

Dighton~Rehoboth Regional District School Committee
Regular Meeting ~ August 13, 2013

A Regular Meeting of the Dighton~Rehoboth Regional School Committee was held on August 13, 2013, in the Dighton Middle School Library.

Present:

Christopher Andrade
Richard Barrett
Tiffany Bartholomew
Eliza Couture
Peter Hebda
Susan Lorenz
Raymond Medeiros
Timothy Rapoza
Janice Terry

Also:

Michael F. Malone, Interim Super. of Schools
Gail Van Buren, Asst. Superintendent of Schools
Kellie Partridge-Fagan, Recording Secretary

Absent:

David Katseff

Mr. Medeiros stated that the committee would enter into open session at 7:04 PM. Mr. Medeiros noted that this meeting would not be broadcast or video taped; however, meeting minutes will be available after School Committee approval.

Mr. Medeiros led the committee in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Agenda Item #3, Vote to Approve the Regular Session Minutes of June 25, 2013:

It was moved by Mrs. Lorenz, seconded by Mrs. Bartholomew, and VOTED to approve the minutes of the June 25, 2013 regular session.

VOTE ~ AYE ~ UNANIMOUS

Agenda Item #3, Vote to Approve the Special Meeting Minutes of June 18, 2013:

It was moved by Mrs. Lorenz, seconded by Mrs. Bartholomew, and VOTED to approve the minutes of the June 18, 2013 Special Meeting.

VOTE ~ AYE ~ UNANIMOUS

Agenda Item #3, Vote to Approve the Regular Session Minutes of June 11, 2013:

It was moved by Mrs. Lorenz, seconded by Mrs. Bartholomew, and VOTED to approve the minutes of the June 11, 2013 regular session, as amended.

VOTE ~ AYE ~ UNANIMOUS

Agenda Item #3, Vote to Approve the Special Meeting Minutes of May 29, 2013:

It was moved by Mrs. Lorenz, seconded by Mrs. Bartholomew, and VOTED to approve the minutes of the May 29, 2013 Special Meeting.

Dighton~Rehoboth Regional School Committee
Regular Meeting
August 13, 2013
Page 2

VOTE ~ AYE ~ UNANIMOUS

Agenda Item #3, Vote to Approve the Executive Session Minutes of April 25, 2013:

It was moved by Mrs. Lorenz, seconded by Mrs. Bartholomew, and VOTED to approve the minutes of the April 25, 2013 Executive Session.

VOTE ~ AYE ~ UNANIMOUS

Agenda Item #3, Vote to Approve the Executive Session Minutes of June 18, 2013 Special Meeting:

It was moved by Mrs. Lorenz, seconded by Mrs. Bartholomew, and VOTED to approve the Executive Session minutes of the June 18, 2013 Special Meeting.

VOTE ~ AYE ~ UNANIMOUS

Agenda Item #4, Vote to Approve the Bills and Payroll:

It was moved by Mrs. Bartholomew, seconded by Mrs. Terry, and VOTED to approve the bills and payroll as follows:

V #1	\$ 75,783.89
V #3	\$ 72,530.53
V #4	\$ 58,626.62
V #5	\$ 54,929.54
V #1000	\$ 443,791.49
V #1001	\$ 983,080.20
V #1002	\$ 649.13
V #1003	\$ 30,437.67
V #1004	\$ 871,047.67
V #1005	\$ 695.00
V #1006	\$ 20.63
V #1007	\$ 1,000.00
V #1008	\$1,045,708.29
V #1082	\$ 82,769.30
V #1083	\$ 358.60
V #1084	\$ 512,583.25
V #2000	\$ 444,522.62
V #2001	\$ 103,959.53
V #3000	\$ 432,345.78
V #3001	\$ 630.09
V #4000	\$ 415,160.84
V #4001	\$ 1,001.40

Dighton~Rehoboth Regional School Committee
Regular Meeting
August 13, 2013
Page 3

VOTE ~ AYE ~ UNANIMOUS

Agenda Item #5, Public input:

None at this time.

