

APPROVED - 1/8/2015

There was a regular meeting of the Cumberland School Committee held on Thursday, December 11, 2014 at the Cumberland High School Transitional Cafetorium, 2602 Mendon Road, Cumberland, Rhode Island.

Members Present: Lisa Beaulieu, Raymond Salvatore, William Dennen, Paul DiModica, Craig Duffy, Mark Fiorillo, 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 7:39 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. Dennen, approved 7-0.

Agenda Item #4: Student Government

- A. Student Activities – in November the students held the Turkey Basket Drive – they delivered 150 baskets! On 12/2 the Junior Ring Ceremony was held – rings were distributed during second period. The 8th grade showcase was also held for incoming freshmen – they were given tours of the school, met teachers, able to talk to different club members. There are currently four adopted families and four wreaths of giving – these families will be given gifts, gift cards and food for a festive holiday. On December 18th there will be a meeting to wrap up gifts for the adopted families.

Agenda Item #5: Consent Agenda

- A. Approval of Minutes – 1) Organizational Meeting 11/13/14, 2) Regular Meeting 11/13/14, 3) Special Meeting 11/18/14
- B. Approval of Minutes – 1) Executive Session 11/13/14
- C. Enrollment Report – 12/1/14
- D. School Police Report 11/1/14
- E. Residency/Truancy Report 12/1/14

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

Agenda Item #6: Superintendent's Report

- A. Recognitions – Dr. Thornton announced Joyce Bonner as the 2014 Cross Country Coach of the Year – R.I. Track Coaches Association. The District Education Support Professional of the Year was Diane Nadeau from McCourt Middle School. National Writing Day Presentation was given by Nicole Lanni – Nicole explained that this was the first time for the students to participate in the day of writing – she also explained what events took place during that

day and noted that the students were able to express their creativity – she hopes this event to be an annual one for CHS! Michelle McIntosh and Sandra Cocca spoke about Breast Cancer Awareness Week – it was during October and there were different events scheduled for each day – there were t-shirts being sold, banners being signed in memory of loves ones that have had the illness or have it now and also a cupcake challenge! At the end of the week the cupcakes were sold at the football game! Students donated what they could and over \$1,200 was donated to the Gloria Gemma Foundation. Sandra Cocca, Arelitsa Barth and Kristen Murphy are the CHS survivors of the disease! Mr. Mitchell noted that our middle schools performed at the state house and four of our students were accepted into the Junior Allstate Group! Congratulations!!!

Agenda Item #7: Chairperson’s Report

- A. Funding Formula and the BEP – Mrs. Beaulieu noted that there would be a BEP meeting directly following this SC meeting – she will save her comments for that time!

Agenda Item #8: Reports of Standing Committees

- A. Payment of Bills – Mr. DiModica made a motion to pay invoices in the amount of \$1,259,075.01, 2nd Mr. Fiorillo, approved 7-0.
- B. Fiscal Management Sub-Committee Update – Mr. DiModica stated that during the sub-committee meeting they discussed the Business Office Monthly Report, some resolutions, discussed the Communications Coordinator Contract, ELL Services, Sodexo Report and the Special Educator Model.
- C. Policy and Procedures Sub-Committee Update – Mr. Fiorillo said the sub-committee met on 12/9 and discussed the amended I-16, K-3, Gift Acceptance Policy and noted some improvements to existing policies.
- D. Achievement and Communications Sub-Committee Update – Mrs. Teel noted that the sub-committee met this evening and discussed student recognition high honors and honors and how to handle the National Honor Society at the middle school level.

Agenda Item #9: Public Hearing

- A. Reading of Policies: 1) New Policies – 2nd Reading – a) G-12 Professional Responsibility for Certified Professionals and b) G-13 Teacher Standards. 2) Amended Policies: a) I-16 High School Athletic and Extracurricular Eligibility Requirements, b) K-3 School Community Relations – Mr. Fiorillo asked that G-12 and G-13 be read into the record for the 2nd reading and amended policies I-16 and K-3 be read into the record as amended.
- B. Public Comment – Mrs. Beaulieu asked if there were any public comments regarding these policies and there were none – she closed the hearing.

Agenda Item #10: Comments from the Public

One gentleman got up and commended the SC and Dr. Thornton on the purchase of the chromebooks – great job!!! However, the standard based grading report cards

are not good – he does not believe that they are doing what the SC and administration thought and definitely not what the parents had hoped for. He went on to say that the system is broken; the students do not know what to do to get a four. If they do the math problems correct and could potentially get a four but spell something incorrectly they are going to get a three. He went on to say that some students and their parents that were at soccer practice were saying that the teachers have too much power and not a very clear definition. The students are studying but not very hard because they know they are very unlikely to get a four-three's could be anything from an 80 to a 94. There is no clear avenue of what is expected from the students – he asked why students were given four's on the report cards for homework and enthusiasm. This man suggested that the SC and administration talk to the stakeholders – the students – get the inside stories from them – make sure they are in a room where there are no teachers so they will not be intimidated.

