

Dighton~Rehoboth Regional District School Committee
Regular Meeting ~ September 24, 2013

A Regular Meeting of the Dighton~Rehoboth Regional School Committee was held on September 24, 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

Also:

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

Absent:

Janice Terry

Mr. Medeiros stated that the committee would enter into open session at 6:30 PM, and was recorded for the first ½ hour, and then 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 27, 2013 Regular Meeting:

It was moved by Mrs. Bartholomew and seconded by Mrs. Lorenz to approve the minutes of the August 27, 2013 regular meeting. No vote taken.

After committee discussion, it was moved by Mr. Katseff, seconded by Mrs. Bartholomew, and VOTED to table the vote for approval of the August 27, 2013 regular meeting minutes.

VOTE ~ AYE ~ UNANIMOUS

Agenda Item #3, Vote to Approve Minutes of the September 10, 2013 Regular Meeting:

It was moved by Mrs. Lorenz, seconded by Mrs. Bartholomew, and VOTED to approve the September 10, 2013 regular session minutes, as amended.

VOTE ~ AYE ~ UNANIMOUS

Agenda Item #3, Vote to Approve Minutes of the Sept. 10, 2013 Executive Session:

It was moved by Mrs. Bartholomew and seconded by Mrs. Lorenz to approve the minutes of the September 10, 2013 Executive Session minutes. No vote taken.

After committee discussion, it was moved by Mr. Katseff, seconded by Mrs. Bartholomew, and VOTED to table the vote for approval of the September 10, 2013 Executive Session minutes.

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VOTE ~ AYE ~ UNANIMOUS

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

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

V - #8	\$103,845.43
V - #1013	\$968,656.87
V - #7000	\$642,454.39
V - #7001	\$173,761.79

VOTE ~ AYE ~ UNANIMOUS

Agenda Item #5, Public input:

Wendy Cordeiro, Beckwith Patron of the Arts representative, and Tiffany Bartholomew, Beckwith Patrons of the Arts representative, gave a brief history of the BPOA, updated the committee on the Beckwith fall play, and thanked the committee for their continued support.

Agenda Item #6, Correspondence and Enclosures:

Included in the September 24, 2013 back-up were the following enclosures/correspondence: minutes of the August 28, 2013 regular meeting; minutes of the September 10, 2013 regular meeting; personnel update; Business Administrator candidate resumes (2); home education plan request list; DRRHS High Five Club Student Activity Revolving Account / donation request; MASC Superintendent Search Process proposal (emailed to members); MASC Bulletin; and the Falcon Flyer.

Mr. Malone addressed the personnel update and the Superintendent's Newsletter.

Agenda Item #8a, Introduction of Edward Weiner, Interim Principal of Dighton Elementary School:

Mr. Malone introduced Mr. Edward Weiner, Interim Principal of Dighton Elementary School. Mr. Weiner gave a brief history of his experience, and outlined his priorities and goals. He gave great reviews to DES, its' staff, and the district on the whole. Mr. Weiner also spoke to the exceptional Open House held last week that prompted positive parent/student feedback for the school and the district.

Agenda Item #8b, Dighton~Rehoboth Regional High School Presentation:

Jackie Striano, DRRHS Principal, gave a general overview of the new school year at the high school.

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Mrs. Striano reviewed the following goals, strategies, focuses, etc. for DRRHS during the 2013-2014 school year:

- There will be an intense focus on student data, as well as student performance at all grade levels
- A new guidance program has been put into place ~ student assignments are based upon their grade levels versus alphabetically
- The need for open dialogue with parents / guardians will be stressed

Mrs. Striano also updated the committee on high school events, i.e. Senior/Parent night will be held on September 26, 2013.

Mrs. Couture commented on the recent DRRHS Open House. All aspects of the open house were outstanding: the staff, the academics, and socially.

Mr. Andrade asked about the lack of air conditioning in classrooms. Mrs. Striano assured the committee that any cooling/heating issues are being addressed.

