

**SMITHFIELD SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
MONDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2016 @ 7:00 P.M.
SMITHFIELD SENIOR CENTER COMMUNITY ROOM
MINUTES**

Members present: Mr. Sean Clough, Chair, Mr. Brent Barrows, Vice-Chair, Mrs. Virginia Harnois, Secretary, Mrs. Rose Marie Cipriano and Mrs. Cheryl Hirst-Hodgins. Also present were Mr. Robert O'Brien, Superintendent, Mrs. Bridget Morisseau, Assistant Superintendent, Mrs. Lisa Cournoyer, Director of Financial Services, Mr. Benjamin Scungio, Esq. School Committee/School Department Attorney. Mr. Scungio called the meeting to order at 7:17 p.m.

Reorganization of the School Committee:

Mr. Scungio called for nominations for Chairperson of the School Committee. Mr. Barrows moved to nominate Mr. Clough to Chairperson. Mrs. Cipriano seconded the motion. Mr. Scungio called for other nominations for Chairperson. There were no other nominations to the position of Chairperson. The motion passed with a 5-0 vote. Mr. Clough thanked his colleagues for the nomination to the position of Chairperson and thanked everyone for their continued support.

Mr. Scungio turned the meeting over to Mr. Clough.

Mr. Clough called for nominations for Vice-Chairperson of the School Committee. Mrs. Cipriano moved to nominate Mr. Barrows to Vice-Chairperson. Mrs. Harnois seconded the motion. Mr. Clough called for other nominations for Vice-Chairperson. There were no other nominations to the position of Vice-Chairperson. The motion passed with a 5-0 vote. Mr. Barrows thanked his colleagues for nominating him to the position of Vice-Chairman.

Mr. Clough called for nominations for Secretary of the School Committee. Mr. Barrows moved to nominate Mrs. Harnois to Secretary. Mrs. Cipriano seconded the motion. Mr. Clough called for other nominations for Secretary. There were no other nominations to the position of Secretary. The motion passed with a 5-0 vote.

Mr. Clough removed agenda item 1.1 (A) Approval of Minutes of the November 21, 2016 School Committee Meeting from the Consent Agenda.

1. Mrs. Cipriano moved to approve Consent Agenda Items:
 - 1.2 Bills
 - A) Regular Bill invoices totaling \$103,487.32
 - B) Prepaid Checks from November 21, 2016 through December 2, 2016 totaling \$126,586.46
 - 1.3 Resignations
 - A) Donna Macksound, Special Education Teacher, high school, 33 years of service, effective June 30, 2017.
 - B) Derek Snow, Boys Tennis Coach, Spring Season, high school, effective immediately.
 - C) Adam Johnson, Unified Basketball Coach, Spring Season, high school, effective immediately.

1.4 Leaves

- A) Jennifer King, Psychologist, McCabe & LaPerche, extension of maternity leave from November 21, 2016 through December 30, 2016.
- B) Sandra Wyrwal, Special Education, LaPerche, extension of medical leave from November 28, 2016 through December 20, 2016.

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

Mrs. Cipriano moved to approve Consent Agenda Item:

1.1 Minutes

- A) Minutes of the November 21, 2016 School Committee Meeting

Mrs. Harnois seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 4-0 vote. Mrs. Hirst-Hodgins abstained from the vote.

2. Mr. Barrows moved to approve the district's compensation policy. Mrs. Cipriano seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 5-0 vote.
The Committee did a first reading at the last school committee meeting. Mr. O'Brien informed the Committee that the policy had been reviewed by the district's attorney. The objective of the policy is to establish parameters under which the Superintendent shall recommend appropriate compensation and benefits packages for current and future Administrators. There was discussion about whether or not the policy was used in other districts and if it is required by state law for districts to have a compensation policy. Mr. Scungio told the Committee that he is not aware if other districts have a compensation policy. He said in the past in Smithfield, there had been questions on how Administrators in the district are compensated. He made note that when the Smithfield School Department had a performance audit many years ago, it was determined that Administrators were not being paid adequately with neighboring districts.
Mr. Scungio added that this is a good policy for the district to have. The policy will give guidance to the School Committee and Superintendent and it will provide transparency. Mr. O'Brien told the Committee that residents will be able to access the policy at any time to see what the criteria is to see what appropriate salary scale would be for Administrators.
3. Mrs. Cipriano moved to approve an update to the district's student busing policy. Mr. Barrows seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 5-0 vote.
Mr. O'Brien informed the Committee that the only change to the policy was the removal of special instructions for am/pm kindergarten. He told the Committee that the old policy spoke about half-day and mid-day kindergarten bus runs, which no longer applies because the district now has all day kindergarten.
4. Mrs. Cipriano moved to approve to develop a RFP for the installation of a chairlift at the administration building. Mr. Barrows seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 5-0 vote. Mr. O'Brien told the Committee that the current chairlift at the administration building only goes to the main level and the new chairlift will allow access to the third floor where Special Education is located. He informed the Committee that this is not eligible for state reimbursement. The approximate cost for a chairlift would be around \$65,000, versus an elevator in an approximate range of \$200,000-300,000.

5. COMMUNICATIONS: None.

6. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

A) Mr. O'Brien proposed the following dates for School Committee budget workshops: February 6, 13 and 27, with final approval on the meeting of the 27th. He told the Committee if additional meetings are needed, they can be scheduled the week of February 6th or February 13th. Mr. Clough suggested holding off on scheduling budget workshops until the annual school committee calendar is approved.

B) Mr. O'Brien informed the Committee that teacher negotiations will be upcoming soon.

7. PUBLIC FORUM: None.

8. COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

The RIASC annual School Committee 101 session was held on Saturday, December 3, 2016, at the Crowne Plaza. Committee members stated the session was very informative. Mr. Scungio had presented at the session and Committee members expressed their gratitude for a job well done.

At 7:42 p.m. motion to adjourn was made by Mrs. Harnois; seconded by Mrs. Barrows. The motion passed with a 5-0 vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Petrone
Secretary