

**SMITHFIELD SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
TUESDAY, JANUARY 19, 2016 @ 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, 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:
 - 2.1 Minutes of the January 4, 2016 School Committee Meeting
 - 2.2 Bills
 - (A) Regular Bill invoices totaling \$370,786.30
 - (B) Prepaid Checks from January 4, 2016 through January 15, 2016 totaling \$41,114.55
 - (C) Lunch Bills totaling \$109,062.49
 - 2.3 Leave
 - (A) Michael Twohey, Guidance, High School, Medical, Intermittent days from 2/12/16 through 3/18/16.

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:** (See attached).
4. Mr. Clough called for a moment of silence for Smithfield High School Junior Daniel DiChiara, who passed away in December of 2015. Members of the SHS football team and their coaches were present, and Mr. O'Brien and the Committee congratulated the team for their accomplishment of winning the Super Bowl for the first time in Smithfield High School's history. Mr. O'Brien spoke to the team and to the coaches. He told the students that they will be remembered forever as the football team that made history at Smithfield High School and that their fellow friend and teammate Daniel DiChiara will also be remembered forever. Coach Chris Branch and the assistant coaches were present and each spoke highly about the team. Coach Branch added that some of the team members had prior commitments and were not present tonight. A photographer from Mare Studios was present to take a group picture of the football team, coaches, and the school committee.
5. Mrs. Heenan moved that a request for the school lunch prices be increased for the 2016-2017 school year as follows: Elementary: Increase \$.10 to \$2.60 per meal; Secondary: Increase \$.10 to \$2.70 per meal. Mrs. Cipriano seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 5-0 vote. Mr. O'Brien told the Committee that this is in accordance with federal regulations. John McGrath along with Aramark's new representative for Smithfield, Donna Humphries, were present to answer questions. Ms. Humphries will be replacing Genevieve Ciullo as the food service director for Smithfield.

6. Mr. Robert Civetti was present to give a presentation on the School Department's 2014-2015 audit report. Mr. Civetti went over the financial statements and answered questions that the Committee members had. Mr. Civetti reviewed the Balance Sheets and went over the Notes to the Financial Statements pages. In conclusion, Mr. Civetti said overall the school department and the town were in compliance with federal regulations. Mr. Civetti noted that again this year, the School Department did not have a Management Letter. He warned that the school department's fund balance is getting low. He noted that the school department has a great business office that does a great job balancing the budget. Mr. O'Brien added that Lisa Cournoyer has the monumental task of being charged with the district's budgeting and credited Mrs. Cournoyer for the work that she does for the district. Mr. O'Brien and the Committee thanked Lisa Cournoyer and the staff for a job well done.
7. Mrs. Cipriano moved to table to discuss and act upon a request from Palagis Ice Cream Co. to consider allowing the sale of ice cream and frozen lemonade on school property at times that would not interfere with the school day. Mr. Barrows seconded the motion. The motion to table passed with a 5-0 vote. Mr. Clough noted the gentlemen from Palagis Ice Cream Co. (Alex Arteaga) was unable to make the meeting tonight.
8. Mrs. Heenan moved that the updates to the high school proficiency based graduation requirements policy be approved. Mrs. Cipriano seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 5-0 vote. Mr. Kelley and Mr. Hassell were present to discuss the changes and answered questions that the Committee had. Mr. Hassell gave a brief overview of the changes. He said the policy was updated to reflect the state assessments timetable as determined by the RI Board of Education.
9. Mr. O'Brien and Mrs. Morisseau gave an update on the District's Strategic Plan and answered questions from the Committee. Mr. O'Brien told the Committee that a column called "progress to date" has been added to the plan. He spoke about the progress made to date. He said a budget column has been added, but the numbers need to be updated. When the numbers are updated the plan will be posted on the district's website. Mr. O'Brien reviewed each of the goals in the strategic plan and Mrs. Morisseau answered questions the Committee had on specific goals. Mr. Barrette was present to elaborate on the technology progress to date. Minor suggestions from Committee members will be incorporated into the plan.