Mr. Andrade asked Mrs. Bartholomew if air conditioning at the high school is being reviewed by the Capital Projects Task Force. Mrs. Bartholomew noted that there are other projects that are considered as critical; therefore, air conditioning at the high school is not being included at this time. She also noted that the high school is only one of the schools that have concerns.

Mr. Malone introduced Mr. Christopher Desjardins, Management Solutions representative.

Chris Desjardins, Management Solutions, gave a brief update on various building projects (smoke detectors, alarms, etc.):

- The district has received a quote in the amount of \$8,800 for smoke detector replacement. The work for replacement will begin the week of September 30, 2013.
- Alarm work ~ everything has been installed and switched over. There are a few minor adjustments to be made.
- Sprinkler systems ~ gauges are being replaced, testing on the pipes being done, installing replacement heads, etc. These projects are basic maintenance issues only. Mr. Medeiros asked if this type of maintenance should be performed on a yearly basis. Mr. Desjardins replied that most of these projects should be done on an annual basis, with the exception of pipe inspections. Pipe inspections can be done every 5 years
- Security fobs are being used at all schools for maximum building safety

Mr. Desjardins then spoke to a few issues with Whitsons Food Services. He will update the committee on a regular basis about our food services program.

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There may be a need to add a bus route for the mid-day kindergarten students. The routes are too long. There could also be a bus route added at Beckwith Middle School. Mr. Desjardins will continue to update the committee.

Mr. Hebda asked if our bus company is performing any route analysis for the district, as they had proposed last year. Mr. Desjardins explained that there is bus route software available to streamline routes. He will come back to the committee with an official update on the use of this software by Bloom Bus Company.

Mr. Medeiros asked if there are a sufficient amount of smoke detectors in all buildings, and if they have been inspected. Mr. Desjardins stated that the smoke detector job has been completed.

Agenda Item 3, Business Administrator Interviews:

Mr. Malone briefly reviewed the Business Administrator interview process conducted by the search committee. Twenty-two candidates applied, six of those were picked for initial interviews. Three were selected from the group of six, and two candidates have been brought forward tonight for the final School Committee interviews.

Mr. Malone introduced Patrick Spencer as a Business Administrator candidate.

Mr. Spencer gave an opening statement to the committee reviewing his applicable experience.

Committee members and Mr. Malone asked various questions concentrating on his experience with budgets (sizes), Budget Sense experience, MSBA involvement, regional school district experience, food services, etc.

Mr. Spencer answered each question from the committee. He has experience with facilities management, with food services programs, and extensive experience with budgets. Mr. Spencer has worked on budgets ranging from \$15 million dollars to \$60 million dollars.

Mr. Malone then introduced Catherine Antonellis, Business Administrator candidate.

Ms. Antonellis gave a brief opening statement focusing on her background, experience, and her versatility.

Committee members and Mr. Malone asked various questions concentrating on her experience with budgets (sizes), Budget Sense experience, MSBA involvement, regional school district experience, etc.

Ms. Antonellis noted that she is familiar with Budget Sense, and has been intricately involved with MSBA from the Somerset/Berkley project. She does not, however, have food services experience.

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Ms. Antonellis is a certified Business Manager and has wide-ranging facilities experience. She has worked on grants, as well as with special education. Her approach to a budget is to be open and honest with all budget constituents/stakeholders. She believes that there needs to be monthly meetings with all administrators concerning their budgets.

[Agenda Item #8c, Athletic Fields Subcommittee Presentation:](#)

Mr. Andrade introduced Mr. Eric Bazzett, Heritage Design Group representative. Mr. Bazzett reviewed the aerial photo taken of the school grounds (approximately 80 acres of property), and the existing conditions of the property. He noted that there are details that can't be seen from the air, but can be picked up on the topography/survey.

