

**SMITHFIELD SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
TUESDAY, MARCH 28, 2017 @ 6:30 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. Also present were Mr. Robert O'Brien, Superintendent, Mrs. Eileen Crudele, Director of Special Education, Mr. Benjamin Scungio, Esq. School Committee/School Department Attorney and Student Representative Joe Baxter. Absent: Mrs. Cheryl Hirst-Hodgins, Mrs. Bridget Morisseau, and Mrs. Lisa Cournoyer, Director of Financial Operations. Mr. Clough called the meeting to order at 6:40 pm.

I. OPEN SESSION

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.

II. EXECUTIVE SESSION (Closed) pursuant to RI General Laws Section 42-46-5(a) At 6:42 p.m., Mrs. Harnois moved to convene into Executive Session to discuss matters pertaining to:

1. Personnel: Employee contract in accordance with the Open Meeting Act, RI General Laws 42-46-5(a)1.
2. Personnel: Extension of catastrophic leave regarding teacher benefit. RIGL 42-46-5(a)(1).
3. Personnel: Catastrophic leave regarding teacher benefit. RIGL 42-46-5(a)(1).

Mrs. Cipriano seconded the motion. This requires an individual vote. The individual vote was 4-0 polled by Mr. Clough, Chair.

III. Returned to open session at 7:00 p.m.

1. Mr. Clough reported that there were no votes taken in executive session.
2. Mrs. Cipriano moved to seal the minutes of the Executive Session. Mrs. Harnois seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 4-0 vote.
3. Mrs. Cipriano moved to approve Consent Agenda Items:
 - 3.1 Minutes:
 - A) Minutes of the March 7, 2017 School Committee Meeting
 - 3.2 Bills:
 - A) Regular Bill invoices totaling \$378,972.68
 - B) Prepaid Checks from March 7, 2017 through March 24, 2017 totaling \$218,702.74
 - C) Lunch Bills totaling \$51,516.86
 - 3.3 Appointments pending submission of required coaching documents
 - A) Ryan Wakim, Volunteer Assistant Baseball Coach, High School, 2017 Spring Season
 - B) Scott Bouchard, Volunteer Assistant Girls Lacrosse Coach, High School, 2017 Spring Season
 - C) Michael Costa, Volunteer Assistant Softball Coach, High School, 2017 Spring Season
 - D) James Connell Jr., Volunteer Assistant Baseball Coach, High School, 2017 Spring Season
 - 3.4 Resignations:
 - A) Andrea Dewhirst, Field Hockey Coach, High School, effective fall 2017-2018

season.

3.5 Approval of extension of catastrophic leave regarding teacher benefit

3.6 Approval of catastrophic leave regarding teacher benefit

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

4. HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT:

Student representative Joe Baxter reported:

- Portfolio validations are currently taking place for the high school seniors.
- On Wednesday, March 29th, from 6pm - 8pm the World Language Dept. dinner event will be taking place in the high school cafeteria.
- Thursday, March 30th the Academy of Finance will be having a fundraiser at Five Guys restaurant. 15% of sales will go back to the high school's Academy of Finance Dept.
- Friday, March 31st, Unified Basketball will be taking place at the high school at noontime.
- Honors night will be on Sunday, April 2nd.

5. Mr. Barrows moved to approve the district's policy of service animals in school. Mrs. Cipriano seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 4-0 vote.

The Committee did a first reading at the last school committee meeting, there were no further changes.

6. Mrs. Harnois moved to discuss and approve an extension of the Superintendent's contract until the end of August. Mrs. Cipriano seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 4-0 vote. There are currently three major projects that involve the Superintendent and the Committee members of which include the Elementary Reconfiguration, teacher negotiations, and the transition of a new Superintendent. Mr. Clough stated that he is recommending approval of an extension to the Superintendent's contract to allow Mr. O'Brien to complete these important initiatives and to continue the teacher negotiation process to completion. He said the Committee is under a strict timeline by RIDE for the Stage II and Elementary Reconfiguration and that during the summer, the Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent would need to work with the architect and the Elementary Reconfiguration Committee in order to finalize and present two or three Elementary Reconfiguration options to the School Committee in September. The Committee is most appreciative that Mr. O'Brien is willing to stay until the end of August to assist with these projects.

7. Mrs. Cipriano moved to approve of the RFP for architectural services for RIDE stage 2. Mr. Barrows seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 4-0 vote.

Mr. O'Brien told the Committee that the district needs to have an architect hired by May in order to meet the strict timeline to get approval by RIDE to bond in 2018. Mr. Mencucci was present and answered questions that committee members had.

8. Mr. Barrows moved to discuss and approve of the 2017-2018 Capital Projects. Mrs. Cipriano seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 4-0 vote.

Mr. O'Brien told the Committee that the Capital Projects list needs to be approved by the School Committee so if the Town Council sets aside Capital money, some of the projects can be done during the summer. The Committee discussed priorities of the Capital list. Mr. Mencucci addressed some concerns and answered questions that the Committee had. The Committee expressed an interest in scheduling another joint meeting with the Town Council to determine how expenditures will be handled.

Public comment: Alex Brown

9. Mrs. Harnois moved to approve of the renewal of Mare Studios as the school photographer for the 2017-2018 school year. Mrs. Cipriano seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 4-0 vote. Mr. O'Brien reminded the Committee that Mare was awarded the bid last year with the option to renew this year based on performance.
10. Mrs. Harnois moved to approve the district's 2017-2018 school calendar. Mrs. Cipriano seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 4-0 vote.
11. Mrs. Cipriano moved to discuss and act upon cancelling the April 3, 2017 school committee meeting and authorization of payment of bills through April 7, 2017. Mr. Barrows seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 4-0 vote. Mr. O'Brien told the Committee that because the meeting of April 3rd is so close to the meeting of March 28th, there only a few days between school committee meetings to write an agenda. The next school committee meeting will be on April 24, 2017.

12. COMMUNICATIONS

- A) A copy of the town's budget summary report for fiscal year 2017.
- B) A copy of a report on applying agreed-upon procedures on compliance with the UCOA (Uniform Chart of Accounts) for fiscal year 2016.

13. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

1. The School Committee will be meeting with Mr. Kelley on Saturday, April 29th from 8:00 a.m. until 12:00 pm at the high school.

14. PUBLIC FORUM: High School students Alex Brown and Alyssa Ambrosino addressed the Committee about issues with the lighting and sound in the high school auditorium.

15. COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Topic</u>
Mrs. Cipriano	High School lighting and sound
Mrs. Harnois	High School lighting and sound
Mr. Clough	Resolution on gun free schools

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

At 7:49 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.

Mrs. Harnois seconded the motion. This requires an individual vote. The individual vote was 4-0 polled by Mr. Clough, Chair.

Returned to open session at 8:45 p.m. Mrs. Cipriano moved to seal the minutes of the Executive Session. Mrs. Harnois seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 4-0 vote.

Motion to adjourn was made by Mrs. Cipriano; seconded by Mrs. Harnois. The motion passed with a 4-0 vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Petrone
Secretary