

# **SMITHFIELD SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**

**MONDAY, JUNE 16, 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. Ben Scungio, Esq. School Committee/School Department Attorney. Absent: Matthew Strik, Student Representative to the School Committee. Mr. Iannitelli called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.**

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

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

**2.1 Minutes:**

**A) Minutes of the May 19, 2014 School Committee Meeting**

**2.2 Bills:**

**A) Regular Bills**

**B) Prepaid Checks from May 19, 2014 through June 13, 2014**

**C) Lunch bills**

### **2.3 Leaves:**

**A) Parental leave, Michael Stone, October 18, 2014 through November 14, 2014.**

### **2.4 Resignations:**

**A) Brian Gendreau, Assistant Football Coach, effective immediately.**

**B) John Burns, Assistant Football Coach, effective immediately.**

**C) Geoffrey St. Sauveur, Middle School Soccer Coach, effective immediately.**

**D) Faith Whitaker, Volunteer Assistant Cheerleading Advisor, effective immediately.**

**E) Eric Tracey, Assistant Football Coach, effective immediately.**

**F) William Hickey, Volunteer Assistant Girls Soccer coach, effective immediately.**

### **2.5 Appointments:**

**A) Victoria Carruba, Social Studies Teacher, Step 2, Gallagher Middle School, effective 2014-2015 school year.**

**B) Department Heads for the 2014-2015 school year.**

**Department Name**

**Math Adelio Cabral**

**Health/Physical Education Mark Atkinson**

**Science Elizabeth Russillo**

**Social Studies Vin Zibelli**

**Unified Arts Kristine Sarro**

**Guidance Janet McGinnis**

**Business Adam Spring**

**Detention Supervisor Steven Russillo**

**World Language Lora Burgess**

**English Kerissa Roderick**

**C) Advisors for the 2014-2015 school year.**

**POSITION SALARY NAME**

**Student Council – Co-Advisor 840 Elizabeth Russillo**

**Student Council – Co-Advisor 840 Kristine Sarro**

**Advisory Co-Coordinator 867 Kristine Sarro**

**Advisory Co-Coordinator 867 Elizabeth Russillo**

**Class of 2017 Co-Advisor 673 Adelio Cabral**

**Class of 2017 Co-Advisor 673 Heather Buckley**

**Class of 2016 Co-Advisor 673 Elizabeth Pimental**

**Class of 2016 Co-Advisor 673 Lisa Pereira**

**Class of 2015 Co-Advisor 673 Kerissa Roderick**

**Class of 2015 Co-Advisor 673 Kelley Young**

**Class of 2018 Co-Advisor 448.67 David Thibodeau**

**Class of 2018 Co-Advisor 448.67 Derek Snow**

**Class of 2018 Co-Advisor 448.67 Steven Russillo**

**Band Director 2267 Kelly Chartier**

**Choral Director 2267 Katherine Young**

**Yearbook Co-Advisor 693.5 Kara Harrington**

**Yearbook Co-Advisor 693.5 Thomas Lynch**

**Newspaper Advisor 1228 Elizabeth Pimental**

**FBLA Advisor 1233 Ann Andrews**

**Nat. Honor Society Co-Advisor 565 Morgan Witman**

**Nat. Honor Society Co-Advisor 565 Karen DiSano**

**Science Olympiad Coach 1130 Kathleen Babcock**

**Academy of Finance Director 2040 Erica Valentine**

**D) Fall Coaches for the 2014-2015 school year.**

**POSITION SALARY NAME**

**Assistant Girls' Tennis Coach 1015 Andrew Tuetken**

**Boys' Cross Country Coach 1923 Joseph Bennett**

**Football Coach 3968 Christopher Branch**

**Assistant Football Coach 2029 James Cook**

**Assistant Field Hockey Coach 1774 Danielle O'Neill**

**Field Hockey Coach 3549 Andrea Dewhirst**

**Co-Athletic Director 5300 Bruce Ewart**

**Middle/High Schools Girls' Cross Country Co-Coach 2281 Bruce  
Ewart**

**Assistant Boys' Soccer Coach 1774 Mark Gilchrist**

**Volunteer Assistant Boys' Soccer Coach 100 Joseph Joyce**

**Volunteer Assistant Cross Country Coach 100 Jeffrey Kurbec**  
**Assistant Girls Soccer Coach 1774 Dominica Barsoian**  
**Middle/High School Girls' Cross Country Co-Coach 2281 John Marchand**  
**Cheerleading Advisor 2285 Kara Martin**  
**Middle School Girls' Soccer Coach 1620 Kathleen McCurdy**  
**Assistant Football Coach 2029 Michael Montella**  
**Girls' Tennis Coach 2029 Matt Pavao**  
**Girls' Soccer Coach 3549 Robert Squillante**  
**Volunteer Assistant Football Coach 100 Brian Steere**  
**Co-Athletic Director 5570 Anthony Torregrossa**  
**Boys' Soccer Coach 3449 Stephen Votolato**  
**Unified Volleyball Coach SP OLYM Andrew Tuetken**  
**Volunteer Assistant MS Girl's Soccer Coach 100 David Maggiacomo**

