

**SMITHFIELD SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
MONDAY OCTOBER 20, 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. Members absent: Mrs. Virginia Harnois, Secretary. Also present were: Mr. Robert O'Brien, Superintendent, Mr. Craig Levis, Special Education Director, Lisa Cournoyer, Director of Financial Operations, Benjamin Scungio, Esq. School Committee/School Department Attorney, and Mr. Ryan Strik, Interim 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 October 6, 2014 School Committee Meeting

2.2 Bills:

A) Regular Bills

B) Prepaid Checks from October 6, 2014 through October 17, 2014

2.3 Home Schooling:

<u>Student</u>	<u>Parent/Guardian</u>	<u>Grade</u>	<u>School</u>
Martineau, Abigail	Mrs. & Mrs. Norman Martineau	10	High School

2.4 Leaves:

A) Maternity Leave, Patricia Connell, English teacher, Gallagher Middle School, December 1, 2014 – February 27, 2015.

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

3. HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

Interim High school student representative Ryan Strik thanked the Committee for the opportunity to fill in for his brother Matt, Ryan reported:

- Spirit Week activities for the week.
- There will be a Veteran's Tribute on 11/7th during the home football game.
- Sophomores and Juniors had the opportunity to take the PSAT's in preparation for the SAT's in the spring.
- Senior Stephanie Mattson has been named A Commended Student in the 2015 National Merit Scholarship Program. She is in the top 5% of more than 1.5 million students who took the PSAT's in 2013.

4. Mr. Oates moved that the position of a Girls Lacrosse Coach for the High School be approved. Mr. Clough seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 4-0 vote. The Girls' Lacrosse team previously had a volunteer, which has recently resigned.

5. Mr. Oates moved that the transfer of a maintenance person from the first shift to the second shift be discussed and approved. Mr. Clough seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 4-0 vote. Mr. O'Brien said there are presently 4 people on the maintenance crew. One works at night and the other three work during the day. He said would like to transfer one member to the second shift to increase the level of productivity. Mr. O'Brien added that this would not only balance the manpower on first and

second shift, it will also allow two maintenance people to work during the unoccupied cycle of the school day. The Committee had a discussion about how the transition would be played out for the changing of shifts. Mr. Mencucci told the Committee that seniority pertaining to this issue is not stated in the contract, so therefore, the most qualified person for the position will most likely be the determining factor. There will be no differentiation in salary to go from 1st shift to 2nd shift.

Public comment: Joe O'Connor

6. Mr. Oates moved that the advisor's stipend be discussed and a 5% increase be approved. Mr. Clough seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 4-0 vote. Mr. O'Brien told the Committee the Advisors have not had an increase in many years.

The Committee reviewed a copy of the advisors and their stipends. The stipend differentiation of the different advisor positions was discussed. Mr. O'Brien told the Committee that the Advisors are one-year appointments and that the 5% salary increase was based upon what was done with the recent coaches' salary increases.

Public comment: Gail Van Gorden

7. The Committee discussed the performance audit report on buildings and grounds. The performance audit talked about the town taking over buildings and grounds. The Committee discussed the sharing of a grounds position. Mr. Iannitelli added that it was determined at a joint meeting between the town and the school committee that the Financial Review Commission will be looking further at the sharing of the grounds position.

In regards to the Building and Grounds Director position, the Committee reviewed the cost for private companies (one from Cumberland that is run by Sodexo, and another from Aramark) pertaining to a takeover of the Building and Grounds Director position. Mr. O'Brien made note that with these private companies, the Director position would be more cost effective than the district is currently paying for a Director of Buildings and Grounds.

8. The Committee discussed political signs on school property. Mr. O'Brien said it has always been the policy of the school committee to not allow political signs on school department property and that on Election Day, anyone passing out literature must be 50 feet from the entrance to the school. The Committee discussed the monitoring of political signs and the enforcement of the distribution of paraphernalia by candidates in the schools. Mr. O'Brien said he will again notify the leaders of both political parties of the school department's policy.

9. COMMUNICATIONS:

- A) A copy of the revised 2014-2015 School Department Budget.
- B) A copy of the Town and School Department budget report summary for fiscal year 2015
- C) A letter from Mary Barden requesting the commencement of Paraprofessional and Clerical negotiations.

10. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

None.

11. PUBLIC FORUM

Mr. Joe O'Connor addressed the Committee.

12. COMMITTEE COMMENTS

None.

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

At 7:35 p.m. Mr. Oates moved to convene into Executive Session to discuss matters pertaining to:

- A) Personnel in accordance with the Open Meeting Act, RI General Laws 42-46-5(a)1.
- B) Legal advice regarding potential litigation 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. Clough moved to accept the Executive Session minutes of August 4, 2014. Mrs. Heenan seconded the motion. Mr. Oates recused from voting. The motion passed with a 3-0 vote.

Mr. Oates moved to accept the Executive Session minutes of August 18, 2014. Mr. Clough seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 4-0 vote.

Mr. Oates moved to accept the Executive Session minutes of October 1, 2014. 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