

APPROVED – 5/26/2015

There was a regular meeting of the Cumberland School Committee held on Thursday, May 14, 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, Robert Mitchell, Assistant Superintendent, Atty. Stephen Adams

Agenda Item #1: Chairperson Convenes Meeting
Chairwoman Beaulieu convened the meeting to order at 7:41 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: Consent Agenda

- A. Approval of Minutes – Regular Meeting 4/23/15
- B. Approval of Minutes – Executive Session 4/23/15
- C. Enrollment Report – 5/1/15
- D. School Police Report – 4/1/15
- E. Residency/Tuancy Report – 5/1/15

Mr. Dennen made a motion to approve the consent agenda but without “B” Executive Session 4/23/15, 2nd Mrs. Teel, approved 7-0.

Agenda Item #5: Report Out of Executive Session Meeting

- A. Report Out of Executive Session Meeting on 5/14/15 – 1) Report Out of Executive Session Minutes, 2) Vote to Seal Minutes of Executive Session – Mrs. Beaulieu stated that there were no votes taken. Mrs. Teel made a motion to seal the minutes, 2nd Mr. Dennen, approved 7-0.

Agenda Item #6: Superintendent’s Report

- A. Recognition 1) CHS Art Students – Wickford Art Association Award Winners – Mr. Mitchell announced that there were three CHS winners – 2 out of the 3 were here tonight – Silver Key Scholastic Art Award – Riley Boyce, Golden Key Scholastic Art Award – Melanie Maria, Kyle Richer received a \$1,500 scholarship but was not available tonight because he was at the Honor Society Night at the high school! Congratulations to all the students!!! 2) 2015 District Teacher of the Year – Kayla Emery – Dr. Thornton noted that this is the fifth year that Cumberland has chosen a teacher of the year. Kayla Emery is a teacher at NCMS and Mrs. Coughlin – Principal, NCMS showed a clip of when Kayla was given the award at NCMS and also told everyone about when Kayla started and what a wonderful, energetic teacher she is – right from her first day – and she is still just as energetic and enthusiastic! Now Kayla will move on to the state competition! Good Luck and Congratulations Kayla!! 3) R.I. Association of School Principals (RIASP) Selects CHS Principal Alan Tenreiro as 2015 High School Principal of the Year – Dr. Thornton congratulated Mr. Tenreiro and thanked him for a job well done and also noted what a wonderful transformation has happened and is continuing to happen at CHS – Thank you Mr. Tenreiro and Congratulations!!! Dr. Thornton also wanted to congratulate Mrs. Beaulieu in winning the Howard Kay Award – this award is given to a committee member who has exhibited outstanding leadership in public education. Congratulations Mrs. Beaulieu!!!!

Agenda Item #7: Chairperson's Report

- A. Funding Formula and the BEP – Mrs. Beaulieu noted that right now in the budget cycle the Town Council would begin to deliberate over the budget. SC members have pointed out some definite needs but the members are aware that there will be a discussion very soon over some reductions to the budget.