## **2.6 Rescind Layoffs:**

**Robert Jackson Guidance Counselor High School**  
**Francine Cassano .6 Family Consumer Science High School**  
**Kerri Guillemette .5 Reading Specialist OCRS**  
**Kaitlin Kenneally English Teacher TBD**  
**James Connell Physical Education TBD**

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

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

**A high school representative was not present at the meeting.**

**4. There was a presentation from Old County Road School on the therapeutic classroom.**

**Laurie Sullivan, Stefanie Lafleur, and Caitlin McCaughey were present from Old County Road School and gave a presentation on the Consultation Team and the Therapeutic Classroom that is at Old County Road School. The presentation highlighted the necessity of establishing a consultation team in the district and the benefits of the therapeutic classroom.**

**5. Mr. Barrette was present to give a PowerPoint presentation on the results of the 2015-2016 school vacation survey that was done in the district. Mr. O'Brien told the Committee that the survey was sent out to parents, teachers and staff for feedback on the possibility of changing the February 2016 vacation as well as input on the April vacation for 2016.**

**The survey consisted of eight questions and had 791 responses that included free-form suggestions and concerns from parents, non-parent community members, teachers, students and staff. Mr. Barrette said 70% of the respondents from the survey were from parents. Mr. Barrette reviewed the survey details which included the top three positive and negative impacts of the possibility of**

**eliminating the February break in the 2015-2016 school year. The results of the survey indicated that a total of 57% of the respondents strongly agreed or agreed favorably in eliminating the February 2016 winter break, and a total of 33% strongly disagreed or disagreed in eliminating the February 2016 winter break. There was not a significant statistical preference for the Teacher PD Day if the February 2016 vacation was eliminated. For the April vacation, 39% were in support of moving the break to the last week of March, 34% favored the first week of April, and 28% favored the third week of April.**

**The Committee discussed the common suggestions and concerns from the results of the survey. Mr. O'Brien said he will take back the results from Smithfield's survey for discussion at the next RISSA meeting. The RI School Superintendents' Association has agreed to unanimously eliminate the February vacation in the 2015-2016 school year.**

**Public comment: Holly Bellucci, Rosemarie Cipriano**

**6. Mrs. Harnois moved that the 2014-2015 school calendar be approved. Mr. Oates seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 5-0 vote. This calendar includes the February vacation for the 2014-2015 school year.**

**Public comment: Holly Bellucci**

**7. Item will be at a future school committee meeting.**

**8. Mr. Oates moved that there be a discussion and act upon putting the school committee recordings on the web effective September 2, 2014. Mr. Clough seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 5-0 vote.**

**Mr. O'Brien said he spoke with Paul Barrette and the audio recordings will be put on our website, but some time is needed to work on this. The Committee had a discussion about public access to the school committee recordings. This will solely be the posting of the audio recordings of the meetings for transparency purposes and to make the audio recordings available to public members that cannot make the meeting. The town video recordings will not be on the website.**

**Public comment: Mike Twohey**

**9. The Committee had a discussion about putting security guards/or police officers in Smithfield schools. This item was put on the agenda to get the School Committee and the public's opinion on the subject. Chief St. Sauveur was present to offer his thoughts, and to answer questions on the subject. He gave his views on police personnel versus private security guards. There was a discussion on the presence of police in the schools. The Chief said currently Officer Squillante is at the high school every day as the school's resource officer; Officer Braxton – (who will soon be replaced) and Officer Masterson are the DARE officers at the elementary schools and the middle school. Captain Brown currently works with the district's safety team on an ongoing basis. Chief St. Sauveur said that police officers routinely travel around the schools during the day. He stated**

that the Smithfield Police Department is willing to take place in any future discussions with the school department on this subject. The Committee and Mr. O'Brien thanked the Chief and the entire Smithfield Police Department for their working relationship and commitment to our schools.

