APPROVED 3.12.15

There was a regular meeting of the Cumberland School Committee held on Thursday, February 26, 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

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

Agenda Item #1: Chairperson Convenes Meeting
Chairwoman Beaulieu convened the meeting to order at 7:34 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. Salvatore, approved 7-0.

Agenda Item #4: Student Government
Past events included the blood drive – 52 pints of blood, which saved 154 lives, were collected – there will be another blood drive in April. Student government representatives were babysitters at the parent/teacher conferences for parents coming in and also for teachers and staff! Sophomores held their fundraiser at the beginning of February – they sold teddy bears for Valentine's Day – it was a great success. Pennies for Patients will begin on March 2nd and will run throughout the month of March – the goal for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society is $10,000!

Agenda Item #5: Consent Agenda
A. Approval of Minutes – Regular Meeting 2/12/15
B. Approval of Minutes – Executive Session 2/12/15

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

Agenda Item #6: Report Out of Executive Session Meeting
A. Report out of Executive Session Meeting on 2/26/15 – 1) Report Out of Executive Session Votes – Mrs. Beaulieu stated that there were no votes taken. 2) Vote to Seal Minutes of Executive Session – Mrs. Teel made a motion to seal the minutes, 2nd Mr. Fiorillo, approved 7-0.

Agenda Item #7: Superintendent's Report
A. Recognition – 1) CHS Boys Varsity Cross Country Coach – Dr. Thornton presented Tom Kenwood with a certificate naming Tom as the 2014 Northeast Sectional Coach of the Year for Boys Cross Country. Dr. Thornton noted that Coach Kenwood is in his 41st season and has had over 600

victories. 2) USMC Toys for Tots Awards – 2014 – Colonel Jeff Richardson presented Dr. Thornton, Alan Tenreiro – CHS, Jason Masterson – MMS, Antonio DiManna - BFN School, and Judith Bassignani – Garvin Memorial School a certificate thanking them all for their help with the 2014 program.

B. Middle School Student Trip Presentation – Quebec City – will be on next SC agenda.
C. Discussion of Book "Growth Mindset" – Chapters 1-4 – will be on next SC agenda.

At this time Dr.Thorton thanked Mayor Murray for his assistance with snow removal in the parking lots at the schools. Mrs. Beaulieu congratulated Coach Kenwood on his award!

Agenda Item #8: Chairperson's Report

A. Funding Formula and the BEP – no comments at this time.

Agenda Item #9: Reports of Standing Committees

A. Payment of Bills – Mr. DiModica noted that there were no payments this evening.
B. Fiscal Management Sub-Committee Update – Mr. DiModica said the committee met on 2/24 and reviewed the documents regarding the gas and electricity proposal, discussed landscaping and snow removal costs, and discussed the moratorium regarding the charter schools.
C. Policy and Procedures Sub-Committee Update – the committee met on 2/24 and Mr. Fiorillo stated that they discussed the personnel benefit policy for non-unit administrative and support personnel, J-1 Early Entry to K – talked about lowering the 2nd assessment to 80% instead of 95% - the committee believes that the threshold is too high.
D. Achievement and Communications Sub-Committee Update – Mrs. Teel said the committee met on 2/24 and discussed some of the improvements to the high school guidance department, talked about the chrome books, the preparations for the PARCC tests, the committee would like to see more field trips to colleges for the high school students, also discussed the parent survey and would like the guidance department to invite more colleges in to the school for visits. Mrs. Teel said the next meeting would be March 10th.
E. Building Committee Update – Mr.Fiorillo said the committee has met several times, they have reviewed the energy savings package which could effect the entire district, RIDE is suggesting health and safety renovations, the energy study that is being conducted by a local firm is almost complete and Mr. Fiorillo said that they are progressing right along and the application from the district needs to be in to RIDE by 3/23/15.

Agenda Item #10: Public Hearing

A. Reading of Policies – 1) Amended Policies – a) G-6 Personnel Benefit Policy for Non-Unit Administrative and Support Personnel – Mr. Fiorillo stated that this was still in discussion and with that made a motion to table G-6, 2nd Mrs. Teel and Mr. Dennen, approved 7-0. b) J-1 Early Entry to Kindergarten and

First Grade – Mr. Fiorillo stated that this policy was approved in sub-committee with a 3-0 vote to change the policy to a threshold of 80% instead of 95% and with that made a motion to approve J-1 – amended policy, 2nd Mr. Salvatore, approved 7-0.

B. Public Comment – there was no comment.

Agenda Item #11: Comments from the Public

Drew M. from BVP commented that everyone should be able to work together because they all share the same goals.

Kerri F. is a parent of three students here in Cumberland and she said the schools are great but we are underfunded – she supports the moratorium.

Agenda Item #12: New Business

A. Discussion of FY 2016 Budget Timeline – Mr. Prignano pointed out some upcoming important dates. 3/12 – tentative – budget submitted to SC for review, 3/12 – 3/26 budget workshops with SC, 4/6 School Department will submit its estimates for capital and operating expenditures to the Finance Director, 4/20 Finance Director will submit his/her recommendations to the Mayor, 5/11 the Mayor shall review the recommendations of the Finance Director and shall make such changes in the various expenditures as he sees fit, provided that he shall not have the authority to change any item in the request except the overall amount, he will submit the budget to the council no later than the second Monday in May (5/11).

B. Update on School Closings/School Calendar – Dr. Thornton stated that due to snow days, the last of school is June 16th – no impact on high school graduation. Dr. Masterson stated that they would select a date for middle school graduation after the snow days are over – middle school graduates must attend 180 days.

