

Dighton~Rehoboth Regional District School Committee
Regular Meeting ~ November 26, 2013

A Regular Meeting of the Dighton~Rehoboth Regional School Committee was held on November 26, 2013, in the Dighton~Rehoboth Regional High School Library.

Present:

Tiffany Bartholomew
Eliza Couture
Peter Hebda
David Katseff
Raymond Medeiros
Timothy Rapoza
Janice Terry

Also:

Michael Malone, Interim Superintendent of Schools
Gail Van Buren, Asst. Superintendent of Schools
Catherine Antonellis, District Business Administrator
Kyle Riley, Special Education Director
Kellie Fagan, Recording Secretary

Absent:

Christopher Andrade
Richard Barrett
Susan Lorenz

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 Mr. Hebda to approve the Regular Session minutes of November 12, 2013 meeting. Committee discussion ensued.

It was moved by Mr. Hebda, seconded by Mrs. Terry, and VOTED to approve the Regular Session minutes of November 12, 2013 meeting, as amended.

VOTE ~ AYE ~ UNANIMOUS

[Agenda Item #3, Vote to Approve Minutes:](#)

It was moved by Mr. Katseff, seconded by Mr. Hebda, and VOTED to approve the #1 Executive Session of October 22, 2013.

VOTE ~ AYE ~ UNANIMOUS

[Agenda Item #4, Vote to Approve the Bills and Payroll:](#)

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

V - #12	\$ 101,022.76
V - #1019	\$ 8,982.23
V - #1022	\$ 516,197.28

Dighton~Rehoboth Regional School Committee
Regular Session
November 26, 2013
Page 2

V - #1023 \$ 451,015.77
V - #1024 \$ 241.82
V - #1100 \$ 646,532.14
V - #1101 \$ 220,527.45

VOTE ~ AYE ~ UNANIMOUS

Mr. Medeiros stated that the committee would enter into Executive Session, as per MGL Chapter 30A, Section 1, for the purposes for discussing potential litigation, union issues, and security, and would return to open session.

It was moved by Mr. Katseff, 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, and would return to open session, at 6:45 PM. Roll call vote:

Mrs. Bartholomew ~ Aye
Mrs. Couture ~ Aye
Mr. Hebda ~ Aye
Mr. Katseff ~ Aye
Mr. Medeiros ~ Aye
Mr. Rapoza ~ Aye
Mrs. Terry ~ Aye

MOTION PASSED

Mr. Medeiros stated that the committee would re-enter open session at: 7:40 PM.

Agenda Item #6, Public Input:

Tim Kelly and Steve Patrick (Beckwith teachers and DRRTA Co-presidents), addressed the committee regarding a district school building.

Agenda Item #7, Correspondence and Enclosures:

Included in the November 26, 2013 back-up were the following enclosures/correspondence: Minutes of the November 12, 2013 Regular Session; district lunch program comparison (this year / last year); COTA draft job description; donation request(s); revised 2013-2014 school committee meeting dates; Palmer River Elementary School Weekly Update(s); and newspaper article.

Mr. Malone reviewed the following correspondence:

- ✓ Lunch program enclosure = October participation this year vs. last year. He stated that participation has increased this year
- ✓ MARS meeting(s) calendar

Dighton~Rehoboth Regional School Committee
Regular Session
November 26, 2013
Page 3

Agenda Item #9c, Walker Partnership Group Audit Report:

Mr. Riley introduced Mr. James Shillinglaw of the Walker Partnership Group. Mr. Shingling performed an audit of the district's Special Education Program. Mr. Shillinglaw spoke about the Walker Partnership Group: the group works with districts and their special education departments (i.e. professional development, helps to develop therapeutic programs within districts, conducts program evaluations, etc.).

The group's methodology of district evaluation:

- ✓ Reviewed special education written documents
- ✓ Performed extensive interviews (35) and classroom observations (6 special education, and 2 general education classes)
- ✓ Made recommendations from findings observed, with applicable timelines

Findings:

- ✓ Like many districts, D~R has made concerted efforts to become more independent and less reliant on collaboratives, saving the district money
- ✓ Our Early Childhood Program was impressive
- ✓ The administrative communication within the district was very beneficial
- ✓ The district on-the-whole is very cost effective, by using our own staff instead of outside services. With district services, more special education students can be kept in-district
- ✓ The transition program from the middle schools to the high school is excellent
- ✓ The Special Education Coordinators in each school are great
- ✓ With Special Education making up 14.2% of the student population, the caseload of students is very reasonable
- ✓ 80% of our special education students are inclusive, which is above the state average
- ✓ With only 28.5% out-of-district students, D~R is below the state average

Recommendations:

- ✓ The district needs to develop a continuum of services: inclusion uses one-on-one paraprofessionals; this may not be the most effective way to use our staff
- ✓ Co-teaching needs to continue
- ✓ Recommend having a full-time School Psychologist in each school
- ✓ Teachers should conduct educational assessments in all schools

In general, Positive Behavior Intervention and Support (PBIS) curriculum assists teachers in understand students with specific issues.

