

UNAPPROVED

There was a regular meeting of the Cumberland School Committee held on Thursday, February 25, 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, Atty. Stephen Adams

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

Agenda Item #2: Pledge of Allegiance

Agenda Item #3: Approval of Agenda
Mr. Dennen made a motion to approve the agenda, 2nd Mr. Salvatore, approved 7-0.

Agenda Item #4: Student Government

- A. Student Activities – on 2/11 CHS held a blood drive and there were 50 donors – enough to save 150 lives! February 24th the parent conferences were held – student government helped out with the event – even babysitting! Pennies for patients will be ongoing through the month of March – so far \$500 has been collected – the goal is \$10,000 – there will be several events scheduled during the month to collect donations!

Agenda Item #5: Consent Agenda

- A. Approval of Minutes – Regular Meeting 2/11/16
- B. Approval of Minutes – Executive Session 2/11/16

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

Agenda Item #6: Report Out of Executive Session Meeting

- A. Report Out of Executive Session Meeting on 2/25/2016 – 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 Mrs. Teel, approved 7-0.

Agenda Item #7: Superintendent's Report

- A. Sodexo Future Chefs Event – March 5, 2016 – Supt. Mitchell stated that this was the fourth year for the event – the goal is to encourage students to develop healthy eating habits – the students enter their favorite recipes – the winner will take part in the national competition!
- B. Town-wide Learning Health Fair & 5K Race – March 26, 2016 – this event has been cancelled. Supt. Mitchell did note that March is Youth Art Month – Art is a valued piece of our curriculum and some of the students work will be displayed during March. On March 5th several of our Art teachers will have their work displayed at an exhibition at the Providence Art Center – from 5-7 p.m. – the exhibition runs from 3/5 thru 3/26 – lots of fine work will be displayed! Supt. Mitchell went on to say that a couple of weeks ago, a CHS student – Kate Cornell – approached he and Mr. DiManna regarding RAD – Rape Aggression Defense – it is a program given by trained police officers - teaches strategies to students for when they are in college

and away from home and could possibly find themselves in an unfamiliar situation. So Supt. Mitchell approached CPD and Officer Kolek to discuss this program and since then Officer Kolek has arranged several dates for training and so far 42 girls have signed up for the training! Supt. Mitchell wanted to thank Chief Desmarais and Officer Kolek for all of their help! He also wanted to thank Kate for bringing such a wonderful program to everyone's attention! Last Monday Principal Tenreiro was recognized by the local Rotary Club with the Paul Harris Award – very prestigious award and we congratulate Principal Tenreiro – who is also National Principal of the Year!!! The superintendent also said that CHS is in the process of starting a rotary program for the students – the Interact Club – very exciting! On Tuesday morning Supt. Mitchell attended a ceremony where the district was awarded a \$2,000 grant for English Language Learners! Mr. DiModica asked the superintendent how the parking and crossing situation at the high school was going? Supt. Mitchell stated that there is a crossing guard out there every morning and he said the students are making an effort to cross at the crosswalks – he has had no complaints.

Agenda Item #8: Chairperson's Report

- A. School/Town Collaboration – Mrs. Beaulieu noted that Mr. Duffy would be speaking about this later on in the agenda.

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 stated that there was no meeting this week.
- C. Policy & Procedures Sub-Committee Update – Mr. Fiorillo stated that the committee met earlier in the evening and discussed the transgender policy – there will be more changes made so there will be no action taken on this policy this evening.
- D. Achievement & Communications Sub-Committee Update – Mrs. Teel stated that there was no meeting this week.
- E. Budget Task Force Update – Mr. Duffy stated that last Thursday was the Task Force last meeting – they took all of the information gathered from their meetings and are putting it into one finished product, which in his opinion will be great! The volunteers from our community will make their presentation and they are hoping to do this at the SC/TC joint meeting some time in March. There will be no further Task Force meetings.

Agenda Item #10: Comments from the Public

Gerilyn D. has two boys in the district – one at the middle school and one at elementary. She is opposed to the March vacation calendar – it will be a drastic impact to her family. She believes it will cost her more in childcare because she is a teacher in another district and will have a different vacation than her children. She also questioned the validity of the survey – she voted twice and knows of others that did the same – also wondered if the survey was available in Spanish? A state this size should have one calendar – changes should effect all of the districts – not just one. Cumberland does not need any more changes right now.

Agenda Item #11: Public Hearing

- A. Reading of Policy – 1) New Policy – 1st reading – J-23 Policy Affecting Students Who Identify as Transgender or Gender Non-conforming – Mr. Fiorillo stated that the policy will not be read tonight because they are still making changes to it.
- B. Public Comment – Mrs. Beaulieu asked if there were any comments and there were none.

