

**SMITHFIELD SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING  
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 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, 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.

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 19, 2016 School Committee Meeting
  - 2.2 Bills
    - A) Regular Bill invoices totaling \$147,166.75
    - B) Prepaid Checks from January 19, 2016 through January 29, 2016 totaling \$119,764.94
  - 2.3 Leave
    - A) Francis Palazzi, Special Education Teacher, High School, Medical, February 24, 2016 through April 28, 2016.

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. The Committee had a discussion in regards to a request from Alex Arteaga 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. O'Brien told the Committee that he does not recommend approval and this violates the district's wellness policy. He added that the only exception to the wellness policy is to have an approved organized special occasion through the PTO's. Mr. Alex Arteaga from Palagis Ice Cream Co. was present to answer questions. Committee members were in agreement with Mr. O'Brien. Mrs. Cipriano moved to uphold the Superintendent's recommendation to not allow the sale of ice cream and frozen lemonade on school property after school hours, unless it is an approved organized special occasion. Mrs. Harnois seconded the motion. The motion to uphold the Superintendent's recommendation passed with a 5-0 vote.

Public comment: Paul Brown, Rob Lombardi, Alex Brown

5. Mrs. Cipriano moved that the maintenance of grounds Memorandum of Understanding between the Smithfield School District and the Smithfield Public Works/Parks Department be approved. Mr. Barrows seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 5-0 vote. This memorandum spells out what would be done with the merger, as well as things that are excluded, such as capital purchases. Mr. O'Brien clarified that because capital items are excluded, housing aid reimbursement does not apply and will not be impacted by this. He told the Committee that there is a clause for an annual review in the Memorandum of Understanding. Mr. Mencucci was present to answer questions that the Committee had. Committee members noted the great working relationship Angelo has with the town's Director of Public Works, Seth Lemoine.

Public comment: Maxine Cavanagh

6. Mrs. Heenan moved that the high school Program of Studies be approved. Mrs. Harnois seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 5-0 vote. A copy of the new courses and the Program of Studies had been given to Committee members prior to the meeting in their packets. Mr. Hassell was present to review the new courses and to answer questions that the Committee had. Mr. Twohey was present and answered questions in regards to the PSAT's.
7. Mrs. Harnois moved that the 2015-2016 budget line item changes be approved. Mrs. Heenan seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 5-0 vote. A copy of the budget line item changes, along with a copy of the 2015-2016 budget had been given to Committee members in their packets prior to the meeting. Mrs. Cournoyer answered questions the Committee had.
8. The Committee had a discussion about a request from the town to consider organizing a student group to volunteer their services for aiding residents in need with snow removal. Mr. O'Brien told the Committee members that the Trust had been notified to see if the school department would have coverage in the event a student is injured or hurt while shoveling snow in a school run volunteer program. He said the Trust said students are not covered for injury to themselves while shoveling or otherwise involved in the function. If this were to take place, student volunteers would have to participate at their own risk.

**9. COMMUNICATIONS:**

- A) A copy of the Schedule of Events for the High School 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration

**10. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:**

- A) Mr. O'Brien congratulated Anna McCabe's Pre-K team on receiving a Four Stars rating from BrightStars. (By becoming BrightStars-rated, early care, education, and afterschool programs show that they are committed to quality. A-4 Star rating recognizes that the program is compliant in all critical areas of state licensing requirements and exceeds higher quality standards).
- B) Mr. O'Brien said there will soon be signs posted around town for the High School 50<sup>th</sup> Celebration Event. He said he's in the process of getting the permits from the town to display the signs throughout the town.

**11. PUBLIC FORUM:** None.

**12. COMMITTEE COMMENTS:** Committee comment made by Mr. Clough and Mrs. Harnois regarding the Governor's visit to the high school on Monday. Mrs. Heenan congratulated Gallagher's Girls' Basketball team on their undefeated status this season.

**13. EXECUTIVE SESSION:** None.

At 8:02 p.m., motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Barrows; seconded by Mrs. Cipriano. The motion to adjourn passed with a 5-0 vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Petrone  
Secretary

## Student Representative Report

Smithfield School Committee Meeting: 01 February 2016

Ryan Strik-Student Representative to the School Committee

1. Today, The Governor of Rhode Island Gina Raimondo along with Rhode Island Commissioner of Education Dr. Ken Wagner sat before a Smithfield High School Pre-Calculus class. Governor Raimondo explained to a class of about 28 students, district administrators, and about 15 news outlets her plan for SAT and PSAT in RI. She announced her proposal of free testing for all Rhode Island 10th and 11th graders next year. The Governor told us that she chose Smithfield High School due to the fact that Smithfield has the highest participation rates in these two tests in the State. As a senior who took the SAT's a fair amount of times...I just missed the subsidized cutoff. The Governor and Commissioner then visited our Engineering Academy and Mr. Kelley highlighted our CTE programs at the school.
2. There will be no school February 15th for Presidents day, and 16th for Professional Development throughout the Smithfield School District.
3. The academy of finance will be hosting their open house on February 10th 2016 from 6-9pm. The evening will consist of multiple information sessions regarding the academy and its wonderful opportunities. All freshmen and their family members are encouraged to attend, along with any student interested in joining.
4. Just a sports recap from the weekend. Unfortunately, The SHS Boys basketball team was handed their first loss by Classical Friday Night, bringing their record to 9-1. The Girls Basketball team also fell to Portsmouth 44-51. The Boys hockey team fell to La Salle 3-1. And some bright news out of the weekend, the Boys wrestling team conquered Mount Pleasant 51-30.
5. Bracelets benefiting the Daniel DiChiara Scholarship Fund will continue to be on sale indefinitely. In addition to being on sale at the High School, Senior Class Council members will be at Gallagher Middle School on Thursday and Friday of this week to sell during their lunch period. I have also brought bracelets with me tonight for anyone wanting to make a donation. Simply see me at the conclusion of this meeting. They are \$2 per piece and 100% of the proceeds go to the scholarship fund.