Mr. Timothy Gerrish, of Gardner and Gerrish, gave a presentation on our existing athletic fields and two design concepts that will be proposed:

- Football field:
 - This is a good facility, with the exception of the turf; he is concerned that the turf should be in better condition at this time of year
- Baseball field:
 - This field needs work; there are some safety concerns
- "Multi-use" field:
 - This is strictly a "usable space"
- Soccer field:
 - Mr. Gerrish stated that there are soil issues, and an uneven field
- Softball fields:
 - Our softball fields do not meet MIIA requirements

Mr. Gerrish then assessed the soil (sandy loam), which is not appropriate for any athletic field. There are irrigation problems: the water output and field drainage. He stated that a large consideration for the district is the irrigation system that must be studied. There is a lack of surface drainage, as well as having a septic field near the fields. Also, at the ball fields there is inadequate seating, no restrooms or concessions. There is also inadequate equipment storage.

[CONCEPT PLAN A:](#)

- Proper field alignment as per NFHS guidelines. Mr. Gerrish gave a PowerPoint presentation of the proposed field alignment(s)

[CONCEPT PLAN B:](#)

- Proper game field alignment, which would be different from field alignment
- Practice fields would be aligned to best fit space(s) available
- Target sufficient turf recovery with separate game fields and shared alternate season practice fields (shared usage)

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SUMMARY:

- We have adequate space to provide for safe athletic fields
- The district needs to meet ADA requirements by creating an accessible path to each field
- Need to upgrade wells and irrigation system for healthy and safe turf
- Consider multi-purpose synthetic fields for schedule flexibility
- Provide spectator comforts and equipment storage

Mr. Andrade noted that these two concepts were just completed, and brought forward to the committee right away. The Athletic Fields Subcommittee will review these concepts at a future meeting.

Mr. Andrade stated that the district needs an adequate sports complex to house both towns / Dighton and Rehoboth schools.

Mrs. Lorenz asked if all soil had been tested. Mr. Gerrish stated that the testing is under the "design development" portion of the project, and will come later on in the project. Steve Tibbels, Rehoboth resident, agreed that the soil is inadequate, and that the drainage is lacking. The soils ultimately should be a sand/soil top-mix (80/20) for healthy turf.

Mr. Andrade noted that a timetable should be a planned for this large project. Mr. Tibbels said that the master plan is to focus on the soccer field and to do things one step at a time. Certain spots can be worked on one at a time, so as not to disrupt the playing season of any one team. He also noted that the district must get any field alterations approved by the Town of Dighton first.

Mr. Katseff asked about continuation of the project. Mr. Andrade explained that the subcommittee must first review any budget numbers. Mr. Katseff suggested that the committee make one bond proposal to the towns. The two task forces (athletic fields and capital projects) will meet and discuss, and then come to the committee with a recommendation(s).

Mr. Hebda noted that there may be a 'trust' issue with the towns' taxpayers. The school district will be asking for more money for the athletic fields/complex. The committee needs a public relations campaign to re-gain community confidence.

Mr. Medeiros stated that there will be another update from the Athletic Fields Subcommittee at the October 22, 2013 School Committee meeting.

Agenda Item #8d, Technology Update:

Mrs. Van Buren updated the committee on technology throughout the district:

- Firewalls were replaced
- Server backups, switches replaced, access points added, upgraded Comcast, online training taking place

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- Software for teacher evaluation will be available soon
- Title IIA grant for technology professional development has been submitted and approved
- Summer Technology Carousel:
 - Was held on July 17th and August 8th
 - This was open to all district employees and School Committee members
 - Some offerings included: Kahn Academy; Google Drive; Twitter; PARCC Assessment; and SmartBoards
- Other Technology News:
 - BaselineEdge software has been rolled out (evaluation software)
 - An Instructional Technology teacher was hired at the Dighton Middle School – this is a new position
 - Google training will be offered to all staff members
 - Parent Portal has started a test years (for the high school); the middle schools will be in their first pilot year; all 3 schools will be provided with X2 mentors
- Recent Initiatives:
 - The PARCC Assessments are scheduled to be piloted at three schools
 - There is now Google Drive use in the district
 - Technology readiness Tool is being utilized
- PARCC Testing:
 - Mrs. Van Buren reviewed PARCC Pilot Testing; PARCC recommendations; and student device indicators
- Future Needs / Possibilities:
 - Sufficient student computers that comply with PARCC specifications for on-line testing
 - Long-range replacement/upgrade plan for teachers and administration
 - Fiber throughout the district
 - Additional technology support for teachers, including: testing training; X2 training; data reporting; etc.
 - Adding mandatory technology courses recommended at the state level
- Bring Your Own Device Initiative:
 - There are both “pros and cons” to this proposal

