

APPROVED-3.27.14

There was a regular meeting of the Cumberland School Committee held on Thursday, March 13, 2014 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. Tim Groves

Agenda Item #1: Chairperson Convenes Meeting
Chairwoman Beaulieu convened the meeting to order at 7:38 p.m.

Agenda Item #2: Pledge of Allegiance

Agenda Item #3: Approval of Agenda
Mrs. Beaulieu noted that item #11A – One-to-One Computing Update would be moved to right after item #7 – Chairperson’s Report. Mr. DiModica made a motion to approve the agenda, 2nd Mr. Salvatore, approved 7-0.

Agenda Item #4: Consent Agenda

- A. Approval of Minutes – 1) School Committee/Town Council Workshop: 2/4/2014, 2) Regular Meeting: 2/27/14
- B. Approval of Minutes – 1) Executive Session : 2/27/14
- C. Enrollment Report – 3/1/14
- D. School Police Report – 2/1/14
- E. Residency/Truancy Report – 3/1/14

Mrs. Beaulieu noted that the School Committee/Town Council Workshop minutes would not be included because they are not yet available. Mr. Fiorillo made a motion to approve the consent agenda, excluding SC/Town Council Workshop 2/4/14, 2nd Mrs. Teel, approved 7-0.

Agenda Item #5: Report Out of Executive Session Meeting

- A. Report of Executive Session Meeting on 3/13/14 – 1) Student Hearing Decision – Mrs. Beaulieu stated that with a 7-0 vote the SC upheld the Superintendent’s recommendation. 2) Vote to Seal Minutes of Executive Session – Mrs. Teel made a motion to seal the minutes, 2nd Mr. Mutter, approved 7-0.

Agenda Item #6: Superintendent’s Report

- A. Recognition of Achievements – 1) Student and Parent Recognitions – Dr. Thornton introduced Mrs. Karbonik, Principal of Ashton School – she recognized Kylie Coleman who won the 2nd place award in the R.I. State Elk’s Americanism Essay Contest “What Veterans Day Means to Me”. Next Ms.

- Giroux, Principal of Community School recognized the following parents for Beautification/Contribution Awards – some helped with the donation of 53 laptops to Community and others helped re-organize the library twice – Todd Pascoe, Lucy and James Togher, Gowrikumani Nooney, Kerri DeFusco, Shannon Curry, Huyla Semonik, Rosanna Shen. Ms. Giroux recognized the following students for their Spelling Bee – Sarah Lanzi, Kyle Jordan and the following students were Olympic Essay Gold Winners – Molly Enesvedt, Caden Calabro, Hannah Fuller, Kyle Jolicoeur, Nicholas Boisvert, Olivia Belt. Mrs. Beaulieu commented on what great accomplishments these were and congratulated everyone! She also noted that at this time there would be a two-minute break to let the families recess.
- B. Update on Senior Progress towards Graduation (NECAP) – Mr. Tenreiro stated that they started with 102 students that had Math/Reading target issues, after the second administering 58% of retakes met the Math goal and 78% met the Reading goal – had 40 left – on 2/24/14 they administered the Military Test – Armed Forces qualifying test – and they moved 17 more students – still 23 in danger – their option is to take the ASVAB Test and the application for waiver is due next Friday (to Mr. Tenreiro). Mr. Tenreiro noted that the junior class only has 43 students remaining to meet the goals.

Agenda Item #7: Chairperson's Report

- A. Funding Formula and the BEP – Mrs. Beaulieu noted that they met with the Town Council last night and reviewed some budget requirements, went over BEP and funding formula – 30-day window for a follow-up meeting. The meeting will be available for viewing on the website.
- B. Special Programs Sub-Committee Appointments – 1) School Calendar Sub-Committee – Mrs. Beaulieu said there has been a lot of feedback regarding the calendar – she said that Mr. Salvatore is the Chairman of the sub-committee and Mr. Fiorillo and Mr. DiModica will also be on that sub-committee. 2) District Wellness Sub-Committee – Mrs. Beaulieu noted that they are required to have this committee. She said that Mr. Salvatore will be the Chairman of the sub-committee and Mr. Mutter will be the Vice Chairman.

