

UNAPPROVED

There was a regular meeting of the Cumberland School Committee held on Thursday, March 12, 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, Mark Fiorillo, Linda Teel. Craig Duffy was absent.

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 7:37 p.m.

Agenda Item #2: Pledge of Allegiance

Agenda Item #3: Approval of Agenda
Mrs. Teel made a motion to approve the agenda, 2nd Mr. Fiorillo, approved 6-0.

Agenda Item #4: Student Government
Pennies for Patients is underway and during the first week CHS has collected over \$1,500 – they are definitely on their way towards their goal of \$10,000. The Spring Fling is April 11th in the high school cafeteria. There will be another blood drive in April and there will be free pizza!

Agenda Item #5: Consent Agenda

- A. Approval of Minutes – Regular Meeting 2/26/15
- B. Approval of Minutes – Executive Session 2/26/15
- C. Enrollment Report – 3/1/15
- D. School Police Report – 2/1/15
- E. Residency/Truancy Report – 3/1/15

Mr. Fiorillo made a motion to approve the consent agenda, 2nd Mr. Dennen, approved 6-0.

Agenda Item #6: Report Out of Executive Session Meeting

- A. Report Out of Executive Session Meeting on 3/12/15 – 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 6-0.

Agenda Item #7: Superintendent's Report

- A. Recognition – Dr. Thornton awarded CHS Wrestling Team Coach Steve Gordon with an appreciation plaque for “500 Wins”!!! Congratulations Coach Gordon!!!

- B. Middle School Student Trip Presentation – Quebec City – Mrs. Brady, Mrs. Morin and Mrs. Reo were at the meeting with some of the students that went on the Quebec trip. This was the 17th year of going to Quebec – there are four buses that take the students to Quebec now! The presentation included students experiences, pictures of dog sledding, the Sugar Shack, historical sites, etc. The students said they learned about history, spoke the language, tried traditional food, learned about their culture, experienced dog sledding, tobogganing, snowshoeing, went to the Ice Hotel and just enjoyed all the culture, education and great food!! They all said that the memories would last forever! Mr. Salvatore asked Mrs. Brady if maybe they could leave the school a little earlier next year so that the students can get into Quebec a little earlier – otherwise it is a very long tiring day for the children.
- C. Discussion of Book “Growth Mindset” – Chapters 1-4 – this was tabled until the next meeting.

Agenda Item #8: Chairperson’s Report

- A. Funding Formula and the BEP – Mrs. Beaulieu stated that the House would be discussing this at the State House on Friday, March 13th and Dr. Thornton was going to be there.

Agenda Item #9: Reports of Standing Committees

- A. Payment of Bills – Mr. DiModica made a motion to pay invoices in the amount of \$2,056,111.06, 2nd Mr. Dennen, approved 6-0.
- B. Fiscal Management Sub-Committee Update – Mr. DiModica stated that the sub-committee met on 3/10 and discussed a Special Education spreadsheet that Mr. Prignano had provided them with, the Sodexo Food Service Contract – currently there is \$9,800 in outstanding fee’s that need to be collected from students but they are trying to figure out how to collect them without embarrassing the students, also Sodexo provided an audit for average cost equity and after reviewing it the determination was made that the elementary school lunch may go up to \$2.35. The sub-committee also reviewed the school inspection report from Sodexo. Mrs. Beaulieu asked Dr. Thornton if the core and non-core expenditures /BEP could be put on the district website and Dr. Thornton said that it should be no problem.
- C. Policy & Procedures Sub-Committee Update – Mr. Fiorillo said the sub-committee met on 3/10 and discussed G-6 Personnel Benefit Policy for Non-Unit Administrative and Support Personnel, it was tabled. They also discussed gifts for teachers and coaches and are currently looking to see what nearby Massachusetts and other communities have for policies regarding this issue.
- D. Achievement and Communications Sub-Committee Update – Mrs. Teel said the sub-committee met earlier this evening – MMS presented a Reading and Math Intervention Presentation – identify need for additional employees – Garvin will present at next meeting on 3/24.
- E. Building Committee Update – Mr. Fiorillo said there was no report this evening.

Agenda Item #10: Public Hearing

- A. Reading of Policies – 1) Amended Policy – G6 Personnel Benefit Policy for Non-Unit Administrative and Support Personnel – no action this evening.