Agenda Item #8: Reports of Standing Committees

- A. Payment of Bills - Mr. DiModica noted that the committee had met this past Tuesday and reviewed some bills and with that he made a motion to approve invoices in the amount of \$1,203,221.71, 2nd Mr. Dennen, approved 7-0.
- B. Fiscal Management Sub-Committee Update – Mr. DiModica noted that the committee met this past Tuesday and discussed the employee contracts but tabled them until June with a 2-1 vote. He said they also discussed the Superintendent and Asst. Superintendent contracts, the boiler control, floor cleaning equipment and electrical equipment.
- C. Policy & Procedures Sub-Committee Update – Mr. Fiorillo noted that the committee met this past Tuesday and they discussed the districts wellness policy, student attendance policy and academic support for student absences due to medical reasons.
- D. Achievement & Communications Sub-Committee Update – Mrs. Teel noted that the committee met this past Tuesday and also right before this meeting. She said that representatives from Cumberland Hill and Ashton were on hand to discuss what was going on in their schools and what they are doing to help kids that are having difficulties catch up and then eventually move ahead. Mrs. Teel thanked everyone that came to all of the meetings and gave updates. She said they were very informative.
- E. Building Committee Update – Mr. Fiorillo asked Mr. Prignano to give the update. Mr. Fiorillo did note that the building committee would be meeting within the next two weeks. Mr. Prignano said that for the stage two part of the application for RIDE they listed several projects that were safety projects and they would need to be done right away – they totaled \$3.8m (estimated), but when the contractor came in and made the list of all of the projects (same safety projects) he came up with \$5.0m because they were going to do the projects being CHIPS compliant. Mr. Prignano noted that typically CHIPS is for new construction but RIDE takes the opinion that they want all projects CHIPS compliant – which adds to the quote/cost – but if you do not follow those guidelines they will not offer the 40% reimbursement. Mr. Prignano said they are looking into an appeal process. Mr. Prignano also added that Mayor Murray has agreed to a 10 year lease for the dollars for the projects so that we can start right away. They have met with all of the engineers and our people and everyone has been notified of the extra costs due to being CHIPS compliant. Mr. Duffy asked if it was worth the extra costs and Mr. Prignano said that if they do not do this they will not be reimbursed and 40% is a lot of money when you are talking about millions of dollars.

Agenda Item #9: Public Hearing

- A. Reading of Policies – 1) Amended Policies: a) I-1 District Wellness Policy – Mr. Salvatore noted that we are required to have this policy – the committee consists of representative from the Dept. of Health, principals, parents, community members, assistant superintendent, teachers – they came up with a 20 page document that deals with everything regarding nutrition and health. With this policy they will build awareness in the community. Mr. Fiorillo asked that I-1 District Wellness Policy be read into the minutes. b) I-4 Academic Support for Student Absences Due to Medical Reasons – Mr. Fiorillo asked that I-4 be read into the minutes. c) No changes at this time. d) No changes at this time. Mr. Fiorillo explained a little about I-4 – Academic Support for Student Absences Due to Medical Reasons – he said that currently if the student is absent 21 days they can get tutoring at that point - but Dr. Santa would like to see the policy changed – if you know the student is going to be out that number of days she does not want the student to have to wait the 21 days without a tutor – she would like to see the tutoring start earlier.
- B. Public Comment – Mrs. Beaulieu asked for any comments on the policies, but there were none.

Agenda Item # 10: Comments from the Public

Bob S. asked about having phone coverage in the elementary schools until 4:30p.m. everyday because he recently had an issue with his granddaughter. He was getting her off the bus recently only to find that she was not on the bus so he went and called the school immediately to see where she was and there was no answer at the school – upon his arrival at the school he found out that she had basketball practice. He asked if someone could be at the schools until at least 4:30 p.m. for instances like this – at least if someone is there a message could be given to the student/parent.

Rep. McLaughlin gave an update on the capital improvements - \$20.0m allocated from the Governor's budget – amended by the General Assembly – he commented on the CHIPS situation and said that it should be new construction only.

Agenda Item #11: Old Business

A. Discussion and/ or Vote to Approve Employee Contracts for:

- 1) Assistant to the Business Manager
- 2) Assistant Principals (2)
 - a) Middle School
 - b) Middle School
- 3) Assistant Principals of Teaching and Learning (2)
 - a) High School
 - b) High School
- 4) Business Manager
- 5) Confidential Assistant to the Superintendent and School Committee
- 6) Confidential Assistant to the Assistant Superintendent
- 7) Confidential Assistant to the Director of Human Resources
- 8) Confidential Assistant 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) Principals (5)
 - a) Elementary
 - b) Elementary
 - c) Elementary
 - d) Elementary
 - e) Elementary
- 17) Principal- High School
- 18) Principals (2)
 - a) Middle School
 - b) Middle School

Mr. DiModica made a motion to table this, 2nd Mr. Dennen, approved 6-1. Mr. Fiorillo in the negative.

