

SMITHFIELD SCHOOL COMMITTEE
SMITHFIELD TOWN COUNCIL
JOINT MEETING
SMITHFIELD HIGH SCHOOL MEDIA CENTER
90 PLEASANT VIEW AVENUE
SMITHFIELD, RI 02917
MONDAY, JUNE 29, 2015
7:00 P.M.

MINUTES

School Committee 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, Mr. Craig Levis, Director of Special Education, Mrs. Lisa Cournoyer, Director of Financial Operations, Mr. Benjamin Scungio, Esq. School Committee/School Department Attorney.

Town Council Members in attendance: Mr. Bernard Hawkins, Town Council President, Mrs. Suzanna Alba, Town Council Vice-President, Mr. Albert LaGreca Jr., Mrs. Maxine Cavanagh, and Mr. Gregory Tocco. Also in attendance were Mr. Dennis Finlay, Town Manager, Mr. Randy Rossi, Town Finance Director, and Mr. Anthony Gallone Jr., Esq., Town Solicitor.

Mr. Clough called the meeting to order at 7:02 P.M.

1. Mrs. Cipriano moved that the group life insurance bid for the school department be awarded to Sun Life Assurance for the period of July 1, 2015 through June 17, 2017. Mr. Barrows seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 5-0 vote.
2. Mrs. Cipriano moved to approve that the school department go out to bid for #2 fuel oil. Mr. Barrows seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 5-0 vote.
3. Mr. Barrows moved that the School Committee approve to go out to bid for snow plowing services for the school department. Mrs. Cipriano seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 5-0 vote.
4. Mrs. Harnois moved that the School Committee approve to go out to bid for boiler cleaning for the school department. Mrs. Cipriano seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 5-0 vote.
5. Mrs. Cipriano moved that the bid for school department phase I roof replacements, asbestos abatements, and ADA upgrades be awarded to Ahlborg Construction Corporation. Mrs. Heenan seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 5-0 vote. Mr. O'Brien told the Committee that Ahlborg Construction Corporation was the lowest bidder, and that the bids were reviewed by the building committee. Mr. O'Brien added that Ahlborg received the highest rating. The School Committee and the Town Council members had an extensive discussion in regards to the roof and asbestos projects. Some concerns with the timeline and the

completion of the projects before the start of school were discussed. There was also a discussion on the need of a penalty clause to be included in the contract. Mr. Rossi stated that there will be a penalty clause included in the contract. Members of the Town Council suggested that a report that included a review of scheduling and compliance with the contract be reported to the Town Council on a weekly basis. Luis Torrado from Torrado architects was present to answer questions about the roofing and asbestos projects. Mr. Torrado stated that in regards to the timeline in question, he believed the work can be done in a timely manner. Mr. O'Brien and Mr. Mencucci also answered questions that the town council and members of the public had.

Public comment: Al Costantino, Aimee Tortolano

6. Mr. O'Brien and Mrs. Morisseau thanked the Town Council for their support with all-day kindergarten and for the technology support that the Town has provided to the School Department. Mrs. Morisseau spoke about the success and student benefits as it relates to all-day kindergarten. Mr. O'Brien and Mrs. Morisseau spoke about the success with student engagement as a result of the use of Chromebooks throughout the district. Mrs. Morisseau added that the initial investment cost of the Chromebooks has offered savings in other areas throughout the district. Mrs. Morisseau told the town council that having the ability to go digital with workbooks in the areas of math and science has afforded the district a savings down from a cost of approximately \$49,000 to \$20,000. Mr. O'Brien added that a first ever annual report on the school department in review and goals in the upcoming school year is being worked on and will be coming out soon.

7. Mrs. Cipriano made a motion to allow the town to take on a trial basis of lawn cutting at Anna McCabe and Raymond LaPerche Elementary Schools. Mrs. Heenan seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 5-0 vote.

The town council members and members of the school committee discussed the proposed merger of parks and outside school grounds maintenance and athletic facilities. Mr. Finlay and Mr. Rossi discussed the possible savings, as well as the possibility of an increase in necessary positions as it pertains to the merger. Committee members discussed the need for the establishment of definitive plans and guidelines before moving forward with the merger.

Mr. Kenneth Sousa, Chair of the Financial Review Commission was present and added his thoughts and concerns with the proposed merger. With the support of the town council, Mr. Sousa and the FRC will be examining consolidation costs as it relates to the FTE's, labor and operational costs of the proposed merger. On a future town council meeting agenda, the town council members will discuss the merger further, with the possibility of a formal voting on the merger.

Both parties agreed that the town and the school department should continue to have work sessions so that the town is able to see what the school department is facing in upcoming budget cycles.

Public comment: Al Costantino

At 8:36 pm, The Town Council Members motion to adjourn and Mr. Clough announced that the School Committee will take a five minute recess.

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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, Mr. Craig Levis, Director of Special Education, Financial Operations, Mr. Benjamin Scungio, Esq., School Committee/School Department Attorney. Mr. Clough called the meeting to order at 8:46 p.m.

Mrs. Harnois moved to approve Consent Agenda Items:

1.1 Minutes of the June 15, 2015 School Committee Meeting

1.2 Bills

A) Regular Bills

B) Prepaid Checks from June 15, 2015 through June 26, 2015

C) Lunch Bills

Mrs. Cipriano seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 5-0 vote. Mrs. Cournoyer answered questions on the bills that Committee members had.

2. Communications

A) A copy of a letter to Mr. Finlay as it relates to the stairs at William Winsor Elementary School.

3. Executive Session: (Closed) pursuant to RI General Laws Section 42-46-5(a):

At 8:56 p.m., Mrs. Cipriano moved to convene into Executive Session to session to discuss matters pertaining to personnel in accordance with the Open Meetings Act, RI General Laws 42-46-5(a)1, 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.

At 9:19 p.m. motion to return to open session made by Mrs. Cipriano; Mrs. Harnois seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 5-0 vote.

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

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

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Petrone
Secretary