

## **UNAPPROVED**

There was a regular meeting of the Cumberland School Committee held on Thursday, January 22, 2015 at the Cumberland High School Transitional Building Cafetorium, 2602 Mendon Road, Cumberland, Rhode Island.

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

**Administration Present:** Dr. Phil Thornton, Superintendent, Atty. Stephen Adams

### **Agenda Item #1:** Chairperson Convenes Meeting

Chairwoman Beaulieu convened the meeting to order at 7:39 p.m. She asked for a moment of silence for the student in our district that had passed away earlier in the week.

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

### **Agenda Item #3:** Approval of Agenda

Mr. DiModica made a motion to approve the agenda, 2<sup>nd</sup> Mr. Dennen, approved 6-0.

### **Agenda Item #4:** Consent Agenda

- A. Approval of Minutes – Regular Meeting 1/8/15 – Mr. Fiorillo made a motion to approve the regular meeting minutes of 1/8/15, 2<sup>nd</sup> Mr. Salvatore, approved 6-0.

### **Agenda Item #5:** Report Out of Executive Session Meeting

- A. Report Out of Executive Session Meeting on 1/22/15 – 1) Report Out of Executive Session Votes – Mrs. Beaulieu stated that there were no votes taken. 2) Vote to Seal Minutes of Executive Session – Mr. DiModica made a motion to seal the minutes, 2<sup>nd</sup> Mr. Dennen, approved 6-0.

### **Agenda Item #6:** Superintendent's Report

- A. Highlander Institute – Fuse RI Fellow – Jesse Butash, Assistant Principal at CHS, stated that she visited a model school in California last week to get a national perspective, a better understanding. She will be going to North Carolina next week for training on blended learning – she is very excited about all of the new practices that will be coming to CHS – it will be so good for the students! Mrs. Butash said that the most dramatic difference is personalized learning, blended learning – she said that now that our district has the tools in our technology – we can make it all happen!
- B. Discussion of the Book “Growth Mindset” – Dr. Thornton stated that Mr. Mitchell was absent tonight but asked Dr. Thornton to pass the books out to the SC members so that they could discuss some of the book at the next SC meeting.

**Agenda Item #7:** Chairperson's Report

- A. Funding Formula and the BEP – Mrs. Beaulieu noted that there is a Special House Commission that is studying the Rhode Island Fair Funding Formula. She said they will be meeting the next three Fridays in room 101 of the State House at 3 p.m. Mrs. Beaulieu is the Appointee for the Rhode Island School Committee Association.

**Agenda Item #8:** Reports of Standing Committees

- A. Mr. DiModica noted that at the 12/18 meeting the sub-committee voted to approve the payment of legal bills for the year in the amount of \$21,076.71 to our legal firm and although it was approved, it was never recorded. So with that Mr. DiModica made a motion to pay invoices in the amount of \$21,076.71 to our legal firm, 2<sup>nd</sup> Mr. Dennen, approved 6-0. Mr. DiModica said this was just a housekeeping issue.
- B. Fiscal Management Sub-Committee Update – Mr. DiModica stated that the sub-committee met this past Tuesday and approved a budget transfer to pay for an ELL teacher, discussed the replacement of the generator at the high school, discussed the possibility of Sodexo increasing lunch prices in the elementary and middle schools next year – just a little bit, also talked about the good news from Sodexo for our elementary schools – Sodexo will be giving each of the schools \$500.00 for eating healthy!!
- C. Policy and Procedures Sub-Committee Update – Mr. Fiorillo said there was no meeting and the next meeting would be the second week of February.
- D. Achievement and Communications Sub-Committee Update – Mr. Duffy and Mrs. Beaulieu said that they discussed honors and high honors and the National Honor Society – cumulative GPA of 3.25 for end of year award from NHS. High honors mean no 2's at the end of the year, also GPA of 3.25. Final proposal from mid level principals at the end of the second quarter.

**Agenda Item #9:** Comments from the Public

Mr. Schmitt stated that at tomorrow's meeting at the State House regarding the Fair Funding Formula, he would be one of the speakers that explains to the committee why Fair Funding does not work in this town.

