

MINUTES APPROVED – 1/14/2016

There was a regular meeting of the Cumberland School Committee held on Thursday, December 10, 2015 at the Cumberland High School Transitional Building Cafetorium, 2602 Mendon Road, Cumberland, Rhode Island.

Members Present: Raymond Salvatore, William Dennen, Paul DiModica, Craig Duffy, Mark Fiorillo – Lisa Beaulieu and Linda Teel arrived at 7:50 p.m.

Administration Present: Robert Mitchell, Superintendent, Atty. Stephen Adams

Agenda Item #1: Chairperson Convenes Meeting

Vice Chairman Salvatore convened the meeting to order at 7:46 p.m.

Mr. Salvatore noted that Mrs. Beaulieu and Mrs. Teel were not at the meeting because they were at a Funding Formula Study Group – he said they would be coming in late.

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 5-0.

Agenda Item #4: Student Government

- A. Student Activities – past activities included Spirit Week – huge success, seniors won Spirit Week. Thanks to donations from teachers, administration, students and Stop and Shop 120 turkey baskets were given out to local families in need. Upcoming events include Adopt A Family – this year there are four families – two at CHS and two at BFN – gifts and food will be collected. On January 22nd the Winter Ball will be held at Wrights Farm - \$1.00 from each ticket will go towards Pennies for Patents!

Agenda Item #5: Consent Agenda

- A. Approval of Minutes – Regular Meeting 11/12/15 and Special Meeting 11/24/15 – Mr. DiModica made a motion to approve, 2nd Mr. Duffy, approved 5-0. At this point Mrs. Beaulieu and Mrs. Teel joined the meeting.
- B. Approval of Minutes – Executive Session 11/12/15.
- C. Enrollment Report – 12/1/15.
- D. School Police Report – 11/1/15.
- E. Residency/Truancy Report – 12/1/15.

Mr. DiModica and Mr. Fiorillo made a motion to approve Executive Session minutes 11/12/15, Enrollment Report, School Police Report, Residency/Truancy Report, 2nd Mr. Dennen, approved 5-0.

Agenda Item #6: Report Out of Executive Session Meeting

- A. Report Out of Executive Session Meeting on 12/10/2015 – 1) Report Out of Executive Session Votes – Mr. Salvatore said there were no taken. 2) Vote to

Seal Minutes of Executive Session – Mr. DiModica made a motion to approve, 2nd Mr. Fiorillo and Mr. Dennen, approved 5-0.

Agenda Item #7: Superintendent's Report

- A. Recognitions – 1) Golden Apple Award Recipients – Susan Turner and Jared Cardoso – Supt. Mitchell presented Ms. Turner with a certificate – Ms. Turner had received the Golden Apple Award in June 2015. Mr. Cardoso was not able to attend this evening, but Supt. Mitchell said they will acknowledge him at a later date – Mr. Cardoso received the Golden Apple Award in October 2015. 2) District Education Support Professional of the Year – Anthony Singh – Supt. Mitchell stated that there was a ceremony at NCMS last Friday to acknowledge Anthony Singh as the District Education Support Professional of the Year. Supt. Mitchell read some of a letter that Mrs. Coughlin – Principal of NCMS – had written about Tony – in her letter she said that Tony exceeds all expectations, he is always pleasant and high five's the students every day, he keeps NCMS very clean and makes it a safe and comfortable place for our students to learn. Supt. Mitchell presented Tony with a plaque. 3) CHS Girls Field Hockey State Champions – the following girls were awarded certificates from Coach Matt and he commented on how he was so impressed with their level of skill and how disciplined they were!

CHS Girls Field Hockey Team – Morgan Bulman, Reilly Clarey, Karin Dion, Abigail McCourt, Nicole McCourt, Cassidy Simanski, Michaela Simanski, Erin Durkin, Rachel Harraka, Miranda Velu, Jocelyn Bodington, Mackenzie Cotter, Julia Currie, Allison Ferreira, Rachel Grady, Jena Kelly, Rebecca Levesque, Kathryn McIntosh, Lauren Santoro, Caroline Squizzero, Bethany Ann St. Jean, Elise Curren, Laura Dion, Holly Pashnik, Lauren Sheehan. Congratulations CHS Girls Field Hockey Team!!!!

