

Dighton~Rehoboth Regional District School Committee  
Regular Meeting ~ October 08, 2013

A Regular Meeting of the Dighton~Rehoboth Regional School Committee was held on October 08, 2013, in the Dighton~Rehoboth Regional High School Library.

Present:

Christopher Andrade  
Richard Barrett  
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:

Tiffany Bartholomew  
David Katseff

*Mr. Medeiros stated that the committee would enter into open session at 6:40 PM, and was being broadcast and recorded 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. Lorenz, seconded by Mr. Hebda, and VOTED to approve the minutes of the August 27, 2013 regular meeting.

**VOTE ~ AYE ~ UNANIMOUS**

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

It was moved by Mrs. Lorenz, and seconded by Mr. Hebda, to approve the minutes of the September 10, 2013 executive session meeting. No vote taken.

It was moved by Mr. Andrade, seconded by Mrs. Lorenz, and VOTED to table the vote on the September 10, 2013 executive session minutes.

**VOTE ~ AYE ~ UNANIMOUS**

Agenda Item #3, Vote to Approve Minutes of the September 17, 2013 Special Workshop:

It was moved by Mrs. Lorenz, seconded by Mr. Hebda, and VOTED to approve the minutes of the September 17, 2013 Special Workshop regular meeting.

**VOTE ~ AYE ~ UNANIMOUS**

Dighton~Rehoboth Regional School Committee  
Regular Meeting  
October 08, 2013  
Page 2

Agenda Item #3, Vote to Approve Minutes of the September 17, 2013 Special Workshop Executive Session:

It was moved by Mrs. Lorenz, seconded by Mr. Hebda, and VOTED to approve the minutes of the September 17, 2013 Special Workshop executive session.

**VOTE ~ AYE ~ UNANIMOUS**

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

It was moved by Mrs. Lorenz, seconded by Mr. Hebda, and VOTED to approve the bills and payroll as listed.

V - #9	\$110,780.37
V - #1014	\$399,881.86
V - #8000	\$665,268.63
V - #8001	\$ 929.08

**VOTE ~ AYE ~ UNANIMOUS**

Agenda Item #5, Public Input:

None at this time.

Agenda Item #6, Correspondence and Enclosures:

Included in the October 08, 2013 back-up were the following enclosures/correspondence: minutes of the August 27, 2013 regular meeting; minutes of the September 17, 2013 Special Workshop; personnel update; grant fund trends spreadsheet; MASC Resolutions (mailed under separate cover); proposed graduation date for the Class of 2014; donation requests; changes to the South Coast Educational Collaborative Agreement/Executive Summary; Palmer River Elementary School Weekly update; and The Falcon Flyer.

Mr. Malone addressed the grant fund trends spreadsheet and the South Coast Educational Collaborative Agreement changes.

Mr. Medeiros asked that a current grant funds trends sheet be included in the next packet.

Mr. Malone noted that the district is no longer funded for some of the older grants.

Agenda Item #7a, Super's Report:

Mr. Malone addressed District Business Administrator's position. The start date for Mrs. Antonellis, District Business Administrator, will be October 15, 2013. He also updated the committee on the following issues:

## Dighton~Rehoboth Regional School Committee

### Regular Meeting

October 08, 2013

#### Page 3

- Management Solutions ~ the invoice charges in question (discussed at the September 28, 2013 meeting) have been deemed valid charges by Mr. Malone.
- Management Solutions is requesting an extension to complete the end-of-the-year report. Mr. Malone explained that this is feasible, as he does not want the new Business Administrator to have to complete this report; should be completed by Management Solutions.
- Mr. Malone will negotiate any additional expense incurred to complete the end-of-the-year report

Mr. Medeiros asked if the central office staff could complete this report, without the assistance of Management Solutions. Mr. Malone stated that the central office staff could complete this project, if necessary.

Mr. Malone updated the committee on the Dighton Elementary School's Principal Search.

