

**SMITHFIELD SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING  
MONDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2014 @ 7:00 P.M.  
HIGH SCHOOL MEDIA CENTER  
MINUTES**

Members present: Mr. Sean Clough, Chair, Mrs. Kellie-Ann Heenan, Vice-Chair, Mrs. Virginia Harnois Secretary, Mrs. Rose Marie Cipriano, and Mr. Brent Barrows. Also present were: Mr. Robert O'Brien, Superintendent, Mr. Craig Levis, Special Education Director, Benjamin Scungio, Esq. School Committee/School Department Attorney, and Ryan Strik, Interim Student Representative to the School Committee. Mr. Clough called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

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

2. Mrs. Harnois moved to approve Consent Agenda Items:

2.1 Minutes of the November 17, 2014 School Committee Meeting

2.2 Bills

A) Regular Bills

B) Prepaid Checks from November 17, 2014 through November 26, 2014.

2.3 Resignations

A) Steven Russillo, Detention Supervisor, High School, effective December 5, 2014.

2.4 Appointments

A) April Tandy, .6 Pre-K Special Education Teacher, Anna McCabe Elementary School, for the remainder of the 2014-2015 school year only.

B) James Connell, Volunteer Assistant Hockey Coach, Winter Season, 2014-2015 School Year.

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

**3. HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT**

Interim High school student representative Ryan Strik reported:

- The high school football season has ended. Recent games included a 21-14 loss against Scituate, and a win against North Providence 12-0.
- Students have been taking the SAT's/ACT's. This Saturday will be the last opportunity for seniors to take the SAT's.
- There will be a breakfast with Santa event at the high school on this Saturday from 7:00 a.m. until noontime. Children from the community in grades K and grade 1 are invited to attend. Freshman and sophomore students are encouraged to volunteer for the event to receive community service.

4. Mrs. Katherine Young along with students from the High School Chorus were present to perform holiday songs. Mrs. Young announced that on this Tuesday night the chorus will be performing at the Smithfield Crossing in the Gazebo area from 6-8pm. Mrs. Young also announced that the winter concert will be on Wednesday, December 17th at 7:00pm at the high school. Mr. O'Brien and Mrs. Young thanked the School Committee for the addition of a .4 music teacher position, and for their continued support. High School student Tracy Lee Allard presented Mr. O'Brien with a gift of a family traditional Christmas tree accompanied by a letter of appreciation that Mr. O'Brien read aloud. This is a family tradition started

by the student's deceased grandfather. The tree is homemade and given to people that have impacted their lives. Mrs. Morisseau will be receiving one as well.

Mr. O'Brien recognized Mrs. Chartier and Mrs. Young for their hard work. He told the Committee that 17 students competed to be in the All-State Music Festival and 11 were selected to perform.

5. Mr. Barrows moved to approve a request to utilize the High School Auditorium. Mrs. Cipriano seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 5-0 vote.

The request is from Diva Dance Competition Inc. from Norfolk, MA. The request is for March 28 – March 29, 2015 from 8:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m. Mr. O'Brien said the Smithfield Fire Department has approved the request for Diva Dance to use the Auditorium for 100 people with no detail.

Kym Yadisernia from Diva Dance Competition Inc. was present and answered questions from the Committee.

The Diva Dance group is a for profit organization, although they do donate a minimum of 10% of their profit from every competition that they host to the CdLs Foundation (Cornelia De Lange Syndrome based in Avon, CT).

The final cost to Diva Dance for the use of the auditorium and 1 classroom is as follows:

|   |                   |
|---|-------------------|
| Filing fee  | \$ 20.00          |
| Auditorium 2 days at \$800.00 each (up to 8 hours)      | \$1600.00         |
| Additional charge of \$50.00 per each hour over 8 hours |                   |
| 4 hours at \$50.00 per hour * 2 days                    | \$ 400.00         |
| Classroom \$50.00 per day * 2 days                      | \$ 100.00         |
| Custodial Fees \$31.02 p/hr. for 24 hrs.                | \$ 744.48         |
| <b>Total:</b>   | <b>\$ 2864.48</b> |

The hours requested by Diva may change as the event comes closer. The hours reflected are at the upper end of what they may need. The needed hours could be reduced which would reduce the amount they would be charged.

