

**SMITHFIELD SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**MONDAY, DECEMBER 15, 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, Mrs. Lisa Cournoyer, Director of Financial Operations, Ryan Strik, 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, notified the public of the public comment sign-up sheet, and reminded the public to speak at the podium when addressing the Committee.
2. Mrs. Cipriano moved to approve Consent Agenda Items:
  - 2.1 Minutes of the December 1, 2014 School Committee Meeting
  - 2.2 Bills
    - A) Regular Bills
    - B) Prepaid Checks from December 1, 2014 through December 12, 2014.
    - C) Lunch Bills
  - 2.3 Appointments
    - A) Jerry Espinosa, Volunteer Assistant Girls' Indoor Track Coach, High School, Winter Season, 2014-2015 School Year, pending receipt of RIDE Athletic Certification.
    - B) David Tedeski, Volunteer Assistant Boys' Basketball Coach, Middle School, Winter Season, 2014-2015 School Year, pending receipt of successful BCI.
    - C) Lisa Vitacca, .5 Pre-K Special Education Paraprofessional, Anna McCabe, remainder of the 2014-2015 year only.
    - D) Michael Twohey, Detention Supervisor, High School, for the 2014-2015 School Year.
  - 2.4 Resignations
    - A) Margaret Nelson, Art teacher, Old County Road Elementary School and R.C. LaPerche Elementary School, effective at the end of the June 2015 school year.
    - B) Guiseppe DiSerio, Custodian, Gallagher Middle School, effective July 31, 2015.

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

**3. HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT**

High school student representative Ryan Strik reported:

- Try-outs are currently going on for the high school music department play, "*The Sound of Music*".
- The high school band and chorus will be having their annual winter concert on Wednesday, December 17<sup>th</sup> from 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm at no cost, and the concert is open to the public.
- The Academy of Finance Holiday breakfast will be on Monday, December 22<sup>nd</sup> from 8:30 am – 10:00 am at the High School.

Mr. Clough announced that Ryan will now be the student representative for the school committee for the remainder of the 2014-2015 school year.

4. Mr. Kenneth Hopkins was recognized as Rhode Island's 2014-2015 Assistant Principal of the year. Mr. Hopkins was present and Mr. O'Brien and the Committee congratulated him as RI's Assistant Principal of the year. Mr. O'Brien announced that this is the third administrator in the district to receive this award, and Mr. Hopkin's name will be forwarded for the National Assistant Principal of the year.

5. The Committee discussed the high school track.

The Committee reviewed quotes and discussed options to repair the track. Mr. O'Brien said Mr. Mencucci inquired about and was able to get some price quotes just to give the Committee an estimation of the cost to repair the track. He reiterated that this was not a public bid, it was simply quotes to get an idea of the cost.

East Coast Sealcoating, Inc., and Cape and Island Tennis & Track gave the following quotes. East Coast had three options:

- (1.) Patch cracks and reline (3 year warranty) \$15,500.00. Mr. O'Brien added that with this option student athletes could not compete on the track.
- (2.) Patch holes and edges of track, apply two coats of green pigmented acrylic latex and reline - \$41,000.00 (5 year warranty) and
- (3.) Repair cracks, install 2 layers of black 1-3 MM rubber granules, bind and apply UV protectant and reline track - \$61,200.00 add \$25,000 to substitute green rubber for black (8 year warranty). Mr. O'Brien added that with this option sports team and the public will be able to utilize the track.

Cape and Island had two options:

- (1.) Surface repairs \$6,925.00 and reline \$6,000.00 (3 year warranty). Mr. O'Brien added that this option would be for walking only, and not for competition.
- (2.) Install two coats of green polyurethane structural spray and reline \$84,701.67 (8 year warranty). Mr. O'Brien added that the track team can compete on the track with this option.

Mr. O'Brien suggested that before the Committee makes any kind of a decision, that they request a joint meeting with the Town Council to discuss not only the track, but the baseball field, the tennis court at the high school, and the basketball courts at McCabe. He said the work wouldn't be able to be done until the summer, so there is time to have a discussion with the Council. The Committee members were in agreement to send a letter to the town council requesting a joint meeting to discuss options.

Public comment: Al Costantino

6. The Committee discussed the proposal from DATTCO for an extension to their contract for the 2015-2016 school year. The Committee reviewed a letter of proposal from DATTCO. DATTCO is proposing a 2.9% increase over the current contract with everything else in the contract remaining intact. Mr. O'Brien told the Committee that we are presently in the fourth year of the state contract with DATTCO. He said we originally signed a three year contract with the option of signing two one year extensions. He said the Committee could sign for one more extension or choose to go out to bid. The Committee was in agreement to go out to bid. Mrs. Cipriano moved that the school department go out to bid for a bus contract. Mrs. Harnois seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 5-0 vote. There was a discussion on some suggestions of different specifications that should be stated in the bid specs, such as the age of the buses.

