

APPROVED 8.27.2026

There was a regular meeting of the Cumberland School Committee held on Thursday, August 13, 2026 at the Cumberland High School Transitional Building Cafetorium, 2602 Mendon Road, Cumberland, Rhode Island.

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

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

Agenda Item #1: Call to Order

Mrs. Vogel called the meeting to order at 7:09 p.m.

Agenda Item #2: Pledge of Allegiance

Agenda Item #3: Approval of Agenda

Mrs. Chea made a motion to approve, 2nd Mrs. Feather, motion approved 6-0.

Agenda Item #4: Consent Agenda

- A. Approval of Minutes – 1) Regular Meeting 7/16/2026, 2) Executive Session 7/16/2026.
- B. School Bus Inspection Reports 6/30/2026.
- C. Enrollment Report 8/11/2026.

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

Agenda Item #5: Report Out of Executive Session

- A. Report Out of Executive Session Meeting on 8/13/2026 – 1) Report Out of Executive Session Votes – Mrs. Vogel noted 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 6-0.

Agenda Item #6: Personnel Announcements Including District Teachers and Support Staff Appointments as well as Fall Coaching Appointments

Mrs. Drezek announced seven appointments – teachers, four appointments – para professionals, and coaching positions as submitted.

Agenda Item #7: Superintendent's Report

- A. Back-to-School Events 2026 – Schedule of Activities for August Events throughout the District in Preparation for the New Year – Dr. Thornton noted that all of this information would be on the website.
- B. RIPIN Back to School Celebration, Saturday, August 15th, 10 a.m. -1:00 p.m. at Garvin – all are welcome! Free backpack with school supplies for all that attend.
- C. Helpful Links for the Upcoming Year – School Supplies, Handbooks, Middle & High School Schedules. As well as Bus Routes & Menus to be posted in the

coming weeks. Dr. Thornton noted that the bus routes and menus will go public next week. Handbooks are being updated.

- D. Enrollment Update Including Processing Out-Of-District Requests – Dr. Thornton stated that they are up 88 students from last year – 1,500 students at the high school. He was also happy to report that they approved 83% of the transfer requests – this is very good!
- E. Construction Update Including the BF Norton New Construction Project and North Cumberland Middle School Elevator & Vestibule Project – AnnMarie from Colliers was here with the update – NCMS Elevator – construction is underway, walkway – demo to existing canopy, elevator is due in after Labor Day – end of September, early October. BFN – showed time lapse of the past year, showed photos of insulation around the building, masonry work, elevation changes being made, internal framing, sound batten, stage concrete. Site logistics – same operation as last year, bus loop was shown, recess – same as last year – might have a little more space become available. Soils will be onsite – starting retaining wall. There will be a ceremony in June of 2027 before they demo the old school – start of school will be September of 2027 in the new school!

Agenda Item #8: Reports of Standing Committees

- A. Policy & Procedures Sub-Committee Update – Mrs. Goldstein stated that several policies were discussed.
- B. Fiscal Management Sub-Committee Update – Mrs. Vogel read Mrs. Smith's update – met on Tuesday and discussed the payment of bills, resolutions and school box fees/credit cards.
- C. Achievement & Communications Sub-Committee Update – Mrs. Vogel stated that there was no meeting but they will be scheduling one.
- D. District Health & Wellness Sub-Committee Update – Mrs. Chea noted that they will be meeting in September.

Agenda Item #9: Public Hearing

- A. Reading of Amended Policies – 1) I-2 Computer Internet Electronic Device Acceptable Use, 2) G-14 Computer Internet Electronic Device Acceptable Use, 3) I-14 High School Proficiency Based Graduation – Mrs. Goldstein stated that I-2 and G-14 should be read into the record, but there was no action taken on I-14.
- B. Reading of Amended Handbooks to Reflect Policy Amendments – 1) 2026-2027 Cumberland High School Handbooks, 2) 2026-2027 Cumberland Middle School Handbooks – Mrs. Goldstein stated that the high school handbook was reviewed and amended, there was no action taken to the middle school handbook however, there are amendments needed. She asked that both be read into the record.
- C. Comments from the Public Regarding Public Hearing – there were no comments.

Agenda Item #10: Comments from the Public

There were no comments this evening.

Agenda Item #11: Old Business

- A. Discussion and/or Vote on Superintendent Authorization for MOA Between CSD and New England Institute of Technology for “Early College Program” – Mr. Bacon made a motion to approve, 2nd Mrs. Chea, motion approved 6-0.
- B. Transpar Update Regarding Start Times and Transportation Efficiency – Dr. Thornton stated that this information was in the SC packet – start time in drive - Transpar will be here at the end of the month – displayed information shows current runs, first bell time scenario with Cumberland Hill going earlier, 9:45 a.m. will be the latest – these are some options – no vote tonight – just looking at balance. Three tier system would be an additional \$700,000 – Transpar should be here on 8/27 or possibly via zoom – vote will be in the winter. Regarding opt-in for 2027 – Transpar says just record the data – do not take the savings yet. Mr. Bacon commented that 9:45 a.m. would be a joke.