Agenda Item #11: Old Business – **This Item Was Moved Up**

- A. One-to-One Computing Update – Mrs. Rao, NCMS Social Studies teacher, gave a presentation on a post revolutionary war project that her students were working on – she showed how it would be with and without the use of a Chromebook. She reviewed how the students had to look up information, how she had to make multiple copies, and then she showed some new possibilities which included a link in Aspen, Google Docs – students could cut and paste all sorts of information from various sources onto their docs – the students can put notes on the doc as they read it – they can put down their own thoughts – can highlight information and make notes on the side of their doc – answer a DBQ with quotes they have pulled from other sources. Mrs. Rao said she could go into their documents in real time and give her

opinion/comments because the docs are shared with her. It is instant feedback – students can finish their docs at home – teachers can work on it from home also – there is a time stamp on the document so teachers can see how much time students are putting into the project. Students can no longer say “I forgot my work” – it is right there in their Aspen account. Students can get into their Aspen account from anyone’s computer. This will increase student’s abilities to do research documents, etc. from their own home, a friend’s home, a grandparent’s home, etc. This should also increase typing speeds for most students. It should also help the students get prepared for the PARCC Testing – they will be used to typing. The final product will be on Google Docs and it can be shared between schools, colleagues, etc. Mrs. Coughlin said they share information already, for meetings – between administrators – but the students will be able to do that also. Mrs. Coughlin thanked Mrs. Rao and her students Hannah Ballou and Colin Langton, for all of their help with the presentation. Dr. Masterson stated that at MMS 23% of their student body has an IEP so some of his staff would be talking about how One-to-One will help in Special Education. Dr. Colwell started off by saying that basically everything that a student will need will be in the Chromebook – no folders, no notebooks, etc., to carry and/or forget – students need to be ready and with the help of a Chromebook they can bridge some gaps. Mrs. Chandler talked about students with Autism and how they have trouble shifting from one activity to another – the Chromebooks will show changes in their schedule – they will know about things before hand – advance notice of something happening – they can have options sent to them on the Chromebook so they can take the time to process them. Ms. Santos spoke about ADHD – organization – keeping track of many things – lots of folders and notebooks – with One-to-One they learn time management and their work is neat and legible – everything is in one place – they eliminate losing their work and having to start things over because it is all in one place – no room for excuses, the assignment will not get lost – they can also share notes with other students and assignments will be placed on their calendars! Mrs. Broadmeadow – ESL teacher for grades 6, 7 and 8 has a few students from other countries and they do not speak English so they are able to use a Google app to translate and learn English pretty quickly – they can also use Rosetta Stone through the computer – it also allows students to keep up on content. Mr. Scott noted that parents and students could get access to websites for Math – watch videos if they are struggling with something – it is virtual learning enrichment and support. Dr. Masterson finished off by saying that Cumberland is taking the next step into the 21st century – we are setting up the students for college and the community!

Agenda Item #8: Reports of Standing Committees

- A. Payments of Bills – Mr. Mutter said that FM met on Tuesday and approved the payment of invoices in the amount of \$1,373,705.28 and at that he made a motion to move passage, 2nd Mr. DiModica, approved 7-0.

- B. Fiscal Management Sub-Committee Update – Mr. Mutter said the sub-committee discussed the preliminary Durham Contract and some potential budget hearing dates.
- C. Policy & Procedures Sub-Committee Update – Mrs. Teel said that Policy & Procedures met on Tuesday discussed some policies such as the Student Confidentiality Policy and Student Due Process, etc., and will be reviewing about 15 or 20 more over the next couple of months. Next meeting will be in April.
- D. Achievement & Communications Sub-Committee Update – Mrs. Beaulieu said that Achievement & Communications discussed Project Lead The Way – which is a K-12 Stem initiative – had a great presentation.

Agenda Item #9: Public Hearing

- A. First Reading of the Following Policies: 1) Amended Policies: a) IICA – School Sponsored Field Trips of Long Duration Policy, b) JFCJ – Crisis Management Policy, c) BF – School Board Policy Approval Process, d) GBAA/JFAA – Harassment Policy – Mrs. Teel stated that all four policies were passed in sub-committee with a 3-0 vote so she asked that it would be read into the record for the first reading. Mrs. Beaulieu then asked if anyone had any questions and no one did. 2) New Policy: a) GCBD/BDBD – Leaves and Absences for Professional/Support Staff – Mrs. Teel said that this a new policy and it passed in sub-committee with a 3-0 vote so she asked that it would be read into the record for the first reading. Mrs. Beaulieu asked if there were any questions and Dr. Thornton stated that maybe we could leave the traditional lettering system for policies that we are currently using – Mrs. Teel agreed.
- B. Second Reading of the Following Amended Policy: 1) Amended Policy: a) IHBF – Academic Support for Student Absences Due to Medical Reasons – Mrs. Teel noted that this was a 2nd reading, this was approved in sub-committee with a 3-0 vote and she asked that it be read into the record for the second reading. Mrs. Beaulieu asked if there were any questions and there were none.

Agenda Item #10: Comments from the Public

Kerry F. asked if other products were looked at before deciding on the Chromebooks. Also, she wondered how the children that have no Wi-Fi would benefit from this when they are at home. Kerry was very concerned about the PARCC testing – the field testing that will soon take place in our schools – she believes it is a waste of time and taking time away from our students to benefit no one but the company – students will not even know their results – the results will not be seen by anyone in the state, just the testing company. She does not believe that taking time out of the school day to prepare students for a test that no one will be seeing is a good idea – she is not allowing her children to take the tests.