Public comment: Al Costantino

7. Mrs. Harnois moved that the bid for 665 Chromebooks be awarded to GovConnection in the amount of \$217,953.75. Mrs. Heenan seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 5-0 vote. Mr. O'Brien told the Committee that Mr. Barrette reviewed all the bids for Chromebooks and is recommending GovConnection. The Committee had been previously given the bid quotes as well as the rating sheets to review in their packets. Mr. Barrette was present and answered questions. He told the Committee that this bid item and the next two agenda bid items to follow, fell under the \$280,000 that the town had given the school department for technology. Student representative Ryan Strik gave positive feedback from students about the Chromebooks.

8. Mrs. Heenan moved that the bid for 24 Chromebook carts be awarded to Professional Computers, Inc. in the amount of \$23,400.00. Mrs. Harnois seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 5-0 vote.

Mr. O'Brien told the Committee that Mr. Barrette reviewed all bids for Chromebook carts and recommended Professional Computers, Inc. The Committee had been previously given the bid quotes as well as the rating sheets to review in their packets. Mr. Barrette answered questions from the Committee.

9. Mrs. Harnois moved that the bid for 665 Chromebook cases be awarded to CDWG in the amount of \$11,970.00. Mrs. Heenan seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 5-0 vote.

Mr. O'Brien said that Mr. Barrette reviewed all bids for Chromebook cases and is recommending CDWG. The Committee had been previously given the bid quotes as well as the rating sheets to review in their packets. Mr. Barrette answered questions from the Committee. He said that these carrying cases are hard-shell cases to protect the Chromebooks from damage.

#### **10. COMMUNICATIONS:**

1. A copy of the updated enrollments throughout the District.
2. A copy of a letter from Mr. Clough to the Town Council President regarding the school department's receipt of a copy of the Financial Review Commission's Memorandum on the school department's renovations request.
3. A copy of the Memorandum from the Financial Review Commission to the Town Council on their initial analysis of the school departments' renovation request.
4. A copy of a letter from Mr. Clough to the Town Council commenting on the Financial Review Commission's Memorandum on their initial analysis of the renovation request.

#### **11. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:**

1. Mr. O'Brien said he was happy to see that members from the Town Council, School Committee, Asset Protection Committee, Representative Winfield, and the Town Manager had all took place in a collaborated event to tour the condition of the roofs at Gallagher Middle School and the High School. He said this was very unique, and was very impressed to see that they were willing to come together for this.
2. Mr. O'Brien commended and thanked Lisa Cournoyer and Paul Barrette for pursuing to request additional funding for the wireless classroom initiative. He told the Committee that in our original proposal, we requested funding to put wireless in the gyms and libraries but we were denied the funding. He said the wireless in those areas were paid for with school department funds. Mr. O'Brien added that Lisa and Paul again requested the funds and the Department of Education has notified us that they will reimburse us approximately \$8,500.00 dollars, he said that money can now go towards installing the wireless at central office.
3. Mr. O'Brien suggested dates for a 4 hour workshop that will be taking place on the high school graduation requirements for the School Committee. The Committee agreed on Saturday, January 24, 2015. The workshop will be at the high school in the administration conference room starting at 8:00 AM.
4. Mr. O'Brien suggested dates for two evening workshops that will be taking place for School Committee members to get training on new laptops and the budget process. The Committee agreed on January 14th and 15th. The workshop will be 2 hours each day and will start at 6:00 p.m. and will take place at the High School.
5. Mr. O'Brien told the Committee that on last Thursday evening, the High School and Anna McCabe Elementary School were recognized at a ceremony at the state house for being

commended schools. Mr. O'Brien and the Committee congratulated the administration, staff and students. Mrs. Pleau and Mr. Kelley were present with the certifications they were given and the School Committee observed the certifications. Mr. O'Brien said that commended schools have to have a very high performance across metrics and need to serve all students well. He said only 10% of schools in the state received the "commended" status and he is proud that Smithfield has "two" commended schools.

**12. PUBLIC FORUM:** Mr. Costantino addressed the Committee.

**13. COMMITTEE COMMENTS**

The Committee members expressed their appreciation for the opportunity to tour the school roofs and also expressed appreciation for the extended support from everyone that toured the school roofs.

Mrs. Cipriano spoke about her concerns for the need of a grant writer position in the district. She expressed an interest in looking into the development of a district-wide calendar of school events and activities throughout the entire district.

**14. 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