

SMITHFIELD SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
MONDAY, APRIL 7, 2014 @ 7:00 P.M.
HIGH SCHOOL MEDIA CENTER
MINUTES

Members present: Mr. Richard Iannitelli, Chair, Mrs. Kellie-Ann Heenan, Vice-Chair, Mr. Brenden Oates and Mr. Sean Clough. Absent: Mrs. Virginia Harnois, Secretary. 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.

At 6:00 p.m. Mrs. Heenan moved to convene into Executive Session to discuss matters pertaining to:

- A) Matters pertaining to personnel in accordance with the Open Meeting Act, RI General Laws 42-46-5(a)1.
- B) Consideration of personal matter regarding teacher benefit. RIGL 42-46-5(a)1.
- C) Matters pertaining to collective bargaining. RIGL42-46-5(a)2.

Mr. Clough seconded the motion. This requires an individual vote. The individual vote was 4-0 polled by Mr. Iannitelli, Chair.

Returned to open session at 7:00 p.m. Mr. Oates moved to seal the minutes of the April 7, 2014 Executive Session. Mr. Clough seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 4-0 vote.

Mr. Oates moved to approve the executive session minutes of March 3, 2014 and March 17, 2014. Mr. Clough seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 4-0 vote.

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

Mr. Oates requested to add to the consent agenda 2.3 (B) approval of Gail Mooney, gr. 1 teacher at William Winsor, catastrophic medical leave through April 28, 2014.

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

2.1 Minutes:

- A) Minutes of the March 17, 2014 School Committee Meeting

2.2 Bills:

- A) Regular Bills
- B) Prepaid Checks from March 18, 2014 through April 4, 2014

2.3 Leaves:

- A) Karalyn Anderson, Special Educator, Middle School, extension of parental leave from April 14, 2014 through the remainder of the 2013-2014 School Year.
- B) Gail Mooney, Gr. 1 teacher, William Winsor Elementary School, catastrophic medical leave through April 28, 2014.

2.4 Resignations:

- A) Holly Blasbalg, effective at the end of the 2013-2014 school year.

2.5 Appointments:

- A) Anthony Lamborghini, Assistant Boy's Tennis Coach, Spring Season 2013-2014, pending submission of proper paperwork.
- B) Scott Lesiuk, Assistant Softball Coach, Spring Season, 2013-2014 pending submission of proper paperwork.

Mr. Clough seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 4-0 vote.

3. **HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT**

High school representative Matthew Strik reported:

- The Wizard of Oz show was received well by the student body and it was a good show.
- Senior Oratorical will be on Thursday.
- Many of the senior portfolios have been validated this week.
- Sophomore ring sales will be held on Thursday.
- The travel team's first trip will be on April 19th to Fenway Park for a Red Sox game.

4. Item postponed due to sickness.

5. There was a mid-year report on the school lunch program.

Genevieve and Tom from Aramark were present. Genevieve gave the mid-year report of the lunch program highlighting:

- A partnership with transition-life skills for students at the high school.
- Aramark was able to feed over 550 people with 1½ hours notice during the Gallagher bomb threat.
- New chicken tender meals were introduced at the high school along with individual pizzas.
- In February, Aramark partnered with Old County Road School to bring someone to lunch.
- March 19th was Aramark's global volunteer day.

The financial report included an \$11,902 deficit, and a profit of \$23,855. Two exceptions included (but not needed at this time) were a food loss cost of \$171.20 and additional staff cost of \$349.50 on March 12th for the GMS evacuation.

Future plans include a high school self-serve salad bar throughout the spring, lunch around the country promotion in April, field days and field trips.

The approval of equipment that was on the agenda was not necessary at this time. Aramark is currently getting quotes on replacing two dishwashers. Mr. O'Brien commended the food service for their efforts during the Gallagher Middle School bomb threat.

