

Dighton~Rehoboth Regional District School Committee  
Regular Meeting ~ August 27, 2013

A Regular Meeting of the Dighton~Rehoboth Regional School Committee was held on August 27, 2013, in the Palmer River Elementary School Library.

Present:

Christopher Andrade  
Richard Barrett  
Tiffany Bartholomew  
Eliza Couture (8:10 PM)  
Peter Hebda  
David Katseff  
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

*Mr. Medeiros stated that the committee would enter into open session at 7:00 PM. Mr. Medeiros noted that this meeting is being taped with the help of the Rehoboth Cable Advisory Board.*

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

Agenda Item #3, 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 #6	\$ 53,822.94
V #1009	\$ 13,702.19
V #1010	\$ 193,777.42
V #5001	\$ 441,889.24
V #5002	\$ 151,183.67

**VOTE ~ AYE ~ UNANIMOUS**

Agenda Item #4, Public input:

Mr. Paul Pluta, Rehoboth resident, addressed the committee regarding the Foreign Exchange Student Program at the high school. Mr. Pluta asked the School Committee to reconsider Mr. Malone's decision not to allow foreign exchange students at the high school. Mr. Malone stated he is not recommending that any foreign exchange students enroll in the district, until a relationship is established with a foreign exchange student company, to ensure program consistency and uniformity.

Mr. Medeiros reviewed the parameters for "Public Input", and reiterated that enrollment for foreign exchange students is the Superintendent's decision.

[Dighton~Rehoboth Regional School Committee](#)  
[Regular Meeting](#)  
[August 27, 2013](#)  
[Page 2](#)

*Agenda Item #5, Correspondence and Enclosures:*

Included in the August 27, 2013 back-up were the following enclosures/correspondence: personal update; draft Meal Charge Policy; and donation requests.

*Agenda Item #6a, Whitsons Food Services Presentation:*

Mr. Orsillo gave a brief history behind Whitsons Food Services. He updated the committee:

- Marketing will take place in all schools;
- New equipment has been installed;
- Food orders have been processed;
- There was a mandatory training program for all Whitsons employees
- Culinary training took place with all Whitsons staff; and
- With school openings, there will be new menus, food choices, etc.

Mr. Orsillo introduced Mr. Armenti, and Mrs. Harrison.

Mr. Andrade asked if there were any staff reassignments. Mr. Armenti stated that there were initially some reassignments, however, those employees have returned to their original positions/schools. Mr. Hebda asked if Whitsons would be using the Point-of Service system previously used by the district. Mr. Armenti noted that the district owns this system, and that they would continue to use it. Mr. Armenti also addressed additions to menus, employee experience, and website access to monthly menus.

Mr. Medeiros stated that an Advisory Committee would be formed as per the contract with Whitsons. This committee would meet every couple of months to talk about the food service. Mr. Medeiros asked if any structural work is to be done by Whitsons. Mr. Armenti stated that there would be no structural work.

Mrs. Bartholomew asked if Whitsons would be forwarding a financial report to the School Committee on a regular basis. Mr. Armenti will send monthly reports to the Business Administrator who will, in-turn, forward to the committee.

*Agenda Item #7a, Superintendent's Report:*

Mr. Malone updated the committee on the following:

- Management Solutions / Facilities Manager position
  - Mr. Malone is suggesting that a Facilities Manager be hired, as Management Solutions is currently performing the Facilities Manager's tasks

Mr. Medeiros stated that this position will be reviewed for the FY '15 budget.

- District alarm systems, sprinklers, smoke detectors, etc. are being tested and worked on throughout the district

Dighton~Rehoboth Regional School Committee  
Regular Meeting  
August 27, 2013  
Page 3

Mr. Rapoza asked if Simplex Grinnell would be servicing the schools alarms this year. Mr. Malone stated that they would.

