APPROVED 4.29.2026

There was a regular meeting of the Cumberland School Committee held on Thursday, April 9, 2026 at the Cumberland High School Transitional Building Cafetorium, 2602 Mendon Road, Cumberland, Rhode Island.

Members Present: Amy Vogel, Keri Smith, Lisa Goldstein, Kerry Feather, Heather Chea, Jason Dean and Andrew Bacon

Administration Present: Supt. Phil Thornton, Atty. Stephen Adams

Agenda Item #1: Call to Order
Chairwoman Vogel called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Agenda Item #2: Pledge of Allegiance

Agenda Item #3: Approval of Agenda
Mrs. Feather made a motion to approve the agenda, 2nd Mrs. Chea, motion approved 7-0.

Agenda Item #4: Consent Agenda
A. Approval of Minutes – 1) Regular Meeting 3/26/2026
B. Enrollment Report 4/6/2026
C. Residency Truancy Report 4/6/2026
D. March Transportation Report

Mrs. Feather made a motion to approve the consent agenda, 2nd Mrs. Smith, motion approved 7-0.

Agenda Item #5: Report Out of Executive Session Meeting
A. Report Out of Executive Session Meeting on 4/9/2026 – 1) Report Out of Executive Session Votes – Mrs. Vogel stated that there were no votes taken. 2) Vote to Seal Minutes of Executive Session – Mrs. Chea made a motion to seal the minutes, 2nd Mrs. Feather, motion approved 7-0.

Agenda Item #6: Personnel Announcements
Mrs. Drezek announced two retirements and one resignation.

Agenda Item #7: Superintendent's Report
A. Staff Secret Spirit Week – Ashton – Dr. Thornton stated that the staff had a different theme each day – kids had to guess – it was a great week!
B. Construction Update – Community – new lighting at the front entrance completed. BFN – elevator shaft, cafeteria area, poured floors, cold formed metal framing, electrical room, plumbing and SST, tree inside the building (fake tree), lots of people spreading cement, roof buttoned up, project is moving along – on schedule, no concerns, if you would like a tour in the next few weeks Dr. Thornton said he would be happy to take you through. Also, showed view from

Kilburn Street – walkways, concrete testing being done. Will be weather tight mid-summer.

Agenda Item #8: Reports of Standing Committees

A. Fiscal Management Sub-Committee Update – Mrs. Smith stated that they did meet earlier and discussed resolutions and payment of bills.
B. Policy & Procedures Sub-Committee Update – Mrs. Feather stated that they met last week and discussed a number of policies that need to be amended or created.
C. Achievement & Communications Sub-Committee Update – Mrs. Vogel stated that they met on March 31st – update from Asst. Supt. DiManna -need another meeting.
D. District Health & Wellness Sub-Committee Update – Mrs. Chea stated that they did meet and discussed the backpack event.

Agenda Item #9: Old Business

A. Discussion and/or Vote to Revise 2026/2027 School Calendar – Primary Election Day Moved to Wednesday, September 9th – Mrs. Feather made a motion to approve, 2nd Mrs. Goldstein, Mrs. Smith stated that maybe we should do a P/D – attendance could be low that day – Mrs. Vogel suggested to table this – Mrs. Smith then suggested that we do this and then do a P/D. Motion was approved 7-0.
B. Discussion and/or Vote to Approve Revised 2025/2026 School Calendar to Address Weather Closings – Dr. Thornton stated that RIDE approved their waiver – no change to school calendar – June 18th is the last day of school – graduation is June 12th. Mrs. Smith made a motion to approve, 2nd Mrs. Goldstein and Mrs. Chea, motion approved 7-0.

Agenda Item #10: Comments from the Public

There were no comments this evening.

