

APPROVED 8.13.2026

There was a regular meeting of the Cumberland School Committee held on Thursday, July 16, 2026 at the Cumberland High School Transitional Building, 2602 Mendon Road, Cumberland, Rhode Island.

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

Administration Present: Asst. Supt. Carter, Atty. Stephen Adams

Agenda Item #1: Call to Order

Chairwoman Vogel called the meeting to order at 7:18 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 7-0.

Agenda Item #4: Consent Agenda

- A. Approval of Minutes – 1) Regular Meeting 6/25/2026, 2) Executive Session 6/25/2026
- B. June Transportation Report
- C. School Bus Inspection Report 6/12/2026
- D. July Residency Truancy Report
- E. Enrollment Update 7/13/2026

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

Agenda Item #5: Report Out of Executive Session Meeting

- A. Report Out of Executive Session Meeting on 7/16/2026 – 1) Report Out of Executive Session Votes – Mrs. Vogel noted that there was one vote taken/approved regarding a Special Education dispute. 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 seven appointments this evening.

Agenda Item #7: Superintendent's Report

- A. Save the Date – Back to School Celebration – Ms. Carter noted that this celebration would be on August 15th at Garvin – filled backpacks will be given away.
- B. Construction Update – Tim McGrath gave the update – Garvin is putting up walls for a new classroom, NCMS elevator is going in, BFN – brick work is being done

on the outside, parking lot is being worked on for the underground water system, slab going down in the gym, main vestibule is being framed and drywall by 8/26.

Agenda Item #8: Reports Of Standing Committees

- A. Policy & Procedures Sub-Committee Update – Mrs. Goldstein stated that they met on Tuesday and discussed the three policies and the handbooks.
- B. Fiscal Management Sub-Committee Update – Mrs. Smith stated that they met this evening and discussed the 14 resolutions and the payment of bills and authorizations for the Superintendent.
- C. Achievement & Communications Sub-Committee Update – Mrs. Vogel stated that the next meeting would be 8/4.
- D. District Health & Wellness Sub-Committee Update – Mrs. Chea stated that they will meet in September.

Agenda Item #9: Public Hearing

- A. 2nd Reading of New Policies – 1) I-18 Cumberland Home Instruction Policy – Mrs. Goldstein asked that this policy be read into the record.
- B. Reading of Amended Policies – 1) G-21 Non-Contracted At-Will Employee Policy, 2) J-2 Attendance Policy and 3) A-7 Transgender & Nonbinary Policy – Mrs. Goldstein asked that G-21, J-2 and A-7 be read into the record.
- C. Reading of the 2026/2027 Handbooks – 1) Cumberland Preschool Center 2026-2027 Handbook, 2) Cumberland Elementary Schools 2026-2027 Handbooks, 3) Cumberland Middle Schools 2026-2027 Handbooks, 4) Cumberland High School 2026-2027 Handbooks, 5) Coaches Handbook 2026-2027, 6) Cumberland Athletic Handbook 2026-2027 – Mrs. Goldstein asked these handbooks be read into the record.
- D. Public Comment Related to the Public Hearing – Cameron – transgender man, chose not to attend CHS for safety reasons – 40% of transgenders have attempted suicide – how can anyone think that students would be safe at home if they are outed? Robert K. from Westerly – has spoken to several districts/SC's on this topic. These kids are not your kids, don't keep secrets from parents, kids uncomfortable to tell parents, then set up a meeting with the parents. Parents and guardians need to be the first to go to. He knew a father and daughter that was fine and then this wedge was put between them – daughter ended up having both breasts removed – kids make changes that cannot be reversed. Everyone must vote – no extensions. Kristen L. – member of LGBTQ community – protect trans children in Cumberland – these changes are placing a requirement in the system that's put children in harm. Limits their freedom. Rowen H. – asking SC to not force children to come out of the closet – you are rewriting a policy that has been around for 10 years. Kimberly N. – has two sons, one is a trans, if they had support from schools it would let them keep the dignity – don't make them come out – they need a safe place. I would rather have the district face a lawsuit than lose a child. Keep their dignity and privacy. Asher – transgender boy – some of my friends would be in danger – transphobia can be abuse – there is no way to keep a child safe at home. Suicide rates will go up. Tessa R. – some of my friends would be disowned by their parents. If students feel comfortable coming