**Agenda Item #10:** New Business

- A. Vote on CTA Employee Disciplinary Hearing: Teacher A – Mrs. Beaulieu noted that earlier tonight during Executive Session they had a hearing regarding Teacher A. Mr. Salvatore made a motion to uphold Dr. Thornton's recommendation, 2<sup>nd</sup> Mr. DiModica and Mr. Fiorillo, Mr. Duffy abstained from voting because he was not at the Executive Session meeting, motion approved 5-0, Mr. Duffy abstaining.
- B. NESDEC Projected Enrollment Report – Dr. Thornton stated that our numbers are going up every year – some students leave but then return! Dr. Thornton noted that meetings with Mayor Murray and his department heads are very helpful – the planning department advises where the building is

- going on in the town and this is helpful to know which schools will be impacted. Currently there are 71 home-schooled students in our district.
- C. Discussion and/or Vote to Approve 2015-2016 School Calendar – Mr. Fiorillo wanted to take a vote tonight because he said that parents need time to plan for vacations, childcare, etc. Mr. Fiorillo made a motion to approve the 2015-2016 School Calendar, 2<sup>nd</sup> Mr. DiModica, approved 6-0.
  - D. Discussion and/or Vote to Approve Resolution SC-PR-1-2015-02: Replace Generator – CHS Transitional Building – Mr. DiModica made a motion to approve SC-PR-1-2015-02 in an amount not to exceed \$3,800 with Engineering Design Services of Slatersville, Rhode Island to replace the generator at CHS Transitional Building, 2<sup>nd</sup> Mr. Dennen and Mr. Fiorillo, approved 6-0.
  - E. Discussion and/or Vote to Approve Resolution SC-R-2015-03: FY 2014-15 Budget: Budget Transfers – Mr. DiModica stated that this was discussed in sub-committee earlier tonight and approved with a 3-0 vote. Mr. DiModica made a motion to approve SC-R-2015-03, not to exceed \$45,920.00, the money will come from the Health Care Claims Area on the budget and will be put into the Elementary Teacher Account for an ELL teacher, 2<sup>nd</sup> Mr. Dennen, approved 6-0.
  - F. Discussion and/or Vote to Approve Resolution SC-R-2015-04: ELL Teacher (FTE 1.0) – Mr. DiModica made a motion to approve SC-R-2015-04 ELL Teacher, 2<sup>nd</sup> Mr. Fiorillo, approved 6-0.

**Agenda Item #11:** Personnel Recommendations

Mrs. Fogell had one personnel recommendation – the resignation of Dr. Lisa Colwell, Director of Special Education, effective 3-4-15. Mr. DiModica made a motion to approve the resignation, 2<sup>nd</sup> Mr. Salvatore, approved 6-0. Mr. DiModica thanked Dr. Colwell for her ten years of service. Mrs. Beaulieu also thanked Dr. Colwell for her service, especially helpful with the policy committee and the recruitment of our Superintendent, Dr. Thornton. Mrs. Fogell said they are currently reviewing the job description, would hopefully post it next week, 3-4 week search – hopefully start interviewing in March. Mr. Duffy asked if they were rushing to find someone to start prior to the end of this school year or should they wait and keep searching for someone that could start the beginning of next school year. Mrs. Fogell stated that they would wait if someone that was really good could not start until the next school year – and if they cannot find someone they really like, they will re-post it.

**Agenda Item #12:** School Committee Comments (School Liaison Reports)

Dr. Thornton told the SC that their homework is reading Chapters 1-4 in the “Growth Mindset” book so that they can discuss these chapters at the next SC meeting. Mr. Dennen commented that this Saturday some parents at Community School would be painting their halls and classrooms! Mr. Duffy thanked Mrs. Beaulieu and Mr. Schmitt for tackling the Fair Funding Formula issue. Dr. Thornton also thanked Mr. Prignano for his assistance with this issue.

**Agenda Item #13:** 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 would be no Executive Session this evening.

**Agenda Item #14:** Adjournment

Mr. Fiorillo made a motion to adjourn, 2<sup>nd</sup> Mr. Duffy, approved 6-0.

Meeting adjourned at 8:13 p.m.

Meeting minutes respectfully submitted by Linda A. Jackvony