

SMITHFIELD SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

MONDAY, MARCH 3, 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, 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 7:02 P.M.

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

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

2.1 Minutes:

A) Minutes of the February 24, 2014 School Committee Meeting

2.2 Bills:

A) Regular Bills

B) Prepaid Checks from February 24, 2014 through February 28, 2014

C) Lunch Bills

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

3. HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

High school representative, Matthew Strik reported:

- Spring Sports sign ups have been taking place over the past couple of weeks.**
- Wizard of Oz will be taking place March 14th and 15th @ 7pm, and March 16th @ 2pm.**
- Respect week will begin on March 10th.**
- The lock-in event is scheduled for March 21st from 10:00 pm until 7:00 a.m.**
- The Polar Plunge was a great success for SHS. Smithfield was among the top schools to fundraise.**
- Matthew congratulated the SHS swim team on being state champions.**

4. The members of the SHS swim team were present, and the Committee congratulated the team for their state championship win. The team defeated Hendricken after 24 years of consecutive wins.

5. Mr. Oates moved to increase the Boys' Lacrosse Coaching salary to \$2029.00. Mrs. Heenan seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 5-0 vote. Mr. Torregrossa was present and discussed coaches'

salaries with the Committee. Mr. Torregrossa expressed his concerns of having an increase in coaches' salaries in order to be more competitive with other districts' coaching salaries.

The approval of the increase in salary will bring the Boys' Lacrosse coaching position in-line with Smithfield's current level of salaries for minor coaching positions. The Committee will review the overall coaches' salaries for next year.

6. Mr. Oates moved that the following Spring Coaches for the 2013-2014 School Year be approved. Mr. Clough seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 5-0 vote.

POSITION SALARY NAME

Middle School Baseball Coach 1720 Vacant (posted)

Assistant Softball Coach 1774 Vacant (posted)

Assistant Boys' Track Co-Coach 887 Danielle Brown

Assistant Boys' Track Co-Coach 887 Vacant (posted)

Boys' Head Track Coach 3549 Michael Colucci

Volunteer Assistant Baseball Coach 100 Robert Squillante

Middle School Track Coach (Boys and Girls) 2568 Bruce Ewart

Middle School Softball Coach 1720 Frank Varrecchione

Girls' Head Track Coach 3549 John Marchand

Assistant Girls' Track Coach 1774 Joseph Bennett

Golf Coach 2026 James Parente

Assistant Baseball Coach 1774 Andrew Tuetken

Baseball Coach 3449 Steven Quattrini

Boys Lacrosse Club 2029 Vacant (posted)

Assistant Boys' Tennis Coach 1015 Vacant (posted)

Assistant Girls' and Boys' Track Coach 1014 John Sliney

Boys' Tennis Coach 2029 Derek Snow

Softball Coach 3549 Anthony Torregrossa

Unified Basketball Coach (Paid by Special Olympics) Richard Glover

7. The performance audit recommendations on Personnel contracts were discussed.

Performance audit recommendation 6(a) says the school department should address the ever increasing liability for accrued sick leave.

Mr. O'Brien said we are presently in teacher negotiations.

Recommendation 6(b) talks about salary increases and healthcare co-pay increases. Mr. O'Brien said this will also be part of the negotiation process. The Committee had a discussion about the performance audit recommendation of a 20% across-the-board increase.

8. The performance audit recommendations on Health Care were discussed.

Recommendation 10(a) suggests that the benefits clerk do a regular review to assure that everyone is paying their appropriate co-share.

Mr. O'Brien said the benefits clerk is doing regular reviews of co-shares. Recommendation 10(b) suggests that part time

employees' co-pays should be calculated the same way that part time teachers are. Mr. O'Brien said this is an item that would have to be negotiated. Recommendation 10(c) suggests that all co-shares should be the same throughout all SPS' union contracts. They also recommend that SPS should continue their efforts to raise co-shares to reach 20% across-the-board.

Mr. Iannitelli said that these are items that are being looked at and will be discussed further in negotiation form.

9. COMMUNICATIONS:

None.

10. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

Mr. O'Brien told the Committee that he checked on school housing aid in regards to the replacement of the high school and middle school roofs. He explained that RIDE has notified him that housing projects supported by bond issue funding have to go through a verification process which requires a review of the qualification of the project for reimbursement. The necessity of a school construction process is now a rolling multi-stage application process. Mr. O'Brien explained the multi-stage application process to the Committee.

Mr. O'Brien said he also checked on the paving of the administration building. He said the paving for the administration building is not eligible for housing aid because there are no school children and it's not an actual school building with children in attendance.

11. PUBLIC FORUM

None.

12. COMMITTEE COMMENTS

Mr. Iannitelli briefly went over a state aid calculation on housing aid. He said the school department has been getting 250k from the town for the capital program since about the 2005-2006 school year. He said the town is getting reimbursed for housing aid at a greater clip than what the school department is getting, and would like to discuss with the town the possibility of moving up capital if they can.

Mr. Iannitelli also mentioned that the ice rink rental for the high school hockey team was originally supposed to be skate for free, but the school department is paying for it anywhere from \$12,500 to \$17,500. He said maybe the town could handle this at a lesser amount and would like to also mention this at the scheduled meeting with the town Tuesday night.

Mrs. Harnois commended Mr. Kelley and Dr. Palazzo for a great presentation they did at a session on Saturday that she, along with Mr. Iannitelli and Mr. O'Brien attended at the RI Association of School Committees. She said many people were very appreciative of the great presentation they gave.

Mr. O'Brien added that he received a thank you letter from a school committee member in Warwick thanking the administrators for their presentation.

13. EXECUTIVE SESSION (Closed) pursuant to RI General Laws

Section 42-46-5(a).

At 7:49 p.m. Mr. Oates moved to convene into Executive Session to discuss matters pertaining to:

A) Collective bargaining (negotiations) in accordance with the Open Meeting Act, RI General Laws 42-46-5(a)2

B) School Security RIGL42-46-5(a)3

C) Legal advice regarding potential litigation: K.S. vs. Warwick RIGL42-46-5(a)(2)

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 8:51 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.

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