

UNAPPROVED

There was a regular meeting of the Cumberland School Committee held on Thursday, April 10, 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, 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 7:46 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. Salvatore, approved 7-0.

Agenda Item #4: Consent Agenda
A. Approval of Minutes – 1) Regular Meeting 3/27/14, 2) Special Meeting 4/2/14, 3) Special Meeting 4/3/14
B. Approval of Minutes – 1) Executive Session 3/25/14, 2) Executive Session 4/2/14
C. Enrollment Report 4/1/14
D. School Police Report 3/1/14
E. Residency/Truancy Report 4/1/14
Mr. Mutter made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda, 2nd Mr. Duffy, approved 7-0.

Agenda Item #5: Report Out of Executive Session Meeting
A. Report of Executive Session Meeting on 4/10/14 – 1) Student Hearing Decision, 2) Vote to seal minutes of Executive Session – Mrs. Beaulieu stated that there were four votes taken at the meeting – first three were regarding student J. Doe, first to modify 3 day suspension to 2 day suspension, approved 5-0. Second vote was to reflect decision (suspension) on students record, approved 5-0. Third, letter to parents, approved 5-0. Fourth vote was to uphold the superintendent's recommendation to uphold Teacher A 5 day suspension, approved 5-1, Mr. Duffy in the negative. Mr. Fiorillo made a motion to seal the minutes, 2nd Mrs. Teel, approved 7-0.

Agenda Item #6: Superintendent's Report
A. Recognition of Achievements – 1) Student and Parent Recognitions – Dr. Thornton welcomed the State Hockey Champions!!! He then introduced Coach Andreozzi to assist Mr. Duffy in passing out the certificates to the team. Coach

Andreozzi said his team did an amazing job, it was everybody's best every day! He said the boys worked very hard! The team is as follows: Zach Kay, Andrew Pluta, Jake Salisbury, Bryan Colburn, Jake Dobrenz, Kyle Mckenna, Jason Donnelly, John Wainwright, Jimmy Cabral, Derek Bross, Joshua Santoro, Trevor Whalen, Connor Clarey, Liam Curren, Jamie Casilli, Andrew Rzemien, Gregory Wellington, Tom Malloy, Brandon McMillen, Salvatore Ciolino, Leo Lake, Justice Belmont, Tyler Parker, Jarryd Souza, Sean Connell, Austin Cabral, Mark Andreozzi – Head Coach, Jon Paquin – Asst. Coach, Scott Paquin – Asst. Coach. Next, Mr. Tenreiro congratulated Kayla Lepre – Teens for Jeans – she collected 1,756 pairs of jeans for local homeless shelters – another fine example of the Power of One!! Congratulations Kayla!

Agenda Item #7: Chairperson's Report

A. Funding Formula and the BEP – Mrs. Beaulieu noted that she would withhold her comments for later on in the meeting.

Agenda Item #8: Reports of Standing Committees

A. Payment of Bills – Mr. Mutter recommended the passage of invoices totaling \$1,037,734.66, (unanimously approved in sub-committee), 2nd Mr. Fiorillo, approved 7-0.

B. Fiscal Management Sub-Committee Update – Mr. Mutter stated that they had met this past Tuesday and discussed Resolution SC-R-2014-06 and SC-R-2014-07 and said that they tabled both of them.

C. Policy & Procedures Sub-Committee Update – Mrs. Teel stated that they met this past Tuesday (4/8) and discussed a lot of policies – a lot of which are on tonight's agenda, also briefly discussed some policies that will be on their May agenda.

D. Achievement & Communications Sub-Committee Update – Mrs. Beaulieu stated that they met this past Tuesday and reviewed the program of studies with Mr. Tenreiro – Pathways, Exploration – working to revise so that it is student and parent friendly.

Agenda Item #9: Public Hearing

A. First Reading of Policies: 1) Amended Policies: a) EBAC – Camera Surveillance System, b) GCB – Personnel Benefit Policy for Non-Unit Administrative and Support Personnel, c) JGD – Student Suspension – Mrs. Teel made a motion to table JGD, not acting on this tonight, 2nd Mr. Salvatore, approved 7-0. She went on to say that the other two policies, EBAC and GCB, are existing policies and only require one reading – EBAC only had a few changes to it that Dr. Thornton had requested – Mrs. Teel read those changes – she then made a motion to approve EBAC as amended, 2nd Mr. Salvatore, approved 7-0. GCB – Mr. Fiorillo thought that they should vote later on in the meeting – Mrs. Teel read the minor changes and noted that these minor changes were approved at the sub-committee meeting.

B. Public Comment – no comments at this time.

Agenda Item #12: Personnel Recommendations

Mrs. Beaulieu moved this item up on the agenda.