Agenda Item #12: New Business

- A. Discussion and/or Vote on CHS Cross Country Overnight Field Trip Requests: 1) Manchester Invitational, September 18-19, 2026 in Hookset, NH, 2) Boudoin XL Invitational, September 25-26, 2026 in Fishkill, NY and 3) New England Championship, November 12-14, 2026 in Belfast, Maine – Ms. Carpenter was on hand for questions. Mrs. Feather made a motion to approve all three requests, 2nd Mrs. Chea, motion approved 6-0.
- B. Discussion and/or Vote to approve Change Order Request #01 for Colliers Project Leaders Budget Reallocation in an amount not to exceed \$0 – Mrs. Feather made a motion to approve, 2nd Mrs. Chea, motion approved 5-0 with Mr. Bacon recusing himself.
- C. Discussion and/or Vote to approve Proposed Change Order Request for Add Security/Door Contacts at NCMS Elevator/Security Project in an amount not to exceed \$36,438 – Mr. Bacon made a motion to approve, 2nd Mrs. Chea, motion approved 6-0.
- D. Discussion and/or Vote to approve Change Order Request for All Three-Color Metal Panels in an amount not to exceed \$28,342.37 – Mrs. Vogel noted that this does not pass – Building Committee did not approve.
- E. Discussion and/or Vote to approve Change Order Request for Add Washer Dryer Connections in an amount not to exceed \$31,655.39 – Mrs. Chea made a motion to approve, 2nd Mrs. Feather, motion approved 5-0 with Mr. Bacon recusing himself.
- F. Discussion and/or Vote to approve Change Order Request for Add Reflection Room Wall/Door Padding in the amount not to exceed \$46,619 – Mrs. Chea made a motion to approve, 2nd Mrs. Feather, motion approved 5-0 with Mr. Bacon recusing himself.
- G. Discussion and/or Vote to Approve Retaining Wall Alternate Design in the amount not to exceed \$69,873 – Mrs. Chea made a motion to approve, 2nd Mrs. Feather, motion approved 5-0 with Mr. Bacon recusing himself.
- H. Discussion and/or Vote to Approve Home Instruction Requests for the 26/27 SY – Mrs. Feather made a motion to approve, 2nd Mrs. Chea, motion approved 6-0.
- I. Vote on Superintendent’s Salary/Benefits for 2026-2027 School Year per Existing Contract – Mrs. Feather stated that this amount is in line with CTA, 4% increase,

Mrs. Feather made a motion to approve, 2nd Mrs. Goldstein, motion approve 4-2 with Mr. Bacon and Mr. Dean in the negative.

- J. Discussion and/or Vote on Insurance Agreement for Volunteer Therapy Dog Program, at CHS Between Windwalker Humane Coalition (WHC) of Warwick, RI and Cumberland School Committee – Mrs. Vogel stated that there is no cost to the district and made a motion to approve, 2nd Mrs. Goldstein, motion approved 6-0.
- K. Discussion and/or Vote on Amended Policies – 1)I -2 Computer Internet Electronic Device Acceptable Use – Mrs. Goldstein noted that amendments were made and she moves passage, 2nd Mr. Dean, Mr. Dean then made an amendment to this policy and made a motion to approve I-2 with his amendments, 2nd Mr. Bacon, motion approved. I-2 as amended on table was approved 6-0. Mrs. Goldstein stated that some definitions were added in to G-14 and with that made a motion to approve G-14, 2nd Mrs. Feather, motion approved 6-0. Mrs. Goldstein noted that no action will be taken on I-14.
- L. Discussion and/or Vote on Amended Handbooks – 1) 2026-2027 Cumberland High School Handbook – Ms. Goldstein reviewed need to amend language in CHS handbook due to approval of amended I-2. Ms. Goldstein reviewed change in locker procedure as administration requested lockers be given by student request instead of issued to all students since *backpacks will not be required to be placed lockers, and reviewed amended language* to incorporate language from I-2 related to PEDs. Amended language/handbook passed Policy subcommittee 3-0 and Ms. Goldstein moved passage. Ms. Feather 2nd, Mr. Bacon requested discussion and discussed concern about updating tobacco language to include nicotine pouches. Mr. Bacon moved to amend the definition of tobacco to include “nicotine delivery products”, 2nd by Ms. Feather, amendment approved 6-0. Vote to approve handbook as amended approved 6-0. 2)2026-2027 Cumberland Middle School Handbook-Ms. Goldstein reviewed that no action was taken on MS handbook in policy subcommittee however after subcommittee was adjourned noted that language did have to be amended due to approved I-2 changes; Ms. Goldstein stated handbook was being presented to full committee due to time issue so MS administrators could have handbook ready for parents with the start of school. Ms. Goldstein reviewed to amendments to handbook including p. 10 striking language around electronic devices and shortening section title to “Chromebooks”, and on p18 adding language related to PEDs and I-2 policy to be consistent with HS handbook language and striking paragraph that was in that chapter, as well as adding “nicotine delivery products” to definition of tobacco on p26 to be consistent with HS handbook language. Ms. Goldstein motioned to approve handbook as amended, 2nd by Ms. Feather, approved 6-0.
- M. Discussion and/or Vote to Approve Resolutions:
 - 1. SC-PR-08-2026-082- CHS Wellness Center Boiler Heat Exchanger to Automatic Temperature Controls, Inc. in an amount not to exceed \$23,480.00
 - 2. SC-PR-08-2026-083- BF Norton ES July Invoice #0025B-2405.00 & Invoice #003A-2405.00_Reimbursable to Ai3 Architects, Inc. in an amount not to

