

SMITHFIELD SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
MONDAY, JUNE 1, 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, Mr. Craig Levis, Director of Special Education, 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.
2. Mrs. Cipriano moved to approve Consent Agenda Items:
 - A) Minutes of the May 18, 2015 School Committee Meeting
 - B) Bills
 - A) Regular Bills
 - B) Prepaid Checks from May 18, 2015 through May 29, 2015
 - C) Leaves:
 - A) Candice Gaucher, Reading Specialist @ High School, Maternity, September 1, 2015 through December 22, 2015.
 - B) Noah Escaler, Special Education, Middle School, Unpaid June 22 & June 23, 2015.
 - D) Resignations:
 - A) Gary Fitzpatrick, Assistant Football Coach, High School, effective immediately.Mrs. Heenan seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 5-0 vote.

3. HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT
Student representative Ryan Strik was not present at the meeting.

4. Mr. Barrows moved that the workers' compensation bid be awarded to Beacon Mutual Insurance, through Bradford Sutcliffe Insurance Agency, for the period of July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2018. Mrs. Cipriano seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 5-0 vote. Two bids were received for workers' compensation insurance. Beacon Mutual Insurance was the low bidder and is the school department's current carrier. Mr. O'Brien added that this bid came in \$12,243 higher than budget.
5. Mrs. Heenan moved that the property and liability insurance bid be awarded to the RI Interlocal Risk Management Trust for the period of July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2018. Mrs. Cipriano seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 5-0 vote. The Trust was the only bidder and is the school department's current carrier. Mr. O'Brien added that this bid came in \$2,149 higher than budget.
6. Mrs. Cipriano moved that the bids for the Life Insurance for the period of July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2018 be rejected. Mrs. Heenan seconded the motion. The motion to reject passed with a 5-0 vote.

Mr. O'Brien recommended that the employee life insurance bids be rejected. Two bids were received, one from the RI Interlocal Risk Management Trust, and another from Minnesota Life Insurance. He said both bids were substantially higher than the amount budgeted in the 2015-2016 budget.

7. Mrs. Harnois moved that the Committee grant approval to go out to bid for life insurance. Mrs. Heenan seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 5-0 vote.
8. Mrs. Heenan moved that an increase in the district's tutors' stipends be discussed and approved. Mrs. Harnois seconded the motion. The Committee reviewed a recent survey on tutor stipends that was done by Mrs. McGinnis, and had a discussion about a competitive salary range for tutors in Smithfield. Mr. O'Brien told the Committee that the stipend for tutors has not been increased in over eighteen years.
Mrs. Heenan moved to amend the original motion to approve an increase in the district's tutors' stipends to a range of \$30-\$40 per hour. Mrs. Harnois seconded the motion to amend. The motion to amend passed with a 5-0 vote. The motion as amended passed with a 5-0 vote.
9. Mrs. Harnois moved that the Committee approve going out to bid for:
 - Traffic markings at the High School, LaPerche, Gallagher, Old County Road, McCabe, William Winsor
 - Cafeteria tables at all elementary schools, the high school and middle school
 - Commercial washer and dryer for the high school
 - Bonded key system exterior doors at the High School, LaPerche, Gallagher, Old County Road, McCabe, and William Winsor
 - Replace the underground conduit and conductors associated with the exterior pole light at LaPerche
 - Replace fire-rated doors in the cafeteria and the multi-purpose room at LaPerche
 - Repair air conditioning unit at Gallagher Middle School
 - Purchase and installation of surveillance cameras & monitors at Gallagher

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

Mr. O'Brien said these items are from the capital list that was discussed at the April 27th School Committee meeting. He suggested going out to bid for the cafeteria tables with an alternate for the high school and middle school cafeteria tables, so if the bid for all the cafeteria tables is too high, the high school and middle school tables can be held off and doing so would allow funding to do cameras at Gallagher. Mr. O'Brien told the Committee that we would be using all of the remaining capital money from this year and part of the money for next year. However, the projects are all life-safety issues that need to be addressed.

Mr. Mencucci was present to provide an explanation of concerns with replacing all the cafeteria tables in the district vs. only replacing a few tables. He explained that he is not in favor of replacing only a portion of the cafeteria tables due to the fact that most of the current tables are approximately 20 years old and are a safety concern. Mr. Mencucci then explained his plans on salvaging the old cafeteria tables—he said the old tabletops would be utilized to make folding tables available for schools that are in need of tables for events. Currently the district only has 15 folding tables, and these tables are shared across the district.

10. Mrs. Harnois moved that the Resolution on Gun Free Schools be approved. Mrs. Cipriano seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 3-2 vote. (Mr. Clough and Mr. Barrows voted nay).

Kim Ziegelmayr and Karen Griffin from the RI Coalition Against Gun Violence were present to request the school committee's consideration of supporting the resolution. Committee members discussed their opinions on the resolution. Mr. Clough and Mr. Barrows were not in favor of this resolution. Mr. Barrows read a statement on his views (see attached).

Public comment: Michael Twohey

11. Mr. O'Brien presented Mrs. Heenan with a certificate from the RIASC Leadership Development Academy. This certificate is given to school committee members who have voluntarily completed hours in addition to the required six professional development hours of training. Mrs. Heenan completed 15 hours of professional development.

12. COMMUNICATIONS:

- A) A copy of a letter in support of the High School's Playschool Program.

13. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

None

14. PUBLIC FORUM

None.

- 15. COMMITTEE COMMENTS:** Committee comment was made by Mr. Clough, Mrs. Heenan, Mrs. Harnois, Mrs. Cipriano, and Mr. Barrows.

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

At 8:29 p.m., Mrs. Cipriano moved to convene into Executive Session to 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. 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 9:35 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. Cipriano moved to seal the minutes of the Executive Session. Mr. Barrows seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 5-0 vote.

Mr. Barrows moved to accept the Executive Session minutes of May 18, 2015. Mrs. Cipriano seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 5-0 vote.

Motion to adjourn was made by Mrs. Cipriano; seconded by Mr. Barrows. The motion passed with a 5-0 vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Petrone
Secretary

Submitted by Brent Barrows 06-01-15:

Mr. Chairman,

I would like to thank those who brought this forward tonight. It is clear that they are very passionate about this issue, however I respectfully disagree with their beliefs. We are, without a doubt, on the opposite side of the spectrum here. This resolution makes absolutely zero sense to me. HB5861 not only bans concealed carry permit holders from school grounds, it bans retired law enforcement personnel who choose to still carry their firearms from school grounds. Here is my problem with this resolution: ignorance. Often times, we think with our hearts and not with our heads. We hear "ban guns from schools" and just the sound of that makes us feel better. When in reality, I would argue that our schools could become not as safe. We hear of the tragedies in Newtown and Columbine, and we are all affected. It is devastating. But passing this resolution won't do anything to prevent a tragedy. Those who hold a concealed carry permit undergo extensive firearms training, equal to the training that law enforcement receives. Additionally, a carry permit applicant must pass a complete background check, have legitimate reasons for holding a permit to carry, which then must be signed off by the Attorney General or the local Police Chief. All this resolution does is punish law abiding citizens. If a mentally insane person wants to do harm, they probably wouldn't take the time to check the RI gun laws. Why punish those who could potentially protect our schools from a mentally unstable person who enters a building? I will be voting against this resolution and I urge my colleges to do the same. I will be submitting my remarks to the clerk to be added to the minutes. Thank you.