Agenda Item #12: New Business

- A. Discussion and/or Vote to Approve 2016-2017 School Calendar – 1) Calendar “A” and 2) Calendar “B” – Mr. DiModica made a motion to approve Calendar “A” (which keeps the April vacation), 2nd Mr. Fiorillo, approved 7-0 – so for this coming school year the April vacation remains. Mr. Duffy stated that the SC did listen to the feedback from parents and even though the consensus was to switch to a March vacation, the SC did not feel as though there was enough notice to the district – so the March vacation may happen for 2017-2018. Supt. Mitchell commented that although it had been said that a lot of changes have been going on in the district, he believes that the changes have all been successful. Mrs. Teel asked if the 2017-2018 calendar will be on the agenda in a couple of months and although Mrs. Beaulieu thought that was a good idea, she said that November would be here before we know it and a new SC could change things. Supt. Mitchell noted that there probably should be a state wide calendar but there isn’t and he thinks that other districts will follow Cumberland.
- B. Discussion and/or Vote to Approve 1st Reading of Policy: J-23 Policy Affecting Students Who Identify as Transgender or Gender Non-Conforming – no action this evening.
- C. Discussion and/or Vote to Approve Home School Instruction Requests for 2015-16 School Year – Supt. Mitchell stated that there were no requests this evening.
- D. Facilities Update – Mr. Prignano talked about the energy control systems and said that they are really trying to get all the schools up and running. He talked about the \$5m bond that was approved by the town and a \$600,000 lease from a couple of years ago that have updated some systems. Two of the elementary school have recently been approved and a little over a year ago \$100,000 was spent on three elementary schools so that the systems can be accessed remotely – he said they are working on getting text message alerts – but currently Ashton, Community and Garvin can be accessed remotely and changes can be made to hopefully avoid a problem – the other two elementary schools will be starting the upgrade shortly. Mr. Prignano also said that the two middle schools will be worked on during the summer. The high school system was put in during 2010 but has issues – they are working with a vendor to get some of the system up and running – there are some functions of it that do work. The rest of the schools will be in good shape by the summer! Mr. DiModica reiterated his concern about the fact that people need to be notified via text message in case of a problem. Mr. Prignano said that he would set up a meeting to see what exactly is left to do at the high school.

Agenda Item #13: Personnel Recommendations

Mrs. Fogell requested the following person recommendations:

Leaves

I request the advice and consent of the School Committee on the FMLA Leave of **Jennifer Antonelli, Grade 5 Teacher** at **BF Norton Elementary School**, from **February 16, 2016** through the remainder of the school year.

I request the advice and consent of the School Committee on the FMLA Leave of **Sarah C. Godino, Grade 6/7 Mathematics Teacher** at **McCourt Middle School**, with an anticipated leave date of **February 24, 2016** until the anticipated return date of **May 31, 2016**.

I request the advice and consent of the School Committee on the FMLA Leave of **Erin Auclair, PE/APE/Health Teacher** at **Garvin School**, with an anticipated leave date of **February 16, 2016** until the anticipated return date of **May 16, 2016**.

Mr. Fiorillo made a motion to approve the leaves as presented by Mrs. Fogell, 2nd Mr. Salvatore, approved 7-0.

Appointments

I request the advice and consent of the School Committee on the appointment of **Jerrica McKee, Early Childhood Educator** at **Pre School Center**, effective **02/22/2016**. (**FTE 1.0; Step 3; Lane: n/a; Co-pay: 22%**).

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

Boys Junior Varsity Baseball: Jeffrey Avallone

Mr. Dennen made a motion to approve the appointments as presented by Mrs. Fogell, 2nd Mr. Duffy, approved 7-0.

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

Mr. Salvatore stated that Health and Wellness met this past Tuesday and noted that Nancy Day presented a BOKS Program – a morning exercise program for students in K-6. Also, Ms. Malcolm from JJM is working with Boys and Girls Club to coordinate a Family Day at the club – no charge for the families! Details to follow! Mr. DiModica congratulated Principal Tenreiro for his Rotary Club recognition and also wanted to thank Principal Tenreiro, Dr. Thornton and Supt. Mitchell for doing such a great job and getting our graduation rate up to 91%!!! We are going in the right places – keep on going!! Supt. Mitchell noted that although during the recent cold spell there was an issue at MMS, it could have been a lot worse. He went on to say that Will DeJesus needs to be commended because he went to every building to check and he discovered the boiler was down but had vendors waiting for the pipes to thaw and they had their mops, etc, and were ready to go so on Thursday when the students came back to school, everything was fine! Good job by everyone involved!

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 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 8:31 p.m.

Meeting minutes respectfully submitted by Linda A. Jackvony