Mrs. Fogell requested the following personnel recommendations:

Leave of Absences

I request the advice and consent of the School Committee on the FMLA of **Carol Spaulding, Special Educator, at Cumberland High School,** effective 6/10/2014. **(budgeted) FMLA 6/10/14 to end of school year**

I request the advice and consent of the School Committee on the Unpaid leave of **Robin Nason, Elementary Teacher Grade 4, at Community School,** effective 5/19/2014. **(budgeted) Unpaid 5/19/14 to end of school year**

I request the advice and consent of the School Committee on the Unpaid leave of **Carolyn Stambaugh, Nurse/Teacher, at North Cumberland Middle School,** effective 8/25/2014. **(budgeted) Unpaid 2014-2015 school year**

Appointments

I request the advice and consent of the School Committee on the appointment of **Patricia Lambrou, Guidance Counselor .4, at Ashton School,** effective 4/7/2014. **(budgeted) 4/7/14 to end of school year. Will become .9 (is .5 at JJM Cumberland Hill School)**

I request the advice and consent of the School Committee on the appointment of **Joshua Lima, Football Head Coach, at Cumberland High School,** effective 7/1/2014. **(budgeted)**

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

Agenda Item #10: Comments from the Public
No comments at this time.

Agenda Item #11: New Business

A. Cumberland Parent Survey Results – Justin Martins – Communications
Consultant presented the following results of a survey that was sent out on March 22, 2014 – 841 families in the district responded, also had 536 written responses. Demographic data – 88% homeowners, 83% lived here in Cumberland for 6 or more years, 84% were between 35 and 55 years old, 75% had college degrees. Expectations – 40% strongly agree that they have high expectations of the teachers, 82% are equal partners in their child’s education. About half said that they value the testing scores when determining school quality, 97.5% said that STEM is very important, 90% said that after school programs are important, 50% said that NECAPS are important, 33% want improvement on technology. The quality of teaching is very important to parents – 1 to 4 scale – it was a 3.96, and Science, Technology and Engineering is very important and needs more work – 1 to 4 scale – it was a 3.70. 85% of the parents taking the survey noted that the positives outweigh the negatives in Cumberland, 40% strongly agree that Cumberland offers

a quality education, 45% somewhat agree. Next steps will be to analyze the written responses – there will be a CHS survey in late May – data will be incorporated into the district strategic communication plan. Mr. Martins noted that these results will be posted on the district website.

B. CHS Presentation – Regional Conference on Educational Innovation: High School Redesign in Action – Mr. Tenreiro, CHS Principal, and a few members of his administration, recently presented at this conference – CHS was among 18 schools in a league of innovative schools, that was selected – schools that have a commitment to proficiency based learning – standards based learning. It was a two day conference that covered topics like the accountability with our teachers, capacity building with teachers, new professional development plans, interdisciplinary walk-throughs, student surveys, teachers/teams video taping themselves in the classroom, teachers having headphones in their ears and getting feedback from another teacher that is sitting in the back of the classroom. Mr. Tenreiro finished by saying that all this validates that the work that everyone at the high school is doing, really works.

C. BEP Discussion with Mayor Daniel J. McKee and the Cumberland School Committee – Mayor McKee started off by thanking the SC for inviting him to this meeting. Mayor McKee stated that Mr. Mutter’s question regarding the town spending enough dollars to be compliant with the state’s BEP is causing quite a workload at the town hall – he said they have a CPA that is familiar with the BEP because he did an audit for No. Kingstown in the past, reviewing figures and the school departments budget – there has also been several hours of conversation back and forth with RIDE – both RIDE and the auditors say that Cumberland cannot exceed the state cap – the towns point of view is that it cannot override the cap because of a statute – Mayor McKee noted that he had planned on going to the voters in November with a plan, but he cannot because he has been told that they cannot exceed the cap, even with a town vote. Dr. Thornton noted that he would have no problem if there was an audit that needed to be conducted, in fact he would welcome it. Mr. DiModica asked Mayor McKee what the town needs to do to move the schools forward instead of being the last in the state for funding – Mayor McKee said that he is not sure that the state funding formula has done enough, he went on to say that Rhode Island needs to hit the national average and we are not there yet. Mayor McKee did note that Cumberland is now spending \$18m more on our schools that when he first took office – he noted that it is how you spend the dollars that have been appropriated to you that matters too – there are ways of coming up with long term strategies on savings. Mr. Duffy asked Mayor McKee even if we have a town vote – even if it’s on the ballot – we cannot exceed the 4% cap? Mayor McKee said yes that is right, but that borrowing money is exempt – Mr. Duffy asked if we were to borrow the money for a technology bond, would this be okay and the Mayor said he was not sure – there are specifics. Mayor McKee agreed with Mr. Mutter and the other members of the SC that there needs to be more funding into the schools – Mayor McKee went on to say that they are arriving at this place late in the budget game and that he didn’t think there was enough information available to answer the question – the question should have been asked a year ago. Mr. Mutter apologized for coming up with the question a few weeks ago. Mayor McKee noted that last June