Agenda Item #8: Chairperson's Report

- A. School/Town Collaboration – Mr. Duffy reported that the Budget Task Force Committee has had two meetings since the last SC meeting. So far the schools five-year budget has been presented and the towns 7/10-year budget has been presented. The purpose of the meetings is to discuss cost savings, collaborations, etc. Mrs. Beaulieu stated that she and Mrs. Teel were at a Funding Formula Study Group this evening. She presented five concerns to the study group – she does not believe that the formula creates equity across schools and districts. She also believes that the state appropriation is not going where it is supposed to be going, the state share ratio is 40% in Cumberland. She also talked about UCOA – half million dollar gap non-core and core expenses. Also, Mrs. Beaulieu noted that the school budget used to be 72% of the town budget and now it is 66% of the budget and we have two school districts. She is also making a recommendation that the local share be aligned with the funding formula – confirm non-core costs – evaluate funding equity. She would also like to see the Mayoral Academy removed from the district – they are very capable on their own. Mrs. Beaulieu also thanked the

Association of School Committees from asking she and Mrs. Teel to attend the study groups – there will be three more meetings, but no public comment.

Agenda Item #9: Reports of Standing Committees

- A. Payment of Bills – Mr. DiModica said the committee met earlier in the evening and with that made a motion to approve invoices in the amount of \$912,755.75, 2nd Mr. Dennen, approved 7-0.
- B. Fiscal Management Sub-Committee Update – Mr. DiModica said the committee met earlier in the evening and said that they discussed the BFN Principal contract and the energy control systems for BFN and JJM Cumberland Hill Schools.
- C. Policy & Procedures Sub-Committee Update – Mr. Fiorillo said the committee met earlier in the evening and they did discuss the gift acceptance policy and the school sponsored field trips of long duration policy but the committee will not have the final draft of both policies until the January SC meeting.
- D. Achievement & Communications Sub-Committee Update – Mrs. Teel said the committee met on November 17th and had presentations from Garvin and McCourt. Great conversations and lots of information. Garvin highlights included PBIS working, 97% students have zero referrals, additional reading specialist – positive, thinking maps – all grades positive reviews, Fall literacy scores – 40% met expectations so students need work on summer reading, Math is making some success, need work on Science. Garvin would like a Math Specialist and full time Mental Health Professional and they also have needs regarding Gemsnet. McCourt highlights were PBIS is working, anti-bullying task force, engaged NY grades 6-8, Math scores are coming up, less than 20% of the students need Math intervention. McCourt needs help in Science, lots of changes going on requires lots of professional development, they would also like a Dean of Students like the high school has, also Foreign Language offerings need to be offered in earlier grades. Next meeting is December 15th and Ashton and Cumberland Hill will be presenting. Mr. Fiorillo asked if the principals could send out notifications when their schools will be presenting at the meetings so that parents can attend.
- E. Budget Task Force Update – Mr. Duffy said he gave the update earlier but wanted everyone to know that the task force is make up of a diverse group of people from the community, town hall, school and BVP – it is an open meeting and he invites anyone that would like to come and make a comment to please feel free to do so.

Agenda Item #10: Comments from the Public

There were no comments at this time.

Agenda Item #11: Public Hearing

- A. Reading of Policy – New Policy – 1st Reading – G15 Gift Acceptance and Amended Policy I-6 School Sponsored Field Trips of Long Duration – Mr. Fiorillo stated that there would be no action taken on either of these policies this evening.

Agenda Item #12: Old Business

- A. Discussion and/or Vote to Approve New Policy – 1st Reading – G-15 Gift Acceptance – Mr. Fiorillo stated that there would be no action taken on this policy this evening.

Agenda Item #13: New Business

- A. Discussion and/or Vote to Approve Employment Contract: 1) Elementary School Principal – Mr. DiModica stated that the 18 month contract for the new BFN school principal was approved with a 3-0 vote in fiscal earlier in the evening and with that Mr. Fiorillo made a motion to approve the employment contract for the BFN school principal, 2nd Mr. Salvatore and Mr. Dennen, approved 7-0.
- B. Discussion and/or Vote to Appoint Elementary School Principal – Supt. Mitchell stated that Dina Cerra is the perfect fit for BFN and he recommended the appointment and with that Mr. Fiorillo made a motion to approve the appointment of the BFN school principal, 2nd Mr. Salvatore, Mr. Fiorillo noted that he was on the interview committee and that Ms. Cerra rose above all of the other candidates, motion was approved 7-0.
- C. Discussion of Commissioner of Education’s Correspondence Regarding Private Gifts and Fund-Raising Activities for School Sports – Atty. Adams stated that this issue arose with questions regarding the funding of sports, pay to play is forbidden (Comm. Gist) so a letter was sent to Commissioner Gist for guidance in this matter but nothing ever came of it and most recently Commissioner Wagner said that the letter had fallen through the cracks with the past commissioner but he did send a reply in November. Four scenarios were discussed but further discussion and policies need to be reviewed. First scenario – a contingent gift, use it for “x” – can the school department use it for whatever? They can say no we do not want it or it has to be used for what the giftor wanted it to be used for. Second scenario – unsolicited unconditional gift given annually – funds the entire year of sports – this receipt would need to be reflected in expenditure/revenue in budget. Third scenario – a group of parents gift the dollars to fund the sport – after the SC said no to funding it for whatever reason – parents gift come in and after a few years of this the parents see this as a fee – but if we say we are not doing this unless you pay – then it becomes sticky – its pay to play – or at least that is how RIDE sees it. Scenario four – soliciting gifts – want the SC to support us so that we can have programs – solicitation must be governed by the SC rules and regulations per Commissioner Wagner – policies from the SC. Atty. Adams does not think this sheds enough light and thinks that maybe we could come up with a policy regarding gifts.
- D. Discussion and/or Vote to Approve Installation of Energy Control Systems at B.F. Norton School and JJM Cumberland Hill Elementary School – Mr. DiModica said that this was discussed earlier tonight in sub-committee – we are not voting tonight. He went on to say that the energy source company has offered us a wonderful deal – offered to install during this school year – no payment until next year – 0% financing for five years - \$47,000/year, we

