

UNAPPROVED

There was a regular meeting of the Cumberland School Committee held on Thursday, October 9, 2014 at the Cumberland High School Transitional Building Cafetorium, 2602 Mendon Road, Cumberland, Rhode Island.

Members Present: Lisa Beaulieu, Jeff Mutter, Linda Teel, William Dennen, Paul DiModica, Mark Fiorillo, Ray Salvatore

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

Agenda Item #1: Chairperson Convenes Meeting
Chairwoman Beaulieu convened the meeting to order at 7:33 p.m.

Agenda Item #2: Pledge of Allegiance

Agenda Item #3: Approval of Agenda
Mr. DiModica made a motion to approve the agenda, 2nd Mr. Fiorillo, approved 7-0.

Agenda Item #4: Student Government

- A. Student Activities – past activities included Back to School Night where parents were able to see what their child’s typical schedule was and meet their teachers, etc. Upcoming events include the Blood Drive on 10/23, Spirit Week 10/14 – 10/18 which includes special events every day and then on 10/18 the Homecoming Dance. Turkey basket collections will begin on 11/1 and will run through 11/20 – goal this year is 185 baskets!

Agenda Item #5: Consent Agenda

- A. Approval of Minutes 9/25/14
- B. Approval of Minutes 1) Executive Session 9/25/14 and 2) Executive Session 9/25/14
- C. Enrollment Report 10/1/14
- D. School Police Report 9/1/14
- E. Residency/Truancy Report 10/1/14

Mr. Mutter made a motion to approve, 2nd Mrs. Teel, approved 7-0.

Agenda Item #6: Report Out of Executive Session Meetings

- A. Report of Executive Session Meeting on 10/7/14 – 1) Report Out of Executive Session Votes – No votes taken. 2) Vote to Seal Minutes of Executive Session – Mr. DiModica made a motion to seal the minutes, 2nd Mrs. Teel and Mr. Dennen, approved 7-0.
- B. Report of Executive Session Meeting on 10/9/14 – 1) Report Out of Executive Session Votes – No votes taken. 2) Vote to Seal Minutes of Executive Session - Mr. Fiorillo made a motion to seal the minutes, 2nd Mr. DiModica, approved 7-0.

Agenda Item #7: Superintendent's Report

- A. School Flu Vaccination Clinics – October 9, October 28 and November 5th – Dr. Thornton noted that the clinics would be from 4 – 6:30p.m. on these dates.
- B. Middle School Standards Based Grading Parent Workshops – there will be upcoming workshops on 10/20, 10/23 and 11/30 – check the website.

Agenda Item #8: Chairperson's Report

- A. Funding Formula and the BEP – Mrs. Beaulieu noted that Mr. Prignano and his team were busy working on tallying up BEP and non-BEP expenses.

Agenda Item #9: Reports of Standing Committees

- A. Payment of Bills – Mr. Mutter noted that FM met earlier this week and with that he made a motion to approve the payment of invoices totaling \$1,876,135.35, 2nd Mr. Fiorillo, approved 7-0.
- B. Fiscal Management Sub-Committee Update – Mr. Mutter said FM met on 10/7 at 5:30 p.m. and discussed the three resolutions that are on tonight's agenda.
- C. Policy & Procedures Sub-Committee Update – Mrs. Teel noted that the committee met on 10/7 and discussed B-3, B-2 and the next meeting would be 10/28/14 and they will be discussing district nutrition, student attendance, student dress code. Mrs. Teel noted that she would not be here for the next meeting but wanted to thank everyone for all of their help on this committee – she said she feels good about the work that has been done and the policies that have been put in place. She thanked Dr. Thornton, Mr. Mitchell, Dr. Colwell, Tina Fogell, Alex Prignano, Beth Coughlin, Jay Masterson, Jeff Mutter and Ray Salvatore. Dr. Thornton thanked Mrs. Teel for all of her work and a job well done. Mrs. Beaulieu also thanked Mrs. Teel – it has been a lot of work but Cumberland is now in good standing – good handle on their policies – great policy manual for the district to use.
- D. Achievement and Communications Sub-Committee Update – Mrs. Beaulieu noted that the committee has been focused on student achievement – most recently watched a video clip on curriculum flexibility – Mr. Mitchell asked them to watch the video. Mrs. Beaulieu said they will be meeting in two weeks but did not have a topic yet. Mr. Mitchell said the video that he asked the committee to watch was Todd Rose, "The Myth of Average" – talked about averages and one example they used was the cockpit in an airplane – used to be cockpits were made for the average size individual – adjustments have been made and now more pilots can be recruited – the cockpits are now adjustable to men and women, fat and skinny, tall and short – Mr. Rose made the analogy for all students – we need to meet their needs – talks about dropouts and how some of them are gifted students – this has a negative impact on our society. Mr. Mitchell said he watched this video at a conference and the question taken away from it is "what effect does it have on us as educators". Administrators have also shown this to our teachers. Mrs. Beaulieu also noted that Mrs. Coughlin and Dr. Masterson would be at a

