

Dighton~Rehoboth Regional District School Committee
Regular Meeting ~ November 12, 2013

A Regular Meeting of the Dighton~Rehoboth Regional School Committee was held on November 12, 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
Catherine Antonellis, Business Administrator
Kellie Partridge-Fagan, Recording Secretary

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:

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

VOTE ~ AYE ~ UNANIMOUS

It was moved by Mrs. Terry, seconded by Mrs. Bartholomew, and VOTED to approve the Regular Session minutes of September 24, 2013, as amended.

VOTE ~ AYE ~ UNANIMOUS

It was moved by Mrs. Terry, seconded by Mrs. Bartholomew, and VOTED to approve the Executive Session minutes of September 24, 2013, as amended.

VOTE ~ AYE ~ UNANIMOUS

It was moved by Mrs. Bartholomew, seconded by Mrs. Terry, and VOTED to approve the Regular Session minutes of October 08, 2013, as amended.

VOTE ~ AYE ~ UNANIMOUS

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It was moved by Mrs. Terry, seconded by Mrs. Bartholomew, and VOTED to approve the Executive Session minutes of October 08, 2013.

VOTE ~ AYE ~ UNANIMOUS

It was moved by Mrs. Terry, seconded by Mrs. Lorenz, and VOTED to approve the Regular Session minutes of October 22, 2013.

VOTE ~ AYE ~ UNANIMOUS

It was moved by Mrs. Terry and seconded by Mrs. Bartholomew to approve the Executive Session #1 minutes of October 22, 2013. No vote taken.

It was moved by Mr. Katseff, seconded by Mrs. Lorenz, and VOTED to table the vote on the Executive Session #1 minutes of October 22, 2013.

VOTE ~ AYE ~ UNANIMOUS

It was moved by Mrs. Bartholomew, seconded by Mrs. Lorenz, and VOTED to approve the Executive Session #2 minutes of October 22, 2013, as amended.

VOTE ~ AYE ~ UNANIMOUS

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

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

| | |
|-----------|---------------|
| V - #11 | \$ 98,375.97 |
| V - #1018 | \$ 596,263.59 |
| V - #1020 | \$ 649,553.33 |
| V - #1021 | \$ 917.55 |

VOTE ~ AYE ~ UNANIMOUS

Agenda Item #5, Public Input:

None at this time.

Agenda Item #6, Correspondence and Enclosures:

Included in the November 12, 2013 back-up was the following enclosures/correspondence: Minutes of the September 24, 2013 regular session; minutes of the October 08, 2013 regular session; minutes of the October 22, 2013 regular session; personnel update; donation requests; trip request;

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surplus equipment request; snow removal bids (blue folders); MASC Bulletin; Palmer River Elementary School Weekly Updates; newspaper articles.

Mr. Malone reviewed the following correspondence:

- ✓ Personnel update
 - Paula Manchester, new Principal of Dighton Elementary School, will be introduced at the December 17, 2013 meeting
- ✓ The newspaper article highlighting DRRHS for making the AP Honor Roll for the 3rd consecutive year

Agenda Item #7a, Student Advisory Committee:

Mr. Medeiros introduced the first set of students from the Student Advisory Committee:

Zoe Karavolis, Chair
Matt Couture
Antonia Scott
Ed Medeiros
Tara Dwyer

The Student Advisory Committee updated the committee on current high school events, student issues/concerns, etc.

- ✓ An Activities Fair will be held for all students to become aware of various activities offered at the high school
- ✓ A volleyball tournament will take place to raise money for the DECA national trip
- ✓ The fall play, "Twelve Angry Jurors" will be performed on November 21st and November 22nd
- ✓ The high school Winter Concert is on December 18th
- ✓ The DRRHS Marching Band will perform in the 4th of July parade in Washington DC ~ DR is the only school being represented from the state of Massachusetts
- ✓ The Falcon Flyer is now available on-line
- ✓ The DR football team made the State Sectional Quarter Finals
- ✓ The next football game is scheduled for Thanksgiving Day, against the Seekonk Warriors

The students then addressed the committee regarding user fees. They requested a breakdown of how user fees are utilized and how each fee is determined. Mrs. Antonellis will compile a user fee breakdown, and report back to the committee. Mrs. Antonellis noted that user fees are mostly used for "extra" costs, such as referees, uniforms, etc. Transportation is paid through the operating budget.

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Mrs. Bartholomew asked if the district has a balance in the user fee account(s) at the end of the year. Mr. Katseff explained that user fees are in a revolving account that does not close out at the end of the school year.

Mr. Barrett stated that each activity/sport should have its' own line item(s). Mr. Barrett asked what happens if there is a balance at the end of the school year. Mrs. Antonellis explained that any balance(s) would go back into that sport/activity.

Mr. Katseff explained the history behind user fees. They were originally put into place, so that the district would not lose any activities/sports.

Mrs. Antonellis reiterated that user fees will be researched further, and a breakdown will be available to the committee as well as the Student Advisory Committee.

Agenda Item #9c, Vote to Approve Trip Request:

Mrs. Loell was present to review and answer questions regarding the trip request to France & Italy from April 16, 2014 through April 27, 2014.

It was moved by Mrs. Lorenz, seconded by Mrs. Bartholomew, and VOTED to approve the trip request to travel to France & Italy from April 16, 2014 through April 27, 2014, as per the enclosed itinerary.

Mrs. Antonellis stated that the district does not currently have a liability rider for students traveling overnight. She is researching the cost for same.