we knew it was important and we should have started the conversation then and he said that he asked the SC and school administrators to do that. Mr. Mutter said that it is good to keep the conversation going – there are conflicting statutes – he said he is doing his job by asking the question – maybe an audit is in order. Mayor McKee said that he will propose a budget that is within the states statutes – he also said that his door is always open and always has been open - he noted that there are resources in his office for education that have not been taken advantage of. Mr. Mutter said they are working to get an answer to the question and the Mayor said that they are working to explain the question. Mr. Mutter noted that if there was an audit done and they did find us underfunded by \$4.3m, there would be nothing that we could do about it and Mayor McKee agreed and said that if it does not fall inside the caps, you may not be able to do anything about it. Mayor McKee said that if they wanted an audit he would partner with them – he went on to say that he has always said that no one will beat up the school department. Mrs. Teel asked about putting a plan together that exceeds 104% - she asked which side would they then comply with because they are all general laws – she thought that the future of our students should trump that number – she said she is okay in violating the 104% number. Mayor McKee said that we need to follow the statutes and he did say that RIDE has said that Cumberland is compliant with the BEP – his offer would be to work on a long range plan with the school department for the \$4 to \$8m. Mrs. Beaulieu then stated that her door is also always open and that she and Dr. Thornton have sat in Mayor McKee’s office discussing referendums and she said she hopes to begin this journey right away – she wants to think out of the box – she said she is ready to work today – the students and families in the district deserve it – she wants to move forward. Mayor McKee said that his door has always been open and is glad that Mrs. Beaulieu’s is also open. He went on to say that education is very important and he wants to move ahead together. Mr. Mutter noted that maybe this could be a five-year plan because he said that he does not think they will get \$4.3m in one swoop – he then thanked the mayor for coming. Mayor McKee, once again, stated that his door is always open. Mrs. Beaulieu said that we are on a journey and we want the diploma to have meaning so that the students are ready for society. Mr. Duffy said that it seems like a tug of war between the SC and the TC, but he hopes that someone picks up the phone tomorrow because we need to come up with a plan – it is tough but we need to have the tough conversation and this is what our community wants.

D. ESCO-ENE Energy Update – Mr. Prignano stated that one of the two vendors has come in and completed a free detailed audit for us and that we should have the report next week. NCMS boilers would be one of the first items on the list to do. Mr. Prignano also noted that we need to get the building committee formed so that we can get a 40% reimbursement from the state – appointments will be made soon for the building committee.

E. Discussion and/or Vote to Approve Resolution: SC-R-2014-06: Unassigned Fund Allocation – Mr. Mutter made a motion to table this item until the next SC meeting, 2nd Mr. Fiorillo, approved 7-0.

F. Discussion and/or Vote to Approve Resolution: SC-R-2014-07: Durham School Services Transportation Contract – Mr. Mutter made a motion to table this item until the next SC meeting, 2nd Mr. DiModica, approved 7-0.

G. Discussion and/or Vote to Approve Deleting the Following Policies: 1) EBCC- Bomb Threats, 2) GBHA – Student Confidentiality, 3) JFCJ - Policy on Weapons and Violence, 4) JHCF - Physical Restraint Crisis Intervention, 5) JHCH – Automated External Defibrillator, 6) JLDBB – Managing Mental Health Emergencies, 7) JLDBBR- R – Managing Mental Health Emergencies – Mrs. Teel asked Atty. Adams if the SC would have to take a vote if they wanted to re-number the policies or could they just re-number them – she said she would put it on the next agenda. Mrs. Teel made a motion to delete all of the policies, except for GBHA – Student Confidentiality, and have them be added to procedures (so they can be modified quickly), 2nd Mr. Mutter, approved 7-0. Mrs. Teel made a motion to table GBHA – Student Confidentiality, 2nd Mr. DiModica and Mr. Salvatore, approved 7-0.

H. Discussion and/or Vote to Approve the Following Amended Policies: 1) EBAC – Camera Surveillance System, 2) GCB – Personnel Benefit Policy for Non-Unit Administrative and Support Personnel, 3) JGD – Student Suspension – Mrs. Teel made a motion to approve EBAC as amended, 2nd Mr. Salvatore, approved 7-0. Mrs. Teel made a motion to approve GCB as amended, 2nd Mr. Mutter, approved 7-0. Mrs. Teel made a motion to table JGD, 2nd Mr. Salvatore, approved 7-0.

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

Mr. Mutter thanked his colleagues on the SC for Monday's action to submit the budget according to the charter. Mrs. Beaulieu thanked the SC and the Mayor for their input.

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 noted that there would not be any Executive Session this evening.

Agenda Item #15: Adjournment

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

Meeting was adjourned at 9:26 p.m.

Meeting minutes respectfully submitted by Linda A. Jackvony