

Dighton~Rehoboth Regional District School Committee
Regular Meeting ~ October 22, 2013

A Regular Meeting of the Dighton~Rehoboth Regional School Committee was held on October 22, 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
Janice Terry

Also:

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

Absent:

Timothy Rapoza

Mr. Medeiros stated that the committee would enter into open session at 6:35 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 September 10, 2013 Executive Session:

It was moved by Mrs. Terry, seconded by Mrs. Bartholomew, and VOTED to table the minutes of the September 10, 2013 Executive Session.

VOTE ~ AYE ~ UNANIMOUS

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

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

V - #10	\$102,112.77
V - #1015	\$ 101.78
V - #1016	\$ 40.55
V - #1017	\$702,886.60
V - #9000	\$645,478.49
V - #9001	\$175,665.37

VOTE ~ AYE ~ UNANIMOUS

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

Dighton~Rehoboth Regional School Committee
Regular Session
October 22, 2013 meeting
Page 2

It was moved by Mrs. Bartholomew, seconded by Mrs. Terry, and VOTED to enter into Executive Session as per MGL Chapter 30A, Section 21, for the purpose of discussing potential litigation, union and non-union personnel issues, and security, and would return to open session at: 6:35 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
Mrs. Terry ~ Aye

MOTION PASSED

Mr. Medeiros stated that the committee would re-enter open session at 7:25 PM.

Agenda Item #6, Public Input:

None at this time.

Agenda Item #7, Correspondence and Enclosures:

Included in the October 22, 2013 back-up were the following enclosures/correspondence: MCAS Results presentation; proposed FY '15 budget timeline (blue folders); grant fund trends spreadsheet (blue folders); monthly budget report; trip requests; home education plan requests; letter of appreciation from Mr. Edward Weiner, Interim Principal of Dighton Elementary School; Palmer River Elementary School Weekly Update(s); and principals' reports.

Mr. Malone reviewed the following correspondence:

- ✓ Budget timeline
- ✓ Grant fund trends sheet
- ✓ Monthly budget report
- ✓ Letter from Mr. Edward Weiner, Interim Principal of Dighton Elementary School
- ✓ Principals' reports

Agenda Item #10a, Vote to Approve Trip Request:

Mrs. Pincince, Beckwith Middle School Principal, Michelle Bartley, Beckwith Middle School Assistant Principal, Jill LiFrak, Rehoboth parent, and Jameson Flynn, Beckwith Physical Education teacher, were present to review and answer questions regarding their ski trip request.

Dighton~Rehoboth Regional School Committee
Regular Session
October 22, 2013 meeting
Page 3

Mr. Katseff asked if liability insurance would be required from the district for this trip. He also noted that trip requests brought to the School Committee are usually academic in nature.

Mr. Katseff and Mr. Andrade asked how our insurance would work in this scenario. Mrs. Antonellis will research with the insurance company, and get back to the committee.

Mrs. Pincince reviewed and answered questions regarding the trip request. She noted that the high school has gone on ski trips in the past.

Mrs. Couture stated that the committee would need to have the liability question answered, before approval can be given for the ski trip.

Mrs. Lorenz noted that the club would be traveling with Ski93, and that Ski93 will have liability insurance.

Mr. Medeiros asked if there is a limit on the number of students allowed to participate in this trip. Mrs. Pincince that that this is the first year for a ski trip, and that Beckwith is planning on 7th and 8th graders. However, there may be younger students going as well.

Mr. Medeiros asked the criteria used to pick the students who will go on the trip. Mrs. Pincince stated that the students have clear expectations set for them, before they are allowed to go. Mrs. Pincince noted that an informational Parent Night will be held at the school regarding this trip.

It was moved by Mr. Hebda and seconded by Mrs. Bartholomew to approve the Beckwith Middle School ski trip request from March 7-9, 2014, to New Hampshire and Maine. No vote taken.

After continued committee discussion, Mrs. Couture moved to amend the vote to read:

It was moved by Mrs. Couture, seconded by Mr. Barrett, and VOTED to approve the Beckwith Middle School ski trip from March 7-9, 2014, to New Hampshire and Maine, pending verification of proper insurance liability coverage.

VOTE ~ AYE ~ UNANIMOUS

Agenda Item #10a, Vote to Approve Trip Request:

Mrs. Striano, DRRHS Principal, was present to review and answer questions for the DECA/Skills USA field trip(s).

