APPROVED – 12/11/2014

There was a regular meeting of the Cumberland School Committee held on Thursday, November 13, 2014 at the Cumberland High School Transitional Building Cafetorium, 2602 Mendon Road, Cumberland, Rhode Island.

Members Present: Lisa Beaulieu, William Dennen, Paul DiModica, Craig Duffy, Mark Fiorillo, Raymond Salvatore, Linda Teel

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 7:31 p.m.

Agenda Item #2: Pledge of Allegiance

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

Agenda Item #4: Student Government

A. Student Activities – past – Spirit Week, great week and everyone had a good time. The seniors won the Spirit Award. Sixty-two pints of blood were collected at the CHS Blood Drive – great turnout! Upcoming – Junior Ring Ceremony and collecting food and money for the annual Turkey Basket Drive – the goal is to give turkey baskets to 150 needy families – donations are accepted thru 11/25. Adopt-A-Family will run thru most of December – local families in need get their wish lists fulfilled and a turkey dinner for Christmas!

Agenda Item #5: Consent Agenda

A. Approval of Minutes – Regular Meeting 10/23/14
B. Enrollment Report – 11/1/14
C. School Police Report – 10/1/14
D. Residency/Truancy Report – 11/1/14

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

Agenda Item #6: Superintendent's Report

A. Electronic Report Card Distribution – Dr. Thornton said the report cards were on-line, but if parents wanted a hard copy, they would be able to get them. The distribution was launched today – all went smooth!
B. Middle School Chromebooks Walkthrough with Elected Officials – Dr. Thornton stated that the Town Council and the Mayor would be doing a walkthrough to see how the Chromebooks are doing in our classrooms. This walkthrough will be on November 19th.

Agenda Item #7: Chairperson's Report

A. Funding Formula and the BEP – Mrs. Beaulieu did not have anything regarding the Funding Formula and the BEP – she did note that RIDE was preparing their budget process.

Agenda Item #8: Reports of Standing Committees

A. Payment of Bills – Mr. DiModica made a motion to pay invoices in the amount of $1,285,622.10, 2nd Mr. Dennen and Mrs. Teel, approved 7-0.
B. Fiscal Management Sub-Committee Update – Mr. DiModica stated that the sub-committee met earlier and received an update from Mr. Prignano regarding the budget, they discussed the waste disposal contract and they also discussed the high school practice field and how they were going to get water to it.
C. Policy and Procedures Sub-Committee Update – Mr. Fiorillo referred Mrs. Teel – she said they had met on 10/28/14 and reviewed a number of policies that are on tonight's agenda, they also discussed the personnel benefit policy, district nutrition, eligible high school and middle school requirements and background checks.
D. Achievement and Communications Sub-Committee Update – Mrs. Beaulieu noted that there was no meeting and that the next meeting will be in January, 2015.

Agenda Item #9: Public Hearing

A. Reading of Policies: 1) New Policies – 1st Reading – a) G-12 Professional Responsibility for Certified Professionals and b) G-13 Teacher Standards – Mrs. Teel stated that G-12 was brought up to compliance with R.I.D.E., it was approved with a 2-1 vote (Mr. Salvatore in the negative) in sub-committee. Mrs. Teel asked that it be read into the record that G-12 – 1st reading. G-13 brings the district into compliance with the R.I. Teachers Standards – it was approved with a 3-0 vote in sub-committee. Mrs. Teel asked that it be read into the record that G-13 – 1st reading. 2) Amended Policies – a) G-6 Personnel Benefit Policy for Non-Unit Administrators and Support Personnel – Mrs. Teel stated that G-6 was approved in sub-committee with a 3-0 vote approved as amended, it now includes the Athletic Director, $500 tuition reimbursement. Mrs. Teel asked that G-6 be read into the record. b) I-2 Computer/Internet/Electronic Device Acceptable Use Cross Referenced as G-14 Computer/Internet/Electronic Device Acceptable Use – Mrs. Teel stated that I-2 is cross referenced as G-14 – this takes into consideration one to one computing, language changes – was approved in sub-committee with 3-0 vote. Mrs. Teel asked that I-2 and G-14 be read into the record. c) J-18 School Attendance Areas/Boundary Lines – Mrs. Teel noted that this was an old policy that got updated – Dr. Thornton has the authority to place students where he wants to place them if the school they are supposed to be placed in is full. This policy was approved in sub-committee with a 3-0 vote. Mrs. Teel asked that J-18 be read into the record. d) J-19 Student Automobile Use – Mrs. Teel noted that this was an old policy – it was approved in sub-

committee with a 3-0 vote as amended – it states to use the footbridge if the student is parking across the street. Mrs. Teel asked that J-19 be read into the record. e) J-20 Student Dress Code – Mrs. Teel states that this policy was updated to be current and now the handbooks need to be updated – approved in sub-committee with a 3-0 vote as amended. Mrs. Teel asked that J-20 be read into the record. f) K-4 School/Home Communications – this policy pertains to materials distributed and brought home in our students backpacks – electronic distribution. This policy was approved with a 3-0 vote in sub-committee as amended. Mrs. Teel asked that K-4 be read into the record.