- The Principal's search committee will be formed with the following make-up:
  - 2 School Committee members
  - 3 teachers representing different grade levels
  - 3 community members / parents / guardians
  - 1 administrator
  - 1 DRRTA representative (Co-Chair)
  - and the Search Committee Chairperson ~ Mr. Riley

Mr. Riley noted that, after next week, there will be 5-6 candidates forwarded to the Superintendent for consideration. There were 72 candidates that had been narrowed down to 26. The target start date for this position will be November 01, 2013, with mid-November as the alternate. Mr. Edward Weiner, Dighton Elementary School Interim Principal, will be available for consulting services on an as-needed basis.

Mr. Malone noted that there were many qualified candidates for this position.

Mr. Medeiros asked if there was a "principal's criteria" used during the process. Mr. Riley stated that various criteria were used, such as: certification, experience, references, professional development, etc.

Mrs. Terry and Mrs. Couture reviewed half of the applications last week. They noted that there are a great variety of good candidates available.

Mr. Malone updated the committee on the Vocational Director's position:

- Mrs. Striano will be compiling the schedule for that interview process

Dighton~Rehoboth Regional School Committee  
Regular Meeting  
October 08, 2013  
Page 4

Mr. Malone then addressed the FY '15 budget:

- All proposed budgets from principals will be due on October 11, 2013
- The proposed budget timeline will be ready for the next meeting
- There will be a preliminary budget for the committee by November 01, 2013
- Included in the preliminary budget will be comparison spreadsheets (numbers from previous year's budgets) and a history of prior district/school budgets

Mr. Andrade requested monthly budget updates. Mr. Malone stated that these reports will be distributed at the 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting of each month.

Mrs. Lorenz asked about the NEASC review. Mr. Malone stated that Mrs. Striano is being mentored on this process, and that she will be putting together the schedule for their visit.

Mrs. Lorenz stated that she had not been contacted to be part of the NEASC team, as she had been a member of that team in the past. Mr. Malone will speak to Mrs. Striano regarding this issue.

Mr. Medeiros asked when the Finance Advisory Committee will be meeting with the Superintendent and the Business Administrator. He noted that this should be done while the budget is being developed (this committee includes town representatives, school committee members, and the Superintendent). Mr. Malone stated that the Finance Advisory Committee will meet in December 2013. He also noted that the School Committee may need to schedule an additional School Committee Budget Workshop in the month of December, to focus strictly on the budget.

Mr. Medeiros asked about the School Psychologist position at the Beckwith Middle School. Mr. Riley stated that the current middle school psychologist will be moving to the high school. Therefore, the middle school has posted for that position. In the meantime, Mrs. Obenchaine will cover the psychologist position, until it is filled.

Mrs. Terry asked if this position has been advertised on SchoolSpring. Mr. Riley stated that is currently being advertised on [schoolspring.com](http://schoolspring.com), as well as internally.

Mrs. Terry asked if the school psychologist counsels students. Mr. Riley explained that the school psychologist will counsel students and perform student assessments.

**Agenda Item #7b, Policy Subcommittee Report:**

Mr. Hebda updated the committee on the meeting held October 08, 2013. Mr. Hebda stated that the committee will defer the "lunch fee policy" to the Business Administrator, for additional input. The committee continued with their review of Section "I".

Dighton~Rehoboth Regional School Committee  
Regular Meeting  
October 08, 2013  
Page 5

Agenda Item 7c, Athletic Fields Subcommittee Report:

Mr. Andrade updated the committee on the meeting of October 07, 2013. The subcommittee reviewed both Concepts A & B, as presented at the last School Committee meeting by Gerrish and Gardner Architects.

There was a subcommittee consensus that both these concepts are too large in scope, and too expensive. Mr. Andrade stated that the Athletic Fields Subcommittee came up with a feasible concept for the fields, and gave it to Gerrish and Gardner for development. The subcommittee and the architects will work on a Concept C, which will incorporate 1 synthetic field. A synthetic field will save the district money, and will be useful as a "multi-play" field. The architectural firm will put together a Concept C proposal and get back to the subcommittee with the concept for review. Mr. Andrade stated that there will be an additional cost of \$1,900.00 to design a 3<sup>rd</sup> concept. The subcommittee has spent \$3,800.00 to this point.