Agenda Item #6, Correspondence and Enclosures:

Included in the August 13, 2013 back-up were the following enclosures/correspondence: minutes of the June 25, 2013 regular meeting; minutes of the June 18, 2013 special meeting; minutes of the June 11, 2013 regular meeting; minutes of the May 29, 2013 Special Meeting; personnel update; residency policy waiver requests(s); current residency policy; home education plan requests; surplus equipment request; READS annual vote for Board of Directors district representative; donation requests; assessment letters to towns (vote of June 25, 2013); revised 2013-2014 School Committee meeting dates calendar; Beckwith Honor Roll; MA Public School Survey of Fees (as of June 30, 2013); MASC "Issues in School Governance" newsletter; Legislative Bulletin; and the Beckwith Chronicle.

Agenda Item #7a, Superintendent's Report:

Mr. Malone updated the committee on the following topics:

- An administrative meeting / full-day workshop was held on June 18, 2013;
- Mr. Malone will be meeting with all town officials in the coming weeks;
- The Pre-School Program
 - Mr. Riley reviewed the following, which outline the high school pre-school program groundwork for the coming school year:
 - classrooms are being modified
 - plumbing is finished ~ bathrooms built for each classroom
 - temporary partitions installed
 - painting has started
 - the high school will have a new thru-way/traffic flow plan behind the school to accommodate the pre-school program ~ this is for better parent/student access, pathways for students, handicapped access, etc.
 - signage being installed to assist with the traffic flow
 - classroom technology is being set up

Mr. Riley stated that this project is well under the original budgeted amount. The project, so far, has cost the district between \$50,000 - \$60,000.

Mrs. Lorenz asked if Mr. Riley had solid enrollment numbers. Mr. Riley noted that the final figures are not in yet; however, the program has room for expansion, if necessary. There are some rooms that are being used for storage at this time that can be used as classrooms in the future.

Dighton~Rehoboth Regional School Committee
Regular Meeting
August 13, 2013
Page 4

Mr. Riley stated that the Pre-School Open House will take place on September 06, 2013.

Mr. Malone continued the Superintendents Report:

- The proposed Multi-Age Program at Dighton Elementary School has been put on hold. Mr. Malone would like additional information (i.e. more research, parent input, staff input, applicable policies, etc.). Mr. Malone proposed a .5 kindergarten teacher be added at DES in lieu of implementing the Multi-Age Program.

Mrs. Terry addressed the committee regarding the multi-age teaching position that was proposed in the FY '14 budget. Mrs. Terry would have liked more information on this program, possibly through a School Committee presentation. Mr. Malone explained that the superintendent's office will be gathering additional information on this program over the next 6 months (program curriculum, timeframes, etc.). Mr. Malone will return to the committee with a formal presentation on the Multi-Age Program at a future meeting.

Mr. Andrade noted that there was no formal vote taken on this program; it was presented as a "pilot program".

Mrs. Bartholomew suggested that an informational presentation regarding the program also take place at Dighton Elementary School for parents, students, and community members.

Mr. Josh Beagan, Dighton parent, thanked the committee for their consideration on the Multi-Age Program.

Mr. Hebda also thanked Ms. Fullen for her research and assistance with the program.

Mr. Malone addressed the proposed foreign exchange student program at the high school. He would like to establish a relationship with an international education program consultant before accepting foreign exchange students at D~R. Such consultants could assist the district with creating relationships with foreign countries, host families, etc. The cost for a consultant would be approximately \$2,000.00. Mr. Malone will have continuing updates and presentations to the committee on this program.

Mrs. Couture asked if the district had previously participated in the foreign exchange student program. Mr. Malone stated that there have been some foreign exchange students here in the past; however, this has not been consistent. He explained that our policy states that the Superintendent approves the enrollment of any foreign exchange student.

Next, Mr. Malone reviewed the personnel update. He noted that the position of CTE Director will be temporarily filled with a retired school district employee, on a part-time basis. The district is not advertising for this position at this time. Mr. Malone suggested

Dighton~Rehoboth Regional School Committee
Regular Meeting
August 13, 2013
Page 5

that an outside consulting firm be hired to study our existing programs, and to investigate enhancing the current programs for CTE.

Mr. Andrade addressed the committee about procuring new programs for CTE. He stated that continued growth in our CTE department is critical. He also noted that our middle schools should be included in the 'education' of the CTE Program.