exceed \$34,196.20

3. SC-PR-08-2026-084- BF Norton ES Pay Requisition #011 to Consigli Construction Co., Inc. in an amount not to exceed \$2,707,246.71

4. SC-PR-08-2026-085- Multiple School Projects Payment Request #4 September through April to Ahlborg Construction Corp. in an amount not to exceed \$566,628.00

Mrs. Vogel made a motion to pass SC-PR-08-2026-082 thru 085, 2nd Mrs. Feather, motion approved 6-0.

- N. Discussion and/or Vote to Approve Payment of Bills – Mrs. Vogel made a motion to pay invoices in the amount of \$1,359, 623.54, 2nd Mr. Bacon and 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. Feather, motion approved 6-0.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:22 p.m.

Meeting minutes respectfully submitted by Linda A. Jackvony

August 13,2026			
ACTION	EFFECTIVE DATE	NAME	POSITION
Appointment	8/20/2026	Diana Bradford	Math-CHS
Appointment	8/20/2026	Holly Dion	Music/Band-CHS
Appointment	8/20/2026	Marisa Doonan	MLL/CHS
Appointment	8/20/2026	Nikhol Infantolino	Math Gr 8-McCourt
Appointment	8/20/2026	Joseph Johnson	Music-Ashton/CHill
Appointment	8/20/2026	Nicole Senecal	Reading Specialist/CHS
Appointment	8/20/2026	Krystiana Smith	ICAN K-1 BRIDGE/Preschool
Appointment	8/24/2026	Mukhula Abhigna Doddi	Paraprofessional ICAN/McCourt
Appointment	8/24/2026	Lynda Sghouane	Paraprofessional ICAN/McCourt
Appointment	8/24/2026	Sowmya Pamidipagu	Paraprofessional ICAN/McCourt
Appointment	8/24/2026	Sayuri Sosa Guerrero	Paraprofessional ICAN/McCourt
Coaching Appointments - High School	8/17/2026	Jacob Beaudreault	Football - Assistant
	8/17/2026	Margaux Bessette	Field Hockey - JV/Assistant
	8/17/2026	James Bessette	Volleyball - JV/Assistant
	8/17/2026	Alyssa Bourk	Cheerleading Varsity Coach
	8/17/2026	Kerrie Carpenter	Cross Country - Head Coach
	8/17/2026	Delaney Cavanaugh	Field Hockey - Varsity Head Coach
	8/17/2026	David DeJesus	Volleyball - Varsity
	8/17/2026	Miguel Garcia	Football - Assistant
	8/17/2026	Gabriel Gonzalez	Football - Assistant
	8/17/2026	John Hoxsie	Girls Soccer - Varsity Head Coach
	8/17/2026	Justin Karageorge	Boys Soccer - JV/Assistant
	8/17/2026	Justin Kuncz	Girls JV Tennis
	8/17/2026	Matthew Laroche	Football - Head Coach
	8/17/2026	Lourenco Lopes	Boys Soccer - Varsity
	8/17/2026	Lindsay Pertuso	Girls Tennis
	8/17/2026	Rebekah Powers	Girls Soccer - JV/Assistant
Coaching Appointments - NCMS	8/24/2026	Ross Silva	NCMS Girls Soccer
	8/24/2026	Michael Dube	NCMS Boys Soccer
	8/24/2026	Jackie Hooper	NCMS Cross Country
Coaching Appointments - McCourt	8/24/2026	Grace Henson	McCourt Cross Country
	8/24/2026	James Tavares III	McCourt Boys Soccer
	8/24/2027	Madison Rabbitt	McCourt Girls Soccer