

SMITHFIELD SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

MONDAY, AUGUST 18, 2014 @ 6:00 P.M.

HIGH SCHOOL MEDIA CENTER

MINUTES

Members present: Mr. Richard Iannitelli, Chair, Mrs. Kellie-Ann Heenan, Vice-Chair, Mr. Brenden Oates, Mr. Sean Clough. Absent: Mrs. Virginia Harnois, Secretary, and Matthew Strik, Student Representative to the School Committee. Also present were: Mr. Robert O'Brien, Superintendent, Mrs. Bridget Morisseau, Assistant Superintendent, Mr. Craig Levis, Special Education Director, Ben Scungio, Esq. School Committee/School Department Attorney. Mr. Iannitelli called the meeting to order at 6:12 P.M.

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

Mr. Oates requested removal of Consent Agenda Item 2.1 Approval of Minutes of the school committee meeting of August 4, 2014.

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

2.2 Bills:

A) Regular Bills

B) Prepaid Checks from August 4, 2014 through August 15, 2014

2.3 Appointments:

A) Samantha Armstrong, Science Teacher, Step 2, (step is pending

verification of employment), High School, pending successful completion of a background criminal investigation.

B) Volunteer Assistant Football Coach, Michael Benedetti, effective Fall 2014-2015 School Year.

C) Volunteer Assistant Football Coach, Anthony Sasso, effective Fall 2014-2015 School Year, pending RIDE Athletic Certification.

D) Lindsay DiCesare, Grade 2, One Year Only, William Winsor Elementary School.

Mr. Clough seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 3-0 vote.

Mrs. Heenan had not arrived at the meeting at this point.

3. HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

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

4. Mr. Clough moved that Janet Reardon be appointed school nurse teacher for the 2014-2015 school year. Mr. Oates seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 3-0 vote. Mrs. Heenan had not arrived at the meeting at this point.

Mr. O'Brien said Ms. Reardon would be on third step. There were six applicants for this position and three were interviewed. Mr. O'Brien said Ms. Reardon was the unanimous choice of the committee. He said she has substituted in Smithfield and did a wonderful job. Mr. O'Brien told the Committee that we do not have money in the budget for this full time position as well as the part time middle school world language teacher, part time ESL teacher, and the part time high

school special education teacher. He said we will try to find savings in the budget, but if we cannot, it may be necessary to ask the town council to use capital money. Mr. O'Brien said that he is recommending that the Committee appoint Janet tonight and he will be bringing names forward for the other positions at our next school committee meeting and appointing them retroactive to the beginning of the school year.

5. Mr. Clough moved that there be a discussion and approval of forming a committee for elementary configuration options. Mr. Oates seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 3-0 vote. Mrs. Heenan abstained from voting because she arrived at the meeting mid-discussion of this item.

Mr. O'Brien said now that the Stage II report is completed, it would be a good time for the Committee to look at elementary configuration options. Mr. O'Brien told the Committee the Stage II submission has been accepted by RIDE, and will be recommended to the Board of Education for a briefing at an August 25, 2014 working session, and for a vote at the September 8th Board of Education meeting. This subcommittee would consist of school personnel, and one parent from each elementary school to look at the school department's elementary configuration options with our current situation and review options going forward. At the advice of Mr. Scungio, the meetings of the subcommittee will be posted.

At this point of the meeting Mr. Clough moved to approve consent

agenda item:

2.1 Minutes:

A) Minutes of the August 4, 2014 School Committee Meeting

Mrs. Heenan seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 3 ayes and 1 recusal. Mr. Oates recused himself from voting because he was not present at the school committee meeting of August 4, 2014.

6. Item not acted upon. Item was removed from the agenda.

7. Mr. Clough moved that a stipend be approved for the district emergency operations plan coordinator. Mr. Oates seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 4-0 vote.

Mr. O'Brien said Renee Palazzo has done an outstanding job working on our emergency plans as well as participating in training. He said the plan has to be reviewed and updated every year, and Mrs. Palazzo has put in many hours of her own time in the development of this plan for the district. Mr. Iannitelli recommended a stipend of \$1500.