Agenda Item #12: New Business

- A. New England Secondary School Consortium (NESSC) Presentation – Mr. Dyer from NESSC was at the meeting and said that he works with secondary schools all over New England. He said that there has already been extensive work completed in Cumberland regarding the personalized learning and he said some of it is leading towards increased engagements from the students. As part of the initiative, Mr. Dyer will be the coach for CHS – he has already been around for a little bit but says that over the next two years he will be around a lot more. Mr. Dyer stated that Cumberland is one of the largest schools that was selected and he said that it is more challenging for a bigger school – it is very different – he also went on to say that this speaks to what CHS has accomplished and what you want to do to move forward. Mrs. Beaulieu thanked him and said that she is very excited about the program.

- B. High School Leadership Model – Two Year Review – Mr. Tenreiro thanked everyone for the recognition and said that he was grateful to come into this community three years ago. He said that the students continue to impress him every day and he continued by saying that students and teachers work hard every day and he thanked them and he also thanked the School Committee for their support. This leadership model has had well documented changes, school culture changes, the discipline and academic split has been very good, moved to standards based systems, freshmen academy, pay it forward, amazing emphasis on academics – 81% to 88% graduation rates from 2010 until now, improvements in standardized testing, AP enrollment went from 118 students to more than 500 students taking those exams. Disciplinary are improving student culture, improvements in absenteeism, student referrals have dropped, suspension rates have gone down – we can still improve but we are looking at it every day. Our two assistant principals for disciplinary are working on getting some grants and he just finished by saying that the four assistant principals and himself work very well together – they are a good team and he feels CHS needs to keep going with this model.
- C. Grant for CHS Classroom Makeover – Mr. Tenreiro won a raffle at a W.B. Mason event – includes carpeting, furniture, accessories - \$12,000 for the room - \$20,000 total for the grant – the room – H210 – will be a multi-purpose room – free space room – meetings, etc., but also a safe place for the students to go on different occasions.
- D. District Disproportionality in Special Education Presentation – Dr. Santa started off by saying that this disproportionate representation refers to both “over representation” and “under representation” of specific demographic groups of students in special education or related services or programs that is the result of inappropriate identification. She reviewed several slides of information and reviewed category results such as Overall Identification – it listed our total population and then the special education population and then the percentage – Dr. Santa noted that the 15.59% in May 2015 is not bad considering that a few years ago the state average was at 22%. She noted that Cumberland has good procedures in place in the district. Cumberland School District data identified by RIDE as being disproportionate in: Overall identification of students, specific disabilities and suspensions – Dr. Santa said groups of ten or more will be reviewed – other smaller groups will not be looked at. Dr. Santa noted that most districts are disproportionate. She plans to continue to work forward – she said policies are in place and we are processing correctly – she did note that we would look at evaluations more closely.
- E. Discussion and/or Vote to Approve Employee Contracts: 1) Superintendent, 2) Assistant Superintendent – Mr. DiModica made a motion to table this item, 2nd Mr. Dennen and Mr. Fiorillo, approved 7-0.
- F. Discussion and/or Vote to Approve Amended Policies: 1) I-1 District Wellness Policy – Mr. Fiorillo noted that this was approved with a 3-0 vote in Policy and with that made a motion to pass I-1, 2nd Mr. Salvatore, approved 7-0. This policy will be in effect next school year. 2) I-4 Academic Support for Student Absences – Mr. Fiorillo noted that this was an amendment by Dr. Santa and with that he made a motion to pass I-4, 2nd Mr. Dennen, approved 7-0. 3) I-8 Student Promotion/Retention and 4) J-2 Student Attendance – both had no action at this point.
- G. Discussion and/or Vote to Approve Resolutions: 1) SC-PR-5-2015-07 – Generator Replacement at CHS-T – Mr. DiModica noted that this resolution was approved in fiscal with a 3-0 vote. Mr. DiModica made a motion to approve SC-PR-5-2015-07 in an amount not to exceed \$52,719, 2nd Mr. Fiorillo, approved 7-0. 2) SC-PR-5-2015-08 – Boiler Control Replacements at CHS – Mr. DiModica made a motion to approve SC-PR-5-2015-08 in an amount not to exceed \$20,890, 2nd Mr. Dennen, approved 7-0. 3) SC-PR-5-2015-09 – Floor Cleaning Equipment – Wellness Center - Mr. DiModica made a motion to approve SC-PR-5-2015-09 in an amount not to exceed \$7,620, 2nd Mr. Dennen, approved 7-0. 4) SC-PR-5-2015-10 – Electrical Equipment BFN – Mr. DiModica noted that this resolution passed in fiscal on a 3-0 vote. Mr. DiModica made a motion to approve SC-PR-5-2015-10 in an amount not to exceed \$5,053.81, 2nd Mrs. Teel and Mr. Fiorillo, approved 7-0. 5) SC-PR-5-2015-11- Chromebook Carts Purchase – Mr. DiModica made a motion to approve SC-PR-5-2015-11 in an amount not to exceed \$92,937.50, 2nd Mr. Dennen, approved 6-1 with Mrs. Teel in the negative.
- H. Discussion and/or Vote to Approve Overnight Student Field Trips: 1) Middle School

