

APPROVED 4.23.15

There was a regular meeting of the Cumberland School Committee held on Thursday, April 9, 2015 at the Cumberland High School Transitional Building Cafetorium, 2602 Mendon Road, Cumberland, Rhode Island.

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: Consent Agenda

- A. Approval of Minutes – 1) Regular Meeting 3/26/15, 2) Special Meeting – Budget 3/31/15, 3) Special Meeting 4/2/15, 4) Special Meeting – Budget 4/2/15
- B. Approval of Minutes – 1) Executive Session 3/26/15, 2) Executive Session 4/2/15
- C. Enrollment Report – 4/1/15
- D. School Police Report – 3/1/15
- E. Residency/Truancy Report – 4/1/15

Mr. DiModica made a motion to table approval of Executive Session minutes from 3/26/15, 2nd Mr. Fiorillo, approved 7-0.

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

Agenda Item #5: Superintendent's Report

- A. Recognition – 1) District Spelling Bee Winner – Christine Patten, NCMS Ass. Principal presented a certificate to Philip Ebersson, Grade 7, NCMS – 1st Place Winner. 2) District Geography Bee Winner – Ms. Patten presented a certificate to Jack Murphy, Grade 7, NCMS – 1st Place Winner for the District Geography Bee 2015 and Semi-finalist for the National Geographic Society Bee! 3) Sodexo "Future Chef" Winners – Mr. Tucker from Sodexo presented a Certificate of Recognition to the following students: Elise Almeida, Ashton School – Grade 3, Thomas Roy, Ashton School – Grade 4, Luis Carino, B.F. Norton School – Grade 4, Mia DeBarros, B.F. Norton School – Grade 4, Brooke Patterson, Community School – Grade 5, Samantha Murphy, Garvin Memorial School – Grade 4, Alysson Stenovitch, Garvin Memorial School – Grade 4, Grace Iannuzzi, John J. McLaughlin Cumberland Hill Elementary School – Grade – this was Grace's third year!!!, Rachel Montague-Rand, John J. McLaughlin Cumberland Hill Elementary School – Grade 5, Madilynn O'Sullivan-Van Etten, Community School – Grade 3. Congratulations to all the students!!!! Great Job!!!! Mr. Tucker also awarded a plaque and \$500 from U.S.D.A. to John J. McLaughlin Cumberland Hill Elementary School, B.F.

Norton School, Community School, Ashton School and Garvin Memorial School – Sodexo had applied for this award from U.S.D.A. last year and it basically is given to schools that keep healthy foods and drinks visible for students every day – also took into consideration, physical activities, meal requirement techniques, exercise programs, etc., at each school! All five of our elementary schools are doing a wonderful job!!! Congratulations!!!! Each school will also have a Healthy School Bronze Banner hanging in their cafeteria!!!

- B. Discussion of Book – “Growth Mindset” – Chapters 1-4 – Mr. Mitchell stated that he believed this book was beneficial for everyone to read – not just educators! This book gets you thinking about everything from relationships to parenting to education – it creates motivation – challenges your thinking! Mrs. Beaulieu noted that using growth mindset could take a student that is poor in a subject and get around it and change his/her mind about being doomed and make an improvement! Mr. Salvatore appreciated the differences the book makes between fixed and growth mindset – example would be if you got a parking ticket and were in a bad mood all day because of it – or would you look at it and admit that you should not have parked there and will not in the future. Dr. Thornton used our own BIP situation from four years ago and how currently there is a statewide conversation going on about it and hopefully things will improve. Mr. Mitchell stated that the book explains the way you need to praise a learner – students try even harder when they are praised for doing a good job – even if it is not the best – it is a start and they should be praised for trying and for doing their best. Mr. DiModica cited the example of students that have a high IQ and are doing well – used to be they always got to stamp the erasers clean, carry the flag, do things for the teacher – not like that today! Mr. Duffy noted the female mindset and how girls tend to be more perfect than boys – girls get praised more frequently – boys get scolded more and they are used to negative criticism – Math and Science are sometimes difficult for females and if they don’t think they will do good with it, they run away from it because they know they will not get the praise that they are used to getting. Mrs. Teel said that students are very capable of doing well with Common Core and that teachers need to have an open mindset. Mr. Dennen stated that it is good to fail sometimes because it develops character. Dr. Thornton said the next assignment is to read Chapters 5-8.