6. Mr. Clough moved that an increase of \$.10 for all school lunch prices be approved effective for the 2014-2015 school year. Mr. Oates seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 4-0 vote. In order to participate in the National School Lunch Program, average lunch prices must meet the USDA target price. Smithfield's current average weight paid lunch price is \$2.45. The USDA target for Smithfield for 2014-2015 is a price of \$2.55. This increase will bring elementary lunches to \$2.35 and secondary lunches to \$2.60.
7. The Committee did a first reading of the District's Basic Education Program policy. This will be brought back for a second reading at the next school committee meeting.
8. The performance audit recommendations on the Special Education Program were discussed. Recommendation #1 under Special Education recommends that the Special Education department develop a self-evaluation program that involves the entire administration and staff. Recommendation #2 recommends that we continue to maintain, and wherever possible improve the Special Education Program. Mr. Levis was present to discuss these recommendations. For recommendation #1 Mr. Levis highlighted some of the ongoing self-assessment processes of the Special Education Department that included some of the things the Special Education department looks at that included:
- State performance indicators that collect data pertaining to Child Find, FAPE (free appropriate public education), LRE (least restricted environment), transition and post secondary outcomes are looked at every year.
 - Constant monitoring of the special education budget.

- The RIDE School support system visit is looked at. Focusing on monitoring FAPE and LRE, IDEA, and transition.
- Student performance data and behavioral data are looked at.
- Ongoing meetings to look at the needs of our schools with building administration and consultation teams.
- Working constantly with consultants on “Best Practice” to align our programs with best practice for an ongoing evaluation process.
- Engaging teachers and support professionals in problem solving discussions, protocols and procedures.
- Legal updates. Working with attorney’s in presenting the attorney’s constantly to our staff. Getting legal support on data pertaining to special education documents.
- Peer review/quality control through the consortium.

For recommendation #2: Problems are corrected and there is ongoing corrective action that is taken. Mr. Levis said the assessment process is an ongoing loop with problem solving that is constantly looked at to continually improve Special Education in the district.

9. Item not acted upon because the School Committee was not able to review the Financial Review Committee’s annual report because it has not been submitted to the school department as of yet. Per Town Charter, the Finance Review Committee’s annual report is supposed to be presented to the School Committee at least 30 days prior to the Town Council’s public hearing on the proposed budget in May.
10. Mr. Oates moved that the resolution on contract continuation be approved. Mr. Clough seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 4-0 vote. This is a resolution against contract continuation.
Public comment: Mike Twohey
11. Mr. Oates moved that the Committee recommend a bond issue for capital projects in the amount of \$5,793,450.00 for town council consideration. Mr. Clough seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 4-0 vote.
This will clarify that the school department is looking at replacing three roofs. The cost is an updated cost for the roof replacement project. An additional \$33,450.00 was added to the cost of the roof replacement for the administration building for asbestos abatement and disposal.

12. COMMUNICATIONS:

None.

13. SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT:

Mr. O’Brien informed the Committee that he received a \$52,000 grant for the implementation of full day kindergarten. Five districts applied for the competitive grant, two did not receive money: Barrington and Smithfield, because of the poverty level. One of the districts that received the grant did not go forward with full day kindergarten. Mr. O’Brien said he appealed to the Commissioner for reconsideration and Smithfield was granted \$52,000 that would need to be spent before June 30th. Mr. O’Brien will be meeting with Kindergarten teachers to discuss the need for supplies and equipment.

Mr. O’Brien told the Committee about the PARCC field assessments that were done in the district. He said the problems with the new technology coming from quirks with Pearson software and challenges of the software package have been addressed. Mr. O’Brien said he observed how challenging the math technology tools provided were. He said the tools were not

user friendly for the students. He said Paul Barrette contacted Pearson to request they work on the technology tools so that they are more user friendly for students.

14. PUBLIC FORUM: Gail VanGorden addressed the Committee.

15. COMMITTEE COMMENTS

Mrs. Heenan thanked Mr. O'Brien for his tenacity with the kindergarten grant. She also agreed that the tools for the PARCC math testing were not user friendly.

Mr. Oates thanked Mr. O'Brien for his work on the kindergarten grant. He also commended the central administration staff for the work that was done with the budget this year, and the town council for their consideration that was given to the school department last week. Mr. Oates also mentioned that the Buildings and Grounds takeover with the town has not taken place as of yet, he expressed his concerns with the upcoming spring sports season and the school department being able to keep up with the maintenance. Mr. Mencucci said we are able to maintain the grounds until the town takes it over.

Mr. Iannitelli announced someone from the police department was present to sell mugs for a project they have.

16. EXECUTIVE SESSION: Not needed.

At 7:43 p.m. motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Oates; seconded by Mr. Clough. The motion passed with a 4-0 vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa A. Petrone
Secretary