- Student Trip (NCMS/MMS) – Washington, DC-November 2015 – Dr. Masterson stated that there are two trips for Washington – one for the 7th grade and one for the 8th grade – 8th graders must choose between Washington or Quebec. Mr. Fiorillo made a motion to approve, 2nd Mr. Duffy, approved 7-0. 2) High School Student Trip – International Thespian Festival, Lincoln, NB – June 2015 – Mrs. Dooley stated that there are 10 students going, \$1,200 pp. – some fundraising and families are paying the rest (Mr. DiMartino could not make it this evening so Mrs. Dooley presented the information). Mr. Fiorillo made a motion to approve, 2nd Mr. Salvatore, approved 7-0. 3) High School Student Trip – Choral Festival, Orlando, FL – April 2016 – Ms. Ducharme stated that it would be about 45 students from Chorus and Clef Singers - \$1,300 pp. (over estimated-air cost is not yet decided) they have tons of fundraising, the students will miss two days of school. Mr. Fiorillo made a motion to approve, 2nd Mr. Dennen, approved 7-0.
- I. Discussion and/or Vote to Approve Stage 2 Application with RIDE – Mr. Fiorillo made a motion to approve, 2nd Mr. DiModica, approved 7-0. Mrs. Beaulieu thanked everyone involved.

Agenda Item #13: Personnel Recommendations

Mrs. Fogell requested the following recommendations:

Retirement

I request the advice and consent of the School Committee on the retirement of **James DeLillo, Music Teacher** for the **Cumberland School Department**, effective **6/30/2015** after 11 years of service.

Mr. DiModica made a motion to approve, 2nd Mr. Dennen, approved 7-0.

Resignation

I request the advice and consent of the School Committee on the retirement of **Mary-Ellen Rossi, Special Educator** at **Cumberland Hill Elementary School**, effective **6/30/2015** after 10 years of service.

Mr. Fiorillo made a motion to approve, 2nd Mr. DiModica, approved 7-0.

Leave of Absence

I request the advice and consent of the School Committee on the FMLA leave of absence of **Rosanna Meija, Grade 2 Teacher** at **BF Norton Elementary School**, effective May 30, 2015 through the remainder of the school year.

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

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

Mr. Fiorillo noted that the Journalism Club at BFN interviewed Mayor Murray last Wednesday and he wanted to thank Mayor Murray for being so gracious!!! Mr. Fiorillo also thanked the Town Council and Chief Desmarais for their help in having a stop sign put on the corner of Williams and Highland. Mr. Duffy noted that last week was Teacher Appreciation Week and wanted the teachers to know that they are very much appreciated – he also commented on the remodel of the some of the teacher lounges at CHS!!!

Agenda Item #15: 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 Vote(s)

Mrs. Beaulieu noted that the SC would resume back into Executive Session.

Agenda Item #16: Adjournment

Mr. DiModica made a motion to adjourn, 2nd Mr. Dennen, approved 7-0.

Regular meeting adjourned at 9:11 p.m.

SC went into Executive Session at 9:20 p.m. Motion to seal the minutes of the Executive Session was made by Mr. Fiorillo, 2nd Mr. Duffy, approved 7-0.

Motion by Mr. Salvatore to adjourn Executive Session at 10:20 p.m., 2nd Mr. Duffy, approved 7-0.

Executive Session adjourned at 10:20 p.m.

Meeting minutes respectfully submitted by Linda A. Jackvony