

**SMITHFIELD SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING  
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2017 @ 7:00 PM  
SMITHFIELD HIGH SCHOOL MEDIA CENTER  
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: Dr. Judith Paolucci, Superintendent, Dr. Sara Monaco, Assistant Superintendent, Mrs. Lisa Cournoyer, Director of Financial Operations, Mrs. Eileen Crudele, Director of Special Education, Mr. Benjamin Scungio, Esq. School Committee/School Department Attorney and Interim Student Representative Bryce Maroni. Mr. Clough called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

1. Mr. Clough read the Emergency Evacuation and Health Notification.
2. Mrs. Cipriano moved to convene Executive Session pursuant to RI General Laws 42-46-5(a)(1) Personnel: Consideration of request for extension of catastrophic leave. Mrs. Hodgins seconded the motion. This requires an individual vote. The individual vote was 5-0 polled by Mr. Clough, Chair.
3. Executive Session: (Closed) pursuant to RI General Laws Section 42-46-5(a). Motion to adjourn executive session made by Mr. Barrows. Mrs. Harnois seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 5-0 vote.

Returned to open session at 7:22 p.m. Mr. Clough reported there were votes taken in Executive Session to approve and seal Executive Session Minutes. Mrs. Cipriano moved to approve and seal the Executive Session Minutes of October 16, 2017 and November 6, 2017. Mrs. Harnois seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 5-0 vote.

4. Mrs. Cipriano moved to approve Consent Agenda Items:
  - 4.1 Minutes:
    - A) Open Minutes of the November 6, 2017 School Committee Meeting
  - 4.2 Bills:
    - A) Regular Bills totaling \$206,425.09
    - B) Prepaid Checks from November 6, 2017 through November 17, 2017 totaling \$353,765.00
  - 4.3 Resignations:
    - A) Sydney Champeau, cheerleading coach, high school, effective November 9, 2017.
  - 4.4 Renewal of employee contracts
    - A) Daniel Kelley, Julie Dorsey, Laurie Sullivan, Linda Murphy, Brian Ackerman, Eileen Crudele, three years
  - 4.5 Non-renewal of employee contract
    - A) Tammy Koller
  - 4.6 Approval of extension of catastrophic leave regarding employee benefit

Mrs. Harnois seconded the motion to approve consent agenda items. The motion passed with a 5-0 vote.

## 5. HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

High school junior vice-president Bryce Maroni reported that he will be the interim student representative for this school year. He informed the Committee that next school year he will be fulfilling the role of student representative to the school committee. Bryce reported on the success of the coffee shop that is put on by the students and faculty of the FBLA. The coffee shop is open before school from 6:55 am - 7:25 am and after school from 1:45 pm - 2:15 pm. He also gave the Committee an update of events of the Rotary Interact Club at the high school that is sponsored by the Smithfield Rotary Club. The Interact Club consists of students who seek out to give back to their community through service work and donations. Last month, the club met with Veterans from the community and recently sent donations through Alex & Ani to Puerto Rico.

### 6. Discussion of Jason Learning Program funding.

Dr. Beauvais informed the Committee of an opportunity provided to the middle school by Jason Project Leaders to increase participation with the Jason Project. Dr. Beauvais presented the proposal to the Committee for consideration and gave an overview and history of the Jason Project. Gallagher Middle School would be one of 26 districts across the country to participate with the Jason Project initiative. The cost of participation is \$30,000 per year for 3 years. Several middle science teachers that included Mrs. Carter, Mrs. Ramos, Mrs. Ripley, and Mr. Altomari, along with Mr. Burns from Gallagher Middle School were present to speak about the Jason Project. Dr. Paolucci told the Committee that the district has made significant investments in elementary science curriculum materials over the past few years and has not done the same for middle school. She informed the Committee that she is recommending approval and has identified funds within the budget that are anticipated to be in surplus to pay for this program for this year. Dr. Paolucci will bring a funding plan and the next organizational steps for this project to the next school committee meeting.

### 7. Discussion of a plan for the replacement of McCabe basketball courts.

McCabe basketball courts planning Committee members David Russas and Al Costantino presented designs and a proposal of the scope of work for renovations to the McCabe basketball courts. They discussed options and shared the footprint of the basketball area that they had been working on with Studio Jaed architects. The footprint is proposed to fit within the general plan for renovations of McCabe Elementary School. Town Manager Randy Rossi was present to elaborate on the expansion of the plans. \$175,000 has been allocated by the town for the project. Consideration of concession stands and bathroom facilities were discussed as an area of concern.

### 8. The Committee did a first reading of the District's Wellness, Sexual Harassment, Teen Dating Violence & Sexual Assault and Dress Code policies.

These are policies that are replacing existing policies. Dr. Paolucci informed the Committee that the administrative team has been working on alignment with new laws, providing clear language, and separating some longer policies into separate, more concise policies. Dr. Monaco spoke about the changes to the Wellness policy. The policies will be brought back for a second reading and approval at the next school committee meeting.

Public comment: Eric Cardoso

### 9. Mr. Barrows moved to approve the RFP for Roland SG-300 TrueVIS Cutter/Printer. Mrs. Harnois seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 5-0 vote.

This is for a piece of equipment for the Industrial Technology department. Dr. Paolucci informed the Committee there is \$13,300 that is budgeted in the Perkins grant; the grant money will be used towards the purchase of the equipment.

10. Mrs. Harnois moved to approve the budget line item changes for 2017-2018. Mrs. Cipriano seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 5-0 vote. Mrs. Cournoyer was present to answer questions. Dr. Paolucci stated that the budget line item changes were necessary to keep up with the need for changes, and appropriate changes had been made where necessary.

**11. COMMUNICATIONS:**

A) A copy of the town's budget report summary for fiscal year 2017.

**12. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:**

Dr. Paolucci informed the Committee that the district is submitting a RIDE leadership grant, which if approved, the leadership team will be able to participate in training with the Center for Leadership and Educational Equity focused on using the collaborative practices of a professional learning community and shared leadership to increase excellence and equity in student outcomes. The grant funding would be approximately \$20,000 and would not require any additional funding by the district. She also announced Thanksgiving Recess reminders: There will be school on Wednesday, November 22<sup>nd</sup> and no school on Thursday, November 23<sup>rd</sup> and Friday, November 24<sup>th</sup> for the Thanksgiving break.

Dr. Monaco provided a report on the recent Professional Development Day in the district. She informed the Committee that the PD Committee had sent out a survey to the elementary schools to get feedback from staff on the PD offered and positive feedback was received. A secondary Professional Development Day is planned on December 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Dr. Monaco also informed the Committee that the Social Studies department has been accepted to present at New England Secondary School Consortium high school redesign conference taking place in Providence this March.

**13. PUBLIC FORUM:**

Kathryn Cortes: School district personnel complaint; concerns with discrepancies & inconsistencies in school policies; discrimination concerns.

Bryce Maroni: Upcoming signage display of full directory for the high school.

**14. COMMITTEE COMMENTS:** None.

Motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Barrows; seconded by Mrs. Cipriano. The motion passed with a 5-0 vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Petrone  
Secretary