Mr. Barrett inquired about the installation of a synthetic field. Mr. Andrade stated that this field will be a multi-purpose field, while being a cost-savings measure. The project will still include the improvement/renovation of the remaining fields, while the football team, soccer teams, and field hockey will now have practice fields. The junior varsity will play on the grass fields, while the varsity will play on the new, synthetic fields.

Mr. Andrade stated that the Athletic Fields Subcommittee is looking for committee consensus to go ahead with a Concept C, in an amount up to \$1,900.00.

Mrs. Lorenz asked where this \$1,900.00 would be coming from. Mr. Andrade stated that this would come out of the Athletic Fields Contracted Services line.

Mrs. Couture asked if these renovations are part of the Capital Improvement Projects plans. Mr. Andrade will report back to the committee on this issue.

Mrs. Lorenz asked about fund-raising to complete the athletic fields' project(s). Mr. Andrade explained that, after the plan is designed/accepted, then the fund-raising will begin. He noted that both towns will need to see a concrete proposal before they will consider contributing to the project.

Mr. Hebda asked if either towns' Finance Committees have suggested a monetary amount for their contributions to this project. Mr. Andrade explained that when Concept C is created, it will be a cost-savings measure, and will be the least expensive plan for the fields. He noted that a good amount of the costs that were included in Concepts A & B will be eliminated (lighting, additional seating, a new maintenance building, etc.)

Dighton~Rehoboth Regional School Committee  
Regular Meeting  
October 08, 2013  
Page 6

Mrs. Couture asked if the Athletic Director has been attending the subcommittee meetings. Mr. Andrade responded that everyone is invited to attend the subcommittee meetings. They are always posted at the town halls.

Mr. Andrade concluded by stating that with an athletic fields complex, the district can attract business; i.e. athletic tournaments, renting out the fields, etc. (will generate revenue).

By committee consensus, it was decided to move forward with obtaining a Concept C through Gerrish and Gardner, with funding through the Athletic Fields Contracted Services line, in an amount up to \$1,900.00.

Agenda Item #7d, Capital Projects Report:

Mr. Malone noted that the priorities from building principals have been completed and that numbers will be compiled. The district is also looking to possibly include technology needs at the schools.

Agenda Item #7e, Chapter 70 Task Force Report:

Mrs. Lorenz updated the committee on the October 03, 2013 meeting:

- ✓ The committee met with Steven Hemmen of MARS
  - Mr. Hemmen explained the Chapter 70 statutory and alternative methods of funding. Note: any alternative method used will need to be approved by each town, each year, as well as get the approval of the DESE

Mrs. Lorenz also addressed the district's Regional Agreement, which is over 25 years old. Mr. Hemmen (MARS) will assist the district in reviewing the Regional Agreement. Town representatives and School Committee members will need to be involved in this process.

The next meeting of the Chapter 70 Task Force is scheduled for: October 29, 2013, at the Dighton Middle School.

Mr. Barrett noted that most districts review their regional agreement every 5 years.

Mr. Medeiros stated that Mr. Hemmen will come to the committee to explain our statutory method of Chapter 70 funding. Mr. Hebda reiterated that our Regional Agreement needs to be updated to meet state and federal mandates.

Agenda Item #8f, Chairperson's Report:

Mr. Medeiros talked about the Student Advisory Committee. Thirteen students from the high school have volunteered to be on this committee. Mr. Medeiros stated that the committee will meet 4 times per year, with 4 different groups of students represented at each meeting (rotate students groups). Issues and agendas will be reviewed by the students prior to being presented to

Dighton~Rehoboth Regional School Committee  
Regular Meeting  
October 08, 2013  
Page 7

the School Committee. The Student Advisory Committee will come to the November 12, 2013 School Committee meeting.

Mr. Medeiros noted that Whitsons Food Services will give an update to the committee at the next meeting. He stated that there will be a continuance of the Cafeteria Advisory Committee. There will be 2 students and 2 School Committee members represented on this committee.

