

Cumberland Public Schools

Office of the School Committee
2602 Mendon Road, Cumberland, RI 02864
401/658-1600 Fax. No. 401/658-4620

Lisa A. Beaulieu, Chairperson
Raymond Salvatore, Vice Chairperson
William J. Dennen, Clerk

Paul DiModica
Craig Duffy
Mark Fiorillo
Linda G. Teel

MINUTES APPROVED – 11/12/2015

Minutes

A special meeting of the Cumberland School Committee was held on Wednesday, November 4, 2015 at 5:45 p.m. at the Cumberland High School Transitional Building Cafetorium, 2602 Mendon Road, Cumberland, R.I.

Call to order by: Lisa Beaulieu, chairperson
Time: 5:47pm
Committee present: Lisa Beaulieu, William Dennen, Paul DiModica, Craig Duffy, Mark Fiorillo, Ray Salvatore, Linda Teel

Admin present: Robert Mitchell, Superintendent

Pledge of Allegiance

Chairperson Beaulieu led the committee and attendees in reciting the **Pledge of Allegiance**.

Approval of Agenda

Motion to Approve the Special Meeting Agenda (see below) made by Mr. DiModica; Second Mr. Salvatore. **Motion approved 7-0.**

Discussion and/ or Vote to Approve Assistant Superintendent's Employment Contract

Mr. DiModica said that the Finance Subcommittee had met earlier in the evening and approved the proposed contract for Assistant Superintendent. He added that the salary for the position was budgeted. Mr. DiModica made a motion to approve the Assistant Superintendent's Employment contract, second by Mr. Salvatore.

Motion passed 7-0.

Discussion and/ or Vote to Appoint Assistant Superintendent of Schools

Mr. Mitchell said that there were 16 "impressive" candidates for the position, and that the committee interviewed 5, with 2 finalists. Mr. Mitchell recommended enthusiastically that Mr. Antonio DiManna be appointed as assistant superintendent.

Mr. Fiorillo made a motion to appoint Mr. Antonio DiManna as assistant superintendent, second by Mr. Dennen and Mr. DiModica.

Motion passed 7-0

Mr. DiManna took the opportunity to thank Mr. Mitchell, the Committee, and the BF Norton community of teachers and parents, many of whom were in attendance at the meeting.

Mr. DiManna's complete remarks are attached to these minutes.

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Comments from Public

Several teachers and one resident spoke to praise and congratulate Mr. DiManna.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn made by Mr. Fiorillo, second by Mr. Dennen and Mr. Duffy.

Motion passed 7-0.

Meeting adjourned at 6:09pm.

William J Dennen, Clerk
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Remarks by Mr. Antonio DiManna upon being appointed Assistant Superintendent of Schools:

Good evening everyone--- I would like to begin by thanking the School Committee members for your support-- Superintendent Mitchell for believing in me and having the faith that I can assist you in moving the Cumberland Public Schools forward--- I would also like to thank the BF Norton team for committing to a common cause and their willingness to support me unconditionally no matter the challenges we faced together--I thank you all for giving me purpose-- each of you will forever hold a special place in my heart.

I would like to briefly share a quote just as I have each day in any of the communities I have served over the past 9 years --- the quote reads

“I am a teacher ...because there are instances in which one touches a life, transforms it, and is in turn transformed.”

I come from humble beginnings --- where hard work and strong work ethic are the only options if you want to achieve--- 20 years ago --- an educator changed the trajectory of my life with a few simple words. He simply made me look at myself with a lens through which I had never previously done up until to that moment in time. Those words led me on a path that transformed me and in turn I was able to be transformed by the many students I was blessed to interact with each day.

Two months ago I turned to one of my former students for inspiration--- I knew that the message I needed to get across to my staff had to come from a student--- that message was that our actions and words as educators matter to students. Students know when we are authentic, they seek guidance from our words and what we model for them.

The power of and beauty of education lies in the reciprocity of its gifts...that we never know--- how or which--- small words or actions ---can alter or change a child's life. We must heed our words carefully as they can inspire a child to reach for realms far beyond what they could ever imagine for themselves.

It is my goal that all teachers in our district believe in their ability to transform lives---while also embodying the vulnerability necessary to allow students to transform theirs. My wife and I raise our children in this district and most recently she and I were on the soccer field looking at the sea of children who attend our schools---I leaned to her and said, “Look at the enormity of this! To be responsible for the quality of education these children receive is tremendous”-- please find comfort in that I am fully cognisant of that responsibility and intend to work each day for the betterment of their educational experiences.

I seek to support Superintendent Mitchell in his vision to serve the students of this district in becoming lifelong learners in an ever-changing--fast -paced 21st century world. I seek to find ways to inspire 21st century learning across all of our classrooms-- and I look forward to working closely with our amazing teachers as well as our dynamic administrative team! Thank you again for your time and supporting me as the next Asst. Sup. of schools in Cumberland.