10. COMMUNICATIONS:

- A) A copy of a list of meeting dates for 2016 that includes the meeting dates of the Smithfield Town Council, the School Committee and the Financial Review Commission.

11. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

1. Mr. O'Brien congratulated Mr. Michael Deslauriers and the student members of SHS's App Inventor Club for winning "Best in State" in the Verizon Innovative App Challenge that they participated in. The Verizon App challenge is a national competition open to any school and more than 1200 app concepts were submitted. Students were challenged to design a mobile app concept that addresses a need or problem in their local community. The five students that are part of the SHS App Inventor Club won a \$5,000 grant and each member won a tablet. Mr. O'Brien told the Committee that the team will now be in the running for the App Challenge "Fan Favorite" award. To win, their concept needs to get the most votes. Supporters can help the team win by texting LOCALAPP1 to 22333 by January 31st. The team that wins the fan favorite category will receive a \$15,000 prize.

2. Mr. O'Brien told the Committee about two sponsorship letters created for the HS 50th Celebration Event. One letter has been created for local business owners, and one is for SHS Alumni. He said the intent of the letters is to facilitate sponsors and to create awareness for the HS 50th Event in September. Mr. O'Brien also provided the Committee with information and the documents needed for anyone wishing to submit nominations for the Sentinel Hall of Fame. These documents will be posted on the district's website. He also shared with the Committee a draft copy of a design for a sign that he is working on for the HS 50th Celebration Event that is to be displayed in front of each school and town businesses. He added that he has permission from Peter Scorpio from the town hall to post the signs.
3. Mr. O'Brien reminded the Committee that there is a joint meeting with the town council scheduled for Tuesday, January 26th at 6:00 p.m. at the town hall. He said documents for this meeting will be uploaded to the school committee portal. He also reminded Committee members of a budget meeting scheduled at 6:00 p.m. before the next school committee meeting of February 1st.
4. Mr. O'Brien told the Committee that the new cafeteria tables are now in all elementary schools, and he is receiving positive feedback from the schools. He added that the round table design is working out well, and it brings an unanticipated positive social impact for the students.

12. PUBLIC FORUM: None.

13. COMMITTEE COMMENTS: Committee comment was made by Mr. Clough in regards to the discussion of the grounds merger with the town. He suggested that at the school committee meeting of 2/1st, the Committee discuss the outcome of the joint meeting that is scheduled with the town on January 26th.

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

At 8:20 p.m., Mrs. Cipriano moved to convene into Executive Session to discuss matter pertaining to: Collective Bargaining (negotiations) in accordance with the Open Meeting Act, RI General Laws 42-46-5(a)2.

Mr. Barrows seconded the motion. This requires an individual vote. The individual vote was 5-0 polled by Mr. Clough, Chair.

Returned to open session at 8:53 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 accept the Executive Session minutes of December 21, 2015. 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

Ryan Strik

Student Representative to the School Committee

Student Representative Report ~ SC Meeting 01-19-2016

1. This Friday, January 22nd is Smithfield High School's annual Winter Ball. This event is for all Smithfield High School Juniors and Seniors accompanied by their dates. It will run from 6:30-10:30pm at Rhodes on the Pawtuxet in Cranston, RI.
2. The second quarter and first semester come to an end next Tuesday January 26th. Students seem to be rushing to hand in those last minute assignments, and cram for exams running unofficially this week and next week.
3. The SHS Men's Basketball team continued their streak with a win over East Providence this past Saturday. With that win, they move to 6-0 in their division, and 9-0 overall. They look to keep their record perfect with an away game against Cranston West tonight.
4. Wristbands commemorating the late Dan DiChiara will be on sale indefinitely by the Senior Class government. They are green bands with gold lettering reading "Play for Dan" along with his football number, 65. They will be sold for \$2 per piece and the proceeds will go to the Dan DiChiara Memorial Scholarship Fund. To anyone interested in purchasing a bracelet, I will have them on me for the next meeting, as well as all day during the week.

~Thank you very much~