Mr. Medeiros stated that district needs to advertise for a full-time director. The CTE Program needs guidance at all times. Mr. Medeiros asked if the part-time director would be performing the teacher evaluations. Mr. Malone stated that Ms. Striano, DRRHS Principal, would be doing the teacher evaluations.

Mrs. Terry asked for a consensus to post the position of a full-time CTE Director as soon as possible. No consensus vote taken.

Mr. Medeiros asked if there are any current employees that would be working toward their licensure for the CTE Director's position. Mr. Malone explained that there are no current employees available at this time.

Mr. Malone stated that the district will be searching for an elementary school principal, as Mrs. Sandra Cummings has resigned. A search committee will be formed as soon as possible, and the position will be posted immediately.

Mr. Andrade addressed the committee regarding district-wide (staff, parents, etc.) emails. He feels that these types of emails should not be sent out, without the Superintendent's approval.

Mr. Malone gave an FY '14 budget update to the committee:

- Transportation funding is slightly higher this year
- Chapter 74 funding is slightly lower this year
- Title One funding is down slightly this year
- The 240 Grant (special education grant) will be down approximately \$50,000 this year. The Special Education Department will be looking at the district's contracted services, in order to decrease those costs

Agenda Item #8a, Residency Policy Waiver Requests:

Mr. Malone reviewed the Residency Policy waiver requests from Mr. & Mrs. Cote

Mr. & Mrs. Cote were present to answer questions regarding their request.

Dighton~Rehoboth Regional School Committee
Regular Meeting
August 13, 2013
Page 6

After committee discussion, Mr. Malone stated that he is recommending the policy waiver request for Mr. & Mrs. Cote.

Mr. Hebda noted that the Residency Policy itself needs to be reviewed by the Policy Subcommittee, for consistency within the policy.

It was moved by Mrs. Lorenz, seconded by Mrs. Bartholomew, and VOTED to approve a Residency Policy wavier request to Mr. & Mrs. Maurice Cote for: 562 Hart Street, Dighton, MA, 02715, residency to take place no later than November 30, 2013.

VOTE ~ AYE ~ UNANIMOUS

Mr. Malone reviewed the Residency Policy waiver requests from Mr. & Mrs. Gaetz.

Mr. Gaetz was present to answer questions regarding the request.

After committee discussion, Mr. Malone stated that he is recommending the policy waiver request for Mr. & Mrs. Scott Gaetz.

It was moved by Mrs. Lorenz, seconded by Mrs. Terry, and VOTED to approve a Residency Policy wavier request to Mr. & Mrs. Scott Gaetz for: 554 Hart Street, Dighton, MA, 02715, residency to take place no later than December 29, 2013.

VOTE ~ AYE ~ UNANIMOUS

Agenda Item #7b, Policy Subcommittee Report:

Mr. Hebda updated the committee on policies being reviewed by the PSC, as well as the policies that will be coming before the committee at the next meeting.

Agenda Item #7c, Health Insurance Task Force Report:

Mrs. Lorenz stated that the task force is waiting for legal counsel's response regarding the charter for the Healthcare Safety Net Account. She will continue to update the committee on the healthcare safety net proposal.

Agenda Item #7d, Chapter 70 Subcommittee Report:

Mrs. Lorenz updated the committee on the meeting held August 6, 2013. The purpose of this meeting was to discuss Chapter 70 funding in the district budget. On September 17, 2013, Steve Hemmy, MARS, and Dave Tobin will give a presentation to the subcommittee on Chapter 70 funds. Mrs. Lorenz noted that there will be a follow-up report / presentation and recommendation from the Chapter 70 Subcommittee in December 2013.

Dighton~Rehoboth Regional School Committee
Regular Meeting
August 13, 2013
Page 7

Agenda Item #7e, Capital Projects Task Force Report:

Mrs. Bartholomew updated the committee on the capital projects:

- The district has been excepted into MSBA's Accelerated Repair Program for 4 of our school's roofs (Beckwith Middle, Dighton Elementary, Dighton Middle, and the High School)
- Palmer River Elementary did not fit into the parameters of the Accelerated Program; due to excessive work needed, and the length of time to complete the projects required at PRES
- The task force will meet again to discuss the projects proposed for Palmer River
- Building priority lists were re-distributed to all school principals, double-checking building priorities for additional projects
- The task force will have continuing updates for the committee

Mrs. Terry addressed the committee regarding the repairs needed at Palmer River. She asked if the new windows for Palmer River were included in the proposal to MSBA, and will the district be considered for MSBA funding at a future date. Mrs. Bartholomew explained that the district will have to re-apply to MSBA's CORE Program for the extensive repairs required at Palmer River. MSBA has walked-through PRES and recommended applying to the CORE Program. The district, however, must commit to funding the remaining costs associated with a project of this size.