C. Vote on Teacher Dismissal Recommendations – Mrs. Fogell stated that the SC had reviewed information in Executive Session regarding Teacher A and Teacher B – for dismissal – and she was asking the SC for their approval. Mr. DiModica made a motion to send Teacher A a termination letter, 2nd Mr. Salvatore, approved 7-0. Mr. DiModica made a motion to send Teacher B a termination letter, 2nd Mr. Salvatore, approved 7-0.

D. Discussion and/or Vote to Approve Resolution SC-PR-2-2015-06: Reading Program – Joseph L. McCourt Middle School – Mr. DiModica said that this was withdrawn from the agenda – there will be no action taken.

E. Discussion and/or Vote to Approve Resolution SC-R-2-2015-05: Resolution Petitioning the State Legislature to Place a Moratorium on Charter School Expansion – Mrs. Beaulieu started off by saying that she requested that this be on the agenda – the funding formula is to provide equity and fairness for every student. The Mayoral Academy had its own funding strategy – budget neutral to school communities – but there are shortcomings – the local share varies – some dollars go towards transportation, pensions, etc. – created additional problems – there is no solution so we need to be proactive – the dollars should follow the student no matter what school he or she attends.

Dr. Thornton pointed out that each year the figures for the charter schools are getting higher and higher – next year it would be up to $3.4m. Mrs. Beaulieu asked the SC to review the resolution and Mr. Dennen will make the changes on his laptop. Mr. Duffy offered a title change and then went to line 19 and discussed/recommended his additions after that – he said that Cumberland has a funding issue and we did not vote for that so he believes the state should pick up the burden. Mrs. Teel commented that we are facing a crisis in the district with the expansion of the charter schools – they get 100% of the funding – we do not – we need this moratorium – the state needs to step in. Mr. DiModica agreed that we need a moratorium – but only Cumberland – not the rest of the state – we should not fund mayoral academies – he would like to see those schools go before the Town Council and ask for the funding – we need the money at our schools – he also believes it is getting worse – he gives his full support as long as we do not hurt the children that are there. Mr. Duffy stated that the moratorium would not affect the state – his comments/suggestions would not cost the state money so he believes if the SC added his suggestions to the resolution, that maybe the state would be able to solve this issue quicker. Mr. Duffy said the funding formula does not work, he feels that Cumberland is a loser in this discussion right now. Mrs. Teel said she does not have a problem supporting the moratorium. Mr. Dennen stated that he would like to keep the moratorium in Cumberland. Mr. Salvatore stated that this is a math problem – has to be fixed – has to be sent to the state – nothing against charter schools – he likes having the choice and he does not want the students effected in any way. He thinks we need to give the state some time to fix the problem. Mr. Duffy is not comfortable with anything that says moratorium – Mrs. Beaulieu disagreed this point – she said the math does not allow us to improve our schools, we are stuck in a 4% budget – we appreciate what the town has done, but there needs to be a sense of urgency regarding this matter – we have a funding crisis – we need to solve the problem. The moratorium would not allow any new growth to occur – whatever the number of students is in the school now is going to stay the same – students will leave but new students will not enter. Mr. Duffy and Mr. Fiorillo said no moratorium – they want the state to fund future growth – Mr. Fiorillo does agree with saying no to expansion in enrollment – unless the state picks up the funding. Mrs. Teel said that the SC needs to use these words (moratorium) to get the states attention – we have a serious situation and we are requesting fair and equitable funding – it is huge to the students in this town. Mr. Dennen typed up the changes that were acknowledged and amended the resolution. Mr. DiModica, Mr. Salvatore and Mrs. Beaulieu said the resolution should include the State and not just Cumberland. They approved the title and then took a vote. Mr. Salvatore made a motion to approve, as amended, SC-R-2-2015-05, 2nd Mrs. Teel, approved 6-1, Mr. Duffy in the negative.

F. Discussion and/or Vote to Approve Amended Policies: a) G-6 Personnel Benefit Policy for Non-Unit Administrative and Support Personnel and b) J-1

Early Entry to Kindergarten and First Grade – Already took action on both earlier in this meeting.

Agenda Item #13: Personnel Recommendations
Mrs. Fogell requested the following personnel recommendations:
Amended 2/26/2015
Leave of Absence
I request the advice and consent of the School Committee on the FMLA leave of absence of Tanya Cobb, Elementary Teacher at Cumberland Hill Elementary School from May 22, 2015 through the remainder of the school year.

I request the advice and consent of the School Committee on the FMLA leave of absence of Nicole O'Connor, School Psychologist for the Cumberland School Department from March 26, 2015 through the remainder of the school year.

I request the advice and consent of the School Committee on the FMLA leave of absence of Jillian Smith, School Counselor at BF Norton Elementary School from April 27, 2015 through the remainder of the school year.

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

Spring Coaches
I request the advice and consent of the School Committee on the appointment of the following coaching positions for the 2014-2015 school year.

Kristine Brown, Girls Head Softball Coach – Joseph L. McCourt Middle School
Michael Forrest, Boys Head JV Baseball Coach – Cumberland High School
Brian Larence, Boys Head JV Lacrosse Coach – Cumberland High School
Brad Yankee, Boys Head Baseball Coach - Joseph L. McCourt Middle School

Mr. Fiorillo made a motion to approve, 2nd Mr. Dennen, approved 5-2.

Agenda Item #14: School Committee Comments (School Liaison Reports)
No comments at this time.

Agenda Item #15: 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 was no Executive Session this evening.

Agenda Item #16: Adjournment
Mr. Fiorillo made a motion to adjourn, 2nd Mr. Dennen and Mr. Salvatore, approved 7-0.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:51 p.m.
Meeting minutes respectfully submitted by Linda A. Jackvony