

**SMITHFIELD SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 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: Mrs. Bridget Morisseau, Assistant Superintendent, Mr. Craig Levis, Director of Special Education, 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.
2. Mrs. Cipriano moved to approve Consent Agenda Items:
 - 2.1 Minutes of the February 14, 2015 School Committee Meeting
 - 2.2 Bills
 - A) Regular Bills
 - B) Prepaid Checks from February 13, 2015 through February 19, 2015.
 - 2.3 Non-renewals:
(One year position):

Lindsay DiCesare	Grade 2	Winsor
April Tandy	.6 Pre-K Special Ed.	McCabe
Amanda Lemek	.45 Special Education	McCabe
<u>Per RI General Laws, 16-16-24b Re: Employment Retiree:</u>		
Rosemarie Cabral	.5 Special Education	High School
Mike Murray	.4 French	Middle School
June Mangassarian	.5 ELL	All Schools

Mr. Barrows seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 5-0 vote.

3. HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

High school student representative Ryan Strik reported:

- An Academy of Finance event, Business Before Breakfast, is scheduled for Thursday, February 26, 2015.
- An SHS Travel Club meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 4, 2015.
- Respect Week is the week of March 9, 2015. Respect Day is Tuesday, March 10, 2015.
- The SHS spring musical, The Sound of Music, will be showing on March 13, 14, and 15, 2015.

4. Mrs. Morisseau and the Committee presented a Partnership Award to the Special Olympics. The Rhode Island Special Olympics Organization has been an essential partner in creating opportunities and programs to meet the needs of Smithfield's students. Their

financial and institutional support of Unified Sports, working with the high school for four years and the middle school for three, has given the opportunity for over 100 Smithfield students to represent their schools on the field of play. Their continued contribution to an inclusive school culture, in the form of grants, initiatives, and the national Spread the Word to End the Word campaign, is tremendous.

Mrs. Morisseau said that this partnership is a wonderful example of organizations working together toward a common vision and goal. On behalf of the Smithfield School Department, Mrs. Morisseau thanked the representatives of the Rhode Island Special Olympics: Dennis DeJesus, Chris Hopkins, Jerry Dandeneau, Gerri Walter, and Casey Rhodes, as well as the entire staff for what they do for Smithfield's students, and said that we look forward to continuing this very successful partnership.

Mr. DeJesus thanked the Smithfield School Department on behalf of the Special Olympics and said that Smithfield has been a leader in the program since it began Project Unified.

5. Mrs. Cipriano moved that the 2015-2016 Budget be approved. Mrs. Harnois seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 5-0 vote.

Public Comment: Richard Iannitelli

6. Mrs. Heenan moved that the Student Data Privacy and Security Policy be approved. Mrs. Harnois seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 5-0 vote.

The Committee did a first reading at the last school committee meeting. There were no further changes.

7. Mrs. Heenan moved that the policy on State Assessment testing be approved. Mrs. Harnois seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 5-0 vote.

The Committee did a first reading at the last school committee meeting. There were no further changes.

Public Comment: Daniel Snowman, Michaela Turbitt, Jennifer Blanchette, Rema Tomka.

8. COMMUNICATIONS:

- A) A copy of the Annual Financial Report for Fiscal year ending June 30, 2014.

9. ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

1. Mrs. Morisseau thanked Angelo Mencucci for his leadership in the monumental job of ensuring that the roofs on all schools are safe and for coordinating the snow removal from the roofs of all six schools. All of the schools have been evaluated by engineering professionals and have been deemed safe.

10. PUBLIC FORUM

None

11. COMMITTEE COMMENTS

Mrs. Cipriano said that the Elementary Reconfiguration Committee met for the first time and thanked the Administration for bringing in Mr. Joseph DaSilva from the Rhode Island Department of Education. She said that Mr. DaSilva is responsible for overseeing the grants, making visits to the sites, as well as determining which communities will receive the reimbursements that are available through the bonds for the repairs to the schools. Mrs. Cipriano encouraged parents to take advantage of opportunities to be present when individuals are brought into the district to make explanations and answer questions.

Mrs. Heenan said that she has received additional emails regarding the parking at William Winsor Elementary School. Mrs. Heenan asked Mr. Mencucci if there has been an issue with increased parking at William Winsor Elementary School. Mr. Mencucci said that the restaurant parking at Winsor has been the same. He said that he has not seen additional overflow but that there are parking challenges due to the snow.

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

At 8:10 p.m., Mr. Barrows moved to convene into Executive Session to discuss matter pertaining to: Consideration of personnel matter regarding teacher benefit. RIGL 42-46-5(a)(1) in accordance with the Open Meeting Act, RI General Laws 42-46-5(a)2.

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

Returned to open session at 8:30 p.m. Motion to adjourn executive session made by Mrs. Harnois; Mrs. Heenan seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 5-0 vote.

There was one vote in executive session pursuant to RIGL 42-46-5(a)(1) in accordance with the Open Meeting Act, RI General Laws 42-46-5(a)2. Mrs. Cipriano moved to approve the extension of healthcare benefits per catastrophic leave for an employee for the period through August 31, 2015. Mrs. Heenan seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 5-0 vote.

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 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

Mr. Chairman,

I, along with the rest of the committee, have received a number of emails from parents in the district who have expressed their concerns regarding the adoption of this policy. I have read every email, I have spent hours researching this topic, and I have even taken some of the practice tests offered online. As a student, I was never a quote on quote “good test taker.” Yet I had to go through NECAPP testing and take the SATs in order to apply to college. I am not a believer in the notion that a test will determine ones level of success. However, I am confident that the PARCC testing results will provide our teachers and administrators with valuable information that will lead to more effective classroom learning.

It is important to understand that if we do not adopt this assessment program, we would be in jeopardy of losing state funding. Additionally, the RI Department of Education requires at least 95% of students in the district to participate in this assessment. And we are also tied to Federal regulations that require students to participate in statewide assessments.

While many parents are concerned that too much testing is occurring in our schools, we are attempting to seek accountability in teaching and learning to ensure that our students are ready for college and the workforce. As a recent college grad, I can say this: there is a lot of testing that occurs in college. And we are trying to prepare our students for this.

I am confident that Smithfield will successfully balance the act of test taking with traditional, innovative classroom learning. Programs offered at the high school, such as the Academy of Finance, the family and consumer science daycare center, the music department and several others will allow our students to show their true colors, and excel in life after graduation.

With that said, I will be voting in favor of passage.

--Brent Barrows