

Dighton~Rehoboth Regional District School Committee
Regular Meeting ~ September 10, 2013

A Regular Meeting of the Dighton~Rehoboth Regional School Committee was held on September 10, 2013, in the Dighton~Rehoboth Regional High School Library.

Present:

Christopher Andrade
Richard Barrett
Tiffany Bartholomew
Eliza Couture
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 7:05 PM, and was being broadcast 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 Minutes of the August 13, 2013 Regular Meeting:

It was moved by Mrs. Bartholomew, seconded by Mrs. Terry, and VOTED to approve the minutes of the August 13, 2013 regular meeting, as amended.

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 bills and payroll as follows:

V - #7	\$110,388.63
V - #1009	\$ 13,702.19
V - #1012	\$329,168.81
V - #6000	\$624,727.29
V - #6001	\$ 959.62

VOTE ~ AYE ~ UNANIMOUS

Agenda Item #5, Public input:

None at this time.

Agenda Item #6, Correspondence and Enclosures:

Included in the 09/10/2013 back-up were the following enclosures/correspondence: August 13, 2013 Regular Session minutes; and the personnel update.

Dighton~Rehoboth Regional School Committee
September 10, 2013
Regular Session
Page 2

Mr. Malone reviewed the following correspondence:

- Personnel update
 - The district will be holding off on the Accounts Payable Office Assistant position for now

Agenda Item #7a, Freshmen Transition Program Presentation:

Mr. Braga, Mr. Nardozzi, various high school staff/transition program advisors, and students gave a presentation (including a YouTube video) of the Freshmen Transition Program that took place over this past summer. Students, mentors and advisors in attendance included: Brittany Justin, Christian Quevedo, Emma Masse, Rebeka Medeiros, Andrea Richards ~ Jenna Rozzero, advisor; Eric Siddal, ~ Bill Garcia, advisor; Zach Doane, Kelly Levesque ~ Deven Antani, advisor; Rachel Souza ~ Kevin Braga, advisor.

Mr. Braga stated that there were 104 students that participated in the program this summer (the program has doubled in size).

Students and mentors addressed the committee regarding their experiences during the program. It was noted that the transition program mentors will continue to meet with their students during the school year. Students/mentors reiterated that the program is very to both students, as well as mentors.

Mr. Medeiros asked for an approximate number of students who will be able to participate in the program in the future. Mr. Braga stated that additional faculty stepped up this year to accommodate the large number of students/mentors. CTE Department staff were also included in this year's program.

Mr. Braga thanked everyone who helped with the program. It was a great success.

Mr. Malone noted that the feedback from the participating students had been very positive and impressive.

Mr. Nardozzi, DRRHS TV/Video Instructor, presented a YouTube video, filmed during the summer program.

Agenda Item #7b, Super's Report:

Mr. Malone updated the committee on the following:

- Opening of school:
 - Mr. Edward Weiner, Interim Principal of Dighton Elementary School, will be at the next committee meeting for a formal introduction
 - Everything went smoothly on opening day (bussing, lunches, etc.)

Dighton~Rehoboth Regional School Committee

September 10, 2013

Regular Session

Page 3

- The district has added 2 kindergarten bus runs due to extended runs (too much time on the bus for the kids)
- The Pre-School opened successfully. Open House was held on Thursday, September 05, 2013. There was a great response from parents and children.

- Business Administrator update:
 - There were 22 candidates: 6 have been interviewed, and we have 3 semi-finalists. Reference checks will continue, and final interviews will be this week. A candidate recommendation should be made by the September 24, 2013 School Committee meeting.

- Principal search update:
 - There were 70 candidates
 - A letter will be mailed to parents and teachers asking that interested search committee members “apply” to be on the committee
 - The goal for a new principal to be in-place is mid-October to November 01, 2013
 - Mr. Weiner will stay on, and assist with the new principal’s transition

- CTE Director update:
 - Mrs. Striano will chair that search committee. She will be interviewing staff members for their recommendations in a director
 - There will be an October search, with a proposed start date of January 01, 2014

- Mr. Malone has imposed a dusk curfew on all evening school activities, until the first frost, due to the triple EEE virus

- Mr. Riley gave a pre-school update:
 - They are finishing painting in the halls
 - The furniture has been installed
 - All dividers in-place
 - They held Open House last Thursday
 - The traffic flow is being monitored for safety; need signage on New Street
 - Thanks to everyone who helped; this was a great team effort

Mr. Andrade asked about the traffic pattern change at Dighton Middle School. Mr. Malone noted that the pattern had been changed in July. Dighton police and fire also recommended the change for safety purposes. The pattern change is working out very well.

