

# **SMITHFIELD SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**

**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2014 @ 7:00 P.M.**

**HIGH SCHOOL MEDIA CENTER**

## **MINUTES**

**Members present: Mr. Richard Iannitelli, Chair, Mrs. Kellie-Ann Heenan, Vice-Chair, Mrs. Virginia Harnois, Secretary, Mr. Brenden Oates and Mr. Sean Clough. Also present were: Mr. Robert O'Brien, Superintendent, Mrs. Bridget Morisseau, Assistant Superintendent, Mr. Craig Levis, Special Education Director, Mrs. Lisa Cournoyer, Business Manager, Mr. Ben Scungio Esq., School Committee/School Department Attorney. Mr. Matthew Strik, Student Representative to the School Committee. Mr. Iannitelli called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.**

**Mr. Iannitelli read the Emergency Evacuation and Health Notification Statement.**

**Item # 3 was moved up to this point of the agenda.**

**3. There was a presentation on Good Deeds from Old County Road School.**

**Mrs. Sullivan was present with some of her school's fourth and fifth grade students to explain the initiatives they have developed to help the local, state, and global community. The students presented their initiatives that included SADD awareness, recycling, donations of**

**fishtail bracelets, books for Ethiopia, helping animal shelters, and donations to Africa and Hasbro Children's Hospital. Mrs. Sullivan said the students have Skyped with the Joy house in Africa to see exactly where the donations are going. She said the students have worked with a student from Bryant College for the books for Ethiopia project. The Committee commended the students for their good deeds.**

**Mr. Oates moved to convene in Executive Session (Closed) Pursuant to RI General Laws Section 42-46-5(a) (1) pertaining to an employees termination hearing. Mrs. Harnois seconded the motion. This requires an individual vote. The individual vote was 5-0 polled by Mr. Iannitelli, Chair.**

### **Open Session**

**A) Mr. Oates moved to seal the minutes of the Executive Session. Mrs. Harnois seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 5-0 vote.**

**B) Mr. Clough moved to suspend a district employee without pay until the end of the 2013-2014 School Year and then terminate the employee. Mrs. Heenan seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 5-0 vote.**

**Mr. Oates moved to approve Consent Agenda Items:**

### **1. Consent Agenda Items:**

## **1.1 Minutes:**

### **A) Minutes of the February 3, 2014 School Committee Meeting**

## **1.2 Bills:**

### **A) Regular Bills**

**B) Prepaid Checks from February 3, 2014 through February 21, 2014.**

### **C) Lunch Bills**

## **1.3 Leaves:**

**A) Maternity leave for Erin Dubuc, Grade 2 Teacher at William Winsor, for the entire 2014-2015 School Year.**

**B) Approval of unpaid leave for Rayna Bearss, Grade 1 Teacher at Anna McCabe, for March 6, 7, 10th 2014.**

## **1.4 Resignations:**

**A) Ryan Rafanelli, Asst. Boys' Tennis Coach at the High School, effective immediately.**

**B) David Burrows, Grounds, effective February 28, 2014.**

**C) Jamie Duffy, Social Studies Teacher (One-year position) at the High School, effective February 28, 2014.**

**(D) Jeanne Phillips, Social Studies Teacher, Gallagher Middle School, effective at the end of the 2013-2014 School Year.**

**Mrs. Harnois seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 5-0 vote.**

## **2. HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT**

The high school representative, Matthew Strik, excused himself earlier in the meeting in order to attend a prior commitment of assisting with the 8th grade orientation. His report will be given at the next School Committee Meeting.

3. (Item was presented earlier in the meeting).

4. (Item postponed to a future School Committee Meeting).

5. Mr. Oates moved that there be a second reading and approval of the grounds job description. Mr. Clough seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 5-0 vote.

The Committee did a first reading at the last meeting and the suggested changes from the meeting of February 3, 2014 were incorporated into the policy. There were no further changes to the policy.

6. Mr. Oates moved with regret that the following teacher's contracts not be renewed for the 2014-2015 school year. Mrs. Harnois seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 5-0 vote.

Robert Jackson Guidance Counselor High School

Francine Cassano .6 Family Consumer Science High School

Heather Zartarian Kindergarten LaPerche

Kerri Guillemette .5 Reading Specialist OCRS

Kaitlin Kenneally English Teacher High School

Mr. O'Brien said under the law we must notify teachers by March 1st

if we are not going to renew their contract. He said we do not know what our funding for next year will be at this time making it necessary to layoff these teachers.

7. Mr. Oates moved with regret that the following retired teacher's contract not be renewed for the 2014-2015 school year. Mrs. Harnois seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 5-0 vote.

Rosemarie Cabral .5 Special Education High School

Mike Murray .4 French High School

June Mangassarian .5 ELL All Schools

Mr. O'Brien said under state law, retired teachers who work in our district must be laid off each year and reapply the next year.

8. Mr. O'Brien noted an amendment to the non renewals list of one year appointments. He noted that Jamie Duffy, One Year Social Studies teacher at the High School, who was on the original layoff list of one year appointments, should be removed from the list because she has resigned.

Mr. Oates moved with regret that the one year appointment list as amended below not be renewed for the 2014-2015 school year. Mrs. Harnois seconded the motion. The motion passed with 5-0 vote.

April Tandy .6 Pre-K Special Ed. McCabe

Mr. O'Brien said this teacher was appointed to a one year position.

9. Mrs. Harnois moved that the 2014-2015 Budget be approved. Mr.

Oates seconded the motion. The motion passed with 5-0 vote. Mr. O'Brien said there was another budget workshop prior to the School Committee meeting and there were no additional changes to the budget at that workshop.

