

**SMITHFIELD SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**MONDAY, APRIL 27, 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. Lisa Cournoyer, Director of Financial Operations, Mr. Craig Levis, Director of Special Education, Benjamin Scungio, Esq. School Committee/School Department Attorney. Absent: 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. Harnois moved to approve Consent Agenda Items:
  - 2.1 Minutes of the April 6, 2015 School Committee Meeting
  - 2.2 Bills
    - A) Regular Bills
    - B) Prepaid Checks from April 6, 2015 through April 22, 2015
    - C) Lunch Bills
  - 2.3 Leaves:
    - A) Heather Malloy, Math teacher, Middle School, Medical, May 13, 2015 through the end of the 2014-2015 School Year.
    - B) Jay DiSandro, World Language teacher, High School, request for unpaid days from May 3, 2015 through May 5, 2015.
    - C) Elizabeth Pimental, English teacher, High School, request for unpaid days from June 17, 2015 through June 23, 2015.

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

**3. HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT**

A student representative was not present at the meeting.

4. The Committee reviewed the five-year capital plan and reviewed suggestions from Mr. O'Brien for this year and next year that will need to be done due to life safety concerns. Public comment: Greg Tocco, Richard Iannitelli, Alex Brown
5. Mrs. Harnois moved that the recommendation for the transportation bid from July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2018 with the option of two one-year renewals be awarded to Durham School Services. Mrs. Heenan seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 4-1 vote. (Mrs. Cipriano voted nay). Mr. O'Brien told the Committee that after reviewing the student transportation proposals, he, along with Lisa Cournoyer and Randy Rossi, are recommending Durham School Services. Mr. Keith Galloway from Durham busing and Ms. Shirley Gralnick along with Ms. Jane Pepler from DATTCO were present to answer questions that the Committee had. Ms. Gralnick spoke of DATTCO's relationship with Smithfield, and asked if she can sit down with the school department for an opportunity to re-negotiate DATTCO's bid offer. Mr. Scungio spoke about the now completed bidding process, as it relates to aggressive

bidding involved with the process. Mr. O'Brien and the Committee thanked DATTCO for their ten years of service to the Smithfield School Department. Ms. Gralnick was informed that the school committee will not honor her request to re-negotiate DATTCO's bid offer.  
Public comment: Richard Iannitelli

6. The Committee discussed potential guidelines and procedures for the evaluation of the school Superintendent. The Committee discussed different evaluation tools that are currently being used in other districts that could possibly be utilized in creating a rubric for Smithfield. The creation of an evaluation tool to evaluate the Superintendent position in Smithfield is a work in progress, and the Committee is hoping to have an evaluation tool in place over the next few school committee meetings.
7. Item #7 has been tabled to a future meeting.
8. Mrs. Cipriano moved that the Committee grant approval to go out to bid for Workers' Compensation Insurance for the period of July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2018. Mr. Barrows seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 5-0 vote. Mr. O'Brien said this has been reviewed by the Town Solicitor and was approved by the Town Council at their April 21, 2015 meeting.
9. Mrs. Cipriano moved that the Committee grant approval to go out to bid for Property/Liability Insurance for the period of July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2018. Mrs. Heenan seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 5-0 vote. Mr. O'Brien said this has been reviewed by the Town Solicitor and was approved by the Town Council at their April 21, 2015 meeting.
10. Mrs. Harnois moved that the Committee grant approval to go out to bid for Employee Life Insurance for the period of July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2018. Mrs. Heenan seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 5-0 vote. Mr. O'Brien said this has been reviewed by the Town Solicitor and was approved by the Town Council at their April 21, 2015 meeting.

#### **11. COMMUNICATIONS:**

- A) A copy of the obsolete equipment for disposal
- B) A copy of the Town budget report summary for the period ending March 31, 2015 of fiscal year 2015.
- C) A copy of the Agreed-Upon Procedures on Compliance with the UCOA from Marcum Accountants.

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

1. Mr. O'Brien congratulated Margarita Dempsey and Lora Calise on receiving the Mary L. Borra award. This award is given because they enhance student learning, extend contact beyond the classroom, deepen cultural and inter-cultural understanding, and promote the value of world language study. They will receive a \$500 scholarship on May 8, 2015.
2. Mr. O'Brien congratulated all of the students that participated in the High School Senior Oratorical Contest. He acknowledged the first place winner: Matt Strik, second place: Howard Hughes, and third place: Ashley Shilko. He added that all of the students had amazing speeches, and should be proud of the work that they have done.

3. Mr. O'Brien informed the Committee of a special school committee meeting that is needed to deal with the RFP's for the bond. He added that he may need to add an executive session to that meeting as well, for negotiations. The special meeting will take place on Monday, June 1, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. at the high school media center.

### **13. PUBLIC FORUM**

None.

### **14. COMMITTEE COMMENTS:**

Committee comment was made by Mrs. Cipriano, Mr. Clough and Mrs. Harnois. Mr. Clough made note that he attended the Gallagher Middle School talent show, and the kids did a great job. He added that the students played musical instruments very well, without the need of music sheets.

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

At 8:59 p.m., Mrs. Harnois moved to convene into Executive Session to discuss matters pertaining to Collective bargaining (negotiations) 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 9:24 p.m. Motion to adjourn executive session made by Mrs. Harnois; Mrs. Heenan seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 5-0 vote.

Mr. Barrows moved to seal the minutes of the Executive Session. Mrs. Cipriano seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 5-0 vote.

Mrs. Harnois moved to approve the minutes of the March 16, 2015 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,

Lisa Petrone  
Secretary