Mr. Medeiros reminded the committee that the special town meeting(s) are scheduled for: October 28, 2013 – Rehoboth, and October 29, 2013 – Dighton. The Capital Improvements Task Force/MSBA Plan will be presented at both town meetings.

Mr. Medeiros then asked the committee if School Committee meeting times should be changed to 6:30 PM on a regular basis. After committee discussion, it was decided that this is a possibility (maybe every other meeting). The October 22, 2013 committee meeting will begin at 6:30 PM.

Agenda 8a, Superintendent's Search Process:

Mr. Medeiros and Mr. Malone updated the committee on the Superintendent's search process:

- ✓ Both Mr. Medeiros and Mr. Malone met with Glenn Koocher from MASC regarding setting up the Search Committee.
  - Mr. Koocher has recommended 9-10 members take part. The recommendation would be for: 2 School Committee members; 1 teacher, 1 administrator, 1 community representative (not a parent); 2 parents; Mr. Medeiros as chair; and Mr. Malone as a consultant
  - This is not a solid number and can be modified by the School Committee

Both Mrs. Couture and Mr. Andrade addressed the committee regarding the possibility of having 2 community representatives, instead of 1.

Mr. Andrade would also like to include 2 teachers (1 from K-8 and 1 from 9-12) on the search committee. Mr. Medeiros noted that information has gone to parents/guardians, and the newspapers asking for representatives to volunteer for the committee. Applicants must supply cover letters with qualifications for being selected to this committee.

Mr. Medeiros asked Mr. Patrick, DRRTA Co-Chair, if the union decides which teacher will be on the committee. Mr. Patrick explained that the committee does choose the initial teacher; however, the union has no problem with the committee picking a second teacher for the committee.

After continued committee discussion, it was decided that the Search Committee will be made up of the following:

- ✓ 2 teachers (K-8 and 9-12)
- ✓ 2 parents



## Dighton~Rehoboth Regional School Committee

### Regular Meeting

October 08, 2013

#### Page 8

- ✓ 2 community representative
- ✓ 2 School Committee members ~ Mr. Medeiros as chair of the Search Committee and Mrs. Lorenz
- ✓ 1 administrator
- ✓ Mr. Malone as consultant (no vote)

Mrs. Couture asked who chose the School Committee members. Mr. Medeiros explained that Mr. Koocher recommended the current chair, as well as the past chair, as participants.

Mrs. Terry suggested that the next chairperson participate on the committee, as that person will be working closely with the new Superintendent.

Mr. Medeiros addressed the Superintendent site visits:

- ✓ Mr. Koocher is recommending that School Committee members should conduct the site visits, and not the Search Committee.

Next, Mr. Medeiros reviewed the Superintendent's search timeline.

Mr. Medeiros explained that different School Committee members will be helping with various parts of the district brochure (i.e. general district information, Superintendent responsibilities, the Mission Statement, photography, etc.). Mr. Malone reminded the committee that there is release in the student handbook, allowing (or not) the taking of students' pictures.

Mr. Medeiros would like committee feedback on the preliminary brochure. Mr. Koocher will be coming to update the committee at a future meeting.

The Search Committee orientation with Mr. Koocher will be held on November 14, 2013.

#### **Agenda Item 9a, Vote to Approve MASC Resolutions:**

Mr. Medeiros read the summary of each resolution. The School Committee voted as follows:

It was moved by Mrs. Lorenz, seconded by Mrs. Couture, and VOTED to approve Resolution #1: "Funding for K-12 Transient Student Success".

**VOTE ~ AYE ~ UNANIMOUS**

It was moved by Mrs. Lorenz, seconded by Mrs. Couture, and VOTED to approve Resolution #2: "Performance Assessment for Readiness for College and Career".

**VOTE ~ AYE ~ UNANIMOUS**



Dighton~Rehoboth Regional School Committee  
Regular Meeting  
October 08, 2013  
Page 9

It was moved by Mrs. Couture, seconded by Mrs. Terry, and VOTED to approve Resolution #3: "Teacher Evaluation".