Agenda Item #11: New Business

- A. Discussion and/or Vote to Approve RFP Bid Submission of the BEP – Mr. DiModica made a motion to table this until the next SC meeting because they need more information, 2nd Mr. Dennen and Mr. Fiorillo, approved 7-0.
- B. Sodexo Facilities Activity Report – Mr. DiModica noted that this was for informational purposes - \$148,000 spent so far this year - \$30,000 more than last year at this time.
- C. Discussion and/or Vote to Approve Increased ELL Teacher Support – Mr. DiModica noted that Dr. Thornton would be back in January with some hard numbers.
- D. Discussion and/or Vote to Approve Resolution SC-PR-12-2014-20 CHS Band Instruments – Mr. DiModica made a motion to approve SC-PR-12-2014-20 to Rick's Music for \$9,995, 2nd Mr. Dennen, approved 7-0.
- E. Discussion and/or Vote to Approve Resolution SC-PR-12-2014-21: Communications Coordinator Services Contract – Mr. DiModica stated that SC-PR-12-2014-21 was approved with a 3-0 vote in sub-committee, he noted that in January they will amend the contract and that Justin Martin's hours are going to be extended, Mr. DiModica then made a motion to pass SC-PR-12-2014-21, 2nd Mr. Fiorillo, Mr. Duffy asked how many extra hours (not noted on contract) – 32 hours – up from 20 hours – Mrs. Fogell said this was just a ballpark figure and that some months Mr. Martin will do more hours and some months less hours. The motion was then approved 7-0.
- F. Discussion and/or Vote to Approve Home School Instruction Requests 2014-15 School Year – Mr. Mitchell stated that there were no requests tonight.
- G. Discussion and/or Vote to Approve 2nd Reading of New Policies: 1) G-12 Professional Responsibility for Certified Professionals and 2) G-13 Teacher Standards – Mr. Fiorillo noted that this was the 2nd reading and then made a motion to approve G-12 and G-13, 2nd Mr. Salvatore, approved 7-0.
- H. Discussion and/or Vote to Approve Amended Policies: 1) I-16 High School Athletic and Extracurricular Eligibility Requirements – Mr. Fiorillo stated that this policy was discussed on Tuesday, it was amended and with that he

made a motion to approve I-16, 2nd Mr. Salvatore, Mr. Duffy questioned that there was no override by the teacher – need to provide someone to have the ability to override – but Dr. Thornton said that is a slippery slope and would be very difficult to differentiate circumstances. Mr. Mitchell said the goal is to make all extra curricular activities and this would be based on quarterly performances – consistent. Mr. DiModica said that it seems like we are still penalizing the students that go to summer school and pass what subjects they were initially failing. Mr. Mitchell said they would be allowed to fail one subject. Motion was approved 6-1 – Mr. Duffy in the negative. 2) K-3 School Community Relations – Mr. Fiorillo made a motion to approve, 2nd Mr. Salvatore, approved 7-0.

Agenda Item #12: Personnel Recommendations

Mrs. Fogell requested the following personnel recommendations:

AMENDED – 12/10/14

Resignations

I request the advice and consent of the School Committee on the retirement of **Stefanie Bello, Girls Varsity Field Hockey Coach** for the **Cumberland School Department**, effective November 23, 2014.

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

Appointments

I request the advice and consent of the School Committee on the appointment of **Eric Georgio, Secondary Mathematics Teacher** for the **Cumberland School Department**, effective January 5, 2015. **(FTE: 1.0; Step 1; Lane: N/A; Co-pay: 22%; budgeted).**

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

I request the advice and consent of the School Committee on the appointment of **Kyle Santos, Special Education Coordinator – Middle Level** for the **Cumberland School Department**, effective January 5, 2015. **(FTE: 1.0; Step 9; Lane: N/A; Co-pay: 22%; Stipend: \$7,000; budgeted).**

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

Agenda Item #13: School Committee Comments (School Liaison Reports) – Mr. DiModica thanked Mrs. Teel for getting the SC to participate in the Happy Basket Program. Mr. Duffy thanked all the schools for participating in Hour of Code. Mrs. Beaulieu noted that Mayor-Elect Murray and Scott Schmidt were in attendance.

Agenda Item #14: Vote to go into Executive Session for Discussion on Items Referred to in R.I.G.L. 42-46-5

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

Agenda Item #15: Adjournment

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

Meeting was adjourned at 8:37 p.m.

Meeting minutes respectfully submitted by Linda A. Jackvony