It was moved by Mrs. Lorenz, seconded by Mr. Barrett, and VOTED to approve the DECA/SkillsUSA field trip(s) as follows:

- ✓ SkillsUSA Leadership Conference, November 24-26, 2013, in Marlboro, MA

Dighton~Rehoboth Regional School Committee
Regular Session
October 22, 2013 meeting
Page 4

- ✓ National Leadership Conference, June 23-28, 2014, in Kansas City, MO
- ✓ DECA State Competition, March 6-9, 2014, in Boston, MA

VOTE ~ AYE ~ UNANIMOUS

Agenda Item #8a, Whitsons Food Services Presentation:

Joe Armenti, Whitsons Food Services District Manager, and Kelly Harrison, Whitsons DRRSD Food Services Director, reviewed the food services program:

- ✓ New equipment has been added at some schools
- ✓ Extensive employee training took place before the opening of school
- ✓ There has been additional training for secondary school personnel in food preparation and presentation
- ✓ The POS system is up and going
- ✓ A corporate chef from Whitsons held professional training during September
- ✓ New uniforms / safety shoes were purchased for all staff
- ✓ Whitsons is working with school nurses on nutrition
- ✓ Meal purchase participation is up: currently 42% student participation

Mrs. Bartholomew would like an up-to-date summary of our food services program account balance and activity. Mr. Armenti stated that the student balances owed amount has decreased from \$12,000 (beginning of the school year) to \$10,000 currently. He stated that the district is currently not breaking even, as September is the "expense" month: September is designated for the purchase of food, supplies, etc. The district will see improved numbers later in the school year.

Mr. Katseff asked if there is a participation trend. Mr. Armenti stated that the elementary schools start slower than the high school, and the high school is showing increased meal purchase participation. Mr. Armenti will meet with Catherine Antonellis, District Business Administrator, on a monthly basis, to compile a comprehensive report for the School Committee.

Mr. Medeiros discussed the Food Services Program Advisory Committee. Mrs. Terry and Mr. Barrett will represent the School Committee on the advisory committee, along with 2 students and 2 parents. The committee, along with Whitsons Food Services, will meet every other month.

Mrs. Terry asked about the CTE Advisory Committee dinner. Mr. Malone will check with the CTE Department about committee members attending the dinner. Mr. Andrade indicated that he would like to attend this meeting. Mr. Medeiros would like to see School Committee members invited to these events in the future.

Agenda Item #8b, MCAS Results Presentation:

Mrs. Van Buren and all building principals gave a PowerPoint presentation on the district MCAS results from the spring of 2013. Mrs. Van Buren noted that the target date for MCAS proficiency

Dighton~Rehoboth Regional School Committee
Regular Session
October 22, 2013 meeting
Page 5

has been changed to the 2016-2017 school year. She also updated the committee on the levels for the district – all schools are currently at Level 2. The district is comparable to, or higher than, MA state MCAS scores.

Mr. Weiner, Interim Dighton Elementary School Principal, reviewed the Dighton Elementary School results. School results are being analyzed and the staff is addressing areas of strengths and weaknesses. Mr. Weiner listed the DES MCAS target areas:

- ✓ Fractions; patterns; measurement and data for math
- ✓ Integrations of knowledge and ideas; key ideas and details for reading
- ✓ Using interventions, progress monitoring, continued professional development (literacy specialist will be providing professional development)

Mrs. Miguel, Palmer River Elementary School Principal, reviewed the results for PRES. Palmer River targeted areas for MCAS successes include:

- ✓ Open response and short answer questions
- ✓ Need to convey high, clear expectations for students to increase academic rigor
- ✓ Strengthen instruction: use specific student interventions which are systematic and assessed regularly for success (collaborative team meetings)

Action Plan for the 2013-2014 school year:

- ✓ Imbed instruction strategies across the curriculum in open response and short answer questions, during professional development days

Mrs. Pincince, D.L. Beckwith Middle School Principal, reviewed the results for Beckwith Middle School. Targeted areas for improvement include:

- ✓ Math – the number system, expressions and equations, statistics and probability, and geometry
- ✓ ELA – reading and language, and vocabulary

Mrs. Pincince noted that the scores for “open response” questions from Beckwith had improved significantly.