Agenda Item #11: New Business

A. Discussion and/or Vote to Approve Home School Instruction Requests for the 2025-2026 SY – Mrs. Vogel stated that there were no requests this evening.
B. Discussion and/or Vote to Approve Nonresident Student Tuition Contract – Mrs. Smith made a motion to approve, 2nd Mrs. Feather, motion approved 7-0.
C. Discussion Rhode Island Per Pupil Expenditure Data – Dr. Thornton stated that there were packets that the SC had – we are still the lowest – we are going backwards – there are more kids and they are not keeping up – it is more challenging than ever – lowest PPE - $3,000 gap behind the top lowest - $16,887 right now – keep this in mind for the budgets. Mr. Dean asked if Dr. Thornton shares this with the Mayor and Town Council – Dr. Thornton said yes, he does.
D. Discussion and/or Vote to Approve Letter of Support for the Blue Ribbon Commission Report – Dr. Thornton – redesigning on how we fund schools – promoted by Cicilline's office – bills on both sides – have to push and look at this foundation plan -we keep gaining students every year. Some fundamental costs

should be covered by the state – Mr. McGrath said it is not clear on town effort in this report – House and Senate have bills out there -we are due $23m per the formula that is out. Mr. Bacon made a motion to approve, 2nd Mrs. Goldstein, motion approved 6-0 – Mrs. Smith abstained from this vote.

E. Discussion and/or Vote to Approve Memorandum of Agreement for Foster Grandparent Program for the Cumberland School Department for the 2026/2027 School Year – Mr. Bacon made a motion to approve, 2nd Mrs. Goldstein, motion approved 7-0.
F. Discussion and/or Vote to Approve Resolutions:
    1. SC-PR-03-2026-016 – Snow Removal 2/24-27/26 Due to Blizzard -Digger's
    2. SC-PR-04-2026-019 – CHS CTE Bio – Med Pathway Supplies – Ward's Science
    3. SC-PR-04-2026-020 – BFN ES March Invoice #0021B-2405-Ai3Architects, Inc.
    4. SC-PR-04-2026-021 – New Electric Service Agreement for BF Norton School
    5. Rhode Island Energy
    6. SC-PR-04-2026-022 – March Project Management Invoice #0001162446
    7. Colliers Project Leaders
    8. SC-PR-04-2026-023 – District Wide Pest Control Services – Big Blue Bug Solutions

Mrs. Smith stated that SC-PR-03-2026-016 was tabled last meeting but they met with Diggers – thank you to Chris and Mike from Diggers – they worked non-stoop Monday thru Thursday, they stepped up for us. $80,000 was the amount of this invoice. Mrs. Smith made a motion to approve, 2nd Mr. Dean – he would like to have a conversation with the town regarding clearing the sidewalks. Motion was approved 7-0. Mrs. Smith made a motion to approve SC-PR-04-2026-019 thru 023, 2nd Mr. Dean, motion was approved 7-0.

G. Discussion and/or Vote to Approve Payment of Bills – Mrs. Smith made a motion to approve payments in the amount of $814,356.26, 2nd Mr. Dean, motion approved 7-0.

Mr. Bacon would like us to have a contract come forward with guidelines – to protect us. Mrs. Smith stated that we did talk to about this and an RFP will go out this summer – Diggers will talk to us about it – they will help us put something together – but everyone gets a chance at the RFP – thank you Mr. Bacon. Atty. Adams stated that we need to approach with integrity – you are highlighting a risk that exists – but done properly – you can do it.

Mrs. Chea commented about the MMS and NCMS unity basketball game – unity display during their unified basketball game – players gave encouragement on both teams – very proud of them.

Agenda Item #12: Vote to go into Executive Session Discussion on Items Referred to in R.I.G.L. 42-46-5

Dr. Thornton stated that there was no Executive Session this evening.

Agenda Item #13: Adjournment

Mr. Bacon made a motion to adjourn, 2nd Mrs. Feather, motion approved 7-0.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:36 p.m.

Meeting minutes respectfully submitted by Linda A. Jackvony

April 9,2026			
ACTION	**EFFECTIVE DATE**	**NAME**	**POSITION**
Retirement- 10 years of service	7/30/2026	Mario Sa'	Custodian-NCMS
Retirement- 22 years of service	6/30/2026	Karen Vachon	Paraprofessional-McCourt
Resignation	6/30/2026	Pamela Storme	Principal-McCourt