

**SMITHFIELD SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING  
MONDAY, MAY 4, 2015 @ 7:00 P.M.  
HIGH SCHOOL MEDIA CENTER  
MINUTES**

Members present: Mr. Sean Clough, Chair, Mrs. Kellie-Ann Heenan, Vice-Chair, Mrs. Rose Marie Cipriano, and Mr. Brent Barrows. Members Absent: Mrs. Virginia Harnois, Secretary. Also present were: Mr. Robert O'Brien, Superintendent, Mrs. Bridget Morisseau, Assistant Superintendent, Mr. Craig Levis, Director of Special Education, Ronald Cascione, 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.

Mr. Clough said that the Superintendent's Report would be moved up to between Items 4 and 5.

2. Mr. Barrows moved to approve Consent Agenda Items:
  - 2.1 Approval of the Minutes of the April 27, 2015 School Committee Meeting
  - 2.2 Approval of Bills
    - A) Regular Bills
    - B) Prepaid Checks from April 22, 2015 through May 1, 2015
    - C) Invoice from Torrado Architects to be paid for out of the Bond
  - 2.3 Approval of Resignations:
    - A) Russell Hill, Maintenance, effective May 8, 2015

Mrs. Heenan seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 3-0 vote. Mrs. Cipriano was not at the meeting at this time.

Mr. Clough said that he would like it noted on record that Mrs. Cipriano had submitted a letter to him stating that she would be absent from the May 4, 2015 school committee meeting, as she was receiving an award. (However, Mrs. Cipriano arrived at the meeting at 8:00 P.M.) Mr. Clough said that Mrs. Harnois was absent as well.

### **3. HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT**

High school student representative Ryan Strik reported:

- PARCC Testing and Science NECAP's are taking place during the week of May 4, 2015. Freshmen and Sophomores will resume taking the PARCC standardized tests, and the Juniors will be taking the Science portion of the NECAP.
- Some AP exams are being administered during the week of May 4, 2015. AP Literature and Composition will be taking place on Wednesday, May 6, 2015; and the AP Computer Science exam will be on Thursday, May 7, 2015.

- The Smithfield High School Annual Dress Sale will be on Wednesday May 6, 2015. Students will have the opportunity to swap, sell, or buy consignment dresses for the upcoming prom season. The event will run from 6:00-8:30 P.M.
  - There will be a blood drive at the high school on Wednesday, May 13, 2015. The drive will run from approximately 8:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M. in the high school gym.
  - The Junior Prom is on Friday, May 15, 2015. This event will run from 6:30-11:30 P.M. at the Crowne Plaza Hotel.
4. The fifth grade students from Anna McCabe Elementary School were present along with their teachers, Mrs. Lenore and Mrs. Marchetti, and gave a presentation on a student-initiated project that they have been working on called “Cents for Cerebral Palsy”. The School Committee thanked and congratulated the students.

At this time, Mr. O’Brien recognized the High School Science Olympiad Team for placing second in the 2015 Rhode Island State Science Olympiad Competition. Mr. O’Brien asked Mrs. Kathleen Babcock and Mr. John Leonard, the Coaches, to come forward with the students to give an outline of the competition. The Committee thanked and congratulated the Science Olympiad team for their achievement and all of their hard work.

5. Mr. O’Brien recognized the district technology department. He thanked the entire technology department for the outstanding job they are doing. Mr. O’Brien said that this year has been extremely challenging for them with the PARCC testing and adding over 600 chrome books. He said that Jo-Ann Robitaille, our data manager, has been extremely busy ensuring that all student information is accurate and uploaded to RIDE and that it is critically important that our data is accurate. Mr. O’Brien said that this was especially important for the PARCC assessment and that Jo-Ann helped out during the administration of the PARCC assessment. He said that she also trains staff on our student information systems as well as our parents so they have access to their child’s portal. Mr. O’Brien said that Ed Apt and Michael Rush, our two technicians, were proactive in ensuring that all computers and devices were updated with necessary software, fully charged, and ready for testing. He said that while they were getting ready for the PARCC assessment, the new chrome books arrived, which put an added burden on them. Mr. O’Brien said that this year Paul Barrette has been extremely busy working with a technology committee to develop district policies for the use of technology in the district, deploy over 600 chrome books, and get ready for the PARCC assessment. He said that Paul attended all training sessions for the PARCC administration as well as constant communications with Pearson’s technology help line, while at the same time working with his staff to get the chrome books into the hands of teachers and students. Mr. O’Brien said that Paul has been out many evenings meeting with parents to answer any questions they have as well as rolling out the chrome books for students. He said that as a result of the team effort, we had zero problems with technology during the PARCC exam, and the chrome book roll out has been seamless. Mr. O’Brien said that this was all above and beyond the normal day to day work that had to be done. He said that he wanted to commend this outstanding team for their dedication, hard work, and expertise in bringing the Smithfield School District into the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Mr. O’Brien thanked the team on behalf of the staff, parents and students for their outstanding work.