Agenda Item #11: Comments from the Public

No comments at this time.

Agenda Item #12: New Business

- A. K-8 Math Curriculum Update – Mr. Mitchell stated that out of 20 math series that had been recently reviewed, 17 of them were judged as failing, however, Eureka Math, published by Great Minds was found to be aligned to the Common Core State Standards at all grade levels that were reviewed and he was happy to say that Cumberland is using this in K-6 currently and next year will use it in Grade 7 and the following in Grade 8. Mr. Mitchell said this was great news for Cumberland! Mrs. Beaulieu asked Mr. Mitchell about PARCC Testing and what the expected results were. Mr. Mitchell said that because it is a new test they are expecting results that are similar to that of other states – nothing exceptional – because it is a new test and new way of taking the test. But he went on to say that Mr. Costa, Vice Principal of CHS, the Guidance Department, Mike Chandler and his team and several others, have been working very hard so that the implementation would go smoothly. Mr. Mitchell thanked everyone involved for the unbelievable amount of time they have all put into this testing.
- B. Update on Kindergarten and Grade 1 Open Registration Days – Dr. Thornton noted that on March 4th and March 5th Cumberland had the annual town wide Kindergarten Registration. He said that the district is right on track and pretty close to where we were last year. They are expecting approximately another 100 additional students to register during the summer. There was a total of 170 kindergarten registrations received on March 4th and 5th.
- C. Update on BEP Budget Gap – Mrs. Beaulieu said this item would be back on the next agenda.
- D. Discussion of FY 2016 Superintendent’s Budget – Dr. Thornton sent the budget to the SC this week. He briefly reviewed state aid, what we are asking the town for – funds for chrome books 6-12, television station at the high school, computer carts, project lead the way at the middle schools. He talked about some personnel adjustments – adding two high school tech teachers, also two at the middle school, there will be some other adjustments as well. Dr. Thornton also mentioned that reimbursement from RIDE for FCAP is time sensitive – they are hopefully going to finalize paperwork and submit on 3/17/15 – that is when it needs to be submitted to qualify. Enrollment is at 4,674 and we are fully enrolled – going up still – schools are not empty! He noted some budget drivers that cannot be controlled – salaries, pensions, medical – some we can control, others we cannot. Mr. DiModica asked that the budget be marked “Budget #1” so that as the budgets get amended they

can keep track. Pre-budget meeting with the Town Council is on 3/16/15 at the Cumberland Public Library, Community Room at 6:30 p.m.

- E. Discussion and/or Vote to Approve Home School Instruction Requests 2014-2015 School Year – Mr. Mitchell said there were no requests this evening.
- F. Discussion and/or Vote to Approve Purchase of New Lawn Care Equipment – Mr. DiModica said this item was also in sub-committee, some information was presented – currently \$15,000 in house, quote was \$3,500 per school or \$65,000/season – which would cost a lot more than currently – so two new pieces of equipment are being considered to be purchased and will be situated at either end of the town, they will be trailered from school to school. Mr. Prignano said there would be more information for the SC at the next meeting. This was for discussion only.
- G. Discussion and/or Vote to Approve Amended Policy: G-6 Personnel Benefit Policy for Non-Unit Administrative and Support Personnel – no action this evening.

Agenda Item #13: Personnel Recommendations

Mrs. Fogell stated that there were no personnel recommendations this evening.

Agenda Item #14: School Committee Comments (School Liaison Reports)

Mr. Fiorillo thanked Mr. Brailey for helping to clear some snow out from around the dumpsters at the middle school. Mr. Salvatore and a representative from NCMS and CHS attended a meeting recently given by RIDE and the Department of Health, he talked about some highlights from that meeting, a Pep Grant that was won by Pawtucket and Newport - \$1.2m over three years – 100 minutes of exercise each week – parents and children – possible initiative, elementary and middle schools pipe in music in the hallways during change of classes – another possible initiative.

Agenda Item #15: Vote to go into Executive Session for Discussion on Items Referred to in R.I.G.L. 42-46-5

Mrs. Beaulieu stated that there was no Executive Session this evening.

Agenda Item #16: Adjournment

Mr. Fiorillo made a motion to adjourn, 2nd Mr. Dennen, approved 6-0.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Meeting minutes respectfully submitted by Linda A. Jackvony