

## **APPROVED 2.11.16**

There was a regular meeting of the Cumberland School Committee held on Thursday, January 28, 2016 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, Asst. Superintendent Antonio DiManna

**Agenda Item #1:** Chairperson Convenes Meeting  
Chairwoman Beaulieu convened the meeting to order at 7:38 p.m.

**Agenda Item #2:** Pledge of Allegiance  
Immediately following the pledge, Mrs. Beaulieu asked for a moment of silence to remember CHS Swim Coach Bruce Calvert who passed away on Tuesday, January 26, 2016.

**Agenda Item #3:** Approval of Agenda  
Mr. Dennen made a motion to approve the agenda, 2<sup>nd</sup> Mrs. Teel, approved 7-0.

**Agenda Item #4:** Student Government

- A. Student Activities – past activities included Adopt A Family – great success, Winter Ball held at Wright’s Farm – over 500 students attended. Superintendent Mitchell is also meeting from time to time with student government to discuss PARCC testing and later start times and it is enjoyed by the students! Upcoming events include Pennies for Patients – looking to raise at least as much as last year which was \$7,300, also on February 11<sup>th</sup> CHS will be holding a blood drive.

**Agenda Item #5:** Consent Agenda

- A. Approval of Minutes – Regular Meeting 1/14/16 and Executive Session 1/14/16 – Mr. DiModica made a motion to approve, 2<sup>nd</sup> Mr. Salvatore, approved 7-0.

**Agenda Item #6:** Report Out of Executive Session Meeting

- A. Report Out of Executive Session Meeting on 1/28/16 – 1) Report Out of Executive Session Votes – Mrs. Beaulieu noted that there were no votes taken and 2) Vote to Seal Minutes of Executive Session – Mrs. Teel made a motion to seal the minutes, 2<sup>nd</sup> Mr. Dennen, approved 7-0.

**Agenda Item #7:** Superintendent’s Report

- A. School Safety Update – Student Safety When Crossing Mendon Road – Mayor William Murray – Mayor Murray, Supt. Mitchell, Chief Desmarais and a youth

officer have met in hopes of minimizing some of the concerns regarding the students crossing Mendon Road. Mayor Murray said in the past month or so he has received several calls regarding this issue and he says it is a big concern/fear that a student could get hit while crossing Mendon Road. Supt. Mitchell suggested that some students get involved and so the Mayor, the Superintendent, police chief and about 15 CHS students met to discuss the concerns. Mayor Murray said the community should be very proud of their students because they were very helpful and concerned. This meeting was helpful and for now Officer Kolek is out there in the morning, but next Monday there will be a crossing guard there – so hopefully this will get the students to go to the crosswalk – Mayor Murray pointed out that in order to get another crossing we would need a curb cut and that could take a long time to get done, but he went on to say that the entire situation is under review. He is planning on putting a path made with stone dust in the springtime – which will lead right to the crosswalk. Mayor Murray did say that in Rhode Island there is a law in which students may be fined \$85 if they do not cross at the crosswalk – right now he is not asking Chief Desmarais to enforce this but if it continues to be an issue, this law will be enforced. Mayor Murray is hoping that the students that he met with will be passing on the word to cross at the crosswalk – he is concerned about drivers that are not paying attention – he does not want anyone to get struck. Mr. DiModica asked Mayor Murray if he could talk to some of our representatives to see if we could get a flashing yellow light out there that says 20 MPH. The Mayor said that the state has been here regarding Broad Street because that is also a big problem, and the state did say that they would put up the flashing lights but that it is two years out-the Mayor said he will ask that all of our schools in the district be reviewed for the flashing lights. Mr. Dennen suggested a pedestrian sign in the middle of Mendon Road but the Mayor said they only get knocked over – based on his experience in front of the town hall. Mr. Duffy suggested putting a police officer at the crosswalk to prove a point because he believes the law states that if someone is at the crosswalk waiting to cross, the driver should stop or be ticketed. Mr. Duffy also suggested raised pavement or reflective stripes to slow drivers down. Mayor Murray said the state would be out to do a review and that they would be looking at everything. Mr. DiModica asked if a message could be placed on our message board in front of the school that says “20 MPH”. Mayor Murray said that for the time being there will be two police officers out on Mendon Road, but he only has so much manpower – but they are trying to do the best they can so that no one gets hurt.

**Agenda Item #8:** Chairperson’s Report

- A. School/Town Collaboration – Mrs. Beaulieu noted that Mr. Duffy would give a report later in the meeting.

**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 this evening and reviewed the December monthly report, a copy of the audit report, Sodexo came in and showed pictures of what has been done – FY12-FY16 \$3.6m has been spent on capital improvements, school lunch program report was also reviewed.
- C. Policy and Procedures Sub-Committee Update – Mr. Fiorillo said they met on Tuesday and reviewed lots of Athletic Policies, School Club Policies, Social Suspension, Student Suspension – all these new policies will take place in the Fall – they are all being reviewed carefully.
- D. Achievement and Communications Sub-Committee Update – Mrs. Teel said they met this past Tuesday and BFN and CHS presented. BFN – student population 20% turnover, PBIS working good, SRSD fully implemented, do need some improvement in Math for Special Education, SRSD in Science is working well – upcoming Science Fair, need to hire a full time para-professional. CHS – out of 1,300 students about 26% receive free and reduced lunch, absenteeism is down to 14% this year, suspensions are down also, tremendous culture change throughout the school, 88% graduation rate, 90% of our graduates finished their freshmen year and then came back for the second year, more students are taking the SAT's, PARCC results are disappointing, Chromebooks have a great effect on the students, need more mental health professionals – big concern, also need RTI coordinator, later start time would be great, additional professional development for Project Lead the Way and SRSD. Mrs. Teel noted that they were very well done presentations! Mrs. Beaulieu suggested putting the presentations on the district website.
- E. Budget Task Force Update – Mr. Duffy stated that they met on January 19<sup>th</sup> and the district and the town presented their FY 17 – 23 budgets – pretty much were the same – basic assumptions. The Superintendent's needs list was not included in either of the presentations. Mr. Duffy explained that if the budget is level funded by the town each year the deficit gets larger and larger – by FY23 the deficit could be \$12.7m – not changing anything – but if the town gave us a 4% increase each year, that 4% finally catches up and by FY23 we would have a surplus. Next meeting will be on 2/2/16 and will be a brainstorm session and then on 2/18/16 we could work on recommendations to present to the SC and the TC and the Mayor. Mrs. Teel asked if raises were factored in and Mr. Prignano stated that they were built in at 1.5%, also \$400,000 for facilities each year. Mrs. Beaulieu asked if there was anything that they realized that could be implemented immediately – cost savings? Mr. Duffy reminded everyone that they could send him suggestions, concerns or comments at any time.

