

## **APPROVED – 5.8.14**

There was a regular meeting of the Cumberland School Committee held on Thursday, April 24, 2014 at the Cumberland High School Transitional Building Cafetorium, 2602 Mendon Road, Cumberland, Rhode Island.

**Members Present:** Lisa Beaulieu, Jeff Mutter, Linda Teel, Craig Duffy, Mark Fiorillo. Paul DiModica and Ray Salvatore were absent.

**Administration Present:** Dr. Phil Thornton, Superintendent, Robert Mitchell, Assistant Superintendent, Atty. Stephens Adams

**Agenda Item #1:** Chairperson Convenes Meeting  
Chairwoman Beaulieu convened the meeting to order at 7:13 p.m.

**Agenda Item #2:** Pledge of Allegiance

**Agenda Item #3:** Approval of Agenda  
Mr. Mutter made a motion to approve the agenda, 2<sup>nd</sup> Mr. Fiorillo, approved 5-0. Mr. DiModica and Mr. Salvatore were absent.

**Agenda Item #4:** Student Government Report  
No report given this evening.

**Agenda Item #5:** Consent Agenda  
A. Approval of Minutes – 1) Special Meeting 4/2/14, 2) Special Meeting 4/7/14, 3) Regular Meeting 4/10/14 and B. 1) Executive Session 4/10/14 – Mr. Mutter made a motion to approve the minutes, 2<sup>nd</sup> Mr. Duffy, approved 5-0.

**Agenda Item #6:** Report Out of Executive Session Meeting  
A. Report Out of Executive Session Meeting on 4/24/14 – Mrs. Beaulieu stated that there were no votes taken. B. Vote to Seal Minutes of Executive Session – Mr. Mutter made a motion to seal the minutes, 2<sup>nd</sup> Mrs. Teel, approved 5-0.

**Agenda Item #7:** Superintendent's Report  
A. Technology Update – Dr. Thornton stated that having all the schools wireless is almost complete – LCD projectors have been installed in the middle schools, the software will be installed in the next couple of weeks and there are Gmail accounts set up for some of our students!

**Agenda Item #8:** Chairperson's Report  
A. Funding Formula and the BEP – Mrs. Beaulieu noted that she had nothing new to add but that she and Mr. Mutter, Dr. Thornton and Mr. Prignano had met with Mayor McKee on 4/15/14, some of their discussion was about the social security benefit for our teachers. Next meeting will be on 4/30/14.

**Agenda Item #9:** Reports of Standing Committees

- A. Payment of Bills – Mr. Mutter noted that there were no payments this evening.
- B. Fiscal Management Sub-Committee Update – Mr. Mutter stated that FM met on 4/22/14 and they discussed this year’s audit for the school department – he believes they learned some things from this audit that will help them going forward.
- C. Policy & Procedures Sub-Committee Update – Mrs. Teel stated that there was nothing new to report.
- D. Achievement & Communications Sub-Committee Update – Mrs. Beaulieu stated that there was nothing new to report.

**Agenda Item #10:** Comments from the Public

No comments this evening.

**Agenda Item #11:** New Business

- A. Discussion and/or Vote to Approve Overnight Student Field Trip: 1) Washington, DC – McCourt MS and North Cumberland MS – Mr. Fiorillo made a motion to approve, 2<sup>nd</sup> Mr. Duffy, approved 5-0.
- B. Discussion of Student Enrollment – Current and Projected – Dr. Thornton stated that they would be discussing K-5 – currently have 97 teachers and 2,043 students – for 2014-15 looks like 1,934 students – but there will be more kindergarten students because enrollment goes through the summer – Dr. Thornton did note that he could potentially close two classrooms, one at Community and one at Cumberland Hill – but the decrease in students comes from 95 different classrooms so it is not a big dollar impact to the district. Dr. Thornton went on to say that Community had six grade fours this year and he may be able to reduce that to four or five for 2014-15. Dr. Shockaert did note that he expected the pre-school to be around the same numbers as this year. Mr. Mutter asked Dr. Thornton to check out the figures regarding Community School – he thought there might be an error – and Dr. Thornton said that he would check into it and get back to the SC.
- C. Discussion of Mayor McKee’s Proposal of Social Security Benefits for Teachers – Mr. Prignano passed out a packet to the SC members for their review – he highlighted a few areas – he said that if we went to SS for the teachers they would be contributing 6.2% to it and the district would have to match that. The cost to the district (based on current salaries) would be \$1.6m – however, because of TIAA CREF the district would get \$520,000 (or 2%) back, so the net cost to the district would be \$1.1m. He reviewed some of the requirements that would have to happen before this could start – our town’s legislative body (Town Council) would have to initiate a referendum to be presented to the Governor, teachers would have to take a majority vote and if approved all teachers would have to join, if the vote failed the teachers would have to wait three years before trying again. Mr. Prignano also talked about the windfall elimination provision and a government offset that he felt would be negatives – he gave the members information regarding both and

- pointed out that these factors would impact SS benefits from previous jobs and/or spouses in the future. Dr. Thornton stated that he spoke with the union president and was told that the teachers have no interest in doing this. Mr. Prignano thought that Mayor McKee might have offered this because of all the changes to the state pension. Mrs. Teel commented that this is not a benefit to the district to do this. Mr. Prignano thought that perhaps Mayor McKee would have seen a longer school day if the teachers were to get this benefit. Mr. Duffy asked if there were any districts that recently signed on to this. Mr. Prignano noted that there are 14 districts that do this currently but that he did not know of any recent sign ups. Mr. Prignano said that although the district gets the 2% credit from TIAA CREF, he did not think the teachers would – they would have to pay the full 6.2%.
- D. Discussion of FY15 School Budget – Mrs. Beaulieu said there were no questions this evening.
  - E. Discussion and/or Vote to Approve Renumbering and Formatting of Policies – Mrs. Teel made a motion to approve the renumbering and formatting of policies, 2<sup>nd</sup> Mr. Fiorillo, approved 5-0.
  - F. Discussion and/or Vote to Approve Home School Instruction Requests for the 2013-2014 School Year – Mr. Mitchell stated that he recommended approval. Mrs. Teel made a motion to approve the home school instruction requests for the 2013-2014 school year, 2<sup>nd</sup> Mr. Fiorillo and Mr. Mutter, approved 5-0.

**Agenda Item #12:** Personnel Recommendations

Mrs. Fogell requested the following personnel recommendations:

**Leave of Absences**

I request the advice and consent of the School Committee on the Unpaid leave of Shayla Stauber, Grade 1 Teacher, at BF Norton School, effective 5/19/2014. (budgeted) Unpaid 5/19/14 to end of school year.

Mr. Fiorillo made a motion to approve the leave of absence for Shayla Stauber, 2<sup>nd</sup> Mr. Duffy, approved 5-0.

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

Mr. Duffy welcomed the Boy Scouts – Troup One – he said they were here tonight working on a Merit Badge – Citizenship in the Community.

**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 stated that there was no Executive Session this evening.

**Agenda Item #15:** Adjournment

Mr. Fiorillo made a motion to adjourn, 2<sup>nd</sup> Mr. Duffy, approved 5-0.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:43 p.m.

Meeting minutes respectfully submitted by Linda A. Jackvony