

SMITHFIELD SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

MONDAY, MAY 18, 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, Mrs. Lisa Cournoyer, Director of Financial Operations, 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.

Mrs. Harnois requested Consent Agenda Item 2.5 (A) be removed from the Consent Agenda.

2. Mrs. Cipriano moved to approve Consent Agenda Items:

2.1 Minutes of the May 4, 2015 School Committee Meeting

2.2 Bills

A) Regular Bills

B) Prepaid Checks from May 4, 2015 through May 15, 2015

C) Lunch Bills

D) Invoices from Vortex Inc. to be paid for out of the Bond

E) Revised invoice from Torrado to be paid for out of the Bond

2.3 Leaves:

A) Robin Myers, Special Education, Anna McCabe, unpaid leave, partial day June 22, 2015, and full day June 23, 2015.

B) Andrea Dewhirst, Field Hockey Coach, High School, One-year leave 2015-2016 school year.

2.4 Appointments:

A) Attorney: Brennan, Recupero, Cascione, Scungio & McAllister, for the 2015-2016 School Year.

B) School Physician: Dr. Mary Giovetti, \$1,500.00 for the 2015-2016 School Year.

C) School Dentist: Dr. Geoffrey Parrillo, \$1,500.00 for the 2015-2016 School Year.

D) Ken Hopkins, District Emergency Operations Coordinator, effective July 1, 2015.

2.5 Resignations:

B) Andrew Tuetken, Assistant Girls' Tennis Coach/Unified Volleyball coach, effective immediately.

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

Mrs. Heenan moved that Consent Agenda Item 2.5 (A) Resignation of Renee Palazzo, Assistant Principal/District Emergency Operations

Coordinator, High School, effective June 30, 2015 be approved with regret. Mrs. Harnois seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 5-0 vote.

Mr. O'Brien and the Committee members congratulated Dr. Palazzo on her new position and spoke highly about Dr. Palazzo and the great loss that this will be for Smithfield. Dr. Palazzo was present to thank the Committee for their heartfelt sentiments and kind words, and spoke about her twenty-year tenure in Smithfield.

3. HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

Student representative Ryan Strik was not present at the meeting, however, he emailed Mr. Clough. Mr. Clough read Ryan's report which consisted of:

1. Funding for the SHS music program has been allocated by the town council. The council voted to give an additional \$250,000 to the school department budget, in order to fund programs such as the music, math, and sciences. This will also prevent the layoffs of several SHS teachers.

2. Smithfield High School's annual evening music event--Spring Fest will be held this Friday, May 22nd. It will run from approximately 3:30, and so far has no official ending. Everyone is encouraged to come and enjoy an evening of music, and fun.

3. This Thursday is the High School's annual Evening of the Arts. This event is a display of art from the students at SHS, and everyone is encouraged to attend. It will run from 6:30-8:30 pm.

4. Tuesday, May 26th, will be the annual spring concert. The band and the chorus will come together to provide an evening of

entertainment to the public. The event will run from 5:30-9:30 pm.

5. Friday, May 29th, will be Smithfield High School's Senior Prom. This event will run from 6-11 pm at the Biltmore hotel in downtown Providence.

4. Mr. Mencucci gave an update on school facilities.

- Maintenance employees completed the annual asbestos course and are now certified in asbestos spot removal and spot repair.
- Custodial staff completed the mandatory asbestos awareness course; the course was taken at the high school.
- During April vacation there was a delay due to the weather with the new feed service going into LaPerche. National Grid will complete the change of feeders and pole exchange on July 13th.
- The engineers and architects constant flow of information has been ongoing and is a big part of how the RFP has been put together.
- Elementary school principals and staff are currently devising a plan of how they will prepare for abatements in schools.

5. Mr. Barrows moved that the Committee approve to go out to bid for the bond and ADA related items pending final review of the town solicitor and approval of the town council. Mrs. Cipriano seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 5-0 vote.

Mr. O'Brien said the RFP had been reviewed by Mr. Scungio. Mr. Torrado was present to answer questions from the Committee.

6. COMMUNICATIONS:

1. A copy of obsolete equipment to be sold.

7. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

Mr. O'Brien commended the students that attended the town budget hearing, he said the students were respectful, passionate and articulate. He added that the band and chorus students did very well in a recent competition, they received a trophy in excellence for their performance.

Mr. O'Brien thanked the Town Council for increasing the School Department's budget. He said this increase enables the school department the ability to maintain the high level programs that are provided to students.

Mr. O'Brien reminded the Committee that a special school committee meeting is needed to award bids, he said the bid awards will need to be in effect by June 30th. The meeting is scheduled for June 1st at 7:00 p.m. in the high school media center.

8. PUBLIC FORUM: None.

9. COMMITTEE COMMENTS: Committee comment was made by Mrs. Cipriano, Mrs. Heenan, and Mrs. Harnois.

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

At 8:29 p.m., Mrs. Harnois moved to convene into Executive Session to session to discuss matters pertaining to personnel in accordance

with the Open Meeting Act, RI General Laws 42-46-5(a)1 and to discuss matters pertaining to: RIGL42-46-5(a)3 School Security. 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 9:30 p.m. Motion to adjourn executive session made by Mrs. Cipriano; Mr. Barrows seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 5-0 vote.

Mrs. Harnois moved to seal the minutes of the Executive Session. Mrs. Cipriano 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