

MINUTES APPROVED – 5/14/2015

There was a regular meeting of the Cumberland School Committee held on Thursday, April 23, 2015 at the Cumberland High School Transitional Building Cafetorium, 2602 Mendon Road, Cumberland, Rhode Island.

Members Present: Lisa Beaulieu, Raymond Salvatore, Paul DiModica, Craig Duffy, Mark Fiorillo, Linda Teel – William Dennen was not present.

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 7:38 p.m.

Agenda Item #2: Pledge of Allegiance

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

Agenda Item #4: Consent Agenda

- A. Approval of Minutes – 1) Regular Meeting 4/9/15
- B. Approval of Minutes – 1) Executive Session 3/26/15 and 2) Executive Session 4/9/15

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

Agenda Item #5: Report Out of Executive Session Meeting

- A. Report Out of Executive Session Meeting on 4/23/15 – 1) Report Out of Executive Session Minutes – 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 #6: Superintendent's Report

- A. Recognition – 1) District Chrome Book Presentation – April 15, 2015 – Dr. Thornton sent a shout out to our Tech Team – he said the State of Rhode Island was here for a conference and our Tech Team gave a great presentation and all is going well!

Agenda Item #7: Chairperson's Report

- A. Funding Formula and the BEP – Mrs. Beaulieu stated that the House Education Study Committee should have their report completed by the end of April.

Agenda Item #8: Reports of Standing Committees

- A. Payment of Bills – Mr. DiModica said there were no payments this evening.

- B. Fiscal Management Sub-Committee Update – Mr. DiModica said the committee met earlier in the evening and discussed the employee contracts with Dr. Thornton, also discussed the resolution for the lawn care equipment – this was a housekeeping issue – it just needed to have a resolution number assigned to it.
- C. Policy & Procedures Sub-Committee Update – Mr. Salvatore - wellness policy – final revision – outline from the state – a representative from RIDE will attend the next meeting.
- D. Achievement & Communications Sub-Committee Update – Mrs. Teel said the next meeting would be a week before the next regular SC meeting.
- E. Building Committee Update – Mr. Fiorillo said the next meeting would be at the end of May – state level conversations to be reviewed.

Agenda Item #9: Comments from the Public

Sherry – a representative from the Cumberland Girls Hockey Team – stated that the night before they were told that Cumberland does not support the team any longer. She said that they have done everything possible to continue this program and they were not even given an explanation from the athletic director. She went on to say that Mount would like Lincoln and Cumberland to play on a co-op team and asked if Cumberland could be the fiscal agent – Dr. Thornton said no. Sherry said that she and the team are not ready to except the fact that they no longer have a team – she would like everyone to work on this together – they would like to have discussions. They have funds and she said that co-op programs are up and coming and a lot of schools are doing it. At this point Mrs. Beaulieu asked Atty. Adams to speak about the issue. Atty. Adams stated that without getting specific, RIDE has a firm posture with respect for pay to play – cannot have this in Rhode Island – either school department funds the program or they do not – the sport needs to be funded by the school department – example – Mount serves as Cumberland fiscal agent – co-op program – RIDE sees this as a pay to play – not a co-op issue. Another parent – Linda – asked why Barrington always raises money for sports – and what is RIDE going to do about that? Atty. Adams said he does not know if that is right or wrong – just because someone else does it – doesn't make it right or wrong. Sherry asked the SC what else they could do – she asked why there was a girls golf team when they can never seem to find anyone that is on it – why not use the funds for hockey? Mrs. Beaulieu said this is a challenge – the fiscal obligation is a big one – she said they will continue to work with legal counsel and Dr. Thornton, but they cannot do pay to play and need to make sure that the girls are insured, etc., and she said that a lot of time has been spent looking into this – but no answer yet. Mrs. Beaulieu said the decision was based on what our legal counsel is telling us today. Another parent asked what the phase out period would be – Mrs. Beaulieu will reach out to the Interscholastic League and try to get some answers.