Mr. Katseff asked about the on-line testing (instead of paper/pencil). Mrs. Van Buren explained that, because some of our schools do not have adequate technology for all students to test on-line; paper/pencil testing must be performed.

Mr. Malone suggested that the district look into possible federal funding available for the district to sufficiently upgrade our technology (for PARCC requirements). Mrs. Van Buren noted that staff and computer security measures are lacking in the district, as well.

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Mr. Rapoza suggested that the district invest in the district's technology needs ~ possibly work with Capital Projects Task Force on this. He proposed that the Technology Task Force identify the top 3 technology priorities in the district, for a presentation to the Capital Projects Task Force. We need a PARCC compliance timeline as well.

Mrs. Lorenz asked if there is a way to track students' "bring your own devices" in the district. Mrs. Van Buren stated that mostly Smart Phones and Ipads are being used; however, this is not a consistent practice between the schools ~ BYOD is mostly at the high school level.

Mr. Hebda asked about progress reports at the middle schools. Progress reports are still being reviewed for the middle schools.

Mr. Rapoza noted that the parent portal is extremely helpful - he has been utilizing it. Kudos to all the teachers making use of this valuable tool.

Agenda Item #8e, Superintendent's Report:

Mr. Malone updated the committee on the following:

- The Dighton Elementary School principal's search
 - The make-up of the Search Committee will be completed shortly ~ School Committee representatives will be Mrs. Couture and Mrs. Terry
 - Mr. Riley is in the process of screening all applications, which in turn will be forwarded to the Superintendent and then the Search Committee for review
 - The district is estimating mid-October for a start date of the new principal
- The CTE Director's position
 - We are looking to fill this position by January 01, 2014
- The FY '15 budget process has begun with administration
- There will be an MCAS presentation the 2nd meeting in October (all principals will be in attendance)
 - The MCAS parent reports will go out on September 27, 2013

Mr. Andrade is requesting a monthly budget report/expenditure report be provided to the School Committee.

Agenda Item #8f, Policy Subcommittee Report:

Mr. Hebda reported that the non-discriminatory language currently in-place in the district is the correct language.

Agenda Item #8g, Capital Projects Task Force Report:

- Rehoboth will put the Capital Projects Task Force Report request/article on their warrant - waiting on word from Dighton

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Agenda Item #8g, Chairperson's Report:

Mr. Medeiros addressed the committee regarding the mandated Student Advisory Committee, which meets every other month. Eleven students have volunteered for the committee. He suggested that the committee "rotate" the students that come to each meeting. He will coordinate this committee with Mr. Harrison, DRRHS Assistant Principal, on topics, issues, etc. The whole School Committee will be involved with this committee, as the students will come to School Committee meetings. Student meeting agendas will be provided to the School Committee beforehand.

By consensus, the Student Advisory Committee will consist of a representative from each grade level (high school), and rotating the students who present at each meeting. The Student Advisory Committee will meet the 1st meeting in November 2013.

It was moved by Mr. Katseff, seconded by Mrs. Bartholomew, and VOTED to appoint Mr. Raymond Medeiros as the voting delegate for the upcoming MASC conference.

VOTE ~ AYE ~ UNANIMOUS

It was moved by Mr. Katseff, seconded by Mrs. Bartholomew, and VOTED to move the appointment of the District Business Administrator to an Action Item.

