

APPROVED- 5.14.2026

There was a regular meeting of the Cumberland School Committee held on Wednesday, April 29, 2026 at the Cumberland High School Transitional Building Cafetorium, 2602 Mendon Road, Cumberland, Rhode Island.

Members Present: Amy Vogel, Keri Smith, Lisa Goldstein, Heather Chea, Jason Dean, Andrew Bacon – absent this evening was Kerry Feather.

Administration Present: Supt. Phil Thornton, Atty. Stephanie Gonzales

Mrs. Vogel thanked Atty. Gonzales for all of her hard work and said that everyone will miss her. Wished her well and said if she ever wanted to come back, she is welcome!!

Agenda Item #1: Call to Order

Chairwoman Vogel convened the meeting to order at 7:13 p.m.

Agenda Item #2: Pledge of Allegiance

Agenda Item #3: Approval of Agenda

Mrs. Chea made a motion to approve the agenda, 2nd Mrs. Goldstein, motion approved 6-0.

Agenda Item #4: Consent Agenda

A. Approval of Minutes – 1) Regular Meeting 4/9/2026, 2) Executive Session 4/9/2026.

B. School Bus Inspection Report 4/10/2026.

Mrs. Chea made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda, 2nd Mrs. Goldstein, motion approved 6-0.

Agenda Item #5: Student Government Report

A. Student Government Activities – Raised \$6,000 for the Jimmy Fund, blood drive on 4/14 had 35 donors which could potentially help over 100 people, the Junior class will have their prom on 5/2 at Pleasant Valley in Uxbridge, MA. Recently celebrated administration, assistant principals, principal and next week will be teacher appreciation week – activities scheduled all week!

Agenda Item #6: Report Out of Executive Session Meeting

A. Report Out of Executive Session Meeting on 4/29/2026 – 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. Goldstein, motion approved 6-0.

Agenda Item #7: Personnel Announcements

Mrs. Drezek announced three retirements and one resignation.

Agenda Item #8: Superintendent's Report

- A. CHS – Athlete Signing Day – Dr. Thornton stated that they had 21 students signing with their parents!!! It was a great event!
- B. Garvin Grade 5 – Rhode to Bicycle Safety – Principal Carter stated that the kids learned a lot at the program, some even learned how to ride a bicycle! They all received certificates and helmets!!!!
- C. End of the Year Events 2026 – Dr. Thornton noted that all of this information will be on the website in the morning – Touch a Truck on 5/18, 8th grade promotion ceremony, etc.
- D. Construction Health & Wellness Sub-Committee Update – Dr. Thornton stated that the project is on budget and on time. Showed slides of the cafeteria taking shape, pouring cement, roofing going on, elevator shaft in place, interior foyer, and then showed a time lapsed video from Consigli – they have not stopped!! Next, building will be buttoned up by summertime and then they will be working on the interior, demo for the old BFN is going to be next summer.

Agenda Item #9: Reports of Standing Committees

- A. Fiscal Management Sub-Committee Update – Mrs. Smith stated that they discussed the payment of bills – Chartwell – and three resolutions.
- B. Policy & Procedures Sub-Committee Update – Mrs. Goldstein stated that there were no updates.
- C. Achievements & Communication Sub-Committee Update – Mrs. Vogel stated that there were no updates.
- D. District Health & Wellness Sub-Committee Update – Mrs. Chea stated that they are hoping for a meeting by the end of the school year.

Agenda Item #10: Old Business

- A. Discussion With Transpar Group: Update on Transportation and Redistricting Study – the Transpar Team was on hand to deliver the update and answer questions. Phase 2 – so far, set of constraints that will guide the project – we are here this week on site walking thru the schools, etc., taking notes – all of this information will feed into redistricting scenario. We also met with CPD to better understand their process when determining safe routes. We will start looking at bell times for the 27-28 school year – we will spend time communicating with community and families. Rider Opt In system – RIDE does this for Special Ed and they use specific forms – Durham assumes that all students will ride the buses but 45% of the buses are sometimes empty – under-utilized buses – Opt In means filling out a form – these students will be verified that they will be riding the bus – typically the window opens 4/1 thru 7/31 – parents can send in the form – beginning on 8/1 the students are assigned to vehicles – during the school year the window is 3-5 days for students moving in and out of the district. It is a google form and there is a box on the form - opt in or no longer needed – opt in will use the buses more effectively. RIDE verifies riders – they take attendance for two weeks during the year – every year – and if the student is out for those two weeks, they are contacted and asked if they will be riding again or not – they can get back on the bus if they are taken off for a period of time. Of course, the district would use different forms than RIDE. Money to be saved by the Opt In