will save about \$17,000/year – if we move forward with this Mr. Prignano will do a resolution and we will need the full committee vote. The energy source company has also agreed to wave the first year service fee – which is a \$7,000 savings. The total cost to do both schools is \$235,000. Mr. DiModica said he believes this is a good idea and we should move forward with it – we will put this back on the agenda in January for a vote. Mr. DiModica made a motion to table this item until the next SC meeting, 2nd Mr. Dennen, approved 7-0.

- E. Discussion and/or Vote to Approve Authorization to Administer the Rhode Island Student Survey – Supt. Mitchell said that BHDDH applied for a grant regarding reducing substance abuse in communities and Cumberland will get some dollars from this grant if they are awarded the grant. First we need to do a baseline assessment in the spring of 2016, we will then provide interventions and programs to help reduce substance abuse and then in 2018 we will do the same assessment – this is when the grant is due. Supt. Mitchell has reviewed the survey, he said the results will give us helpful information; it will be an anonymous survey for students in grades 7, 8 and 9. Supt. Mitchell recommends approval of this survey. Mrs. Beaulieu said that this survey information was not in their packet for review and she said she would like to review the survey and information so she asked Supt. Mitchell to ask Mrs. Chabot to send it to the SC members in the morning. Supt. Mitchell said there is no time constraint and that the vote could wait until next month if need be. He also said that Cumberland would be getting \$144,500 for participating in the survey. None of the students will be forced to do it – it will be their choice. Mr. Salvatore stated that he supports the survey and made a motion to approve and reiterated that Mrs. Chabot needed to put the survey information in their folders, 2nd Mr. Fiorillo, Mr. Fiorillo asked if there was a cost to us? And Supt. Mitchell said no there was not. Mr. Duffy asked where the data was going to go? Supt. Mitchell said that BHDDH is the coordinator for the grant and the information will be reviewed by them – he believes. Mr. DiModica asked if the parents could see the survey? Supt. Mitchell said they could make the survey available at the school. Motion was approved 6-1, Mr. Duffy in the negative.
- F. Discussion and/or Vote to Approve Amended Policy: I-6 School Sponsored Field Trips of Long Duration – Mr. Fiorillo made a motion to table I-6, 2nd Mrs. Teel, approved 7-0.
- G. Discussion and/or Vote to Approve Home School Instruction Requests for the 2015-2016 School Year – Supt. Mitchell said there were requests and he recommended approval. Mr. Dennen made a motion to approve home school requests, 2nd Mrs. Teel, approved 7-0.

Agenda Item #14: Personnel Recommendations

Mrs. Fogell had the following recommendations:

Resignations

I request the advice and consent of the School Committee on the resignation of **Susan deHertogh, Secondary Science Teacher at Cumberland High School**, effective June 30, 2016.

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

Appointments

I request the advice and consent of the School Committee on the appointment of **Alexandra Romano, Secondary Science Teacher at Cumberland High School**, effective 12/07/2015. (FTE 1.0; Step 1; Lane: n/a; Co-pay: 22%).

I request the advice and consent of the School Committee on the following winter coaching appointments:

Swim Coach

Roderick McGarry

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

Agenda Item #15: School Committee Comments (School Liaison Reports)

Mr. DiModica wished Dina Cerra good luck at BFN!!! Mr. Fiorillo invited any SC member that would like to tour the Special Education Specialty Programs with he and Dr. Santa to let him know! Mrs. Beaulieu said that Cumberland is the second lowest in the state for Special Education student expenses - under \$15,000 – average in the state is \$21,000. Mr. Duffy gave kudos to CHS for having a homecoming dance!!!

Agenda Item #16: Vote to go into Executive Session for Discussion on Items Referred to in R.I.G.L. 42-46-5

Mrs. Beaulieu said there would not be an Executive Session Meeting this evening.

Agenda Item #17: Adjournment

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

Meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Meeting minutes respectfully submitted by Linda A. Jackvony