Agenda Item #12: New Business (Item #11 was moved up)

- A. Discussion and/or Vote to Approve Revised 2013-14 School Calendar – Dr. Thornton stated that for K-8 students, the last day of school would be June 13th (Friday). Grades 9-11 will be going until June 16th (Monday) because they had to make up an extra day because of the flooding issues at the high school. Seniors last day will be June 4th and they will graduate on June 9th. Mr. Fiorillo made a motion to approve, 2nd Mrs. Teel, approved 7-0.
- B. Discussion of Proposed Boys Volleyball Club – Mr. Geiselman stated that he was approached by some students regarding a volleyball club and he met with one student but after discussions they determined that there was not enough involvement for a club. Intramural Volleyball could be an option – a club would have to be a self funded program and could cost as much as \$9,000 but intramural might cost around \$800 for 2-3 days/week for 8 weeks – for the advisor – much more doable. Mr. Geiselman noted that if the students did the intramural they could see how much involvement they would get and then move on from there – maybe a club if there is a lot of involvement.
- C. Discussion and/or Vote to Approve FY 15 School Budget – Dr. Thornton stated that there was a 2.7% increase to the budget compared to last year’s. He would like the SC to consider the Chromebooks, tech coaches, high school percussion band, finalizing the LCD projectors – just to name a few items – the budget goes to Mr. Mutter’s finance sub-committee next. Mr. Chandler commented on some of the questions that came up regarding the Chromebooks – he stated that Cox has a reduced Wi-Fi fee for students that receive free/reduced lunches, also libraries and local businesses have Wi-Fi. The Chromebooks were chosen because of the cost of the device and the battery life, as well as ease of management. He also noted that students could work off-line and then sync documents when they come back on-line.
- D. Discussion and/or Vote to Delete the Following Policy: 1) BD – School Committee Meetings – Mrs. Teel said that this policy is no longer needed and with that she made a motion to delete policy BD, 2nd Mr. Mutter, approved 7-0.
- E. Discussion and/or Vote to Approve the 1st Reading of New Policy: 1) GCBD/ BDBD – Leaves and Absences for Professional/Support Staff – Mrs. Teel asked to table this item because it needs two readings. Mrs. Teel made a motion to table GCBD/BDBD, 2nd Mr. Salvatore, approved 7-0.
- F. Discussion and/or Vote to Approve the 1st Reading of Amended Policies:
 - 1) IICA – School Sponsored Field Trips of Long Duration Policy, 2) GBAA/JFAA – Harassment Policy, 3) JFCJ – Crisis Management Policy, 4) BF – School Board Policy Approval Process – Mrs. Teel said that all four policies were approved in sub-committee with a 3-0 vote. Mrs. Teel made a motion to approve all four policies, 2nd Mr. Duffy, approved 7-0.

- G. Discussion and/or Vote to Approve 2nd Reading of Amended Policy: 1) IHBF
- Academic Support for Student Absences Due to Medical Reasons – Mrs. Teel noted that this was passed in sub-committee with a 3-0 vote. Mrs. Teel made a motion to approve IHBF, 2nd Mr. Mutter, approved 7-0.

Agenda Item #13: Personnel Recommendations

Mrs. Fogell had the following personnel recommendations:

Retirements

I request the advice and consent of the School Committee on the retirement of **Luiz Batista, Custodian-days, at North Cumberland Middle School, effective 3/4/2014. (budgeted) Retiring after 14 years.**

I request the advice and consent of the School Committee on the retirement of **Michael Walsh, Grade 6 Teacher, at North Cumberland Middle School, effective 6/30/2014. (budgeted) Retiring after 14 year.s**

Appointments

I request the advice and consent of the School Committee on the appointment of **Douglas Allen, Boy's Head Lacrosse Coach, at Cumberland High School, effective 3/17/2014. (budgeted)**

I request the advice and consent of the School Committee on the appointment of **Brien Keller, Boy's Assistant Lacrosse Coach, at Cumberland High School, effective 3/17/2014. (budgeted)**

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

Agenda Item #14: School Committee Comments (School Liaison Reports)

Mr. Fiorillo noted that the Cumberland Special Education Advisory Committee meets at the Cumberland Public Library – Hayden Center – check website for dates. Mr. Duffy stated that the STEM meeting was invigorating – also the middle school presentation tonight was great and is taking the district into another direction and it will be exciting to see the difference. Mrs. Beaulieu also commented on the middle school presentation tonight and echoed Mr. Duffy's comments.

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 stated that there would not be an executive session tonight.

Agenda Item #16: Adjournment

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

Meeting was adjourned at 9:35 p.m.

Meeting minutes respectfully submitted by Linda A. Jackvony