

**SMITHFIELD SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
MONDAY, OCTOBER 17, 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, Benjamin Scungio, Esq. School Committee/School Department Attorney. Absent: Joseph Baxter, Representative to the School Committee. Mr. Clough called the meeting to order at 7:03 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
 - A) Minutes of the October 3, 2016 School Committee Meeting
 - 2.2 Bills
 - A) Regular Bill invoices totaling \$235,843.68
 - B) Prepaid Checks from October 4, 2016 through October 14, 2016 totaling \$269,265.99
 - 2.3 Leaves
 - A) Carlton Bradshaw, Reading Teacher, Middle School, Family Medical, November 30, 2016 through December 9, 2016
 - B) Samantha Armstrong, Science Teacher, High School, Maternity, March 13, 2017 through May 5, 2017
 - C) Tomas Gruczka, Physical Education Teacher, Old County Road School, Extension of Parental Leave, October 17, 2016 through December 2, 2016
 - D) Dorothy Corbeille, Special Education Teacher, McCabe, Medical, November 7, 2016 through November 22, 2016

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

3. HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT:

A high school student representative was not present.

4. Mrs. Heenan moved that a request for a decrease in rental fees from Marie K. Jennison Studios be approved. Mrs. Harnois seconded the motion.

Mr. O'Brien reminded the Committee that in April of 2016, the district's use of facilities policy had been revised. The revised policy includes an increase in rental fees for organizations that are for-profit. He said Marie K. Jennison School of Dance has rented the high school auditorium for a number of years as a for-profit organization, but the Jennison dance school also includes Excite Dance Company, which is a non-profit organization.

April Whitecross from the dance studio was present to answer questions the Committee had. She explained that after a close review of the district's use of facilities policy, she realized that there is a separate fee for non-profit organizations, and a portion of her company (Excite Dance) is non-profit, therefore, prompting her to request a decrease in rental fees. Mr. O'Brien informed the Committee that fifty percent of the production will fall under non-profit, so a

reduction in rental fees would be appropriate. After a discussion about the for-profit fees vs. the fee for non-profit organizations, and the need for consistency and fairness going forward with similar requests, the Committee agreed to reduce the rental fees for Jennison to utilize the high school auditorium based upon the fact that at least half of the Jennison group falls under the non-profit category. Mrs. Cipriano made a motion to accept a change in rental fees to \$2,500 for Marie K. Jennison Dance Studio for use of the high school auditorium. Mr. Barrows seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 5-0 vote.

5. Mrs. Heenan moved that the installation of four (4) new retractable basketball backboards for the high school gymnasium be awarded to R.H. Lord Co. in the amount of \$20,432.00. Mrs. Harnois seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 5-0 vote. Mr. O'Brien told the Committee that Mr. Mencucci has received two proposals for the backboards. R.H. Lord submitted the lowest proposal and is on the MHEC contractor listing for the town. He added that with this approval, there will be approximately \$91,802 left in the school department's capital account.

6. COMMUNICATIONS: None.

7. **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:** Mr. O'Brien alerted the Committee of additional costs in Special Educational needs for the district. He said the district would most likely need to add two new Special Education teacher positions and two new Paraprofessional positions due to an increase in student needs in the district. Mrs. Crudele added that these positions are necessary due to the identified needs of about 21 new students in the district that require special instruction to their schooling. Mr. O'Brien added that the money for these positions is not in the budget.

8. **PUBLIC FORUM:** Dan Kelley thanked Bob Kane and the town's grounds crew for the tremendous amount of work they have done on the fields.

9. COMMITTEE COMMENTS: None.

10. **EXECUTIVE SESSION:** (Closed) pursuant to RI General Laws Section 42-46-5(a).
At 7:26 p.m., Mrs. Harnois moved to convene into Executive Session to discuss matters pertaining to personnel in accordance with the Open Meeting Act, RI General Laws 42-46-5(a)1.

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 8:00 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. Harnois moved to seal the minutes of the Executive Session. Mrs. Heenan seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 5-0 vote.

Mrs. Harnois moved to accept the Executive Session minutes of August 1, 2016. Mrs. Cipriano 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