Mrs. Lorenz noted that the tour company will have liability insurance. Mr. Medeiros asked Mrs. Antonellis to get a copy of the tour company's rider, for comparison to the district's.

VOTE ~ AYE ~ UNANIMOUS

Agenda Item #7b, Superintendent's Report:

Mr. Malone discussed the following:

- ✓ ASCD conference recently attended
- ✓ MASC conference recently attended - PARCC workshop; locate mandates workshop; chapter 70 regional district funding workshop;
- ✓ Students from Palmer River Elementary School will give a presentation at the November 26, 2013 School Committee meeting

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Agenda Item #7c, Policy Subcommittee Report:

Mr. Hebda updated the committee on the meeting held November 12, 2013. The committee continues to review Section I.

Agenda Item #7d, Athletic Fields Report:

Mr. Andrade updated the committee on the athletic fields. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, November 18, 2013.

Agenda Item #7e, Capital Projects Task Force Report:

Mrs. Bartholomew updated the committee on the capital projects task force projects. She noted that the feasibility study for Dighton Elementary, Dighton Middle, Beckwith Middle, and the high school is still underway. This study must be completed and submitted to the MSBA by December 04, 2013. Mrs. Bartholomew will be meeting with each town's Board of Selectmen to review the request to put a bond vote on the April warrant(s). This, in turn, will mean that each town will need to hold a Special Town meeting. (the district must request a Special Town meeting at least 45 days prior to the paper ballot in April).

The next Capital Projects Task Force meeting is scheduled for November 19, 2013 at 5:30 PM. The task force will include the athletic fields and technology in their discussion.

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

Mrs. Lorenz updated the committee on the following:

- ✓ The task force met on October 29, 2013
 - Steve Hemmens, MASC, was present to discuss: Chapter 70 funding, funding methodology, and the Regional Agreement
- ✓ The next meeting is December 03rd

Mr. Medeiros asked if Mr. Steve Hemmens, MARS, will be presenting to the School Committee. Mrs. Lorenz stated that he would be coming at a later date (February/March), to discuss Chapter 70 funding methods.

Mr. Hebda asked if there was a cost for Mr. Hemmens to come to the committee. Mrs. Lorenz noted that there is a charge, as Mr. Hemmens is considered a consultant.

Mr. Hebda requested a quote from Mr. Hemmens on reviewing/revising the Regional Agreement.

Agenda Item #7g, Health Insurance Task Force Report:

Mrs. Lorenz updated that committee on the November 05, 2013 meeting. The committee continues to work on the proposed Safety-Net Fund. A final draft will go out next week. There are no future meetings scheduled.

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Agenda Items #7h and 8a, Chairperson's Report & FY '15 Budget Discussion:

Mr. Medeiros discussed the following:

- ✓ Anonymous letters, phone calls, etc. addressed to the School Committee are not recognized, and they will not be responded to
- ✓ A Cafeteria Advisory Committee meeting with students, parents, SC members, and Kelly Harrison, Whitsons Food Director will be scheduled in the next week
- ✓ The Superintendent's Search Committee orientation with Glenn Koocher, MASC, is scheduled for November 14, 2013
 - Mrs. Terry has become a member of the search committee
- ✓ Mrs. Lorenz and Mrs. Bartholomew have volunteered for the Budget Advisory Committee

By consensus, it was decided to change the December 10th School Committee meeting to December 17th.

Mr. Medeiros, Mr. Andrade, and Mr. Katseff spoke about the MASC Conference held last week. There were many informative and interesting workshops/seminars, such as: a "foundation" budget review; an unfunded mandates review; a Chapter 70 funding seminar; and PARCC information.

Mr. Medeiros reviewed the FY '15 budget timetable. He prompted committee members to reach out to their Finance Committee(s). There needs to be a better understanding of the district's budget process.

The initial, preliminary budget proposal will be presented to the School Committee on December 17, 2013. 17th. School priorities will be included in this preliminary budget.

Agenda Item #9a, Vote to Approve Surplus Equipment:

It was moved by Mrs. Bartholomew, seconded by Mrs. Lorenz, and VOTED to approve the list of surplus equipment at the Beckwith Middle School.

VOTE ~ AYE ~ UNANIMOUS

Agenda item #9b, Vote to Accept Donations:

It was moved by Mrs. Bartholomew, seconded by Mrs. Lorenz, and VOTED to accept a monetary donation of \$104.00, from Target, to the Palmer River Elementary School.

VOTE ~ AYE ~ UNANIMOUS

It was moved by Mrs. Bartholomew, seconded by Mrs. Lorenz, and VOTED to accept a monetary donation of \$60.00, from Target Take Care of Education, to the Dighton Elementary School.

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VOTE ~ AYE ~ UNANIMOUS

It was moved by Mrs. Bartholomew, seconded by Mrs. Lorenz, and VOTED to accept a monetary donation of \$36.10, from The Funding Factory, to the Dighton Elementary School.

VOTE ~ AYE ~ UNANIMOUS

Agenda Item #9d, Vote to Award Snow Removal Bid:

Mrs. Antonellis, reviewed and is recommending awarding the snow removal bid to: Saxon Excavating, for the 2013-2014 winter season.

It was moved by Mrs. Terry, seconded by Mrs. Bartholomew, and VOTED to award the 2013-2014 winter season snow removal bid to: Saxon Excavating.

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 Mr. Barrett, 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 return to open session at: 8:15 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

Janice Terry, Secretary