UNAPPROVED

There was a regular meeting of the Cumberland School Committee held on Thursday, October 22, 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: Superintendent Robert Mitchell, Atty. Stephen Adams

Agenda Item #1: Chairperson Convenes Meeting
Chairwoman Beaulieu called the meeting to order at 7:47 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 Back to School Night on 9/24 and the Rhode Island Blood Center Awards Ceremony on 9/23 – CHS placed 3rd for the number of donations!!! Congratulations CHS!!!! Upcoming events include Spirit Week – w/o 11/9 - where there will be a different activity each day and ending with the homecoming dance! Also coming up is the Turkey Basket drive which runs from 11/2 thru 11/20. Blood drive is 10/27 and a big turnout is hopeful!!

Agenda Item #5: Consent Agenda

A. Approval of Minutes – Regular Meeting 10/8/15
B. Approval of Minutes – Executive Session 10/8/15
C. School Police Report – 9/1/15

Mr. DiModica made a motion to approve, 2nd Mr. Duffy, approved 6-0. Mr. Fiorillo abstained from voting.

Agenda Item #6: Report Out of Executive Session Meeting

A. Report Out of Executive Session Meeting on 10/22/15 – 1) Report Out of Executive Session Votes – Mrs. Beaulieu stated that there were no votes taken. 2) Vote to Seal Minutes of Executive Session – Mr. DiModica made a motion to seal the minutes, 2nd Mr. Duffy, approved 7-0.

Agenda Item #7: Superintendent's Report

A. Thinking Maps Update – Supt. Mitchell said that the thinking maps in K-8 are really taking off – kids have been exposed to one map per week and almost all 8 maps have been introduced. The teachers are reviewing information regarding the maps, during faculty meetings. The thinking maps are a great tool for learning. Next year we will have grades 9-12 introduced to them – this is very exciting! We have several teacher trainers that have already gone to five professional days and these are the trainers that are teaching our teachers!

B. Self-Regulated Strategy Development (SRSD) – this is a writing process that has been piloted at BFN and it is the best program that some teachers have ever been exposed to. The program will take time and requires a lot of professional development.
C. Video & Professional Development – some lessons at BFN are being videotaped so that teachers can see themselves and reflect on their own teaching – sometimes what we think we are doing and what we are actually doing can be two different things! Other teachers will watch the video and critique and learn! The high school has asked for a camera and tripod and they will use the camera to do professional development and training in the high school. Mr. Duffy asked if there was an update on the chromebooks at the high school and Supt. Mitchell said that even traditional teachers are really getting into it – just recently the Superintendent had the opportunity to ask some students how it was going with the chromebooks and every one of them said it was great! Teachers are training on Wednesday's and Tuesdays too! A survey may be done in the future to get more feedback.

Agenda Item #8: Chairperson's Report

A. School/Town Collaboration – Mrs. Beaulieu stated that the Budget Task Force Meeting is scheduled for 11/10 – agenda to follow.

Agenda Item #9: Reports of Standing Committees

A. Payment of Bills – Mr. DiModica stated that there were no payments this evening.
B. Fiscal Management Sub-Committee Update – Mr. DiModica said they did meet and discussed two items for amendment on the budget and also got an update from the business manager regarding the budget.
C. Policy & Procedures Sub-Committee Update – Mr. Fiorillo said they met Tuesday and discussed many policies that are on tonight's agenda.
D. Achievement & Communications Sub-Committee Update – Mrs. Teel said they met Tuesday and that it was a planning meeting for upcoming meetings on 11/10, 11/17, 12/8 and 12/15 – 30 minute presentations from each of our schools.

Agenda Item #10: Comments from the Public

There were no comments at this time.

