

Tiverton School Committee Meeting

December 28, 2010

Regular Session

Board Members Present-Mrs. Pallasch, Mrs. Coulter, Mrs. Black, Mrs. Herrmann, Mr. Bergandy

Administrators Present: Mr. Rearick, Mr. Fiore

Minutes

1) Call to Order-The December 28, 2010 meeting of the Tiverton School Committee was called to order at 8:30 a.m. by Mrs. Black.

2) New Business

a) Rescheduling of Joint Meeting with Tiverton Town Council-This item was placed on the agenda to provide school committee members the opportunity to discuss in open session their intentions to meet with the town council regarding the actions of the town treasurer's decision to alter the school department 2009/2010 appropriation.

Mrs. Pallasch and Mrs. Black have had many inquiries as to what is going on.

Mrs. Pallasch used a chart to explain the actions of the town treasurer in reducing the amount of money the school department should have.

A motion was made by Herrmann/Pallasch that based on the legal interpretation provided by the RI Department of Education, Mr. DiMattia's attempt to retroactively reduce the school budget for FY 2010 is illegal, and the disputed funds, having been part of the total

school appropriation approved by the voters at the May 2009 Financial Town Meeting, were correctly transferred to the school department during FY 2010 and cannot now be reclaimed by the town. Mr. Bergandy questioned the legality of taking a vote on the motion made by Mrs. Herrmann. Mrs. Coulter feels that there should be a motion eventually, but today is not the day to make that motion and take a vote on it. She feels that we have said multiple times that we are guessing as to what they are saying or feeling but until we have that meeting she does not feel comfortable about coming out against what they are doing. She would like to have a motion that says that we are authorizing publicly our attorney to speak to RIDE and find out what their official position is on this particular matter is on this point since our previous recommendations from them is regarding previous FTM's. Mr. Rearick mentioned that this has already been completed and our attorney has sent a letter per our request in executive session. An amendment to the original motion was made by Herrmann/Pallasch removing the word illegal and replacing it with the word wrong. Mrs. Coulter does not feel comfortable making this motion. Vote 4 in favor, 1 abstention (Coulter).

Motion by Coulter/Bergandy to invite the Treasurer and the Town Council to our next meeting. Mrs. Coulter would like the auditor (Mr. Dansereau), to be present also.

David Nelson discussed with the board the support given to Mr. DiMattia by the town council regarding the school department budget. Mrs. Coulter made a motion to have the meeting be a Joint Meeting. Hearing no second, the motion failed.

b) Reschedule January 11, 2011 School Committee Meeting- A motion was made by Pallasch/Herrmann to hold a school committee meeting on January 13th to discuss the 2009/2010 audit adjustments. Mr. DiMattia, along with members of the town council, the town administrator, and Mr. Dansereau (auditor) will be invited to attend and to speak if they wish.

Vote 4 in favor, 1 opposed (Coulter).

3) Reports/Announcements

4) POSSIBLE EXECUTIVE SESSION(PL42-46-4)

a) Legal Issues (SS42-46-5)(a)(2)

5) Adjournment-A motion was made by Pallasch/Herrmann to adjourn. Vote 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Elaine Pavao

School Board Clerk