Mr. Wheeler, Dighton Middle School Principal, spoke to the DMS MCAS results:

- ✓ ELA: needs to focus on open response questions

Targeted areas for improvement:

- ✓ Math – expressions and equations, ratios and proportions, geometry, common factors and multiples
- ✓ ELA – reading, open response questions

Action plans/interventions:

- ✓ Math – math consultants, joint faculty meetings (with Beckwith), joint professional days (with Beckwith), clear and high expectations for students, data driven instruction

Dighton~Rehoboth Regional School Committee

Regular Session

October 22, 2013 meeting

Page 5

- ✓ ELA – joint faculty meetings, joint professional development days, clear and high expectations for students, open communication with other districts, data driven instruction

Mr. Wheeler noted that Dighton Middle School and Beckwith Middle School will be participating in “cross class visits”, wherein DMS staff will visit Beckwith classrooms and vice versa.

Mrs. Striano, DRRHS Principal, reviewed the results for the Dighton~Rehoboth Regional High School.

Targeted areas for improvement:

- ✓ Closing the achievement gap for students with IEPs
- ✓ Focus on writing prompts
- ✓ Work on solving systems of equations
- ✓ Applying and extending previous understandings of operations with fractions to add, subtract, multiply and divide rational numbers

DRRHS interventions:

- ✓ Title I intervention
- ✓ After-school support
- ✓ Math weekly “Warm-up” broadcast
- ✓ Freshman Transition Program implemented
- ✓ Response To Intervention (RTI) training for teachers
- ✓ MCAS Support Program

DRRHS initiatives:

- ✓ Math and literacy consultants
- ✓ Baseline Edge software
- ✓ Parent Portal expansion
- ✓ PBIS training
- ✓ Continued Freshman Transition Program
- ✓ Decrease the drop-out rate
- ✓ Summer reading program (year 2)
- ✓ PARCC Readiness

Mr. Katseff asked if, with the new teacher evaluation, there is a connection between teacher evaluations and student progress. Mrs. Van Buren stated that there is no data compiled yet; however, the staff and students are more on-task.

There was committee discussion on the upcoming PARCC mandatory testing.

Mr. Malone noted that both the PARCC test and the MCAS are summative assessments only. The district needs formative assessments as well.

Dighton~Rehoboth Regional School Committee
Regular Session
October 22, 2013 meeting
Page 6

Agenda Item #8c, Super's Report:

Mr. Malone addressed the committee re:

- ✓ Management Solutions: the end-of-the-year report will be finished in-house
- ✓ Principal's search:
 - 72 candidates applied, which were narrowed down to 26
 - The Screening Committee will interview 9 candidates from the list of 26
 - Interviews will be completed by October 23, 2013, and 2-3 candidates will be moved forward to the Superintendent
- ✓ Budget update:
 - the proposed timetable was included in the School Committee back-up
- ✓ December School Committee meeting(s): Mr. Malone suggested that the School Committee meet on December 03rd and 17th, instead of December 10th, in order to have a budget workshop in the month of December

Mr. Medeiros will wait until November to make a decision on this recommendation.

Agenda Item #8d, Policy Subcommittee Report:

Mr. Hebda updated the committee on the meeting held October 22, 2013. The committee is continuing with Section I.

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

Mrs. Bartholomew stated that the MSBA paperwork for the district has been received and accepted by the state.

Mrs. Bartholomew reminded the committee that both town meetings are scheduled for next Monday (Rehoboth) and Tuesday (Dighton). Mrs. Bartholomew will read the DRRSD MSBA proposal at each meeting. The Task Force would like to complete this part of the MSBA project(s) by the end of January 2014. She noted that a comprehensive study must be performed at the Palmer River Elementary School.

The next task fore meeting will be Thursday, October 24, 2013 at 6:00.

Agenda Item #8f, Chairpersons Report:

Mr. Medeiros stated that the deadline for the Superintendent's Search Committee letters of interest is Friday, October 25, 2013. The MASC search brochure is being completed with the help of several committee members. The information for the brochure is due by October 25, 2013.

#9b, Proposed Budget Timetable for FY '15

Mr. Malone reviewed the FY '15 proposed budget timetable. Mr. Medeiros noted that members from each town's Finance Committee should be invited to budget workshops / meetings.

Dighton~Rehoboth Regional School Committee
Regular Session
October 22, 2013 meeting
Page 7

Agenda item 10b, Vote to Approve Home Education Plans:

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

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. Bartholomew, 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: 10:10 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
Mrs. Terry ~ Aye

MOTION PASSED

Mr. Medeiros closed the meeting.

Janice Terry, Secretary