Agenda Item #11: Public Hearings

A. Reading of Policies – Amended Policies – a) I-6 School Sponsored Field Trips of Long Duration - Mr. Fiorillo noted that this policy had been discussed over the last couple of months and they changed the number of chaperones to 1 for every 10 students and 1 for every 5 students if it is an international trip. Also no alcohol for students and teachers and he also noted that this policy will be revisited in the winter. He asked that this policy be read into the record. b) J-15 Fundraising – setting up some guidelines that are observed in other districts so this will be tabled. c) K-2 Use of School Facilities – although the committee removed the custodial fee's for the CSA's etc, the band, clef singers etc., must also be added to the list of organizations that should not be paying those fee's – Mr. Fiorillo asked that this policy be read into the record. New Policy – 1st Reading – a) G-15 Gift Acceptance – this policy was tabled. b) J-23 Students Who Are Transgender or Gender Non-conforming – Mr. Fiorillo asked that this policy be read into the record for the first reading – but tabled for further discussion and will be on November's agenda.

B. Public Comment – Mrs. Beaulieu asked if anyone had any comments regarding these policies and no one did.

Agenda Item #12: New Business

A. School Safety Plan Update – Mrs. Beaulieu noted that this was discussed in Executive Session and that the SC is obligated to have a safety plan – the safety plan will be improved and Dr. Masterson will present to RIDE. Atty. Adams stated that RIGL 42-46-5 sub section 3 states that the safety plan can be done and should be done in Executive Session but voted on in Open Session – no need to disclose the safety plan. Mr. DiModica made a motion to approve the safety plan as presented, 2nd Mr. Fiorillo and Mr. Dennen, approved 7-0. Mrs. Beaulieu said the safety plan is confidential and that only administration for the building and RIDE will have it.
B. Discussion and/or Vote to Approve Overnight Student Field Trip – Supt. Mitchell asked that this be tabled until the policy revision is completed. Mrs. Teel made a motion to table Overnight Student Field Trip, 2nd Mr. Dennen, approved 7-0.
C. 1) CHS Band Students – Montreal, Canada – April 2016 – please see above.
D. Discussion and/or Vote to Approve Resolutions: 1) SC-R-2015-12 – FY16 Budget Amendments – Mr. DiModica made a motion to improve SC-R-2015-12, 2nd Mr. Dennen, approved 7-0. This resolution was passed 3-0 in sub-committee and is regarding funding for Special Education professional development and supplies. 2) SC-R-2015-13 – FY16 Budget Amendments – Mr. DiModica made a motion to amend the 2015-2016 budget from $61,828,944 to $62,378,944, 2nd Mr. Fiorillo and Mr. Duffy, approved 6-1, Mrs. Beaulieu in the negative.
E. Discussion and/or Vote to Approve Home School Instruction Requests for the 2015-2016 School Year – Supt. Mitchell stated that there were some new applications and a few renewals and he recommended passage. Mr. Fiorillo made a motion to approve, 2nd Mrs. Teel and Mr. Dennen, approved 7-0.
F. Discussion and/or Vote to Approve New Policies – 1) 1st Reading – G-15 Gift Acceptance and J-23 Students Who Are Transgender or Gender Non-Conforming – Mr. Fiorillo stated that both of these policies were tabled.
G. Discussion and/or Vote to Approve Amended Policies – I-6 School Sponsored Field Trips of Long Duration – Mr. Fiorillo made a motion to approve, 2nd Mr. Salvatore, approved 7-0. J-15 Fundraising – Mr. Fiorillo stated that this policy was tabled. K-2 Use of School Facilities – Mr. Fiorillo made a motion to pass as amended, 2nd Mr. Dennen, approved 7-0.

Agenda Item #13: Personnel Recommendations

There were no personnel recommendations this evening.

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

Mr. Fiorillo noted that he attended the Special Education Advisory Committee meeting last Tuesday. He said they are looking for new members and new board members – they urge any parent of a special education student to get involved! They are trying to schedule some workshops and some speakers but need attendance! Many special educators from our schools attend these meetings so it would be a great time to chat with these teachers. Mr. Dennen noted that he attended the open houses at Community and NCMS and said they were fabulous! The teacher's enthusiasm is absolutely great! Mr. Dennen also noted that the PARCC results are due the week of 11/16.

Agenda Item #15: Vote to go into Executive Session for Discussion on Items Referred to in RIGL 42-42-5
Mrs. Beaulieu stated that there would not be an executive session this evening.

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

Meeting was adjourned at 8:28 p.m.

Meeting minutes respectfully submitted by Linda A. Jackvony