

UNAPPROVED

There was a regular meeting of the Cumberland School Committee held on Thursday, March 24, 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 7:39 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 – this item was addressed after the Superintendent’s Report. Past activities included the blood drive on 2/11, parent/teacher conferences on 2/24 and pennies for patients – which in two weeks \$2,000 was raised and the current total is \$4,000, also, 63 seniors were inducted into the National Honor Society-they needed a 3.4 GPA or had to be in the top 10% of their class. Future events will include the Spring Fling on 4/8 and Grad Nite on 4/14 – seniors will be visiting Disney and Universal Studios for four days, also another blood drive in April!

Agenda Item #5: Consent Agenda

- A. Approval of Minutes – Regular Meeting 3/10/2016, Special Meeting 3/17/2016
- B. Approval of Minutes – Executive Session 3/10/2016

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

Agenda Item #6: Report Out of Executive Session Meeting

- A. Report Out of Executive Session Meeting on 3/24/2016 – 1) Report Out of Executive Session Votes – Mrs. Beaulieu stated that there were no votes taken and 2) Vote to Seal Minutes of Executive Session – Mr. Dennen made a motion to seal the minutes, 2nd Mrs. Teel and Mr. Duffy, approved 7-0.

Agenda Item #7: Superintendent’s Report

- A. District Spelling Bee Winner – Nolan Rogalski – Supt. Mitchell stated that not only was Nolan the district winner but he went on to the state competition

- and did very well – he is in the 4th grade and was competing against 5, 6, 7 and 8th grade students! Nolan was one of 27 competitors in the state competition and completed 19 out of the 22 rounds! Supt. Mitchell presented Nolan with a certificate – Congratulations Nolan!!!!
- B. CHS Wrestling State Champions – Nate Skawinski is the RI State Champion in the 195 pound class – he also placed 4th at the New England Meet. Nate has had 48 wins and 3 losses this season – Supt. Mitchell presented Nate with a certificate – Congratulations Nate!!!! Moulaye Sangare was not present this evening but is the RI State Champion in the 152 pound class. Moulaye has had 42 wins and 5 losses this season! Congratulations Moulaye!!!!
 - C. CHS Indoor Track State Champion – Meaghan Scullin – Supt. Mitchell stated that Meaghan is Division Class and State Champ in Long Jump and High Jump, she has broken several school records, placed 5th in New England in Long Jump, is ranked #3 in her graduating class and has qualified for the Nationals! Congratulations Meaghan!!!!

Agenda Item #8: Chairperson's Report

- A. School/Town Collaboration – Mrs. Beaulieu stated that on Wednesday – March 23rd, the Budget Task Force presented their findings at the joint SC/TC meeting. She noted that the presentation was outstanding – she hopes that it can be put on line at some point – this really sets the tone that we can all work together! Mrs. Beaulieu thanked the committee for their commitment and for such a professional job. Mr. Salvatore also commented that this was a very nice collaboration between the SC, TC and the Budget Task Force. Mrs. Beaulieu thought that maybe the SC could focus on some of their recommendations at an upcoming SC meeting. Mrs. Teel commented that the presentation was excellent and it really made you realize how a good school district would impact the value of your homes!

Agenda Item #9: Reports of Standing Committees

- A. Payment of Bills – Mr. DiModica noted that there were no payments this evening.
- B. Fiscal Management Sub-Committee Update – Mr. DiModica stated that the sub-committee had met on Tuesday and discussed the budget with Supt. Mitchell and some of the department heads – they talked about adding more mental health support at all of the schools, ELL program, and the overall increase of 2.6% in the budget – compared to last years.
- C. Policy & Procedures Sub-Committee Update – Mr. Fiorillo noted that the sub-committee did not meet but will meet in two weeks – they will be discussing the service animal policy – dogs and mini horses are the only animals that are applicable.
- D. Achievement & Communications Sub-Committee Update – Mrs. Teel noted that the sub-committee did not meet and will not meet again until after the budget hearings.
- E. Budget Task Force Update – Mr. Duffy noted that he spoke with the Budget Task Force after their presentation to the SC/TC. He expressed his gratitude

– he also noted that the Budget Task Force would be happy to come before the SC if anyone had any further questions regarding their presentation. Mrs. Teel and Mr. Salvatore stated that they would like to hear more and so Mr. Duffy said he would make the arrangements.