Agenda Item #10: New Business

- A. Discussion and/or Vote to Approve Resolution SC-PR-4-2015-06: Lawn Care Equipment Purchase – Mr. DiModica noted that this is a housekeeping issue to approve the resolution number. Mr. DiModica made a motion to approve

SC-PR-4-2015-06: A resolution authorizing and empowering the School Committee to purchase a Kubota Tractor from Norfolk Power Equipment of Wrentham, Massachusetts in an amount not to exceed \$12,509.28, 2nd Mr. Fiorillo, approved 6-0.

- B. Discussion of Cumberland School Department Strategic Plan – Dr. Thornton noted that it has been three years since the strategic plan was first developed and he wanted to review some of the action items and review where they are right now. Strategy 1- Leading the focus on learning and achievement – develop grade level priority standards for each curriculum area in each grade/ongoing, develop and implement concise RtI protocol and leadership/not there yet, revision of HS schedule/some work has been done, HS NEASC Accreditation/completed, district grading policy/achieved, pilot enrichment programming/not yet-but working on it, APC Implementation/accomplished at HS, Saturday School/achieved, all schools will formalize plan to allocate time for data teams/ongoing, addition of curriculum area leaders/achieved, development and publication of district wide writing rubrics at each level/ongoing. Strategy 2 - Ensuring equity and adequacy of fiscal and human resources – develop and implement FDK plan for elementary level/achieved, purchase and implement interactive classroom technology/achieved, purchase and deploy white boards for classrooms/achieved, revision and updating of policy book/substantial dent, I-pad pilot program at title 1 schools/achieved, FCAP funded/ongoing, 2 year budget plan and forecast “Our year’s budget model”/looking, create and implement personnel management system/not yet, tech capital expense-on a cycle/not yet. Strategy 3 – Guiding the selections and implementation of curriculum, instruction and assessment – k-8 Science/ongoing, develop and implement standards based curriculum/lots of progress, ensuring equity in curricula offerings at all schools/ongoing, textbooks/changed the conversation but still on the list, k-12 common planning time/well received Wednesday component – early release is an opportunity for teachers to collaborate and we have added four professional days. Strategy 4 – Recruiting, supporting and retaining highly qualified personnel – full implementation of new evaluation tool/achieved, implementation of ICSE evaluation tool/achieved, create and implement school calendar that calls for quarterly PD days vertical and horizontal artic/achieved, district PD support financial/achieved, math specialists/achieved. Strategy 5 – Using information for planning and accountability – integrate data systems to increase efficiency and effectiveness/ongoing, EL level in place/changed to Renaissance or Star, MS/HS progress monitor tool needed/achieved. Strategy 6 – Engaging Families and the community – establish newsletter on district website/ mailing/achieved, develop and implement K-5 standards based report card/achieved, develop and implement new secondary report card/achieved, superintendent and leadership visits in community/more this spring and summer. Strategy 7 – Ensuring safe and supportive environments for students – HS security and truancy/achieved, enhance internet filtering to optimize educational sites/ongoing, PBIS/solid, strategic plan progress

report/yearly conversation – revision for the mission statement. Mrs. Beaulieu stated that there has been lots of progress made – there was a mountain in front of them three years ago but lots of work has been done and a nice job has been done.

- C. Discussion of Employee Contract for: 1) Asst. to the Business Manager, 2) Asst. Principal – Middle (2), 3) Asst. Principal of Teaching and Learning – High School (2), 4) Business Manager, 5) Confidential Asst. to the Superintendent and School Committee, 6) Confidential Asst. to the Asst. Superintendent, 7) Confidential Asst. to the Director of Human Resources, 8) Confidential Asst. to the Director of Special Education, 9) Director of Information Technology, 10) Director of Human Resources, 11) District Data Manager, 12) District Support Technician, 13) Information Technology Manager, 14) Network Manager, 15) Preschool Administrator, 16) Principal – Elementary (5), 17) Principal – High School, 18) Principal – Middle School (2) - Mr. DiModica stated that the SC reviewed these contracts with Dr. Thornton earlier in the evening, but will not vote on them until the first meeting in May.

Agenda Item #11: Personnel Recommendations

Dr. Thornton stated that there were no personnel recommendations this evening.

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

No reports this evening.

Agenda Item #13: 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 would not be any executive session this evening.

Agenda Item #14: Adjournment

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

Meeting was adjourned at 8:16 p.m.

Meeting minutes respectfully submitted by Linda A. Jackvony