out to their parents they will, they should not be outed to their parents. Kids should decide when to come out to guardians. Your choice could ruin students lives. Bill F. – father of transgender son, his transition was the making of him – we are proud of him – policy is a mistake. Heather B. – parent of two Cumberland students – I want every kid to know that you will support them – reject the policy – school might be the first place where kids feel safe – trust your instincts – say no to the changes. Eleanor B. – what about kids that don't want to trust anyone – so you truly believe a lawsuit is the worst outcome – vote no. Joel – don't approve the change, not a mental disorder, they have anxiety, students will look for safe spaces. Releasing the information to parents can cause harm, suicide or run away. Students have told you what they need. Do what is right. Siede – I am a trans gender man – I respect my kid's identities – I'm not their identity conductor. School is lifesaving for some of them, place of refuge and if forced outing is approved, this goes away. Pappas – stand up for rights of transgenders -I'm in a same sex relationship – we have a safe word – sometimes safe, sometimes not. I encourage kids to be honest with parents, but ask them if they will be safe – this policy will lead to abuse – reject the policy. Tony A. – we need to make sure we are taking care of our kids, not everyone has a good home – this policy is horrifying. Leona D. – policy should not pass – breaks trust with teachers – if teachers out them, they will have no one. Geralyn – schools should be a safe place; kids should be a trusted adult at school. RIDE has not put out a new policy yet, this is premature. Jessica – member of LGBTQ - oppose – put risks for children – premature vote – no child should ever be outed – we can't assume home is safe. Students will stop confiding in adults – no federal law ruling for RI. Iggy – 38-year-old trans with two kids in system – tremendously dangerous – high risk – 120% will face homelessness – school policy violates the law. John C. – trans citizen – keep policy as it stands – know oneself – be true to yourself – follow the teachers leads – courts are uncertain – your mission is let the lawyers deal with the courts. Remy – grew up in Texas – did not go to a supportive school district – moved by speeches – don't want kids to go thru what I did. Jennifer W. – do what is right and what is legal tonight by saying no – you are not required to vote for this policy. Policies like Cumberland's current, have upheld elsewhere. Do the right – uphold existing. Beck – proud member of trans community – I care about the community – 40-50% have attempted suicide – identity cannot be changed by outside forces – we will continue to push back. Wendy – suicide rates are high – harmlessness rate is high – you are asking for bad things to happen – putting kids at risk – you could have blood on your hands. Ophelia - we know what the outcome of this policy will be – harm – high school trans are at the highest risk of suicide – young people being outed experience violence and homelessness – current policy is in line with RIDE. Phoenix – if you pass these policies you'll have blood on your hands. I was outed and got yelled at for 5 hours – the attorney should do better. Corey F. – mother of two children, queer and have a wife. I want to hear from my kids what is happening when they are ready. As a queer growing up, I relied on the school, if you take the trust away where do the kids go? You are proposing changes that will harm them. Valerie – trans gender woman – was forcibly outed – kicked out of my home,

parents make choices for minor children – getting bullied leads to suicide – this policy will lead to harm. Mack – LGBTQ community – I had great teachers, kept my secret for years – 32 years old – I came out – one child being outed and getting harmed is worth voting no. If my daughter changes her mind at some point on who she is, I'll be there. Paul R. – implore you to reject the policy – I have three friends that are – hope you make the right decision. Dr. Louis – oppose this policy – policy is trying to define the student – who you are, who you will become – kids will hear that – this was actually a conversation – the impact will be physical and mental. Cassie – 38 in the closet – afraid and miserable – spent my whole life afraid – please don't make these kids be harmed – I was not safe at home but was at school.

Agenda Item #10: Comments from the Public
There were no comments.