Agenda Item #6: Chairperson’s Report

- A. Funding Formula and the BEP – Mrs. Beaulieu noted that there have been a few articles in the paper recently from the sub-committee for the House – they should have a report in the Spring – they are analyzing differences and will make recommendations.

Agenda Item #7: Reports of Standing Committees

- A. Payment of Bills – Mr. DiModica said FM did meet earlier and he made a motion to pay invoices in the amount of \$1,368,511.82 (holding \$39,000 until the Bus. Mgr. gives a final okay), 2nd Mr. Dennen, approved 7-0.
- B. Fiscal Management Sub-Committee Update – Mr. DiModica said they received an update from the Business Manager regarding the budget, they discussed the new lawn care equipment, the Director of Special Education’s contract, and the Sodexo Report.
- C. Policy & Procedures Sub-Committee Update – Mr. Fiorillo noted that the sub-committee did meet last week and discussed the final language for the G-6 policy.
- D. Achievement & Communications Sub-Committee Update – Mrs. Teel said they met earlier in the evening with representatives from B.F. Norton and they discussed how they target students weaknesses, etc. so that they can work with the students and get them all on grade level – they are making great strides. On April 23rd the sub-committee will meet with Cumberland Hill.
- E. Building Committee Update – Mr. Fiorillo noted that they are waiting for some reports from Mr. Prignano – they will meet in the next few weeks.

Agenda Item #8: Public Hearing

- A. Reading of Policies – 1) Amended Policy: a) G-6 Personnel Benefit Policy for Non-Unit Administrative and Support Personnel
- B. Public Comment - no comments - Mrs. Beaulieu closed the public hearing.

Agenda Item #9: Comments from the Public

There were no comments at this time.

Agenda Item #10: Old Business

- A. Discussion and/or Vote to Approve Amended Policy: a) G-6 Personnel Benefit Policy for Non-Unit Administrative and Support Personnel – Mr. Fiorillo made a motion to approve G-6, 2nd Mr. Dennen, approved 7-0.
- B. Discussion and/or Vote to Approve Purchase of New Lawn Care Equipment – Mr. DiModica stated that the original proposal was for two Kabota Tractors, but right now they are planning on purchasing only one. This was approved earlier with a 3-0 vote – the tractor costs \$12,509.28 and will be purchased from Norfolk Power Equipment in Wrentham, Massachusetts. Mr. DiModica made a motion to approve the purchase of one Kabota Tractor, 2nd Mr. Dennen, Mr. Duffy asked if Mr. DiModica had heard anything from the Town Council and he said that he had not. Mr. Prignano stated that they had a private quote for \$15,000 to cut the grass and he did not think the town could do it for that. Mr. Fiorillo would still like to get a price from the town. Mr. Duffy asked if this was something that they needed right away or could they wait or perhaps rent something. Mr. Prignano stated that it would be 4-6 weeks for delivery of the tractor and that the school department really should have at least one tractor – he thought maybe the town would partner with us! Mrs. Beaulieu stated that she had a long conversation with the town

and she does not feel uncomfortable having one new tractor on site. This motion was then approved 6-1, Mr. Duffy in the negative.