B. Public Comment – no one had any comments. Mrs. Beaulieu closed the public comment portion of the hearings. Mrs. Teel thanked Dr. Thornton and his team for all of their hard work on the policy sub-committee and Dr. Thornton thanked Mrs. Teel and said she did a great job.

Agenda Item #10: Comments from the Public

Ed R. spoke on behalf of the CHS Girls Hockey Team – he sent an email to the SC members and asked that they review it. He is hoping that this budget issue gets on the agenda for next Tuesday's meeting. He said it is just fairness between the girls and the boys. Ed said that the Lincoln SC, Lincoln parents and Cumberland parents are all willing to work but that they are asking to have some sort of a budget for CHS Girls Hockey – if this does not get on the agenda and get approved this will be it and there will not be a girls hockey season this year – not for CHS and not for LHS – without a resolution on Tuesday, the hockey season for the girls co-op with LHS will have to be cancelled. Mrs. S. said that her daughter is on the co-op team and said these are all great girls, they volunteer for a Pals program, the Best Buddies program and some of them work with the Sp. Ed students from CHS, five of the girls are Special Olympic coaches every Friday afternoon. She said that in the spirit of "Pay It Forward" we need to find the dollars that this team needs to keep going. Katherine – member of the team – said the team in one big family, they have learned about commitment and dedication to hard work – she has been on the bench for 1.5 years due to a concussion and this year she can play so she is hoping that the dollars become available – they are willing to fundraise also. Arnie – make room in the budget for the CHS Girls Hockey Team – cannot imagine life without them! Cassidy – loves the teammates, loves hockey, it is an amazing experience, they are a family. Rachel – junior at CHS – like a family, loves the game, best decision to come to CHS and join the team. Jessica – senior at CHS – she does not want a great organization to end. The team has commitment and they have worked very hard all summer – skating every weekend – they got better and they are not giving up – it means the world to them – they are like a family. Samantha said the team is dedicated and it shows success – she is proud to call them her teammates. James said his daughter plays on Lincoln and he said these girls love each other, they have built strong friendships, it would be a travesty if you took it away from them – he said that anything that the SC could do would be appreciated. Linda H. said that she sent Lisa a letter and asked that everyone gets a copy of it – she said there is a lot of passion on the team, lots of interest and she asked the SC to please put it on the agenda for

Tuesday. Mrs. Beaulieu said that she appreciates the passion of our athletes but that this was not a funded sport – Lacrosse wasn't either and then we cut middle school sports – but then brought it back into our budget. We have the old bill and the new bill – two problems – we will agenda it appropriately for Tuesday (we will ask Mr. DiModica to do it) and we will post accordingly. The bill is significant from the past and moving forward would be substantial as well but we will agenda for fiscal on Tuesday. Mr. Salvatore said that he likes the synergy between LHS and CHS.

Agenda Item #11: New Business

A. Next Gen – Personalized Learning Grant Presentation and Letter of Support – Mr. Mitchell started off by saying that he and Mr. Tenreiro, Mr. Costa, and Ms. Letoile attended a Personalized Learning Conference during the summer and the goal was to help the school and the district to apply for this Personalized Grant. Next, Mr. Mitchell shared a video called "The Myth of Average" – Todd Rose – a video about how it was a challenge for the Air Force to fit fighter pilots into their standard cockpits – so they changed their design to fit most individuals – which equates to students and learning and flexibility. Mr. Costa talked about how right now in our school there is not much flexibility for students, but with this new plan we will design to the edges – like a summer program for incoming eighth grade students – give them three credits and this will open up their 10th and 11th grade schedules – they could go from a seven block schedule to a four block schedule – they would have time to work on a political campaign, they could attend NE Tech- they would have flexibility because of the three credits they earned during their summer bridge program – in their senior year they could actually be doing internships. Mr. Costa went on to say that they have passed the first stage of the grant and now the commitment letter is needed. Some of the schools that were in the running for the grant have dropped out, but Cumberland is still in the running and has a very good chance at getting this grant – just need to submit the commitment letter next. This would be the first time to receive such a grant! Mr. Costa also noted that there would still be the opportunity for students to receive the traditional diploma as well. Mrs. Beaulieu thinks this is a great opportunity for Cumberland! Mr. Costa said that CHS is one of 41 schools in the League of Innovative Schools that did apply for this grant – but since then the number has gone down and now the list is shorter, so Cumberland has a good chance of getting the grant! Mrs. Teel asked if the summer bridge program would be offered to other grades and Mr. Costa said that it would and that he is hoping to get this program up and running for the 2015-2016 school year.