*VOTE ~ AYE ~ UNANIMOUS*

It was moved by Mrs. Couture, seconded by Mrs. Terry, and VOTED to approve Resolution #4: "Evaluation of the Commissioner of Education".

*VOTE ~ AYE ~ UNANIMOUS*

It was moved by Mrs. Terry, seconded by Mrs. Couture, and VOTED to approve Resolution #5: "Confirming Actions from 2012", 2012 MASC Resolutions as follows:

- ✓ #1 Establishment of a Special Commission of the Legislature for the Study of Mandated Reports and Data Submissions for School Districts (pending)
- ✓ #2 Modification of the Circuit Breaker Formula (funding increased but share remains at 75%)
- ✓ #3 Health Insurance Coverage for Medically Necessary Treatment in Schools (not approved at this date)
- ✓ #4 Funding for Educator Evaluation System (not approved at this date)
- ✓ #5 Relative to an Adequacy Study (not enacted)
- ✓ #6 Election of Governing Board of Commonwealth Charter Schools (not enacted)

*VOTE ~ AYE ~ UNANIMOUS*

*Agenda Item 9b, Vote to Approve Class of 2014 Graduation Date:*

It was moved by Mr. Hebda, seconded by Mrs. Lorenz, and VOTED to approve Saturday, June 07, 2014 at 4:30 PM, as the graduation date/time for the Class of 2014.

*VOTE ~ AYE ~ UNANIMOUS*

*Agenda Item 9c, Vote to Approve Donation Requests:*

It was moved by Mrs. Lorenz, seconded by Mr. Hebda, and VOTED to approve a donation of 2 soccer goals, from James Downs, to the Beckwith Middle School (approximate value of \$200.00).

*VOTE ~ AYE ~ UNANIMOUS*

It was moved by Mrs. Lorenz, seconded by Mr. Hebda, and VOTED to approve a monetary donation of \$345.98 from Target Take Charge of Education, to the Beckwith Middle School.

*VOTE ~ AYE ~ UNANIMOUS*

Dighton~Rehoboth Regional School Committee  
Regular Meeting  
October 08, 2013  
Page 10

It was moved by Mrs. Lorenz, seconded by Mr. Hebda, and VOTED to approve a monetary donation of \$30.98 from Abibow Recycling, to the Beckwith Middle School.

*VOTE ~ AYE ~ UNANIMOUS*

It was moved by Mrs. Lorenz, seconded by Mr. Hebda, and VOTED to approve a monetary, anonymous donation of \$300.00 for the Beckwith Middle School Massasoit League Soccer Program.

*VOTE ~ AYE ~ UNANIMOUS*

It was moved by Mrs. Lorenz, seconded by Mr. Hebda, and VOTED to approve a monetary, anonymous donation of \$400.00 for the Beckwith Middle School Massasoit League Soccer Program.

*VOTE ~ AYE ~ UNANIMOUS*

*Agenda item 9d, Vote to Appoint Michael F. Malone to the Board of Directors of the South Coast Educational Collaborative:*

It was moved by Mrs. Lorenz, seconded by Mr. Hebda, and VOTED to appoint Michael F. Malone, Interim Superintendent, to the Board of Directors of the South Coast Educational Collaborative.

*VOTE ~ AYE ~ UNANIMOUS*

*Agenda item 9e, Vote to Approve Changes to the South Coast Education Collaborative Agreement:*

It was moved by Mrs. Lorenz, seconded by Mr. Hebda, and VOTED to approve changes to the South Coast Educational Collaborative Agreement.

Mr. Malone noted that these changes were put into place last year.

*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 Mr. Barrett, seconded by Mrs. Lorenz, 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, and would not re-enter open session, at: 9:15 PM. Roll call vote:

Dighton~Rehoboth Regional School Committee  
Regular Meeting  
October 08, 2013  
Page 11

Mr. Andrade ~ Aye  
Mr. Barrett ~ 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 meeting at 9:15 pm.*

---

*Janice Terry, Secretary*