**Public comment: Rosemarie Cipriano**

10. Mr. O'Brien gave an update on the sharing of services of the cutting of the grass. Mr. O'Brien said the school department proposed this to the town in March, and Mr. Mencucci has provided the town with all the information that they have requested but we do not have an agreement with the town in place. Mr. O'Brien said until we do get an agreement, we will continue to cut the grass. Mr. Mencucci said in the meantime, he was utilizing a sub to assist with the grass cutting however; he is limited to utilizing sub services and needs to save subs for Fall Sports.

11. Louis Torrado of Torrado Architects, (the firm that was awarded the architectural and engineering services for the Architectural Feasibility Study in accordance with Stage II regulations of the RIDE School Construction process for the roofs) was present and gave an update on the progress of the RIDE Stage II school inspections for the school construction project. Mr. Torrado told the Committee the firm is very far along and is making progress; he said he fully expects to be completed by the June 30th deadline. Mr. Torrado said he is continuing to work with the Superintendent on finalizing the

**documentation for RIDE.**

**Public comment: Mike Twohey**

**12. The Committee had a discussion on the Financial Review Commission report. Mrs. Cipriano was present and spoke about the recommendations from the FRC for the fire, police and library departments in town. She said the needs of all departments in town were taken into consideration for capital improvements, and then prioritized.**

**Mrs. Cipriano clarified that recommendations from the FRC on the school department's capital improvements for the roofs was contingent upon receiving funding from the state to help with the cost. She said the objective data was if there was an immediate need for the roof replacements of the schools. She said the FRC report would have been different if they had the Stage II results at the time the report was done, but at the time they needed to bring down the capital needs cost for the school department, if they had information on the roofs back then, the report would have had a different recommendation. There was a discussion about the timeline to get data to Town Council for ballot items and the prioritizing of potential bond items in town.**

**13. COMMUNICATIONS:**

**None.**

**14. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:**

**1. Mr. O'Brien told the Committee that the classification of our schools was just released, and Smithfield schools are ranked as one of the highest performing districts in the state. He said this was possible because of the hard work and dedication of our teachers, administrators, support staff, custodial staff, and school committee. Mr. O'Brien encouraged community members to thank our staff for the work they do for our students every single day.**

**2. Mr. O'Brien thanked Angelo Mencucci, the custodial staff, and the maintenance staff for the outstanding job they did setting up for the high school graduation. He said they had a short window to set up the gym in very hot and humid conditions.**

**15. PUBLIC FORUM: None.**

**16. COMMITTEE COMMENTS:**

**1. Mr. Oates suggested the possibility of getting a wire from the school department's sound mixer to the town's video, because of the difficulty to hear dialogue on the video recordings.**

**Mr. Oates encouraged the school committee to review the proposed changes to the Town's Charter so they could report back to the town before any action is taken on the recommendations. He said there are some items related to the school committee that were not part of discussions with the charter review commission. Mr. Oates mentioned one item that is in the proposed charter is that if a school committee member that misses three consecutive meetings they are to be removed from office, and the position would be filled by the**

**town council. He mentioned another proposed charter item relating to purchasing which states that the school department and town shall look at combining functions other than purchasing. He said there are also items relating to personnel: the future of the personnel board and what the school board department's role would be. Mr. Oates commented that in the proposed charter, the budget submission date has been changed to add only a few additional two weeks despite the recommendation of the performance audit.**

**2. Mrs. Harnois expressed her disappointment of the proposed charter change of removing a school committee member from office that has missed three or more consecutive meetings. She said when the school committee had met with the charter review commission the school committee had said they did not agree with this.**

**Mrs. Harnois commented that many parents enjoyed the high school graduation, and the students did a marvelous job.**

**3. Mr. Iannitelli mentioned that the blinking school in session light on Rte. 44 is slighting ajar, pointing in the wrong direction, and should be adjusted.**

**Mr. Iannitelli commented on RIDE's classification of schools: the classification of "commended" is a difficult target for schools to receive from RIDE, and there were few in the state that received this classification, Smithfield had two schools that received the classification. Mr. Iannitelli added that only two districts in the state had schools with the top classification of "commended" along with**

**“leading”, and Smithfield was one of those districts. He said two of Smithfield’s schools were classified as “typical”, which was also a very good ranking, although the classification naming of “typical” can be misleading.**

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

**At 8:25 p.m. Mr. Oates moved to go into Executive Session to discuss matters pertaining to:**

**A) Matters pertaining to collective bargaining. RIGL42-46-5(a)2.**

**B) Consideration of personnel matter regarding teacher benefit RIGL46-5(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 9:07 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 May 19, 2014. 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**