future SC meeting with feedback regarding the Honor Roll and National Junior Honors Society.

Agenda Item #10: Public Hearing

- A. Reading of Policies – 1) New Policy – 1st reading – a) B-3 School Committee Meeting Procedures and Election of Officers – Mrs. Teel stated that this policy outlines the duties of the School Committee – the chairman, the vice-chairman and the clerk – was approved in sub-committee with a 3-0 vote – this is the first reading and this will need to be on the next agenda. 2) Amended Policies – a) B-2 Code of Basic Management Principles and Ethical School Standards – Mrs. Teel stated that this was amended to bring policy into compliance with the town charter – approved with a 3-0 vote, passed as amended. Mr. Mutter made a motion to approve as amended, (#7 on policy amended to read – Conduct at a minimum sixteen (16) annual meetings with planned and published agendas.), 2nd Mr. Salvatore, approved 7-0. b) I-2 Computer/Internet/Electronic Device Acceptable Use Policy – no action taken. c) IIA Selection of Equipment, Books and Materials – Mrs. Teel noted that this policy is now I-15 – Curriculum Development and Adoption of Instructional Materials – was approved with a 3-0 vote and she noted that this is how the curriculum is looked at and modified. d) Tabled. e) Tabled. f) Tabled. g) Tabled.
- B. Public Comment – Mrs. Beaulieu asked if anyone had any comments regarding the policies and no one did. She closed the hearing.

Agenda Item #11: Comments from the Public

No comments at this time.

Agenda Item #12: Old Business

- A. NECAP Science Assessment Results – Spring 2014 – Mr. Mitchell noted that at the last SC meeting he told everyone about the embargo that RIDE had put on the test results because of so many districts having concerns over the drop in their scores and tonight he told us that RIDE has extended that embargo. Measured Progress met with RIDE over a week ago and they concluded that some of the material that they were reviewing did not make sense – the embargo is indefinite so that research can be done and then the results can be reviewed. Both RIDE and Measured Progress are in complete agreement and are doing an in-depth study. This study could take one or more months to complete. Mr. Fiorillo asked if it was all NECAP results or just the middle schools, but Mr. Mitchell said that it was all NECAP scores and that all of the scores in all of the districts will be reviewed.

Agenda Item #13: New Business

- A. Discussion and/or Vote to Approve Amended Resolution SC-R-2014-11A: Energy Projects Financing – Mr. Mutter noted that this was in FM on Tuesday but no action was taken. He does not know whether or not the SC has the ability to enter into these agreements and that is why they took no action.

