

SMITHFIELD SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
MONDAY, JANUARY 5, 2015 @ 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. Bridget Morisseau, Assistant Superintendent, Mr. Craig Levis, Special Education Director, Benjamin Scungio, Esq., School Committee/School Department Attorney, 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.

In the case of an emergency there are two main exits out of the Media Center.

They are located to the right and left side of the media center through the set of double doors.

Proceed to follow the exit signs to the exit doorways.

The restrooms are located through the right set of double door, the facilities are located on the left.

2. Mrs. Harnois moved to approve Consent Agenda Items:
 - 2.1 Approval of the Minutes of the December 15, 2014 School Committee Meeting
 - 2.2 Approval of Bills
 - A) Regular Bills
 - B) Prepaid Checks from December 15, 2014 through January 2, 2015.
 - C) Lunch Bills
 - 2.3 Approval of Resignations
 - A) Andrew Tuetken, Assistant Baseball Coach, High School, Spring Season, effective immediately.
 - B) Richard Glover, Unified Basketball Coach, Spring Season, effective immediately.
 - 2.4 Approval of Appointments
 - A) MaryEllen Dubuc, Special Education Teacher – Transition Program, High School, effective immediately.
 - 2.5 Approval of Leaves:
 - A) Samantha Armstrong, Maternity leave, Science teacher, High School, effective March 23, 2015 through May 26, 2015.

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

3. HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

High school student representative Ryan Strik reported:

- Students have returned from their holiday break, with 3-1/2 weeks left in the second quarter.
- The first play rehearsal for the SHS production of The Sound of Music was taking place in the auditorium this evening, Monday, January 5, 2015. It will be held in mid-March.
- The SHS Travel Club is taking a trip to PPAC next Friday evening to see The Illusionist. The Club is headed by Mr. Lynch, a social studies teacher at the high school. The Club is planning a trip to Greece and Italy this summer. Last year the club visited Germany and surrounding countries.

- Winter sports, including basketball and hockey, are well underway. Both boys' squads, basketball and hockey, recently returned from out-of-state tournaments this past week during the holiday break.

4. Mr. Barrows moved that the emergency repairs to the High School Chimney by Bentley Builders, LLC be approved. Mrs. Cipriano seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 5-0 vote.

Mr. O'Brien told the Committee that on December 8th, he received an e-mail from Dennis Finlay stating that the Town Council discussed the high school chimney and said that if the School Committee elects to consider this project as an emergency situation, then we could request that the work be completed as an emergency situation from the town. The Committee was given three quotes for emergency repairs to the chimney in their packets for review, as well as an e-mail from Kevin Cleary, the town engineer, stating that he would recommend the shoring of the chimney structure as quoted by Bentley Builders, LLC be authorized as an emergency. Mr. O'Brien said that Mr. Mencucci got three quotes to repair the chimney, and Bentley Builders, LLC was the lowest quote.

The Committee discussed the repairs to the chimney. Mr. Clough said that he would like it noted as a matter of public record that this is another reason to keep moving forward to be sure that these infrastructure issues are taken care of. He said that we are now at a point where we need to be sure that the chimney is stabilized so as not to cause a larger issue and that we are taking the proper procedures to be proactive.

5. The Committee discussed scheduling a joint meeting with the Town Council to discuss athletic facilities. Mr. O'Brien said that potential dates and times would be Monday, January 26, 2015, Tuesday, January 27, 2015 or February 2, 2015 before the School Committee meeting. Suggested start time would be 6:00 PM. The Committee discussed the potential dates, and Mr. O'Brien said that he would look into scheduling the meeting for January 26, 2015.

6. COMMUNICATIONS:

- A) A copy of a letter sent to the Town Council and Mr. Finlay inviting them to tour the schools.

7. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

Mr. O'Brien said that he wanted to remind the Committee of upcoming events:

1. Mr. O'Brien said there will be a public ALICE parent forum on January 12, 2015 in the high school auditorium starting at 7:00 PM.
2. Mr. O'Brien said that on January 14, 2015, there will be a school safety community partner's thank you meeting in the high school media center from 8:00 AM to 9:00 AM.
3. Mr. O'Brien said that also on January 14th, there will be a School Committee workshop on the new laptops and budget process from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM in the high school media center.
4. Mr. O'Brien said that on January 15, 2015 there will be a second School Committee workshop from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM in the high school media center.
5. Mr. O'Brien said that he would like to suggest February 2, February 9, and February 23, 2015 as tentative budget workshop dates. Mr. O'Brien said that a budget would have to be approved on February 23, 2015.

8. PUBLIC FORUM

None.

9. COMMITTEE COMMENTS

Mrs. Cipriano inquired about a report to update the data presented previously regarding the utilization of printers in the schools. Mr. Barrette said that he would present an update to the committee and respectfully asked if it could take place after the PARCC testing.

Mrs. Cipriano inquired about one calendar that would incorporate activities in all schools for families to refer to. Mr. Barrette said that such a calendar could be created and that he would need to meet with the leadership team to be sure the calendars for all six schools are up-to-date before combining to one calendar.

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

At 7:20 p.m., Mr. Barrows moved to convene into Executive Session to discuss matter pertaining to:

1. Pre-suspension hearing regarding teacher discipline and consideration thereof and legal advice related thereto. R.I. Gen Laws 42-46-5(a)(1).

Mrs. Heenan seconded the motion. This requires an individual vote. The individual vote was 5-0 polled by Mr. Clough, Chair.

Returned to open session at 8:24 p.m. Mrs. Harnois moved to seal the minutes of the Executive Session. Mrs. Heenan seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 5-0 vote.

Motion to uphold recommendation made by Superintendent for suspension was made by Mrs. Harnois, seconded by Mrs. Heenan. The motion passed with a 5-0 vote.

Motion to adjourn was made by Mrs. Harnois, seconded by Mrs. Heenan. The motion passed with a 5-0 vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen A. Boscio
Interim Secretary