- An Interim Principal has been appointed at Dighton Elementary School; Mr. Edward Weiner
- The DES principal search will consist of school committee members, administration, parents, and staff
- The Business Administrator position was posted and a search committee will be formed
- An Interim CTE Director has been appointed. This is a .5 interim position for Mr. Al Rose, retired DRRHS CTE teacher.

Mrs. Terry addressed the committee, stating that the CTE Director's position needs to be filled. She also requested an "exit" interview with Mrs. Rebelo (former CTE Director).

Mr. Andrade pointed out that the district needs to modernize the CTE Program. The district needs to offer courses that are not available at Bristol-Plymouth. Mr. Malone suggested that an outside consultant be brought in to do an evaluation of the current CTE Program.

- Foreign Exchange Students: Mr. Malone continues to investigate establishing a relationship with one foreign exchange student firm, for consistency with that program

Agenda Item #6c, Policy Subcommittee Report:

Mr. Hebda reported on the August 27, 2013 meeting of the subcommittee:

- The draft Meal Charge Policy was reviewed
- Section I is under review
- There is a need to create a policy for the collection of unpaid meal charges

The Policy Subcommittee is looking for approval of the Meal Charge Policy.

There are suggested amendments to the policy:

- Add next to the last line: "The school district business office shall be responsible for handling those accounts that exceed the maximum dollar **charge** amount" (Section II SCOPE OF RESPONSIBILITY)
- Change "notices of deficit balances ..." amount from **\$20 to \$10** (Section III, subsection 2, #ii)
- Should read: "A penalty fee **of \$25.00**, plus the amount of the check, will be deducted from the child/children's lunch account ..." (Section III, subsection 3a)

Dighton~Rehoboth Regional School Committee  
Regular Meeting  
August 27, 2013  
Page 4

- Should read: "Payment for the NSF check, plus the penalty, must be in the form of cash, cashier's check, or money order, and it should be made payable to the Dighton~Rehoboth Regional School District, and sent to the Business Office. Payment must be received within ten (10) days of the date of the letter." (Section III, subsection 3a)
- Delete: "and the above mentioned rules will take effect." ... (Section III, subsection 3a)
- Section III, subsection 3b: eliminate entire subsection #1
- Should read: "Prohibit participation of the student from any future fee-based program until ...." (Section III, subsection 3b, #3)

After committee discussion, it was moved by Mrs. Bartholomew, seconded by Mrs. Lorenz, and VOTED to move this to an action item.

**VOTE ~ AYE ~ UNANIMOUS**

It was moved by Mrs. Bartholomew, seconded by Mrs. Lorenz, and VOTED to approve the Meal Charge Policy as presented, with amendments as noted.

**VOTE ~ AYE ~ UNANIMOUS**

Mr. Hebda continued:

- The draft Sliding Scale for Athletic Fees draft policy will be addressed that the next meeting.

**Agenda Item #6d, Capital Projects Task Force Report:**

Mrs. Bartholomew gave a presentation on MSBA projects throughout the district. Mr. Malone noted that there will be a PowerPoint presentation on MSBA funding at a future School Committee meeting.

Mrs. Bartholomew updated the committee:

- There is a need to transfer funds out of E & D in order to fund the roofing projects as follows:
  - Beckwith Middle School = \$45,000
  - Dighton Middle School = \$40,000
  - Dighton Elementary School = \$18,000
  - DRRHS = \$43,000

Mr. Katseff stated that the E & D funds need to be certified by the state, before there can be a transfer of funds. The transfer request will need to go before the committee at the next

Dighton~Rehoboth Regional School Committee  
Regular Meeting  
August 27, 2013  
Page 5

School Committee meeting. Mrs. Bartholomew reiterated that there is a 60-day time limit for procuring these funds.

After continued discussion, it was moved by Mrs. Lorenz, seconded by Mrs. Bartholomew, and VOTED to move this to an action item.