Mrs. Bartholomew requested that the committee entertain further discussion on this topic, and that she get permission to re-apply in January 2014 for Palmer River.

Mrs. Lorenz noted that the committee will need the town's input and commitment before moving forward with the funding of these proposed projects. Mrs. Bartholomew responded that the town has already been made aware of this proposal, but that the School Committee must approve going to town meeting for a vote. She also noted that the Finance Committee(s) have been included in all task force meetings.

Mr. Andrade asked for the cost of the feasibility studies at Dighton Middle School, Dighton Elementary School, Beckwith Middle School, and the high school. Mrs. Bartholomew stated that this total could be between \$50,000 - \$150,000.

Mr. Hebda asked about the approximate reimbursement amount from MSBA. Mrs. Bartholomew said that, unofficially, it is approximately 50%.

Mrs. Couture asked about the deadline for re-applying. Mrs. Bartholomew said that the application process begins in January 2014. She also stated that Palmer River's feasibility study fee alone could be from \$500,000 to \$1 million dollars. Mr. Medeiros noted that the timeframe for the Palmer River project(s) is extremely limited.

Dighton~Rehoboth Regional School Committee
Regular Meeting
August 13, 2013
Page 8

Agenda Item #7f, Septic System Task Force Report:

Mr. Hebda updated the committee on the septic system project at the Rehoboth campus. Various projects have been completed on the holding tanks. There will be a study done by On-Sight Engineering, for analysis on improving the system. The Rehoboth campus "Fast System" is adequate at this time, but there is a need to move forward with improving the system's flow.

Mr. Medeiros asked if there has been monthly system testing. Yes, testing is performed on a monthly basis, so the system is sufficient at this time.

Agenda Item #7g, Chairperson's Report:

Mr. Medeiros reviewed the following:

- Whitsons Food Services will give a presentation to the committee at the August 27, 2013 meeting
- Mr. Braga will give a video presentation of the Freshman Transition Program, held this past summer at the high school
- The search for a permanent Superintendent has begun. The position will be posted tomorrow, and a search committee will be formed

Mrs. Bartholomew addressed the committee regarding the Superintendent's search process. She stressed that the committee should decide upon "expectations" required for a Superintendent (i.e. qualifications, parameters, priorities, etc.)

Mrs. Couture stated that she has the MASC packet used in previous superintendent searches. She will make them available to committee members.

- There have been representatives appointed from the Town of Dighton to the DRRSC Regional Finance Committee: Nancy Goulart and Kevin Perry
- No one has come forward from Rehoboth
- The Regional Agreement will be posted on the district website
- The School Committee needs to meet with a Student Advisory Committee (5 students) once every other month (Policy JIBC). This practice will be good for the committee's understanding of student needs, concerns, relationships, etc. Ms. Striano will be working with Mr. Medeiros on forming this advisory committee.

Mr. Andrade stated that meeting minutes from the previous school year have been posted on the district website.

Agenda Item #9b, Vote to Approve Home Education Plan Requests:

It was moved by Mrs. Lorenz, seconded by Mrs. Bartholomew, and VOTED to approve the home education plan requests as listed.

Dighton~Rehoboth Regional School Committee
Regular Meeting
August 13, 2013
Page 9

VOTE ~ AYE ~ UNANIMOUS

Agenda Item #9c, Vote to Approve School Lunch Price Increases:

It was moved by Mrs. Lorenz, seconded by Mrs. Terry, and VOTED to approve the following school lunch price increases:

District elementary schools	from:	\$2.40	to:	\$2.50 per meal
DRRHS	from:	\$2.65	to:	\$2.75 per meal

VOTE ~ AYE ~ UNANIMOUS

Agenda Item #9d, Vote to Approve Surplus Equipment:

It was moved by Mrs. Lorenz, seconded by Mrs. Terry, and VOTED to approve high school surplus equipment as per the attached list.