Diva Dance anticipates a total of people to be in the auditorium to only be 100 because this event is not a recital and most of the participants are 16 and older and most of the time the only person that accompanies the participant is the participant's mom.

6. Mrs. Cipriano moved that there be a first reading and approval of the School Committee Rules/Business Policy #1020. Mrs. Harnois seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 5-0 vote. The Committee reviewed a draft copy of the policy with the changes that were suggested at the last school committee meeting. Other than a spelling error, that will be corrected, there were no further changes. Mrs. Harnois said the concerns she originally had relating to electronic devices at meetings were addressed in the changes to the policy.  
Public comment: Joe O'Connor
7. Mrs. Harnois moved that the Stage III and IV bond referendum architectural work be awarded to Torrado architects. Mrs. Heenan seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 5-0 vote. The Committee reviewed a copy of architect's fees other districts are paying for Stage III and IV work. The fees range from 6.5% to 12%. Mr. O'Brien told the Committee that Mrs. Cournoyer has verified many of the fees on the sheet. He said when we went out to bid for the Stage II, it was stated in the bid specs that we could award the Stage III and IV to the successful bidder if it was in the best interest of the Town. The Committee reviewed a letter from Luis Torrado stating that his fees are 6.5% to 7.0% depending on the project and the Committee also discussed the fact that the Town is in support of the Torrado Stage III feasibility architectural services as long as their fee is between 6.5 to 7.0%.
8. Mr. Levis did a presentation on Special Education service delivery models for the Smithfield Public Schools. Mr. Levis discussed Smithfield's Special Education programs and supports in the district from the preschool program through the elementary, middle, and high school programs and supports that are in place in the district. Mr. Levis spoke about the cost savings vs. cost avoidance to the district.

He added that having developed a district-wide initiative and having the internal capacity to support most students within our district while embracing an all kids agenda districtwide is accredited to the success of Smithfield's Special Education Program.

**9. COMMUNICATIONS:**

None.

**10. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:**

1. Mr. O'Brien announced that Ken Hopkins from Gallagher Middle School is one of two finalists in the state for Assistant Principal of the Year.
2. Mr. O'Brien told the Committee that on December 11, 2014 at 5:00 p.m., there will be a celebration at the state house for our two commended schools. He, along with Dan Kelley from the high school and Cathy Pleau from McCabe will be present. Mr. O'Brien said Smithfield is the only school district that has two commended schools for two years in a row.

**11. PUBLIC FORUM**

None.

**12. COMMITTEE COMMENTS**

Mrs. Harnois mentioned that over the Thanksgiving break, she was in Maryland, and in reading their local newspaper, she read that they were going out to bond for a \$281 million dollar project, and she thought that was astounding as in comparison to our bond project.

Mrs. Harnois asked if the cafeteria problems relating to food allergies has been resolved. Mr. O'Brien told her that a waiver for parents has been implemented to address the problem.

Mr. Barrows said that on Saturday, he attended School Committee 101 along with Mrs. Harnois and Mr. Clough. He said it was very beneficial, because there is a lot to learn as a school committee member. He congratulated Mr. Scungio on doing an excellent job for the two seminars that he hosted at the event.

Mrs. Cipriano asked what the status was with the Elementary Configuration Committee. Mr. O'Brien told her that this will be established and worked on after the first of the year.

Mr. Clough commented on the recent Professional Development that was held in the district. He said he had the opportunity to attend, and it was fun and interesting exploring new techniques. Mr. Clough also congratulated Mr. Scungio on a job well done with the two seminars he hosted at the School Committee 101 event.

**13. EXECUTIVE SESSION: None.**

Motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Barrows; seconded by Mrs. Cipriano. The motion passed with a 5-0 vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa A. Petrone  
Secretary