Agenda Item #11: New Business

- A. Discussion and/or Vote to Approve Revised 2014-15 School Calendar – Dr. Thornton stated that this is the final calendar, graduation is 6/4 and the last day of school is 6/16. Mr. DiModica made a motion to approve, 2nd Mr. Salvatore, approved 7-0.
- B. Facilities Update – Mr. Tucker from Sodexo and Mr. Prignano gave a presentation regarding projects in the district. Some of the capital projects in the district are as follows: HVAC system repairs for Ashton, Garvin and Community \$93,000, getting quotes for sheet metal wall panel replacements in the transitional building at the high school, replace winches for basketball hoops at NCMS \$4,000, getting quotes for proper wall flashing at the Wellness Center, replacing sections of roof flashing, repair gutters and roof leaks at Community \$4,700, sweep parking lots district wide \$3,900, replace carpet in the library at Garvin, finish painting hallways in Community, patch and repair asphalt and concrete district wide, replace broken pieces of playground equipment at B.F. Norton \$8,000, district wide – looking at all playgrounds, replace generator and transfer switch in the transitional building – estimated between \$50,000 and \$75,000. Mr. Prignano stated that for about \$200,000 - \$250,000 we would be able to get all of this work done – he said they would do as much as they can with the funding available. Mr. Dennen asked if they could stripe the parking lots? A quote is possible. Mr. Dennen also asked about the slippery floors in the NCMS gym and Mr. Tucker said that it was from the weather – salt and dirt being brought in by students – it happened at all the schools. Mr. Tucker said they are working with ENE to install LED lighting. Mr. Duffy asked about the generator at the transitional building and Mr. Tucker stated that they had someone look at it and it is just too old to be repaired and it is not worth moving it – it is at the end of its life cycle and will more than likely be scrapped. Mr. Salvatore asked where we were to budget with some of these projects and Mr. Prignano said that we were about \$500,000 ahead and some of the projects had already been paid for – if the budget goes the way we hope we will be completing all of these projects – the town should be paying for some of these projects but we do not get the dollars anymore (did get \$400,000 at one point – now, nothing). Mr. Salvatore asked if the girl's shower curtains were taken care of at NCMS – some parents were very concerned. Mr. Tucker said they did look at them, some of the curtains are torn and they will be completing this job soon. Mr. Salvatore wants the requests for such items to be tracked and then have a follow-up/status. Dr. Thornton noted that Sodexo is doing a great job of keeping up the district buildings/grounds. Mrs. Beaulieu explained that we have had not had a capitol line item since 2009 and so all of the dollars come from the education money – we have to use education dollars for capitol expenses – we are trying to keep our buildings together! Mr. Fiorillo noted that when SC members make a request to

Sodexo that they should follow-up with Sodexo to make sure that the requests are being taken care of. Mr. Salvatore stated that we put people in place to do their job! Mr. Prignano noted that when the shower curtains are taken care of at NCMS, he will advise the SC.

- C. Discussion and/or Vote to Approve Employee Contract for Director of Special Education – Dr. Thornton stated that Dr. Santa has been doing an exceptional job since January. Mr. DiModica made a motion to approve the employee contract for Director of Special Education (approved 3-0 in sub-committee), 2nd Mr. Fiorillo, approved 7-0.
- D. Discussion and/or Vote to Approve Appointment of Director of Special Education – Mr. Fiorillo made a motion to approve the appointment of Director of Special Education, 2nd Mr. Dennen, approved 7-0.

Agenda Item #12: Personnel Recommendations

There were no personnel recommendations this evening.

Agenda Item #13: School Committee Comments (School Liaison Reports)

There were no comments this evening.

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) CTA/ICSE
- B. Negotiations/Litigation – Exception (2) – 1) CTA/ICSE, 2) Litigation Update/Potential Litigation
- C. Vote to Seal Minutes of Executive Session
- D. Reconvene into Open Session
- E. Report Out of Executive Session Votes

Mrs. Beaulieu stated that everyone on the committee is full of frustration regarding buses, technology, textbooks, not enough interventionists, and she said it is a challenge and we do respect everyone's concerns, but it all lies in funding.

Mrs. Teel made a motion to go into executive session, 2nd Mr. Duffy and Mr. Dennen, approved 7-0. The SC went into executive session at 8:57 p.m.

Agenda Item #15: Adjournment

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

Meeting was adjourned at 9:25 p.m.

Meeting minutes respectfully submitted by Linda A. Jackvony