Mr. Malone stated that there will be a pre-school presentation at the first meeting in October.

Dighton~Rehoboth Regional School Committee

September 10, 2013

Regular Session

Page 4

Mr. Andrade addressed the committee regarding the CTE Advisory Committee that was appointed last year. He asked if it had met, and what was the proposal to work with the new administration. Mr. Medeiros stated that the committee needs to ensure that the administration works with the CTE Advisory Committee. Mrs. Lorenz noted that School Committee will be more active with this advisory committee in the future.

Mrs. Terry noted that the committee is a great source for students to experience real world input from outside committee volunteers, businesses, etc. Current committee members are from the industry, from the communities, parents/ students, secondary education representatives, etc.

Mr. Medeiros suggested that the CTE department make a School Committee presentation later on in the year.

Mr. Medeiros asked if the principal search posting has closed. Mr. Malone responded that is had.

Agenda Item #7c, Policy Subcommittee Report:

Mr. Hebda updated the committee on the district's "Non-Discriminatory Language". It is still being reviewed. The PSC will come back to the committee with any necessary language recommendations.

Agenda Item #7d, Capital Projects Task Force:

Mrs. Bartholomew updated the committee on:

- The district will have to go out to bond in January 2014; this is in-line with our deadline with MSBA for roofing projects
- Need to get a warrant article ready for the October 28, 2013 Rehoboth Town meeting (due to the town by Thursday, September 12, 2013)
- All principal's will update their maintenance priority lists and submit them to the task force

Mrs. Couture asked if there will be a need for a special town meeting. Mrs. Bartholomew stated that there will be - for each town.

Mr. Katseff asked if it would be a 'special town meeting' or a 'special election'. Mrs. Bartholomew explained that it will be a special town meeting (45 days to a paper ballot, with an affirmative vote from the town meeting).

Mr. Katseff suggested that the committee go forward at the October 28, 2013 Town Meeting, and introduce the program to the public. Mrs. Bartholomew is hesitant without solid

Dighton~Rehoboth Regional School Committee
September 10, 2013
Regular Session
Page 5

reimbursement figures from MSBA. She stated that there will not be an official reimbursement number to announce, until the feasibility studies are completed.

Mr. Hebda suggested that the warrant language article language include "in an amount up to ..." clause. Mrs. Bartholomew reiterated that no reimbursement figure will be available for this town meeting.

Mr. Katseff suggested that the Capital Projects Task Force petition the town for informational purposes only. He proposed the following language for the Town Meeting warrant:

"Motion to read and accept the report of the Dighton~Rehoboth Regional School Committee Capital Projects Task Force."

It was moved by Mr. Katseff, seconded by Mrs. Terry, and VOTED to submit the following language for the October 28, 2013 Rehoboth Town Meeting warrant:

A motion to read and accept the report of the Dighton~Rehoboth Regional School Committee Capital Projects Task Force.

VOTE ~ AYE ~ UNANIMOUS

Mrs. Bartholomew noted that this would be a good way to get the information out to the both communities. The warrant article request will be sent to the Town of Dighton as well.

Mrs. Terry asked for the deadline of the Dighton Town Meeting warrant. Ms. Fagan will contact the Town of Dighton for the deadline date.

Mrs. Terry stated that the committee needs to let the communities know that this is a reimbursable project. Mr. Medeiros also noted that we need to make clear how the bond will affect the towns.

Mr. Katseff asked if there had been any feedback on our E & D account? Mrs. Bartholomew stated that, according to our district treasurer, the district can access E & D funds before they are certified by the state.

Agenda Item #7e, Athletic Fields Subcommittee Update:

Mr. Andrade updated the committee on athletic field issues:

- There will be an Athletic Fields Subcommittee presentation at the September 24, 2013 School Committee meeting. The Heritage Group and Gartner-Gerrish Architects will make presentations

Dighton~Rehoboth Regional School Committee

September 10, 2013

Regular Session

Page 6

- The Heritage Group will do a presentation on the land topography, etc.
- Mr. Gerrish (Gartner-Gerrish Architects) has drafted some example field designs for their presentation
- The over-seeding of various fields was completed last week

Mr. Barrett asked if the soccer field had been seeded as well. Mr. Andrade stated that it had.

