

SMITHFIELD SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

MONDAY, JULY 7, 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, Mrs. Lisa Cournoyer, Business Manager, Mr. Craig Levis, Special Education Director, and Benjamin Scungio, Esq., School Committee/School Department Attorney. Absent: Matthew Strik, Student Representative to the School Committee. Mr. Iannitelli called the meeting to order at 7:05 P.M.

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

2. Mr. Oates moved to approved the Consent Agenda Items:

2.1 Minutes:

A) Approval of the Minutes of the June 26, 2014 School Committee Meeting

2.2 Bills:

A) Approval of Regular Bills

B) Approval of Prepaid Checks

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

3. HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

The High School Student Representative was not present at the meeting.

4. Mr. Iannitelli said that there would be an update on the Performance Audit at the next school committee meeting. He said that several of the recommendations that were made through the Performance Audit have been addressed. Mr. Iannitelli said that he will have a list broken down into three categories: items that have already been done, items that will not be done, and items that need to be worked on and have a time table set for.

5. Mr. Oates moved that the Stage II report be reviewed, discussed, and acted upon. Mr. Clough seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 5-0 vote.

Mr. Luis Torrado of Torrado Architects presented information and updated the School Committee on the Stage II document. Mr. Torrado also reviewed the indoor air quality testing at William Winsor School.

Mr. Torrado said that Stage II is the second of four stages required by RIDE for all communities requesting financial aid. He said that Stage II is an investigation of the adequacy of the schools to deliver the educational program. Mr. Torrado said that the items in his report were broken down into five categories: Category 1, items which require immediate action, Category 2, items to be completed in a 2-3 year period, Category 3, items to be completed in a 4-5 year period, Category 4, items to be completed in 5-plus years, and Category 5, which are items to be watched and further assessed.

Mr. Iannitelli said that the next step would be to send this to the Town Council and then to the Rhode Island Department of Education.

6. The Committee discussed the Common Core State Standards.

Mr. O'Brien said that The Common Core State Standards (CCSS) outline what students should know and be able to do in reading and mathematics from kindergarten through 12th grade. The standards align with the knowledge and skills needed to successfully enter college or the workforce, are benchmarked to the standards of the world's top-performing countries, and mark the first time that states share a common set of expectations for the nation's students. Forty-five states and the District of Columbia have adopted the Common Core standards and are preparing to fully implement them—including administering tests based on them—in the 2014–2015 school year.

Mr. O'Brien said that over the past two years, we have taken many steps toward implementation of the Common Core State Standards. In addition to professional development, teams of teachers and administrators have developed curriculum and assessments aligned to the Common Core State Standards.

Public Comment: Rema Tomka, Jennifer Blanchette, Barbara Kowak-Murthy, Amanda Grundel, Sandi Brenner, Gail Van Gorden.

7. Mrs. Harnois moved that the 2014-2015 Budget be approved. Mr. Clough seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 5-0 vote.

8. The Committee reviewed and discussed proposed changes to the Town of Smithfield Charter that are applicable to the Smithfield Public Schools. Mrs. Harnois moved that a letter be sent to the Town Council addressing the School Committee's concerns with proposed changes to the Town of Smithfield Charter. Mr. Clough seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 5-0 vote.

Public Comment: Gail Van Gorden

9. The Committee discussed the proposed school grounds maintenance merger Memorandum of Understanding from the Director of Public Works, Seth Lemoine, regarding the proposed school grounds maintenance merger.

Mr. O'Brien said that he and Mr. Mencucci have reviewed this memorandum and that it looks as though this is something that would work for the School Department. Mr. Iannitelli said that he would like to see in writing that the Field Supervisor referenced in the memorandum will be in contact with the Superintendent or his designee to schedule work on school grounds. Mr. Iannitelli said there must be a clear understanding of the BCI checks and a chain of command for the BCIs to be given to the school department. Mr. Iannitelli said that the school department must still have the necessary tools and equipment to take care of the basketball courts, tennis courts, and track. Mr. Iannitelli said the cost is much more expensive than it had been.

10. COMMUNICATIONS:

None.

11. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

None.

12. PUBLIC FORUM

Members of the public, Sandi Brenner, Rema Tomka, and Jennifer Blanchette addressed the Committee.

13. COMMITTEE COMMENTS

- **Mr. Oates said that he would like an update at the next school committee meeting to address the concerns of the security of student information being transmitted on-line to RIDE.**
- **Mr. Iannitelli said that the Committee will look into security of the student data transmission to RIDE.**

14. EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 9:15 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 9:40 pm. 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 approve the request for catastrophic illness retroactive pay. 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,

Karen A. Boscio

Interim Secretary