10. The performance audit recommendations for Buildings and Grounds were discussed.

Recommendations 12(a) and (b) talk about better defining the responsibilities of custodians and grounds crew. Mr. O'Brien said Mr. Mencucci will be working with the union to better define a fair and equitable definition of responsibilities and tasks.

Recommendation 12(c) talks about combining services with the town.

Mr. O'Brien said we will be talking to the town about taking over the cutting of grass for the schools.

Mr. O'Brien commended Mr. Mencucci for a wonderful job he has been doing. Mr. O'Brien told the Committee that Mr. Mencucci's 90 day probationary period has ended and he is very pleased with Mr. Mencucci's work.

11. That the performance audit recommendation on executive summary be discussed.

Performance audit recommendation 8(a) recommends that the school department expand the executive summary to explain all of the changes in the budget. Mr. O'Brien said earlier an expanded executive summary was included in the budget presented to the school committee and the executive summary will be included in the

**budget sent to the town and it will also be posted on our website.**

**12. Mr. Clough moved that the Committee accept DATTCO's one year proposal on transportation. Mrs. Heenan seconded the motion. The motion passed with 5-0 vote.**

**Mr. O'Brien told the Committee that we would need to know if the Committee will be accepting DATTCO's one-year proposal or go out to bid. The Committee had a discussion about DATTCO's proposal to renew the transportation contract for a one year period beginning July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015, and discussed the option of going out to bid. The Committee discussed the pros and cons of each and had a discussion about the performance auditor's review of transportation for the school department.**

**Public comment: Joe O'Connor**

**13. Mr. Oates moved that the repaving of the administration parking lot be approved. Mrs. Harnois seconded the motion. The motion passed with 5-0 vote.**

**Mr. O'Brien said he talked to Dennis about the town paying half the cost to repave the parking lot at the administration building and Mr. Finlay said they would be willing to pay half. Mr. O'Brien said the Town needs to know now so that the cost can be locked in at the price the town now has for paving. Mr. O'Brien said the cost for the school department would be approximately \$40,000 and would come out of capital money. The parking lot is a safety concern with the giant pot holes.**

**This approval will allow the school department to use the bid that the town already has.**

#### **14. COMMUNICATIONS:**

**1. A letter from Dennis Finlay informing the Committee of a meeting on Tuesday, March 4, 2014, at 6:00 p.m. in the Town Hall Council Chambers to discuss issues of common interest, possible consolidation of maintenance and the school department budget (if necessary).**

**2. A letter from Dennis Finlay informing the Committee of a budget Work Session for all departments on Thursday, April 3, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. in the Town Hall Council Chambers.**

#### **15. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:**

**1. Mr. O'Brien announced and congratulated Alicia Marques, the physical education teacher at McCabe and Winsor on being named Elementary Health Teacher of the Year 2014. He said he is very proud of her and knows what a great job she does with her students.**

**2. Mr. O'Brien congratulated Erica Elefsiades and her students because their video came in third. They won \$5,000 and will now**

come up with a plan on how to spend it. He said he is proud of Erica and her students.

3. Mr. O'Brien said the team of high school students that were the winners of the state 2014 Verizon Innovative App Challenge, are now the winners for regional. They will know this Wednesday if they are the national winners. He said if they are national winners they will receive \$15,000 and they will get support to fully develop the safety app.

4. Mr. O'Brien told the Committee we received 3 quotes for the high school and middle school roof assessment. Saccoccio & Associates were the lowest quote. They will need a minimum of two weeks to do a field inspection and write a report. He said when the report is completed he will have them come to a Committee meeting to give their report to the Committee. Mr. O'Brien said he will have them give an idea of cost for the administration building as well.

5. Mr. O'Brien said he is considering moving the Professional Development day in March to the end of the year to make up one of the snow days. He is still working on this.

## **16. PUBLIC FORUM**

None.

## **17. COMMITTEE COMMENTS**

**1. Mrs. Harnois congratulated the high school swim team on being the state championships. The team won over Hendricken who had been the state champions for 24 years. (She noted that this was accomplished without the high school having its own swimming pool).**

**2. Mr. Oates congratulated the swim team. He questioned the transportation savings with St. Philips having school on our (March PD day that is proposed to be moved), and their snow days coinciding with ours. Mr. O'Brien would check on the scheduling and the financial impact the scheduling presents.**

**Mr. Oates asked if the administration parking lot would qualify for school housing aid. Mrs. Cournoyer said she believes so, but will look into this.**

**3. Mr. Iannitelli reminded everyone that the Common Core State Standards Forum is 6:30 p.m. Wednesday night in the high school auditorium. He read the section of the performance audit on student bus transportation.**

**18. EXECUTIVE SESSION (Closed) pursuant to RI General Laws Section 42-46-5(a):**

**At 8:53 p.m. Mr. Oates moved to convene into Executive Session to discuss matters pertaining to:**

**A) Consideration of personnel matter regarding teacher benefit.**

**RIGL 42-46-5(a)(1)**

**B) Discussion of matters pertaining to personnel: in accordance**

**with the Open Meeting Act, RI General Laws 42-46-5(a)1.**

**Mrs. Harnois seconded the motion. This requires an individual vote. The individual vote was 5-0 polled by Mr. Iannitelli, Chair.**

**Returned to open session at 9:31 p.m. Mr. Oates moved to seal the minutes of the Executive Session. Mrs. Harnois seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 5-0 vote.**

**Mr. Oates moved to accept the Executive Session minutes of February 3, 2014. Mrs. Harnois seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 5-0 vote.**

**Motion made by Mr. Oates seconded by Mrs. Harnois to grant a contractual catastrophic leave of absence to a district employee from February 24, 2014 through March 3, 2014. The motion passed with a 5-0 vote.**

**Motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Oates; seconded by Mrs. Harnois. The motion passed with a 5-0 vote.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Lisa A. Petrone  
Secretary**