Agenda Item #10: Comments from the Public
No comments at this time.

Agenda Item #11: Public Hearing

- A. Reading of Policy – 1) New Policy – 2nd Reading – J-23 Policy Affecting Students Who Identify as Transgender or Gender Non-conforming – Mr. Fiorillo stated that this policy took about six months and he got a lot of good input from teachers – he especially wanted to thank Ms. Lancaster, Ms. Bacon and Ms. St.Jean – he would like this 2nd reading read into the record. Mr. Fiorillo made a motion to accept J-23, 2nd Mr. Salvatore – Mrs. Beaulieu asked to please hold this motion until new business.
- B. Public Comment – Aidan, a transgender student at CHS – this policy truly means a lot to all of us at CHS – at one point administrators were viewed as scary but this policy has changed everyone’s view – the administrators are here to help us and with this policy we now realize that. Liam – stated that this policy is a big change – students at CHS will not be afraid anymore – rumblings are heard from both sides but mostly getting a lot of support – Liam thanked the SC for letting him be a big part of this policy – he said he was proud of the SC and everyone that had a part in this policy. Hearing closed.

Agenda Item #12: New Business

- A. Discussion and/or Vote to Approve New Policy-2nd Reading-J-23 Policy Affecting Students Who Identify as Transgender or Gender Non-conforming – Mr. Fiorillo stated that the students that this policy will benefit make it all worthwhile. Mr. Duffy stated that the policy is to help the students and let them know that there is support for them. Mrs. Beaulieu stated that the best policies involve extensive collaboration – there was a lot of collaboration with this policy but in the end the policy will do what it was intended to do – create a safe environment for the students. She expressed her appreciation to everyone that helped with this policy and noted that the ACLU sent the SC a letter in support of this policy! Supt. Mitchell stated that there was a lot of nice collaboration between constituents – a lot of thought went into this policy – he went on to say that it does not end here, there will be a lot of education needed regarding this policy. Mr. Fiorillo noted that this policy would be revisited in December to see what is working and what is not working. Mrs. Beaulieu stated that we had a motion from Mr. Fiorillo to accept J-23 and a 2nd from Mr. Salvatore, motion approved 7-0.
- B. Discussion and/or Vote to Approve Resolution SC-R-2016-04: Resolution on Gun Free Schools – Mrs. Beaulieu read aloud the resolution regarding gun free schools – she also noted that the R.I. Association of School Committees –

- at a recent meeting – voted to support the banning of concealed weapons on school grounds. Mr. Fiorillo stated that he believed a similar resolution was passed last year and then spoke about an incident involving a teacher that was carrying a gun and had it go off accidentally – this incident happened elsewhere in the country – but he said this is why we want to prevent guns from coming into the schools. Mr. Dennen made a motion to approve SC-R-2016-04, 2nd Mrs. Teel and Mr. DiModica, approved 7-0.
- C. Discussion and/or Vote to Approve FY 2017 School Budget – Mrs. Beaulieu stated that there would not be a vote this evening – there will be another meeting to discuss the budget next week.

Agenda Item #13: Personnel Recommendations

Mrs. Fogell stated that she did not have any personnel recommendations this evening.

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

Mr. Fiorillo noted that the Girls Ice Hockey Team was having a Clambake in the main cafeteria at the high school on Monday 3/28 at 6 p.m. – tickets are \$10 and can be purchased at the door. Mr. Duffy stated that he was proud of the students and SC regarding tonight's vote on J-23 – he said it felt best of all to vote on it tonight!!!

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 meeting this evening.

Agenda Item #16: Adjournment

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

Meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Meeting minutes respectfully submitted by Linda A. Jackvony