VOTE ~ AYE ~ UNANIMOUS

Agenda Item #9e, Vote to Approve READS Collaborative Annual Vote for the Board of Directors School District Representative:

It was moved by Mrs. Lorenz, seconded by Mr. Andrade, and VOTED to approve the following READS vote to appoint a district representative to their Board of Directors.

“Mr. Michael F. Malone is appointed to serve as the Dighton~Rehoboth Regional School District representative on the Board of Directors of READS Collaborative in accordance with Massachusetts General Law Chapter 40, Section 4E, as amended by Chapter 43 of the Acts of 2012 for the 2013-2014 school year.”

VOTE ~ AYE ~ UNANIMOUS

Agenda Item #9f, Vote to Approve Donations:

It was moved by Mrs. Lorenz, seconded by Mr. Barrett, and VOTED to approve a monetary donation of \$92.47 from Abibow, to the Beckwith Middle School.

VOTE ~ AYE ~ UNANIMOUS

It was moved by Mrs. Lorenz, seconded by Mrs. Bartholomew, and VOTED to approve a monetary donation of \$43.78, from Coca-Cola Refreshments, to the Beckwith Middle School.

VOTE ~ AYE ~ UNANIMOUS

Dighton~Rehoboth Regional School Committee
Regular Meeting
August 13, 2013
Page 10

It was moved by Mrs. Lorenz, seconded by Mrs. Bartholomew and VOTED to approve a donation of used microscopes with slides and accessories (approximate value \$30.00-\$40.00), from Mrs. Susan Tibbels, to the Beckwith Middle School.

VOTE ~ AYE ~ UNANIMOUS

It was moved by Mrs. Lorenz, seconded by Mrs. Bartholomew, and VOTED to approve a monetary donation of \$250.00, from Farrell-Backlund Insurance Company, to the Beckwith Middle School.

VOTE ~ AYE ~ UNANIMOUS

It was moved by Mrs. Lorenz, seconded by Mrs. Bartholomew and VOTED to approve a monetary donation of \$25.73, from Abibow Recycling, to the Palmer River Elementary School.

VOTE ~ AYE ~ UNANIMOUS

It was moved by Mrs. Lorenz, seconded by Mrs. Bartholomew and VOTED to approve a monetary donation of \$600.00, from Bristol County Savings Charitable Foundation, to the Palmer River Elementary School.

VOTE ~ AYE ~ UNANIMOUS

It was moved by Mrs. Lorenz, seconded by Mrs. Bartholomew and VOTED to approve a monetary donation of \$1,000.00, from Hannaford Helps Schools, to the Dighton Elementary School.

VOTE ~ AYE ~ UNANIMOUS

It was moved by Mrs. Lorenz, seconded by Mrs. Bartholomew and VOTED to approve a monetary donation of \$150.00, from the Dighton Dandi Lions, to the Dighton Elementary School.

VOTE ~ AYE ~ UNANIMOUS

Mr. Medeiros stated that the committee enter into Executive Session as per the MGL Open Meeting Law, Chapter 30A, Section 21, for the purpose of discussing potential litigation, non-union personnel issues, and security.

Dighton~Rehoboth Regional School Committee
Regular Meeting
August 13, 2013
Page 10

It was moved by Mrs. Lorenz, seconded by Mrs. Bartholomew, and VOTED to enter into Executive Session as per the MGL Open Meeting Law, Chapter 30A, Section 21, for the purpose of discussing potential litigation, non-union personnel issues, and security at: 9:25 PM. Roll call vote:

Mr. Andrade ~ Aye
Mr. Barrett ~ Aye
Mrs. Bartholomew ~ Aye
Mrs. Couture ~ Aye
Mr. Hebda ~ Aye
Mrs. Lorenz ~ Aye
Mr. Medeiros ~ Aye
Mr. Rapoza ~ Aye
Mrs. Terry ~ Aye

MOTION PASSED

Mr. Medeiros adjourned the regular session meeting.

Janice Terry, Secretary