer, and higher standards – there will actually be fewer standards but much clearer. She believes CCSS will help prepare students for life after high school. The curriculum will be decided by Cumberland, teachers will determine what happens in their classrooms every day and the instruction will be implemented by the teachers using their strategies – each teacher will be teaching the same course material but will use their own strategies to appropriately fit their students – they know what happens in their classroom each day and how their students react and so they will be using their strategies. Teachers will still have control over their classrooms; they are the best source of student progress. Dr. Palazzo went on to say that one change that will happen is content shifts – what we teach – some content moving between grade levels and some previous content will not be included. She gave some examples of what students may be learning and also gave some examples of what students will get away from. The example shown was a grade six overview of Math Stds. Dr. Michael Barnes spoke about ELA – what the students will be reading – fiction and non-fiction, complex texts, learning from texts – he reviewed some key ideas for grades 3, 4 and 5. CCSS was adopted in 2010 for ELA and Math, 2010-2013 schools districts began to revise curriculum, 2013-2014 full implementation, 2014-2015 school districts will administer the PARCC Testing (replaces NECAP Testing). Dr. Barnes went on to say that RIDE has a whole set of resources on their website regarding CCSS – he suggested that anyone having concerns, questions – visit the website. At this point he opened up the presentation for questions from the audience. The first question was directed towards the development of CCSS, who is responsible for them, what types of people were on the panel – Dr. Lynch from RIDE answered that representatives from 45 states – our past Governor Carceiri, teachers, higher educators, etc. wrote the CCSS – consensus – process actually began in 1997, finally adopted in 2010. Mr. Mitchell answered the next question, which asked about the teachers learning the CCSS, he said they were learning/reviewing the CCSS and are being prepared for the implementation; they are engaging in a lot of professional

development. Another question was asked about the development of standards for kindergarten and Dr. Lynch said that there were several people that provided feedback in regard to developing the CCSS for kindergarten and also there were kindergarten teachers that had input and she went on to say that some kindergarten teachers love the CCSS and that their students have plenty of play time but at the same time are learning from common core. Dr. Lynch said that Connecticut and Massachusetts would be adopting the CCSS as well. One parent asked about why Engage New York for the Math that is currently being taught was chosen and she finished by saying that her child is in the 4th grade and has had four different curriculums. Mr. Mitchell said it was chosen to align with the CCSS. Another parent asked if Rhode Island would be able to make changes to CCSS and Dr. Lynch said that at this point we have not fully implemented them and maybe in a couple of years down the line a group will convene with representatives from each state and at that time recommendations/changes could be addressed. Mr. Mitchell said that there would be forums like this one, in the future. At this point the SC asked for a five minute break-8: 43 p.m.

Agenda Item #8: Chairperson's Report

Mrs. Beaulieu noted that we reconvened at 8:48 p.m. She then stated that our teachers have gone and continue to go to a lot of professional development training. Lots of money has been put into professional development and she feels it has significantly added more opportunity – teachers are definitely benefiting from the training.

Agenda Item #9: Reports of Standing Committees

- A. Payment of Bills – Mr. Mutter noted that there were no payments.
- B. Fiscal Management Sub-Committee Update – Mr. Mutter said that Fiscal Management met earlier in the evening and discussed SC-R-2014-01, SC-PR-1-2014-01, and SC-PR-1-2014-02.
- C. Policy & Procedures Sub-Committee Update – Mrs. Teel said that due to the snowstorm, there was no meeting on Tuesday. Next meeting will be February 11th.
- D. Achievement & Communications Sub-Committee Update – Mrs. Beaulieu said that due to the snowstorm, there was no meeting on Tuesday. Next meeting will be February 11th.

Agenda Item #10: Public Hearing

- A. First Reading of the Following Policies:
 - 1) Amended Policies: a) IICA – School Sponsored Field Trips of Long Duration Policy b) IHBF – Homebound/Hospitalized Instruction Policy
 - 2) New Policies: a) GCBD/BDBD – Leaves and Absences for Professional/Support Staff b) JHCCC – Crisis Management Policy

Mrs. Teel said that no action would be taken on these policies. Mrs. Teel made a motion to table the above policies, 2nd Mr. Salvatore, approved 7-0.

Agenda Item #11: Comments from the Public

Mrs. F. spoke about how the PARCC Tests are related to Common Core and that she read that it takes 12 years to find out if this is going to work. She said CCSS is not field tested, she also read some comments from people that said CCSS does not work. She noted that CCSS is completely funded by big businesses and that some educators on the board to make the CCSS, have ties to testing companies. Mrs. F. was recently in a meeting and a representative from BV Prep said that they are going above and beyond for STEM and she wondered if the Cumberland District was going to do the same. New York test scores have gone down and she wonders what will happen in Cumberland if our test scores go down – will administrators and teachers be let go? She also talked about funding because this is very expensive – it would cost \$1.4 million for our students to take the PARCC Tests if we get computers for grades 3-12 because PARCC is a computer test. Massachusetts has not endorsed PARCC Testing because it has not been validated – Mrs. F. would like to see Rhode Island follow Massachusetts.