**Agenda Item #10:** Comments from the Public

There were no comments at this time. Mrs. Beaulieu commented on the number of years of service from Coach Calvert and also the dedication he had for CHS – impressive records and victories – awesome man – he will be missed. Mayor Murray also noted that he has received several calls over the past couple of days and there is a group of people that would like to name the pool after Coach Calvert – Mayor Murray will move this forward to the TC- this will be addressed at their next meeting in February. Mayor Murray asked the SC if they would like to send him a letter of endorsement, he would really appreciate it. The same group of people will also be doing a fundraiser very soon so that a time clock can be bought – with Coach Calvert’s name on it – for over the pool. Mr. Fiorillo stated that he supports the Mayor.

**Agenda Item #11:** Public Hearing

- A. Reading of Policies: Amended Policies - a. G-9 Building Access, b. I-6 School Sponsored Overnight Field Trips, c. I-16 High School Athletic and Extracurricular Eligibility Regulations, d. J-7 Student Suspension, e. J-15 Student Fundraising, f. K-2 Use of School Facilities – Mr. Fiorillo stated that these amended policies are all tabled. New Policy – 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading – G-15 Gift Acceptance – Mr. Fiorillo asked that it be read into the record – this is the second reading.
- B. Public Comment – Mrs. Beaulieu asked if anyone had any comments and no one did and so she closed the public hearing.

**Agenda Item #12:** New Business

- A. Cumberland Schools Support Dorian Murray, #DStrong – Mr. Salvatore had made this request – Supt. Mitchell stated that this is such a great movement that is happening – at the end of the meeting everyone will hold up a letter and take a #DStrong picture. Mayor Murray added that the town would be naming a day in Dorian’s honor!
- B. Discussion of 2016-2017 School Calendar – Supt. Mitchell gave the SC two versions of the calendar – one with an April vacation and three professional days in February – similar to this year’s calendar- and one with just a March vacation-professional days before the start of the school year. It is for the SC review – need a decision by the end of February. Mr. DiModica would like to hear from the PTO and the people that he represents before he places his vote – he thinks the March vacation will be disruptive to families. Mrs. Beaulieu said she will put the calendars on the website so everyone can review them-she said we need to vote by end of February so we have two more meetings to discuss. Mr. Duffy suggested asking the athletic directors if the change in vacations will disrupt any camp plans, etc. He thought maybe a survey on the student’s chromebooks would be a good idea – to get some feedback from parents. Mr. Duffy also asked if other districts were changing their calendars and Supt. Mitchell said that more districts are moving towards our current calendar. Mr. Dennen stated that he had received a couple of complaints about just having the students go two days during the

- week in February – was it really worth sending them? He went on to say that he thought the survey was a good idea. Mrs. Beaulieu stated that the SC would not be taking any action on this item this evening.
- C. Discussion and/or Vote to Approve New Policy: 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading G-15 Gift Acceptance – Mr. Fiorillo made a motion to approve, 2<sup>nd</sup> Mr. Salvatore and Mr. Dennen, approved 7-0.
  - D. Discussion and/or Vote to Approve Amended Policies – 1) G-9 Building Access, 2) I-7 School Sponsored Overnight Field Trips, 3) I-16 High School Athletic and Extracurricular Eligibility Regulations, 4) J-7 Student Suspension, 5) J-15 Student Fundraising, 6) K-2 Use of School Facilities – Mr. Fiorillo stated that the SC would not be taking any action on the amended policies this evening.
  - E. Discussion and/or Vote to Approve Home School Instruction Requests for the 2015-2016 School Year – Supt. Mitchell stated that there were no requests this evening.

**Agenda Item #13:** Personnel Recommendations

There were no personnel recommendations this evening.

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

Mr. Salvatore noted that the District Wellness Sub-Committee met last Tuesday and they have 15 people on the committee – teachers, community people, and students – great group of people. Recently a representative from R.I. Dept. of Health – Corinne Witherall – has supplied the committee with 500 pedometers which will be integrated into the elementary and middle schools. Thank you!!! Also, there is a group of teachers doing zumba weekly and another group doing weight watchers – lots of great things going on – lots of excitement! Deb Malcolm is researching a free night at the Cumberland/Lincoln Boys Club for families! Details to follow! Also, a Community School parent – David D. is researching grants that we may be eligible for! Mr. Duffy wanted to thank the administration for the quick turnaround on the flag situation at Community School!

**Agenda Item #15:** 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 was no executive session meeting tonight.

**Agenda Item #16:** Adjournment

Mr. Fiorillo made a motion to adjourn, 2<sup>nd</sup> Mr. Dennen, approved 7-0.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:08 p.m.

Meeting minutes respectfully submitted by Linda A. Jackvony