

# 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 – 4/14/2016**

### **Minutes**

A special meeting of the Cumberland School Committee was held on Monday, March 28, 2016, at the Cumberland High School Transitional Building, District Meeting Center-T319, 2602 Mendon Road, Cumberland, R.I., at 6:00PM

Call to order by: Lisa Beaulieu at 6:10pm

Committee present: Lisa Beaulieu, William Dennen, Craig Duffy, Paul DiModica, Mark Fiorillo, Raymond Salvatore, Linda Teel

Admin present: Robert Mitchell, Superintendent  
Tony DiManna, Assistant Superintendent  
Alex Prignano, Business Manager  
Tina Fogell, HR Director

### **Agenda Item #1: Chairperson Convenes Meeting**

Chairwoman Beaulieu called the meeting to order at 6:10pm.

### **Agenda Item #2: Pledge of Allegiance**

### **Agenda Item #3: Approval of Agenda**

Mr. DiModica made a motion to approve the agenda, 2nd Mrs. Teel.

**Motion approved 7-0.**

### **Agenda Item #4: Reports of Standing Committees**

#### **A. Fiscal Management Sub-Committee Update**

Mr. DiModica said that the Fiscal Management Sub-Committee had met earlier in the evening to review the proposed changes to the Superintendent's budget for FY2017. The Fiscal Sub-Committee had voted 3-0 to send the proposed budget to the full committee.

Mr. Mitchell and Mr. Prignano reviewed the changes to the budget proposal. The new budget has the school department paying for its half of the lease payment for the \$5M in health and safety repairs. The previous budget draft included a request that the town make this lease payment in 2017. Mr. Prignano said that the committee had requested that this payment be made by the school department, as that had been the agreement with the town.

Mr. Prignano said that he put the \$172,000 lease payment back into the budget proposal. In addition, a request for \$400,000 for capital improvement was added to the budget. Mr. Prignano said that this \$400,000 for capital improvements had been included in the school's budget up until 2007 and it had not yet been restored.

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The new proposed budget includes \$950,000 in revenue from the fund balance, up from \$750,000.

Mr. Prignano said that the Chromebooks could be purchased this fiscal year for \$136,000, a savings of \$14,000 over buying them next fiscal year.

Mrs. Beaulieu asked if the school committee had passed a resolution to memorialize its agreement with the town council to split the cost of the lease payments with the town. Mr. Brian Silvia, the town's Finance Director said that the town council did pass a resolution on this. Mr. Prignano said he was unsure if the school committee passed a resolution covering the whole project, but he thought the committee had passed resolutions for each project and that these included a fiscal note.

There was discussion about Cumberland's per pupil spending and how it related to other districts. What are the gaps between what Cumberland offers and what other districts offer, and how are we addressing these gaps?

Mr. DiModica said that he supports going to the polls to vote on the budget. Mrs. Teel said that voters in town already did that when they approved the \$30M bond for Cumberland High School. Mrs. Teel said that the town is not doing what it should be doing, buildings are not being maintained as they should be, and the district is not offering the academic programs it should be offering. Mrs. Beaulieu said that we are all frustrated and disappointed by the funding situation.

Mrs. Beaulieu summarized the fund balance changes in the budget proposal, including:

- Removal of the \$150,000 of the designated capital fund balance.
- Increasing undesignated fund balance usage from \$600,000 to \$950,000

## **Agenda Item #5: Public Comment**

There were no comments from the public.

## **Agenda Item #6: Discussion and/or Vote to Approve FY2017 School Budget**

Mr. DiModica reiterated that the Fiscal Sub-Committee approved sending the revised budget to the full committee on a 3-0 vote earlier tonight.

Mr. DiModica made a motion to approve the superintendent's revised budget proposal, 2nd by Mr. Salvatore.

Mr. Duffy said that he fully supports everything in this budget but he did not support the use of approximately \$950,000 in fund balance. Mr. Duffy asked how much of the \$950,000 would be going toward recurring expenses, and Mr. Prignano replied that most of it would be for recurring expenses. Mr. Prignano said the goal was to wean the district off using fund balance to balance the budget and there is less fund balance in this budget than last year.

Mrs. Teel said she echoed what Mr. Prignano said, and that the budget is not ideal. She said the

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budget asks for sacrifices on everyone's part. She said that the actions of the town council are not indicative of them solving the problem long term. She said that the proposed budget is not "new or innovative" and it asks teachers to forgo raises for next year. She said the proposed budget does not support all the student needs. She said she wished the town council would take a long term view, as the school committee is doing.

Mr. Fiorillo asked what would happen if the \$400,000 for capital expenses is not approved by the town. Mr. Prignano responded that the committee would have to reduce the budget or use additional fund balance to balance the budget.

There was some discussion about property values. The town will be doing a reevaluation this year.

**Motion approved 6-1, with Mr. Duffy dissenting.**

Agenda Item #7: Vote to go into Executive Session for Discussion on Items Referred to in R.I.G.L. 42-46-5:

Mrs. Beaulieu said: *"Before going into executive session, the school committee shall state for the record that any persons to be discussed pursuant to subsection (1) have been notified and this statement shall be noted in the minutes of the meeting."*

Mr. Salvatore made a motion to go into Executive Session, 2nd by Mr. Dennen.

**Motion passed 7-0.**

< IN EXECUTIVE SESSION >

**Report out of executive session.**

Mrs. Beaulieu said that no votes had been taken in executive session.

**Vote to seal the minutes of executive session.**

Mr. Fiorillo made a motion to seal the minutes of executive session, 2nd by Mr. Duffy.

**Motion passed 7-0.**

**Agenda Item #8: Adjournment**

Mrs. Teel made a motion to adjourn, 2nd by Mr. Duffy.

**Motion passed 7-0.**

Meeting adjourned at 7:18pm

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William J Dennen, Clerk  
Cumberland School Committee