No Agenda Item #12

Agenda Item #13: Old Business

- A. Discussion and/or Vote to Approve the 2014-2015 School Calendar – Mrs. Teel would like to see a few changes with the new calendar – April vacation start on the 3rd and end on the 10th – children back to school on April 13th, a committee needs to be formed for their input regarding the calendar, include three inclement weather days, after Labor Day start, eliminate Monday or Tuesday for end of school days. Mrs. Teel made a motion to amend the 2014-2015 School Calendar to read April Vacation from April 3rd – 10th, students returning to school April 13th, 2nd Mr. Duffy, for discussion – Mr. Duffy agrees with forming a committee to discuss the calendar and he wants to keep this years April vacation in line with other districts. Mr. Salvatore agrees with Mr. Duffy, he believes it is a great idea to form a committee. Mr. DiModica said that he remembers years ago Mr. Wood (former SC member) asked about changing the calendar but it was never done – other districts commented that they would wait and see if we changed our calendar and then they would follow, but he said that no other district has followed. He said that hundreds of comments have been posted on the website from parents asking to keep the calendar the same – he went on to say that some parents have children in two districts and cannot have vacations together, also teachers may not be able to vacation with their children during the school year if they live outside of the Cumberland District. Mr. DiModica said that we definitely need to take a look at this – he also agreed to leave this April as it is. The vote was taken and the motion failed 5-2 – Mrs. Beaulieu and Mrs. Teel yes, all others no. Mr. Duffy made a motion to approve the calendar for discussion and to form a committee, 2nd Mr. Salvatore and Mr. DiModica, approved 6-1, Mrs. Teel voting no.

Agenda Item #14: New Business

- A. Discussion and/or Vote to Approve Resolution SC-R-2014-01: Mr. Mutter noted that this was in FM and was passed, change line #19 to read \$78,000 and take out lines 30, 31, 32, 33 and 34 – Mr. Prignano will update the resolution to include these changes, with that Mr. Mutter made a motion to approve as amended, 2nd Mr. Fiorillo, approved 7-0.
- B. Discussion and/or Vote to Approve Resolution SC-PR-1-2014-01: “Do the Math” Math Intervention Program Purchase – Mr. Mutter made a motion to approve (was approved in FM 3-0), 2nd Mr. Fiorillo, Mr. Mitchell gave a brief overview of the “Do the Math” program – it will be implemented in 2014-2015 school year, motion approved 7-0.
- C. Discussion and/or Vote to Approve Resolution SC-PR-1-2014-02: “IXL” Math Curriculum Purchase – Mr. Mutter made a motion to approve, (was approved in FM 3-0), 2nd Mr. Fiorillo, approved 7-0.
- D. Discussion and/or Vote to Approve Resolution SC-PR-2-2014-03: Interactive Projectors Purchase – Mrs. Beaulieu said that no action would be taken tonight.
- E. Discussion and/or Vote to Approve to Delete the Following Policy: 1) BD – School Committee Meetings – Mrs. Beaulieu said that no action would be taken tonight.
- F. Discussion and/or Vote to Approve 1st Reading of the Following Policies: 1) Amended Policies: a) IICA – School Sponsored Field Trips of Long Duration Policy b) IHBF – Homebound/Hospitalized Instruction Policy 2) New Policies: a) GCBD/BDBD – Leaves and Absences for Professional/Support Staff b) JHCCC – Crisis Management Policy – Mrs. Beaulieu said that no action would be taken tonight – next agenda.

Agenda Item #15: Personnel Recommendations

Mrs. Fogell requested the following personnel recommendations:

Resignations

I request the advice and consent of the School Committee on the resignation of **Christopher Skurka, Football Head Coach, at Cumberland High School, effective 1/14/2014. (budgeted)**

I request the advice and consent of the School Committee on the resignation of **Christopher Skurka, Boys Outdoor Track Assistant Coach, at Cumberland High School, effective 1/14/2014. (budgeted)**

Mr. Salvatore asked Mrs. Fogell why Mr. Skurka was resigning and she said that he had taken another position at Dean College. Mr. DiModica made a motion to accept the resignations, 2nd Mrs. Teel and Mr. Duffy, approved 7-0. Mr. Mutter congratulated Mr. Skurka on his new position.

Agenda Item #16: School Committee Comments (School Liaison Reports)
There were no comments tonight.

Agenda Item #17: Vote to go into Executive Session for Discussion on Items
Referred to in R.I.G.L. 42-46-5
Dr. Thornton said there was no Executive Session tonight.

Agenda Item #18: Adjournment
Mr. Fiorillo made a motion to adjourn, 2nd Mr. DiModica, approved 7-0.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:31 p.m.

Meeting minutes respectfully submitted by Linda A. Jackvony