

UNAPPROVED

There was a regular meeting of the Cumberland School Committee held on Thursday, September 25, 2014 at the Cumberland High School Transitional Building Cafetorium, 2602 Mendon Road, Cumberland Rhode Island.

Members Present: Jeff Mutter, Linda Teel, William Dennen, Paul DiModica, Mark Fiorillo, Raymond Salvatore. Lisa Beaulieu was absent.

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

Agenda Item #1: Chairperson Convenes Meeting
Vice Chairman Mutter called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m.

Agenda Item #2: Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Mutter asked for a moment of silence for the Atrondo family.

Agenda Item #3: Approval of Agenda
Mr. DiModica made a motion to approve the agenda, 2nd Mr. Salvatore, approved 6-0.

Agenda Item #4: Student Government Report
Past events included the first day of school – freshman on 8/27 and the rest of the school on 8/28 – it was a good beginning of the school year. On 9/8 there was a carnival at the school and there were dodge ball games, all sorts of outdoor activities and games, and even a hypnotist! On 9/18 it was “Back to School Night” where the parents can come to school and follow their children around to their various classes and get a feel for what goes on each and every day. Upcoming events include the College Fair on 10/7 at McCoy Stadium, w/o 10/14 is Spirit Week – T.V. and movies theme this year – it is a very anticipated event, 10/18 will be the Homecoming Dance – lots of glow sticks will be “glowing”. CHS will also host another blood drive and their goal is to get over 100 pints.

Agenda Item #5: Consent Agenda

- A. Approval of Minutes – Regular Meeting 9/11/14
- B. Approval of Minutes – Executive Session 9/11/14

Mr. Fiorillo made a motion to approve regular meeting 9/11/14 and executive session 9/11/14, 2nd Mrs. Teel, approved 6-0.

Agenda Item #6: Report Out of Executive Session Meetings

- A. Report of Executive Session Meeting on 9/23/14 – 1) Report out of Executive Session Votes – Mr. Mutter stated that there was no Executive Session on 9/23/14. 2) Vote to Seal Minutes of Executive Session – no meeting held on 9/23/14.

- B. Report of Executive Session Meeting on 9/25/14 – 1) Report Out of Executive Session Votes – Mr. Mutter stated that there were no votes taken. 2) Vote to Seal Minutes of Executive Session – Mr. Dennen made a motion to seal the minutes, 2nd Mr. Fiorillo, approved 6-0.

Agenda Item #7: Superintendent's Report

- A. Chrome books at the Middle Schools – One Month In – Dr. Thornton stated that we are one month into this school year and he believes that the middle schools have transformed teaching already. He invited the SC members to walk the halls in the middle schools and see the big difference. Mrs. Coughlin – NCMS Principal, stated that during the first week there was already a transition in many classrooms and now all classrooms have been transformed. Students complete their work independently and the teachers can go right in and correct what they have done. She said that teachers are eliminating time standing at the copy machines and that they cannot imagine going back and teaching without them. Dr. Masterson, MMS Principal, said that he is impressed, looks like New England Tech, kids are typing on chrome books, teachers giving immediate feedback. It changes the way we work with the students with IEP's. The bags for the chrome books have been distributed and it seems like the students have more confidence when they are carrying that bag around.

Agenda Item #8: Chairperson's Report

- A. Funding Formula and the BEP – Mr. Mutter noted that this would be discussed a little further on in the agenda.

Agenda Item #9: Reports of Standing Committees

- A. Payment of Bills – Mr. Mutter stated that there were no payments this evening, although they did meet on 9/23/14.
- B. Fiscal Management Sub-Committee Update – Mr. Mutter stated that they discussed Bacon & Company's Report on School Department's Core and Non-Core Expenditures for Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2013, and discussed the RFP for the Rhode Island State Funding Formula Impact and Improvement/BEP Compliance.
- C. Policy & Procedures Sub-Committee Update – Mrs. Teel stated that they met on 9/23/14 and discussed the change in fee schedule, discussed some meeting procedures and she also noted that the next two meetings will be on 10/7 and 10/28.
- D. Achievement & Communications Sub-Committee Update – Mr. Mutter noted that the committee did not meet.

