

# **SMITHFIELD SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**

**MONDAY, MAY 19, 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. Absent: Ben Scungio, Esq. School Committee/School Department Attorney, 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.**

**Mr. Iannitelli noted that consent agenda item 2.3 (E) will be voted on separately.**

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

**2.1 Minutes:**

**A) Minutes of the May 5, 2014 School Committee Meeting**

**2.2 Bills:**

**A) Regular Bills**

**B) Prepaid Checks from May 5, 2014 through May 16, 2014**

**C) Lunch bills**

**D) Approval to pay bills received between May 19, 2014 and May 30, 2014.**

**2.3 Appointments:**

**A) Attorney for the 2014-2015 School Year:**

**Brennan, Recupero, Cascione, Scungio & McAllister, LLP**

**B) School Physician for the 2014-2015 School Year:**

**Dr. Mary Giovetti, fee remains the same as this year, \$1,500.00**

**C) School Dentist for the 2014-2015 School Year:**

**Dr. Geoffrey Parrillo, fee mains the same as this year, \$1,750.00**

**D) Karey Bouvier, Middle School Volunteer Assistant Softball Coach, Spring Season 2014**

**2.5 Rescind Layoffs**

**A) Approval to rescind layoff notice of Heather Zartarian, Kindergarten teacher, LaPerche Elementary.**

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

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

**2.3 E) Appointment of Michael Hassell, Assistant Principal, Smithfield High School, effective July 1, 2014.**

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

**Mr. O'Brien said there were 45 applicants. Nine candidates were interviewed in the first round by administrators, teachers, parents and students. Five candidates were interviewed in the second round.**

Two candidates interviewed in the third round, and the two candidates were brought forward to a fourth round of interviews with the School Committee. Mr. O'Brien spoke about Mr. Hassell's credentials. The Committee and Mr. O'Brien congratulated Mr. Hassell.

Mr. Iannitelli noted that agenda item #3 and #4 will be reversed in order.

3. Mrs. Kelly Chartier and Mrs. Katherine Young were present with some members from the high school band and chorus to perform for the Committee. Mr. O'Brien said the band came in 2nd place in competition in Florida, and the chorus came in 1st place.

Mrs. Chartier and Mrs. Young highlighted activities the band and chorus participated in for the 2013-2014 school year.

#### 4. HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

A high school representative was not present at the meeting.

5. Mrs. Marques-Jordan was present to do a presentation from Anna McCabe School. Mrs. Marques-Jordan told the Committee about one of her student's who won a membership to the YMCA where they have adaptive aquatics to help the student with his disabilities. The membership was granted through Fairways to the Future Foundation who are advocates for children with special needs. The student, Matthew Vieira, was present with his mom and grandmother. Mrs. Marques-Jordan showed a video highlighting his achievement's in her physical education class.

**6. Mr. Oates moved that a request for the use of Anna McCabe little league field for August 9, 2014 be approved. Mrs. Heenan seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 5-0 vote.**

**This is a request for a proposed carnival that was tabled from the school committee meeting of April 28th. Mr. O'Brien told the Committee that the administration office checked with the Trust and the private liability insurance obtained by University Orthopedics is acceptable. He said the administration office also checked with the town, and no permits are required from the Town Clerks office to have the event, and the town said a permit is not required for the vendors because it is for non-profit. Mr. O'Brien told the Committee that University Orthopedics have also arranged for the setup and removal of portable facilities. Since this is not open to the public, they will manage traffic flow by employee monitoring, and attendees will be required to wear bracelets.**

**Public comment: Holly Bellucci**

**7. There was a discussion on the District's draft policy on signs. The Committee was given a revised copy of the policy and discussed concerns. Mr. O'Brien said this rough draft was worked on by the policy sub-committee but is not complete. Mr. O'Brien told the Committee that one piece that they did not address was the placing of a sign on a building because the sub-committee felt that should be worked on by the Committee. Mr. O'Brien suggested that the Committee review the draft and work on a section of this policy**

**pertaining to signs on a building. The School Committee will address the areas of concern in the policy, and the policy will be brought back for a first reading in August.**

**8. There was a discussion of the Financial Review Commission's proposal for one large elementary school. This agenda item was strictly a discussion on the Financial Review Commission's suggestion from a report that was done a few years ago. Mrs. Cipriano discussed the recommendation from the Financial Review Commission for the school department to conduct a feasibility study to develop a K-5 educational campus site on town owned land for the purpose of merging the four elementary schools into one facility. The Committee discussed the pros and cons of having one large elementary school in town.**

**Mr. Iannitelli clarified that this was put on the agenda for the purpose of having a formal discussion on the matter. He added that most of the items from the Financial Review Commission's original report were on savings, and had already been addressed. He said this item was a cost to the schools and he wanted to have a discussion on this before going down any other avenue.**

## **9. COMMUNICATIONS:**

**1. A copy of a letter from Mr. Finlay offering their Human Resources Administrator as a liaison to the School Administration Human Resources Committee.**

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

**1. Mr. O'Brien told the Committee that a decision would need to be made on recalls for the remaining 5.5 teachers that were laid off, and a decision would also have to be made for an additional group of teachers for retirees that were not replaced. He said to avoid the cost of unemployment this should be addressed at the next school committee meeting on June 16th. Mr. O'Brien said we had a shortfall deficit of \$660,000 that was cut to balance the budget but some of the layoffs will need to be recalled.**

**2. Mr. O'Brien said we are moving full force with the all day kindergarten. Kindergarten teachers will be going to visit a high performing district in Massachusetts to look at their all day kindergarten program.**

**3. Mr. O'Brien said the school calendar for 2014-2015 will be brought forward to the next school committee meeting. He said the calendar will include February vacation for next year. February vacation will be targeted in the 2015-2016 school year, and he will be getting feedback from staff and parents for thoughts on the February and March vacation by means of a district survey that will go out soon.**

**11. PUBLIC FORUM: None.**

## **12. COMMITTEE COMMENTS**

**Mrs. Harnois said she saw the Beauty and the Beast show at the**

**middle school and the students did a great job. She commented that we now have feeders at the middle school for the high school chorus, and the high school will be happy to have the students.**

**Mr. Iannitelli clarified that the elementary school issue was just for discussion tonight. He also asked Mr. O'Brien when the parking lot at William Winsor will be paved. Mr. O'Brien said the plan is that once the equipment is removed from the property at Winsor, the paving is scheduled to begin. Mr. Iannitelli mentioned that tomorrow night at the Town Council meeting, the bond issue in regards to the schools will be discussed.**

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

**At 8:14 p.m. Mr. Oates moved to go into Executive Session to discuss matters pertaining to:**

**A) Consideration of personnel matter regarding teacher benefit. RIGL 42-46-5(a)1.**

**B) Matters pertaining to collective bargaining. RIGL 42-46-5(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 9:20 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 April 7, 2014. Mr. Clough seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 4-0 vote. Mrs. Harnois abstained from voting due to her absence of the April 7, 2014 meeting.**

**Mr. Oates moved to accept the Executive Session minutes of April 28, 2014. Mr. Clough seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 5-0 vote.**

**Mr. Oates moved to approve to extend catastrophic medical leave of Gail Mooney, Gr. 1 teacher, William Winsor, through June 18, 2014. Mr. Clough seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 5-0 vote.**

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

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Lisa A. Petrone**

**Secretary**