VOTE ~ AYE ~ UNANIMOUS

Mr. Malone recommended Catherine Antonellis for the District Business Administrator's position.

It was moved by Mr. Barrett, seconded by Mr. Rapoza, and VOTED to appoint Catherine Antonellis as the District Business Administrator.

Committee discussion ensued on this motion.

Mr. Malone stressed that Catherine Antonellis comes before the committee highly recommended.

After continued discussion, it was moved by Mr. Katseff, seconded by Mrs. Bartholomew, and VOTED to amend the original motion to: Vote to appoint Catherine Antonellis as the District Business Administrator, pending successful negotiations.

VOTE ~ AYE ~ UNANIMOUS

It was moved by Mr. Katseff, seconded by Mrs. Bartholomew, and VOTED to appoint Catherine Antonellis as the District Business Administrator, pending successful negotiations.

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VOTE ~ AYE ~ UNANIMOUS

Agenda Item 10a, Home Education Plans:

It was moved by Mrs. Lorenz, seconded by Mrs. Bartholomew, and VOTED to approve the Home Education Plan requests as listed.

VOTE ~ AYE ~ UNANIMOUS

Agenda Item 10b, Student Activity Revolving Account:

It was moved by Mrs. Lorenz, and seconded by Mrs. Bartholomew to approve the High Five Club Student Activity Revolving Account. No vote taken.

Mr. Katseff asked for clarification on the High Five Club. Mrs. Bartholomew noted that this is a program for student recognition only, and not truly a club.

It was moved by Mr. Katseff, seconded by Mrs. Bartholomew, and VOTED to amend the original motion.

It was moved by Mrs. Lorenz, seconded by Mrs. Bartholomew, and VOTED to approve the amended vote for the creation of the High Five Program Student Activity Revolving Account.

VOTE ~ AYE ~ UNANIMOUS

It was moved by Mrs. Lorenz, seconded by Mrs. Bartholomew, and VOTED to approve the amended vote for the creation of the High Five Program Student Activity Revolving Account.

VOTE ~ AYE ~ UNANIMOUS

Agenda Item 10c, Approve Donation Requests:

It was moved by Mrs. Lorenz, seconded by Mrs. Bartholomew, and VOTED to approve a monetary donation of \$800.00 from Bristol County Savings to the DRRHS High Five Program.

VOTE ~ AYE ~ UNANIMOUS

It was moved by Mrs. Lorenz, seconded by Mrs. Bartholomew, and VOTED to approve the donation of 2 guitars from Mr. Joshua Martin the Dighton~Rehoboth Regional High School (approximate value of \$250.00).

VOTE ~ AYE ~ UNANIMOUS

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It was moved by Mrs. Lorenz, seconded by Mrs. Bartholomew, and VOTED to approve a monetary donation of \$230.26 from Target Take Charge of Education, to the Dighton Middle School.

VOTE ~ AYE ~ UNANIMOUS

It was moved by Mrs. Lorenz, seconded by Mrs. Bartholomew, and VOTED to approve a donation of soccer uniforms for the Massasoit Soccer League at 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 \$1,164.00 from Target Take Charge of Education, to the Palmer River Elementary School.

VOTE ~ AYE ~ UNANIMOUS

Agenda Item 10d, Vote to Retain Outside Consultant for Superintendent's Search Process:

Mr. Medeiros has recommended MASC as the outside consultant for the Superintendent's Search Process. Mr. Koocher, MASC, will be the representative from MASC working with the district.

It was moved by Mr. Katseff, seconded by Mrs. Lorenz, and VOTED to retain the outside consulting firm of MASC for the Superintendent's Search process, an amount up to \$15,000.00.

VOTE ~ AYE ~ UNANIMOUS

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 and would not re-enter open session.

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 9:55 PM and would not re-enter open session. Roll call vote:

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

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Mr. Medeiros ~ Aye
Mr. Rapoza ~ Aye

MOTION PASSED

Mr. Medeiros adjourned the meeting at 10:30 PM.

Eliza Couture, Interim Secretary