

**SMITHFIELD SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING  
TUESDAY, JANUARY 3, 2017 @ 7:00 P.M.  
HIGH SCHOOL MEDIA CENTER  
MINUTES**

Members present: Mr. Sean Clough, Chair, Mr. Brent Barrows, Vice-Chair, Mrs. Virginia Harnois, Secretary, and Mrs. Rose Marie Cipriano. Absent: Mrs. Cheryl Hirst-Hodgins. Also present were Mr. Robert O'Brien, Superintendent, Mrs. Bridget Morisseau, Assistant Superintendent, Mrs. Lisa Cournoyer, Director of Financial Operations, Mrs. Eileen Crudele, Director of Special Education and Mr. Benjamin Scungio, Esq. School Committee/School Department Attorney. 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
    - A) Minutes of the December 19, 2016 School Committee Meeting
  - 2.2 Bills
    - A) Regular Bill invoices totaling \$106,919.06
    - B) Prepaid Checks from December 19, 2016 through December 30, 2016 totaling \$126,978.84
  - 2.3 Appointments
    - A) Georgia Elgar, Volunteer Assistant Girls Indoor Track Coach, Winter Season.
  - 2.4 Leaves:
    - A) Melissa Gershon, Medical, Speech Language Pathologist, OCRS, January 20, 2017 through March 17, 2017.

Mrs. Harnois seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 4-0 vote.

**3. HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT:**

A student representative was not present.

4. Mr. Barrows moved that the replacement of the Energy Management System at Smithfield High School be awarded to Sarra Corporation for \$12,490.00. Mrs. Cipriano seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 4-0 vote.

Mr. O'Brien informed the Committee that the high school was subject to an electrical surge on November 6<sup>th</sup> that caused damage to the Energy Management System that controls heat and cooling at the high school. He said Mr. Mencucci received two quotes to replace the controls and Sarra Corporation was the lowest quote. Sarra Corporation is on the State Master Price Agreement. Mr. Mencucci was present to answer questions that the Committee had.
5. Mr. O'Brien informed the Committee of an Educational Vision Workshop that is scheduled in February for the Elementary Reconfiguration Committee. The workshop, facilitated by Dr. Frank Locker, who is a national expert in planning public schools, will be held at the high school media center on February 13<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup> from 8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. Participants will include Smithfield citizens, educators, and students, to help build a foundation for the facilities master

planning process. Mr. O'Brien told the Committee that in February, he hopes to go out for RFP for stage two so the Reconfiguration Committee can look at possible options for Elementary Facilities based on the Educational Visioning. He added that there also will be a community meeting on February 27, 2017 to get feedback from the community. Lastly, in March, the Reconfiguration Committee would work with an architect to develop a few options with drawings and cost analysis to present to the School Committee.

6. Mr. Barrows moved that the Committee discuss and act upon going out to bid for a company to assist in a search for a new Superintendent. Mrs. Cipriano seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 4-0 vote. The Committee had a discussion about the necessity to hire a firm to help facilitate the process of acquiring a new Superintendent. School Committee members concurred that it would be a good idea to go out to RFP to bring in an outside firm to assist the district and give input on the district's needs, and to help narrow down applicants.

**7. COMMUNICATIONS:** None.

8. **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:** Mr. O'Brien told the Committee that on January 13<sup>th</sup>, at 10:00 a.m., the news media will be in Smithfield with the RI Foundation to present grant awards. He said that Smithfield was two of only fifteen schools that were selected to receive innovation grants from the RI Foundation. The grants are expected to be approximately \$5,000 for each school.

**9. PUBLIC FORUM:** None.

**10. COMMITTEE COMMENTS:** None.

**11. EXECUTIVE SESSION:** None.

At 7:25 p.m. motion to adjourn was made by Mrs. Cipriano; seconded by Mr. Barrows. The motion passed with a 4-0 vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Petrone  
Secretary