

## **Minutes for Town of North Smithfield Planning Board**

### **Joint Meeting with the Budget Committee and School Committee**

**Kendall Dean School, 83 Green Street**

**Thursday, December 2, 2014, 6:30 PM**

**The Chair called the meeting to order at 6:33 pm.**

**1. Roll Call: Present: Cynthia Roberts, Gene Simone, Lucien Benoit and Dean Naylor. Also in attendance was Town Planner Robert Ericson, School Department staff, a quorum of School Committee members, and a quorum of Budget Committee members.**

**2. Capital Funding: NSSD Technology Plan: Discussion/Vote/Other Actions May Be Taken**

**Chairman Naylor moderated the joint meeting and confirmed that the other boards had opened their meeting. School department staff and three boards shared information and ideas.**

**School Superintendent Lindberg presented the technology plan. Chairman Naylor asked for a brief review of the March proposal and differences in the present proposal.**

**Curriculum Director Clare Arnold explained how PARCC tests are designed for computers and harder to take in paper form. The Town Council will hopefully act on Dec 15, because the School Department**

**must notify the state by Jan 1 that it will use computers for the testing.**

**She noted that collaboration is now a Common Core skill set that plays out in every subject, with additional capabilities expected at every grade level. Chromebooks and Google applications are the most cost-effective choices for cloud collaboration.**

**Mr. Naylor asked about professional development for technology. Ms. Arnold said teachers have been given instruction in Google Drive, Forms, etc, but this proposal does not include a professional development component.**

**Former Technology Director Eric Butash returned to present technology choices and answer questions with current Technology Director Adam Stanley. They discussed Chromebooks and Google applications.**

**School Committee Vice-Chair Chris Bonas, a guidance counselor in West Warwick, noted that school system has a Chromebook for every student. She said many other RI districts are heading toward one per student.**

**Mr. Ericson asked if the School Department provided brand, model and software specs for parents who wanted to give their children Chromebooks as holiday gifts. Mr. Butash replied that you cannot**

require parents to buy Chromebooks, so there's some hesitancy about actively encouraging parents.

Dr. Benoit asked whether additional money would come from the \$100,000 duct cleaning line item. Superintendent Lindberg said he received an air quality report in February that showed no problems other than excess CO2 in 14 of 65 tested locations. He proposed putting \$10,000 aside for analysis and initial cleaning of the ducts.

Mike Clifford noted that the Budget Committee has to consider competing needs in the Town within budget constraints. John Zambarano worked on a "scaled down" option that would provide enough Chromebooks for PARCC testing.

Dr. Benoit made a motion to approve the "scaled down" option (420 Chromebooks and 14 storage/charging carts) as the Planning Board's recommendation to the Town Council. Second by Gene Simone and all in favor (4-0, roll call vote). The Budget Committee then made the same motion, which passed 3-0.

3. Adjournment: Chairman Naylor noted that the Planning Board's business was completed. Mr. Simone moved to adjourn. Second by Dr. Benoit with all in favor (4-0). The Planning Board meeting ended at 7:46.

Submitted by Robert Ericson on December 3, 2014

**Approved by the Planning Board on December 18, 2015**