Agenda Item #10: Public Hearing

- A. Reading of Policy – 1) Amended Policies – a) K-2 Use of School Facilities – Mrs. Teel stated that some of the fee's have been changed to be more in line with other districts, the auditorium prices went up substantially. This was approved in sub-committee with a 3-0 vote – approved as presented. First

- and only reading this evening. 2) New Policies – 1st Reading: a) B-3 School Committee Rules of Conduct, b) B-4 Chairperson’s Scope of Authority, c) B-5 School Committee Meeting Procedures and Election of Officers, d) G-12 Professional Responsibility for Certified Professionals, 3) G-13 Teacher Standards – Mrs. Teel noted – first reading – all tabled – no action this evening.
- B. Public Comment – Mr. Schmidt told the SC that he supports the idea to hire an accounting firm regarding the BEP and noted that if he could help in any way, he would. Rep. McLaughlin noted that regarding the fair fund formula – Blackstone Valley Prep - stated that Rep. O’Grady from Lincoln, has a Bill and a Study Commission that is moving forward and it should answer questions regarding expenditures, etc. Lisa G. has two children at the BVP and noted that her son, who has an IEP and failed 9th grade at CHS, is doing much better this year. She feels that the BVP puts their funding to good use.

Agenda Item #11: Comments from the Public

Some of the comments were taken during the public comment section after the Public Hearing. (please see above)

Agenda Item #12: Old Business

- A. Discussion and/or Vote to Approve RFP – Rhode Island State Funding Formula Impact and Improvement/BEP Compliance – Mr. Mutter asked Atty. Adams if the RFP was not listed on the agenda, would it be an issue. Mr. Mutter asked is the SC could just ask the school department to send out an RFP – but then he also said he could not pass the RFP because it was not on the agenda – but then asked Atty. Adams if he could ask the SC if they wanted to take a stance and Atty. Adams said that yes he could do that. Mr. Mutter then said they should probably hold off – discuss it a little more and put on the next agenda. Mr. Mutter stated that it should not be us against them (BVP) – the state should step in. Mr. Fiorillo noted that Rep. O’Grady’s Bill is about how the BVP spends their money and our RFP is to show how BVP impacts Cumberland. Mr. Mutter said that we will not take any action tonight and we will go back and fine-tune our RFP. Rep. McLaughlin came up to the podium and noted that since 2008 Cumberland was putting dollars into the Mayoral Academies because it was mandated. Right now there are two educational systems taking funds out of one pot – the shift of dollars from the state thru 2012 has not changed – he believes there needs to be reform – more dollars need to be added.

Agenda Item #13: New Business

- A. NECAP Science Assessment Results – Spring 2014 – Mr. Mitchell stated that he had hoped to share the results with everyone tonight but cannot because when the districts received the results on 9/15 there was a lot of concern with the elementary and middle school results at several districts – at least 10 or 12 districts – there was a substantial drop in performance. RIDE was contacted and now RIDE is consulting with Measured Progress – the

company that provides the test to the state. When we receive the okay from RIDE, we will share the results. The entire state cannot release their results until RIDE gives their approval to do so.