B. State Aid Update for FY15 – Mr. Prignano gave each SC member a packet of information and he briefly reviewed some of it during the meeting. He talked about per pupil spending, free and reduced lunches, revenue generation, reviewed state aid, noted that some districts gained state aid and some lost, he went over student enrollment – full day Kindergarten – changes to free and reduced lunch (for Cumberland). He told the SC that we pay $7,221 for each student that goes to the charter schools. He gave them a listing for every district in the state and how many students they each have in charter schools – because of the funding formula each district pays a different amount. He also noted that state aid for next year would be

$896,000 – we thought it was going to be $1.1m. Mrs. Beaulieu asked about hiring an auditor and Mr. Prignano said that he would talk to the company they are currently using and ask them if they could just expand their audit – he said the numbers could change, but we expect that. Mrs. Beaulieu suggested a BEP Sub-Committee.
C. Discussion and/or Vote to Approve Home School Instruction Requests 2014-15 School Year – Mr. Mitchell recommended approval. Mrs. Teel made a motion to approve, 2nd Mr. DiModica, approved 7-0.
D. Discussion and/or Vote to Approve 1st Reading of New Policies: 1) G-12 Professional Responsibility for Certified Professionals and 2) G-13 Teacher Standards – Mrs. Teel asked Atty. Adams if the two new policies needed two readings and asked if they should be tabled and Atty. Adams said yes she should table them – table G-12 and G-13 because they need a second reading before approving, but then Atty. Adams said that he misunderstood Mrs. Teel – no need to table them – just agenda as first reading – and with that Mrs. Teel said she would take no action on these policies tonight.
E. Discussion and/or Vote to Approve Amended Policies: 1) G-6 Personnel Benefit Policy for Non-Unit Administrators and Support Personnel, 2) I-2 Computer/Internet/Electronic Device Acceptable Use Cross Referenced as G-14 Computer/Internet/Electronic Device Acceptable Use, 3) J-18 School Attendance Areas/Boundary Lines, 4) J-19 Student Automobile Use, 5) J-20 Student Dress Code, 6) K-4 School/Home Communications – Mrs. Teel made a motion to approve G-6, I-2 also will be G-14, J-18, J-19, J-20 and K-4 as amended/presented, 2nd Mr. Salvatore, Mr. Duffy will not vote because he was not here for previous meetings, approved 6-0. One abstain.

Agenda Item #12: Personnel Recommendations
Mrs. Fogell requested the following recommendations:
Retirements

I request the advice and consent of the School Committee on the retirement of **Pauleen Slater, School Nurse Teacher** at **Ashton Elementary School,** effective December 31, 2014 after **25 years of service**.
Mr. DiModica made a motion to approve, 2nd Mr. Duffy, approved 7-0.

Appointments

I request the advice and consent of the School Committee on the appointment of **Joyce Bonner, Purchasing Clerk** at **Cumberland School Department,** effective **07/01/2014. (FTE: 0.6; Step n/a; Lane: n/a; Co-pay: 11.0%; budgeted).**
Mr. DiModica made a motion to approve, 2nd Mr. Dennen, approved
7-0.

Cumberland Middle Schools Winter Coaches

Basketball:

NCMS Girl's	Paul Lombardi*	McCourt Girl's	John McNeil*
NCMS Boy's	Jack Madden	McCourt Boy's	Laura Marcolini

Wrestling:

NCMS	Steve Gorman	McCourt	Andrew Gibbons

Mr. Duffy made a motion to approve, 2nd Mr. DiModica, approved 7-0.
* denotes new recommendation

Agenda Item #13: School Committee Comments (School Liaison Reports)
Mr. DiModica thanked the Cumberland Police Department for doing such a great job with police presence at all of the schools. Mr. Salvatore thanked Atty. Adams for being such a great asset to the School Committee. Mrs. Beaulieu recognized Jessie Butash, Vice Principal CHS, for being a member of Fuse RI, which is a statewide initiative for sharing, implementing, evaluating, and scaling technology usage and blended learning in schools across Rhode Island. Mrs. Butash will be working with North Smithfield. Mrs. Beaulieu also thanked the School Committee – she said they are a good committee with lots of energy and they will continue to move forward.

Agenda Item #14: 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) Discussion of Service Independent Contractor/Job Performance and 2) CTA/ICSE
B. Negotiations/Litigation – Exception (2) – 1) CTA/ICSE and 2) Litigation Update/Potential Litigation

The SC went into executive session at 9:30 p.m.

C. Vote to Seal Minutes of Executive Session – Mr. Fiorillo made a motion to seal the minutes, 2nd Mr. Salvatore, approved 7-0.
D. Reconvene into Open Session – Mr. Fiorillo made a motion to reconvene into open session, 2nd Mr. DiModica, approved 7-0.

The SC reconvened into open session at 11:34 p.m.

Meeting minutes respectfully submitted by Linda A. Jackvony