***VOTE ~ AYE ~ UNANIMOUS***

It was moved by Mrs. Bartholomew, seconded by Mrs. Lorenz, and VOTED to approve the funding commitment of \$150,000 to the MSBA for the feasibility studies for schools roofs at the Beckwith Middle School, Dighton Middle School, Dighton Elementary School, and the Dighton~Rehoboth Regional High School, which will be transferred from the district E & D account.

***VOTE ~ AYE ~ UNANIMOUS***

Mrs. Terry asked if the Palmer River Elementary School was included in the original MSBA walk-through. Mrs. Bartholomew noted that it was, however, that the PRES project does not fit the parameters of the Accelerated Program being offered by MSBA at this time. MSBA will only fund projects that they recommend.

**Agenda Item #6e, Athletic Fields Subcommittee Report:**

Mr. Andrade updated the committee on athletic field issues:

- There was a fertility program started on the fields
- There will be aeration program and over-seeding programs put into place
- The subcommittee will give a presentation at the September 10, 2013 meeting

**Agenda Item #6f, Chairperson's Report:**

Mr. Medeiros reviewed the following:

- Two committee members are needed for the Dighton Elementary School principal's search committee
- Mr. Malone suggested that we ask for a letter of interest from all parents interested in being on the DES principal's search committee
- Mr. Medeiros invited all committee members to visits the schools on the teachers' and students' opening days

Mr. Katseff asked if there will be an Opening Day program. Mr. Malone stated that the staff will start with breakfast, followed by speakers Mr. Malone and Mr. Medeiros. Food donations are requested of all staff members attending the Opening Day Program, to be donated to the community food banks in Dighton and Rehoboth.

[Dighton~Rehoboth Regional School Committee](#)  
[Regular Meeting](#)  
[August 27, 2013](#)  
[Page 6](#)

***Agenda Item #8a, Vote to Accept Donations:***

It was moved by Mrs. Bartholomew, seconded by Mrs. Lorenz, and VOTED to accept a monetary donation of \$800.00 from Bristol County Savings Bank to the Dighton~Rehoboth Regional High School, for their Student Recognition Program.

***VOTE ~ AYE ~ UNANIMOUS***

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

***VOTE ~ AYE ~ UNANIMOUS***

It was moved by Mrs. Bartholomew, seconded by Mrs. Lorenz, and VOTED to accept a monetary donation of \$150.00 from the Dighton Dandi Lions, to the Dighton Elementary School, for their Accelerated Reading Program.

***VOTE ~ AYE ~ UNANIMOUS***

It was moved by Mrs. Bartholomew, seconded by Mrs. Lorenz, and VOTED to accept a monetary donation of \$1,000.00 from an anonymous donor, to the Beckwith Middle School, for their Massasoit League Soccer League.

***VOTE ~ AYE ~ UNANIMOUS***

Mr. Medeiros stated that the committee must approve the FY '14 budget.

It was moved by Mrs. Terry, seconded by Mrs. Bartholomew, and VOTED to move this to an action item.

***VOTE ~ AYE ~ UNANIMOUS***

It was moved by Mrs. Terry, seconded by Mrs. Bartholomew, and VOTED to approve the FY '14 total operating budget in the amount of \$35,164,122.00.

***VOTE ~ AYE ~ UNANIMOUS***

It was moved by Mrs. Terry, seconded by Mrs. Bartholomew, and VOTED to approve the FY '14 total district capital budget in the amount of \$498,942.00.

***VOTE ~ AYE ~ UNANIMOUS***

Dighton~Rehoboth Regional School Committee  
Regular Meeting  
August 27, 2013  
Page 7

*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, union issues, and security, and would not be returning to open session.*

It was moved by Mrs. Bartholomew, seconded by Mrs. Lorenz, 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, union issues, and security, and would not be returning to open session at: 9:00 PM. Roll call vote:

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

**MOTION PASSED**

*Mr. Medeiros adjourned the meeting at 9:00 PM.*

---

*Janice Terry, Secretary*