Agenda Item #11: New Business

- A. Discussion and/or Vote to Approve New Policies – 1) I-18 Cumberland Home Instruction Policy – Mrs. Goldstein made a motion to approve, 2nd Mrs. Feather, Mr. Bacon opposed to more difficult than the state law, motion approved 5-2 – Mr. Bacon and Mr. Dean in the negative.
- B. Discussion and/or Vote to Approve Amended Policies – 1) G-21 Non-Contracted At-Will Employee Policy – Mrs. Goldstein made a motion to approve, 2nd Mrs. Feather, motion approved 7-0. 2) J-2 Attendance Policy – Mrs. Goldstein made a motion to approve, 2nd Mrs. Smith, motion approved 7-0. 3) A-7 Transgender & nonbinary policy – Mrs. Goldstein said it needs more clarity – move to reject the amendments, 2nd Mrs. Feather – with attorneys to put safeguards in place - heard from several attorneys with different conclusions, doing nothing could be sued, nothing I say will change minds, Mrs. Smith said it is not an easy job, our attorney gave us clear information, Atty. Wood gave us additional information, personal beliefs should not come into moral belief, want to follow the law, we are not as clear now – we all need to look at the laws – perhaps this is premature – take a step back – take another month. Mr. Dean, I have two young boys, regardless of what they are loved, let people be who they are, the schools should not be telling you how to raise your children – schools cannot keep secrets from the parents – I'm not willing to abandon parental rights – if a trans has suicide thoughts in school, are we obligated to tell the parents? Not willing to abandon the rights. Mrs. Vogel thanked everyone for coming, I agree that this should not be amended. Let the courts do what they do. Roll call vote – if “yey” reject amendments Chea yey, Dean no, Feather yey, Smith yey, Goldstein yey, Bacon no, Vogel yey – motion approved 5-2 with Mr. Bacon and Mr. Dean in the negative. At this point we will take a two-minute break.
- C. Discussion and/or Vote to Approve District Handbooks – 1) Cumberland Preschool Center 2026-2027 Handbooks, 2) Cumberland Elementary Schools 2026-2027 Handbook and 3) Cumberland Middle Schools 2026-2027 Handbook – Mrs. Goldstein thanked Melani Santos for all of her work on the handbooks and then made a motion to approve #1, #2 and #3, 2nd Mrs. Chea and Mrs. Feather,

motion approved 7-0. 4) Cumberland High School 2026-2027 Handbook, 5) Coaches Handbook 2026-2027 and 6) Cumberland Athletic Handbook 2026-2027 – Mrs. Goldstein made a motion to approve #4, #5 and #6, 2nd Mrs. Chea – Mrs. Feather stated that she is not in favor of locker expectations on page 24, Mrs. Vogel explained that backpack policy enforcement – Mrs. Smith stated that the preface to that is the RI state law regarding cell phones – out of sight – goal at the high school is to assign lockers to everyone, she said they did strike out the size of the bag, she appreciates what they are doing, multiple people were part of the decision, for the most part students are not carrying a lot of books around, Mrs. Carter noted that most students choose to not have a locker. Mrs. Goldstein said she could not withdraw this motion, Mrs. Smith said come back in August – keep assign all lockers in the policy. Mr. Bacon asked about different ways to discipline regarding the phone. Mrs. Vogel noted consistency within the schools. Mrs. Carter said it needed to be brought forward in August. Number 5 Coaches Handbook and number 6 Athletic Handbook motion is approved. But Mrs. Smith made a motion to amend #4 High School Handbook, amend the locker expectations, all students need to be assigned lockers, take out backpack sentence altogether, 2nd Mrs. Goldstein, motion approved 7-0.