program will not happen during the first year – that is when we are collecting the data – year two is when the vehicles are started to be utilized more efficiently – savings will begin in the next cycle when you go out for bid – you will know the number of buses needed. Mrs. Chea asked about students moving in and the transportation department will review their applications and determine if they are on a safe route and can utilize the bus – should take 3 – 5 days. Applications will be available in multiple languages. When asked about multiple forms for multiple kids – do not recommend for Special Ed kids and the answer will come down to how the form is configured. Mr. Dean asked if we can start saving money in year one if we know that the buses are 45% empty – the information from the forms is not currently available for that. The ride limit is 21 minutes in the morning and 23 in the afternoon. Mrs. Goldstein noted that 60 to 65% full is the target.

Agenda Item #11: Comments from the Public

CTA representative noted that many of the members live in this district – we are concerned about the financial future – we are dropping behind more per pupil expenditure – our students deserve a district that is properly funded – the budget before the TC is a necessity not a wish list – we need the SC to send a clear message to the TC – stand with us and the parents and the students of Cumberland! Ms. Lucas – Math essentials teacher reviewed how much her position has increased the growth average - losing a math essentials teacher would affect more than 100 students – she said she is doing what the district has charged her to do – she also noted that last year home values went up \$15,000 and taxes went up \$350 – that's value. Mrs. Vogel stated that the SC sent the maximum budget to the mayor who will present it to the TC then they will decide 5/13 if it is allowed, other meetings on 5/20 and 5/27 – 1st hearing.

Agenda Item #12: New Business

- A. Discussion and/or Vote to Approve Overnight Field Trip – 1) CHS – Skills USA – Overnight Field Trip – Atlanta, GA – 5.31.26 to 6.6.2026 – Ms. Provost provided all of the details and a packet to the SC – Atty. Gonzales will look into the funding of the trip to make sure that families are not mandated to pay for the students to attend – could be an issue – Mrs. Smith was concerned about this but did not want to hold up the trip. Final payment is due 5/15 but Ms. Provost said she may be able to get a couple of days extension. Mrs. Smith made a motion to approve the trip, 2nd Mr. Bacon – noted that groups always fundraise, they deserve these trips and supports them 100%, Mrs. Vogel stated that the fiscal note is separate, motion was approved 6-0.
- B. Discussion and/or Vote to Approve Opt In Transportation – Mrs. Smith made a motion to approve, 2nd Mrs. Chea, motion approved 6-0.
- C. Discussion and/or Vote to Approve Home School Instruction Requests for the 2025-2026 SY – Mrs. Vogel noted that there were none this evening.
- D. Discussion and/or Vote to Approve Resolutions:
 - 1. SC-PR-04-2026-024 – BFN ES March Pay Requisition #7 – Consigli Construction Co., Inc.
 - 2. SC-PR-04-2026-025 – Tyler Software Renewal – Tyler Technologies, Inc.

3. SC-PR-04-2026-026 – 375 Chromebooks – TBD

Mrs. Smith made a motion to approve SC-PR-04-2026-024 thru 026, 2nd Mr. Dean, motion approved 6-0.

- E. Discussion and/or Vote to Approve Payment of Bills – Mrs. Smith made a motion to approve invoices (Chartwell) in the amount of \$281,647.08, 2nd Mr. Dean, motion approved 6-0.

Agenda Item #13: 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 #14: Adjournment

Mr. Bacon made a motion to adjourn, 2nd Mrs. Chea, motion approved 6-0.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:18 p.m.

Meeting minutes respectfully submitted by Linda A. Jackvony

April 30,2026			
ACTION	EFFECTIVE DATE	NAME	POSITION
Retirement-36 years of service-on unpaid LOA	6/30/2026	Susan Miller	Math Interventionist - Community
Retirement- 19 years of service	6/30/2026	Mary Hill	Paraprofessional - Garvin
Retirement-27 years service	6/30/2026	Jo-Ann Laboissonniere	Paraprofessional - Garvin
Resignation	5/6/2026	Nicole Cabral	Paraprofessional - McCourt