Mr. Barrette thanked his staff for their work. The Committee thanked the technology staff for all of their work.

6. Genevieve Ciullo from Aramark gave a financial report. Ms. Ciullo said that new dishwashers would be installed at the high school and LaPerche this summer. Ms. Ciullo said that she would like to establish a student review committee for next year to get feedback from students at all grade levels to see what would interest them in the program. Ms. Ciullo said that it is very probable that next year there will be the first state review of the program in five years.

7. Mr. Barrows moved to approve a request to increase meal prices for the 2015-2016 school year as follows:

Increase secondary breakfast prices from \$1.00 to \$1.25

Elementary lunch prices from \$2.35 to \$2.50

Secondary premium meal prices from \$3.00 to \$3.25

Mrs. Heenan seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 3-0 vote. Mrs. Cipriano was not at the meeting at this time.

Mr. O'Brien said that as part of the National School Lunch Program, the district is required to complete an annual paid lunch equity analysis and adjust meal prices if the weighted average falls below the set minimum. The minimum weighted average for 2015-2016 is \$2.70. Smithfield's weighted average was \$2.54.

Public Comment: Alex Brown

8. Mrs. Heenan moved to approve the additional cuts to the 2015-2016 budget as recommended by the Superintendent. Mr. Barrows seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 3-0 vote. Mrs. Cipriano was not at the meeting at this time.

Mr. O'Brien said that there are approximately \$466,000 in suggested cuts that the Committee would need to make in order to balance next year's budget. He said that the cuts are necessary in order to get the funding level recommended by the town manager. Mr. O'Brien said that even with these cuts, 6.5 teachers would still need to be laid off. Mr. O'Brien said that the additional cuts include professional development and training, substitutes for data days, library books, special education diagnosis tuition, and administrator raises. He said that the cuts would have an impact on reading, math, family consumer science, and music at the high school and world language and band at the middle school.

Public Comment: Paul Brown

9. Mrs. Heenan moved to approve a 12-hour per week preschool paraprofessional position for the remainder of the 2014-2015 school year. Mr. Barrows seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 3-0 vote. Mrs. Cipriano was not at the meeting at this time.

Mr. Levis answered questions from the Committee.

10. The Committee discussed a request for increased funding at the Budget Hearing with the Town Council. Mrs. Heenan moved to make motions for increased funding at the budget hearing with the town council in two amounts: Motion in the amount of \$300,000 to outline the need for 6.5 teachers, curriculum and science kits, and one AP course; and Motion in the amount of \$250,000 to cover the 6.5 teachers. Mr. Barrows seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 4-0 vote.

Mr. O'Brien said that there will be a significant impact on programs for students if 6.5 teachers are

laid off. He said that the only way to avoid such significant cuts would be for the Committee to ask for an increase of \$250,000 at the town budget hearing.

Public Comment: Richard Iannitelli

**11. COMMUNICATIONS:**

1. Mr. O'Brien said that the Bond RFPs are in the School Committee portal for the Committee's review.

**12. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:**

1. Mr. O'Brien asked the Committee for some dates that the School Committee would be available for a joint meeting with the Town Council. The Committee discussed possible dates and decided on one of the following: Monday, May 18, 2015 (prior to School Committee Meeting); Tuesday, May 19, 2015 (prior to Town Council Meeting); Monday, June 1, 2015; or Tuesday, June 2, 2015 (prior to Town Council Meeting).
2. Mr. O'Brien said that an Elementary Re-Configuration Committee Meeting was scheduled for Saturday, May 9, 2015, from 9:00-10:30 A.M. at the Pell School in Newport, Rhode Island.

**13. PUBLIC FORUM**

Public Comment: Richard Iannitelli

**14. COMMITTEE COMMENTS**

Committee comment was made by Mrs. Heenan, Mrs. Cipriano, Mr. Clough, and Mr. Barrows.

**15. EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

**None**

At 8:20 P.M., motion to adjourn was made by Mrs. Cipriano; seconded by Mr. Barrows. The motion passed with a 4-0 vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen A. Boscio  
Interim Secretary