- D. Vote on CTA Contract MOA Regarding CHS New Master Schedule - Mrs. Feather made a motion to approve, 2nd Mrs. Goldstein, motion approved 7-0.
- E. Discussion and/or Vote to Approve Superintendent Authorization for MOA between CSD and New England Institute of Technology for “Early College Program” – Mrs. Smith asked for this to be withdrawn for more work.
- F. Discussion and/or Vote to Approve Unbudgeted Kindergarten Classroom opening at BF Norton for the 2026-2027 School Year – Mrs. Smith made a motion to approve, 2nd Mrs. Feather, motion approved 7-0.
- G. Discussion and/or Vote to Approve Superintendent Authorization for Affiliation Agreement with Bryant University for School Psychology Interns for the 2026/2027 SY – Mrs. Smith made a motion to approve, 2nd Mr. Bacon and Mr. Dean, motion approved 7-0.
- H. Discussion and/or Vote to Approve Superintendent Authorization for Agreement with LearnWell to Provide Tutoring for Hospitalized Students During 2026/2027 SY – Mrs. Smith made a motion to approve, 2nd Mr. Dean, motion approved 7-0.
- I. Discussion and/or Vote to Approve Superintendent Authorization for Agreement with the University of New England for Social Worker Internship for the 2026/2027 SY – Mrs. Smith made a motion to approve, 2nd Mr. Dean, motion approved 7-0.
- J. Discussion and/or Vote to Approve the 2026/2027 Start and End Times – Mrs. Feather made a motion to approve, 2nd Mrs. Goldstein, motion approved 6-1 with Mr. Dean in the negative.
- K. Discussion and/or Vote to Approve the 2026/2027 School Calendar to Note RIDE’s Approval of the 5-Day Weather Waiver – Mrs. Feather made a motion to approve, 2nd Mrs. Goldstein and Mrs. Chea, motion approved 7-0.
- L. Discussion and/or Vote to Approve Resolutions:
 - 1. SC-PR-07-2026-068- 2026-2027 Dues- Rhode Island Association of School Committees

2. SC-PR-07-2026-069- Hall Pass system - CHS, MMS, and NCMS 2026/2027 Renewal- SmartPass, Inc.
 3. SC-PR-07-2026-070- 2026-2027 Substitute and Absence Management System
Renewal- Frontline Education
 4. SC-PR-07-2026-071- High School Science Supplies- Arbor Scientific
 5. SC-PR-07-2026-072- High School Science Supplies- Ward's Science
 6. SC-PR-07-2026-073- XELLO Renewal for 2026/2027 for CHS, NCMS, and JLMMS-
XELLO
 7. SC-PR-07-2026-074- 375 Chromebooks- TBD
 8. SC-PR-07-2026-075- 2026/2027 School Physician Renewal- Maureen A. Crotty,
M.D.
 9. SC-PR-07-2026-076- CHS Wellness Center Scoreboard Replacement-
Scoreboard Enterprises
 10. SC-PR-07-2026-077- June Project Management Invoice #0001192585-
Colliers
Project Leaders
 11. SC-PR-07-2026-078- School Spring Job Board 2026/2027 Renewal-
PowerSchool Group LLC
 12. SC-PR-07-2026-079- BF Norton ES June Invoice #0023B-2405 & #0005R-
2405.00
Reimbursable- Ai3 Architects, Inc.
 13. SC-PR-07-2026-080- BF Norton ES Pay Requisition #010- Consigli
Construction
Co., Inc.
 14. SC-PR-07-2026-081- Food Service Contract Renewal- 26-27 School Year-
Compass- USA - DBA Chartwells
Mrs. Smith made a motion to approve amendment to SC-PR-07-2026-081 to
read \$112,250, 2nd Mr. Dean, motion approved. Mrs. Smith then made a motion
to approve the amended resolution SC-PR-07-2026-081 as discussed, 2nd Mr.
Dean, motion approved 7-0. Mrs. Smith made a motion to approve SC-PR-07-
2026-068 thru 080, 2nd Mr. Dean, motion approved 7-0.
- M. Discussion and/or Vote to Approve Payment of Bills – Mrs. Smith made a motion
to pay invoices in the amount of \$1,526,406.98, 2nd Mr. Dean, motion approved 7-
0.

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

Mrs. Carter stated that there was no Executive Session this evening.

Agenda Item #13: Adjournment

Mr. Bacon made a motion to adjourn, 2nd Mrs. Chea and Mrs. Feather, motion approved.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:12 p.m.

Meeting minutes respectfully submitted by Linda A. Jackvony

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