Agenda Item #7f, Chairperson's Report:

Mr. Medeiros updated the committee on the following issues:

- A volunteer is needed for the Cafeteria Program Advisory Committee. This committee meets bi-monthly, and will work with students, parents, and Whitsons Food Services
- The contract with Whitsons currently uses the POS system already in-place and owned by the district
- Whitsons reports will come to the committee periodically
- The Student Advisory Committee will be at either the 1st or 2nd meeting in October (possible 6:30 PM start time). All committee members will take part in this committee
- Mrs. Terry and Mrs. Lorenz will be on the principal's search committee, along with staff, administrators, and community members
- The Superintendent's Search Special Workshop will be held on September 17, 2013 @ 6:00 PM in the high school library

Mr. Katseff gave a Negotiations Subcommittee Update:

- The committee met on September 09, 2013. Committee members include: Mr. Katseff, Mrs. Lorenz, Mrs. Bartholomew, Mr. Barrett, Mrs. Couture, and Mr. Andrade.
- The committee discussed the language regarding two items:
 - The teacher evaluation language
 - The parent portal program
 - The committee, along with the DRRTA, reached a tentative agreement on both the teacher evaluation language and the continuation of the parent portal piece
 - Josh Levitt, DRRTA Representative, will put together a MOU on these issues, for a committee vote

Agenda Item #8a, Beckwith Patrons of the Arts Discussion:

Mrs. Bartholomew, BPOA Treasurer, Mrs. Cordeiro, BPOA President, and Rachel Phillips, BPOA Secretary, reviewed the request to pay a stipend from the Beckwith Patrons of the

Dighton~Rehoboth Regional School Committee
September 10, 2013
Regular Session
Page 7

Arts (BPOA), to the Beckwith Middle School Drama program, to fund a fall play. Mrs. Bartholomew noted that the funds for this stipend are available.

Mr. Katseff asked what the money will go to. Mrs. Bartholomew explained that the BPOA will need to hire a director for a fall play at Beckwith. The only funds currently available at Beckwith are set aside for a spring play only. Mr. Katseff suggested that the School Committee need only to approve the fall play, and not the payment. This is a parent-funded group and does not need School Committee approval to spend their funds.

It was moved by Mr. Katseff to approve the Beckwith Patrons of the Arts sponsorship of a 2013 fall play at the Beckwith Middle School. There was no second.

Stephen Patrick, DRRTA Co-President, expressed his concern over this position currently existing in the DRRTA contract. This proposal would have two people for a one stipend position. The BPOA wants to add a stipend to the contract. This would have to be negotiated with the DRRTA.

Mrs. Lorenz noted that the BPOA is similar to other parent groups, such as the Dighton PTO.

Mr. Andrade stated that the BPOA is asking to fund another stipend position for the Beckwith Drama program.

Mrs. Pincince spoke to the committee stating her approval of a fall play at Beckwith. She noted that it is a great opportunity for more children to get involved in drama. A fall play stipend is not currently budgeted for at Beckwith, so the BPOA could fund the hiring of a play director.

Mr. Patrick asked why this is different from other parent-funded sports groups. Mr. Katseff explained that the other sports are in organized leagues, while this play is a stand-alone event.

Mr. Katseff stated that the BPOA will need proof of liability insurance for the building use. Mr. Malone noted that the district liability insurance may cover the fall play, but that he will research this issue.

It was moved by Mr. Andrade, seconded by Mrs. Couture, and VOTED to approve a stipend payment from the Beckwith Patrons of the Arts for a fall 2013 play. No vote taken.

It was moved by Mr. Katseff to table this vote. No second.

Dighton~Rehoboth Regional School Committee
September 10, 2013
Regular Session
Page 8

Mrs. Bartholomew mentioned that this position could be posted, if necessary. Mr. Katseff noted that if the job is posted, then the union must be involved.

Mr. Malone suggested that the "stipend" language be removed from the original vote.

It was moved by Mrs. Lorenz, seconded by Mr. Hebda, and VOTED to amend the vote to read:

"Vote to approve a Beckwith Patrons of the Arts 2013 Fall Play."

VOTE ~ AYE ~ UNANIMOUS

- Mr. Medeiros stated that the Newman YMCA has asked the district to waive the building use fee for them, as we did last year. Mr. Medeiros said that the request was denied, and the Newman YMCA will have to pay the current building use fee(s).

Mr. Medeiros stated that the committee would enter into Executive Session, as per MGL Chapter 30A, Section 21, for the purposes of discussing potential litigation, union issues, and security.

It was moved by Mrs. Lorenz, seconded by Mrs. Terry, and VOTED to enter into Executive Session as per MGL Chapter 30A, Section 21, for the purposes of discussing potential litigation, union issues, and security 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 regular meeting at 9:00 PM.

Janice Terry, Secretary