Mrs. Heenan questioned the reasoning of why at this time a stipend is needed because when this position was originally approved, a monetary differentiation wasn't needed. Mr. O'Brien told the Committee at the time when the position had been implemented, a stipend was not given because at the time we didn't know other requirements were needed for the position including certification. He said it is a requirement that districts have a district emergency operations plan coordinator.

8. Mr. Barrette did a presentation on Technology in the district. Mr. Barrette reviewed the school department's technology vision initiatives. He reviewed the context of discussions that the leadership team had discussed to move forward with these initiatives. Initiative #1 would be Google accounts for Education (GAFE) for all students' grades 3-12. He said the tools would be free for students online, and are FERPA compliant. Initiative #2 would be the kick off of a student 1:1 program, which would be a ratio of one device to one student. Mr. Barrette reviewed the structure of the scaffolding 3 year plan and also reviewed the type of device that can be used to make this happen. He reviewed Chromebooks, and the cost of Chromebooks to the district. Mr. Barrette told the Committee that the cost of the Chromebooks, charging and storage carts would be about \$236,490 which is significantly less compared to the cost to purchase laptops. He said the district has \$280,000 allocated for this. Additional monies would be used for spares and repairs. Mr. Barrette discussed things needed to be done to move forward with Chromebooks in the district that included creating updated school department policies relating to the use of technology in the district and going out to bid for the Chromebooks.

Public comment: Dan Kelley, Laurie Beauvais, Mike Twohey.

9. Mr. Oates moved that the high school band and chorus trip to Hershey Park be approved. Mr. Clough seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 4-0 vote. Mrs. Chartier was present to discuss the details of the trip. She said the trip would be from May 7th

through May 10th, and students would miss two days of school as they have in the past for these trips. The Chaperone ratio would be 1:10 and there will be fundraising to defray the cost of the trip.

10. The Committee discussed the performance audit and discussed setting five year goals to address all of the recommendations. The Committee reviewed an itemized list of things that had already been reviewed and items that need follow up. Mr. O'Brien said we have gone through all of the recommendations in the performance audit; the focus now will be on the follow-up of items that had already been reviewed going forward.

11. Mr. Oates moved that the Committee discuss and act upon changes to the school committee rules. Mr. Clough seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 4-0 vote. Mr. O'Brien said the Committee has already voted to put the audio tape from school committee meetings on-line in September and would need to discuss changes to the school committee rules so that anyone speaking to the committee can be heard. Policies #1050 and #1060 will be updated with a noted change that speakers shall utilize the provided podium and microphone. Teachers doing presentations will be provided a microphone so they can be heard on the audio tape.

12. Mr. Oates moved that we go out to bid for a new maintenance truck. Mr. Clough seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 4-0 vote.

Mr. O'Brien said several years ago we put off going out to bid for a new truck and spent money to fix our old lunch truck to get us by a few years. He said that truck is no longer safe to drive and would cost more to fix than it is worth.

13. Mr. Oates moved that the Committee approve to go out to bid for a facilitator to assist writing policies. Mr. Clough seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 4-0 vote.

The Committee has already formed a policy committee and this approval is to look for a facilitator to review and update all of the school department's policies per the performance audit. Mr. O'Brien estimated a cost of approximately \$5,000 for a facilitator.

14. COMMUNICATIONS:

A) A copy of the agenda from the town for the joint work session of the Town Council and School Committee to be held 10-7-14.

15. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

Mr. O'Brien told the Committee he would like to do a tour of the buildings before the next meeting. He said he would like to start at 5:30 p.m. and will let the Committee know what building they would be starting at.

16. PUBLIC FORUM: None.

17. COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

Mrs. Heenan asked Mr. O'Brien if he knew when the Stillwater bridge will be completed. Mr. O'Brien said he is unsure of the date.

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

At 7:24 p.m. Mr. Oates moved to go into Executive Session to discuss matters pertaining to:

A) Student matters in accordance with the Open Meeting Act, RI General Laws 42-46-5(a)8.

B) 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 10:45 p.m. Mr. Oates moved to seal the minutes of the Executive Session. Mr. Clough seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 4-0 vote.

Mr. Oates moved to approve a waiver request for Early Kindergarten Entrance for the 2014-2015 school year. Mr. Clough seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 4-0 vote.

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