

**SMITHFIELD SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
MONDAY, DECEMBER 21, 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. Eileen Crudele, Director of Special Education, Mrs. Lisa Cournoyer, Director of Financial Operations, Mr. Benjamin Scungio, 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.

Mr. Clough called for a moment of silence for Smithfield High School Junior Daniel DiChiara, who passed away unexpectedly over the weekend.

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:
 - 2.1 Minutes of the December 7, 2015 School Committee Meeting
 - 2.2 Bills
 - A) Regular Bill invoices totaling \$360,402.16
 - B) Prepaid Checks from December 7, 2015 through December 18, 2015 totaling \$40,093.00.
 - 2.3 Appointments
 - A) Kimberly Saccoia, .6 Pre-K Special Education Teacher, Anna McCabe, for the remainder of the 2015-2016 school year only, effective January 4, 2016, pending receipt of the RI Department of Education Emergency Certification in Early Childhood Special Education Birth through Grade 2.
 - B) Katherine Melo, Special Education Paraprofessional, Gallagher Middle School, for the remainder of the 2015-2016 school year only, effective January 4, 2016.
 - 2.4 Resignations
 - A) John Sayles, Volunteer Assistant Hockey Coach, High School, effective immediately.
 - 2.5 Approval of salary scale & benefit for the Director of Special Education Position

Mrs. Harnois seconded the motion. The motion to approve the consent agenda items passed with a 5-0 vote.

3. HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

Student Representative Ryan Strik reported:

- The high school's annual Winter Palooza is on Tuesday. Events scheduled include an ugly sweater day, and a "pie in the face contest". For the pie contest, spare change has been collected throughout the high school for the high school's three administrators. The administrator with the highest number of coins collected will receive a pie in the face. Students will gather in the auditorium for the contest on Tuesday.
- Winter break begins on Wednesday, December 23rd.
- Ryan expressed heartfelt sentiments for his fellow classmate, Dan DiChiara.

4. Mrs. Young was present with the high school chorus. The students performed holiday songs for the Committee.
5. Mr. Barrows moved to table a discussion and a vote upon whether to go out to bid for a snow blower attachment. Mrs. Cipriano seconded the motion. The motion to table passed with a 5-0 vote.
6. Mrs. Cipriano moved to table a discussion and a vote upon whether to allow the town to remove snow from the sidewalks on Pleasant View Avenue. Mr. Barrows seconded the motion. The motion to table passed with a 5-0 vote.

7. COMMUNICATIONS:

- A) A letter from the RI Foundation regarding an approved grant.

8. SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT:

- Mr. O’Brien announced that the Rhode Island Society of Technology Educators (RISTE) has selected Paul Barrette to receive the “International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE) Making IT happen” award. He congratulated Paul Barrette on receiving this prestigious award, and credited Paul for moving the district into the 21st century.
- Mr. O’Brien commended staff throughout the district for the support provided to students at the high school during the difficult time with the unexpected passing of Smithfield High School Junior Dan DiChiara.

9. PUBLIC FORUM:

None.

10. COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

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

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

At 7:28 p.m., Mrs. Cipriano moved to convene into Executive Session to discuss Matters pertaining to personnel: Discussion of Employee Contracts in accordance with the Open Meeting Act, RI General Laws 42-46-5(a)1. Mrs. Harnois seconded the motion. This requires an individual vote. The individual vote was 5-0 polled by Mr. Clough, Chair.

Returned to open session at 8:15 p.m. Motion to adjourn executive 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 Mrs. Cipriano; seconded by Mrs. Harnois. The motion passed with a 5-0 vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Petrone
Secretary