- B. Discussion and/or Vote to Approve 2014-15 School Bus Routes – Dr. Thornton noted that we had a strong opening and with that Mr. DiModica made a motion to approve the 2014-15 School Bus Routes, 2nd Mr. Salvatore, and at this point Ann from Durham came to the podium to let the SC know that the new buses are flowing in, four mini buses were registered this week and another 25 new buses will be on the road within the next couple of weeks. Motion was approved 6-0.
- C. Discussion and/or Vote to Approve Home School Instruction Requests 2014-15 School Year – Mr. Mitchell stated that he had six requests and he recommended approval. Mr. Fiorillo made a motion to approve the Home School Instruction Requests 2014-15 School Year, 2nd Mrs. Teel, approved 6-0.
- D. Discussion of Bacon & Company’s Report on School Department’s Core and Non-Core Expenditures for Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2013 –Mr. Prignano stated that his office had pulled numbers together from when they started BEP and wanted the town auditor to verify the numbers that his office came up with. The auditor examined the non-core expenditures (to keep the cost down) – we would get the most conservative number. Net adjustment she made was \$155,000 - \$4.9m to \$4.7m – basically no errors in our accounting.
- E. Communication from Superintendent Regarding Volunteer BCI Fees – Mrs. Fogell noted that the SC recently passed a policy that all persons volunteering in our schools needed to have a BCI check – and so at the beginning of the school year disclaimer forms were sent home to all families – there was no charge associated with it because when we spoke with the police department last school year – there was no charge – so she sent 41 forms to the police department and was told that a \$5.00 charge has been implemented (July 1, 2014). After several conversations, the CPD has agreed not to charge these 41 disclaimers, but going forward, the \$5.00 charge remains. Mrs. Fogell stated that her budget has the funds in it to pay for this – she has 250 disclaimers on her desk and has done nothing with them so far – some parents have sent in the \$5.00 charge because in the meantime she sent home another letter/form with the \$5.00 charge listed on it. But she is now waiting to process these disclaimers until a decision is made as to whether the school department should be paying or the volunteers should be paying. She said at this point no volunteers have been approved. There are events coming up in October so she will need a decision soon. Mr. Mutter does not think that a \$5.00 fee will stop anyone from volunteering and also does not think that Mrs. Fogell needs the SC approval. He said that if we took the money from her budget to pay for the disclaimers that it would just be an amendment to the budget. Next meeting the SC could make the subsequent line change. Mr. DiModica said they should pay the fee and maybe Rep. McLaughlin could recommend a change to the legislature that could incorporate the paid fee. Mr. Salvatore thought that maybe the volunteers

could just go directly to the police department on their own. Mrs. Fogell stated that they were trying to make it easy on the parents/volunteers. Mrs. Teel said to put it on the policy agenda. Mrs. Fogell noted that this would be back on the docket.

- F. Discussion and/or Vote to Approve Amended Policy: 1) K-2 Use of School Facilities – Mrs. Teel made a motion to approve as presented, as amended, 2nd Mr. Salvatore, approved 6-0.
- G. Discussion and/or Vote to Approve 1st Reading of New Policies: 1) B-3 School Committee Rules of Conduct, 2) B-4 Chairperson’s Scope of Authority, 3) B-5 School Committee Meeting Procedures and Election of Officers, 4) G-12 Professional Responsibility for Certified Professionals, 5) G-13 Teacher Standards–Mrs. Teel made a motion to table, 2nd Mr. Salvatore, approved 6-0.

Agenda Item #14: Personnel Recommendations

Mrs. Fogell had the following Personnel Recommendations:

Resignations

I request the advice and consent of the School Committee on the resignation of David Fanning, Special Educator at North Cumberland Middle School, effective June 30,2014.

Mr. Fiorillo made a motion to approve, 2nd Mr. Dennen, approved 6-0.

Agenda Item #15: School Committee Comments (School Liaison Reports)

Mr. Fiorillo stated that last Monday Alan Feinstein gave B.F. Norton \$10,000 and on Tuesday he gave Garvin Memorial School \$10,000 – thank you to Mr. Feinstein.

Agenda Item #16: Vote to go into Executive Session for Discussion on Items

Referred to in R.I.G.L. 42-46-5:

Before going into executive session, the school committee shall state for the record that any persons to be discussed pursuant to subsection (1) have been notified and this statement shall be noted in the minutes of the meeting.

A. Personnel Matters – Exception (1) – 1) Administrator’s Contract 2) CTA/ICSE

B. Negotiations/Litigation – Exception (2) – 1) CTA/ICSE 2) Litigation

Update/Potential Litigation

Mr. DiModica made a motion to go into executive session, 2nd Mr. Salvatore, Mr. Fiorillo requested the presence of legal counsel, motion approved 6-0.

At 8:40 p.m. the SC went into Executive Session.

C. Vote to Seal Minutes of Executive Session – Mr. DiModica made a motion to seal the minutes, 2nd Mrs. Teel, approved 6-0.

D. Reconvene into Open Session – the SC reconvened at 9:30 p.m.

E. Report Out of Executive Session Vote(s) – there were no votes taken.

Agenda Item #17: Adjournment

Mr. DiModica made a motion to adjourn, 2nd Mr. Fiorillo, approved 6-0.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:32 p.m.

Meeting minutes respectfully submitted by Linda A. Jackvony