Mr. Murray (Mayor elect) came to the podium and said that this was brought to his attention earlier in the day – Mr. Murray said that Mr. Mutter was moving in the right direction, that this issue is in Bond counseling and the Town Solicitor is also reviewing this – he also stated that it may be a good idea to go to the Town Council with it and have their backing – smart business – he wants to see it done the right way because it is a great project. Mr. Mutter wants to make sure that what they do is legally permissible; he wants to find out first and then act. Mr. Mutter made a motion to table this until the 10/23 SC meeting, 2nd Mr. Fiorillo, Mr. DiModica asked if it was because it is a lease that they needed permission, because they have approved contracts for the bus company and for Sodexo that were in the millions of dollars, and Mr. Mutter agreed and said he thought the same, but that they are just making sure that the lease would be the same authority – he thinks the outcome will be that the SC does have the authority, but he wants to make sure. Mr. Fiorillo agreed, it is a grey area, not labor, not a service, it is a lease, it is a loan, and we need to proceed cautiously. Mr. Prignano came to the podium and stated that a tax exempt debt can have council approval, taxable debt can be approved by the SC – there is a \$10m cap on town held debt – we need to keep that in mind and try to get this project off the ground so that we can save \$60,000 this school year – so the issue comes down to taxable and tax exempt. We had the motion and a 2nd and the motion was approved 7-0.

- B. Discussion and/or Vote to Approve Resolution SC-R-2014-12: Revised Use of School Facilities Fee Schedule – Mr. Mutter stated that this was in FM and was approved with a 3-0 vote, it was also passed in policy at the last SC meeting, this is to pass the resolution for the fee's. Mr. Mutter made a motion to approve SC-R-2014-12, 2nd Mr. DiModica, approved 7-0.
- C. Discussion and/or Vote to Approve Resolution SC-R-2014-13: RFP – R.I. State Funding Formula Impact – Mr. Mutter noted that this was in FM and no action was taken. The RFP was already out – was not on the agenda properly. Mr. Mutter made a motion to approve SC-R-2014-13, 2nd Mr. Salvatore, approved 7-0. Dr. Thornton and Mrs. Beaulieu will be meeting with BVP within a week or so.
- D. Discussion and/or Vote to Approve Home School Instruction Requests 2014-15 School Year – Mr. Mitchell recommended approval. Mr. DiModica made a motion to approve, 2nd Mr. Dennen and Mr. Salvatore, approved 7-0.
- E. Discussion and/or Vote to Approve 1st Reading of New Policy: B-3 School Committee Meeting Procedures and Election of Officers – Mrs. Teel said she is not looking for a vote on this tonight – but she will be at the next meeting on 10/23. Mrs. Teel made a motion to table B-3, 2nd Mr. DiModica, approved 7-0.
- F. Discussion and/or Vote to Approve Amended Policies: 1) B-2 Code of Basic Management Principles and Ethical School Standards – Mrs. Teel made a motion to approve as amended, 2nd Mr. Salvatore, Mr. Mutter stated that Mrs. Teel did a good job, motion approved 7-0. Mrs. Teel then made a motion to table I-2, JC, JHFD-ECD, K-3 and KMK, 2nd Mr. DiModica and Mr. Salvatore,

approved 7-0. Number 3 – IIA has been changed to I-15 and Mrs. Teel made a motion to approve I-15, 2nd Mr. Salvatore, approved 7-0.

Agenda Item #14: Personnel Recommendations

Mrs. Fogell had the following personnel recommendation:

I request the advice and consent of the School Committee on the resignation of Patricia Garrahy, Speech Language Pathologist at Cumberland School Department, effective October 13, 2014.

Mr. DiModica made a motion to approve, 2nd Mr. Fiorillo, approved 7-0.

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

Mrs. Teel wanted to thank Mr. Mutter – she said it was a great pleasure working with him for the past 10 years – he will be missed. She went on to say that he is committed to the community and that she hopes he considers coming back in a couple of years. Mr. Mutter stated that when he first was on the SC, it was a challenge to even get the policy, you had to come in to the school to look for it – he said this policy committee was a job that only Mrs. Teel could have done and he thinks the SC should have forced her to do it again. He then presented her with a gift – it was a lot of “reading material” that Mr. Mutter had collected over 18 years. Mr. Dennen acknowledged personnel at Community School for their great work during recent events and Mrs. Beaulieu added that administration’s responsiveness was immediate and that the work effort for everyone involved was enormous.

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.

Dr. Thornton stated that there was no executive session this evening.

Agenda Item #17: Adjournment

Mr. DiModica made a motion to adjourn, 2nd Mr. Mutter and Mr. Dennen, approved 7-0.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Meeting minutes respectfully submitted by Linda A. Jackvony