Dighton~Rehoboth Regional School Committee
Regular Session
November 26, 2013
Page 4

Mr. Katseff asked if this was a mandated audit. Mr. Riley stated that it was not; however, it is good practice to have an audit every 3-5 years, as the state comes every 6 years. He noted that the state focuses on federal and state law compliance, and not special education services. Mr. Malone noted that these kinds of audits are performed in many other districts.

Mr. Katseff asked what the cost of the audit was. Mr. Riley stated that the audit fee was \$6,000.00, but was grant-funded.

Mrs. Couture asked if the audit report will be made available to the committee. Mr. Riley will provide report copies to committee members.

Mr. Katseff asked if Mr. Riley had any specific recommendations for the Special Education Program. Mr. Malone stated that these recommendations would come forward during the budget talks on December 17, 2013.

Mr. Medeiros asked for the timeline of this audit. Mr. Riley responded that the audit took place within the 2012-2013 school year. Mr. Medeiros asked if any of the audit recommendations have been put into place yet. Mr. Riley replied that some have, and that a complete report will be provided to the committee at a future meeting.

Agenda Item #9a, Superintendent's Report:

Mr. Malone discussed the following:

- ✓ The International Student Program for our district is being researched. The district will put together a brochure including tuition amount(s) and student/family recruitment information. This will be a one-year program, as public schools can only have foreign exchange students in their school system for one year. Mr. Malone reminded the committee that there are specific regulations from Homeland Security, that must be adhered to.
- ✓ Paula Manchester, new Dighton Elementary School Principal, will begin December 02, 2013, and will be introduced to the committee on December 17th.
- ✓ The YMCA will pay \$850/month, for building use fees, retroactive to September 2013.
- ✓ Congratulations to Ann Siachos, DRRHS English teacher, who recently became nationally board certified. This is quite an accomplishment, and Mrs. Siachos will be introduced to the committee at a future meeting. Mr. Medeiros asked for a press release to go out regarding Mrs. Siachos. This will be handled by the high school.
- ✓ Teachers negotiating on District Determined Measures (part of the teacher evaluation system) will be negotiated when the state has a recommended language model.
- ✓ A Bullying presentation will take place at a future meeting.

Dighton~Rehoboth Regional School Committee
Regular Session
November 26, 2013
Page 5

Mrs. Terry asked if the committee if there can be a CTE presentation of the department this school year. She also requested a presentation from Mrs. Van Buren, regarding district professional development. Mr. Malone stated that both CTE and Mrs. Van Buren will be making presentations.

Agenda Items #8d, and 9j:

Mrs. Bartholomew reviewed the Capital Improvement Task Force projects:

- ✓ The Capital Projects Task Force met on November 19, 2013 to discuss the MSBA project for Palmer River. The task force is recommending that the district consider reapplying for the MSBA Core Program for Palmer River. This application would be due to MSBA by April 10, 2014. Mrs. Bartholomew stressed that Palmer River has many repair issues.
- ✓ Athletic Fields and technology issues have been brought to the task force
- ✓ Special town meetings (both) will be for the four (not Palmer River) school roofs. The meeting(s) will take place in late February/early March 2014. The bonds for roofs will be the only topic of each Special Town Meeting.
- ✓ Mrs. Bartholomew suggested that the Town of Rehoboth may take the requested money from their "free cash" or their stabilization fund. Mrs. Bartholomew noted that this is a proposed option. The school district would be responsible for the remainder of the funds required.
- ✓ The task force will meet in January 2014.

Mr. Medeiros asked if we know what bond wording is required. Mrs. Bartholomew stated that the MSBA will assist the district with the exact wording, and our Bond Counsel will handle the rest (our district financial advisors, Unibank, will help, as well).

Agenda Item #8a, Certified Occupational Therapist Assistant (COTA) draft job description discussion:

Mr. Riley reviewed the draft job description for a Certified Occupational Therapist Assistant (COTA).

It was moved by Mr. Hebda and seconded by Mrs. Couture to approve the draft job description for a Certified Occupational Therapist Assistant (COTA). No vote taken, committee discussion ensued.

Mr. Katseff asked why the term "Certified" is in the job description/job title. Mr. Riley stated that COTA staff must be certified.

After committee discussion, it was moved by Mr. Katseff, seconded by Mr. Rapoza, and VOTED to table this action item until the December 17, 2013 meeting.

VOTE ~ AYE ~ UNANIMOUS

Dighton~Rehoboth Regional School Committee
Regular Session
November 26, 2013
Page 6

Mr. Riley will provide the committee with a new proposed, draft job description for a COTA.

Agenda Item #10b, Accept Donation Requests:

It was moved by Mr. Hebda, seconded by Mrs. Couture, and VOTED to accept a monetary donation of \$5,000.00 from the Feinstein Foundation, to the Palmer River Elementary School.

VOTE ~ AYE ~ UNANIMOUS

It was moved by Mr. Hebda, seconded by Mrs. Couture, and VOTED to accept a monetary donation of \$32.16 from Abibow, to the Beckwith Middle School.

VOTE ~ AYE ~ UNANIMOUS

It was moved by Mr. Hebda, seconded by Mrs. Couture, and VOTED to accept a monetary donation of \$32.94 from Abibow, to the Beckwith Middle School.

VOTE ~ AYE ~ UNANIMOUS

Agenda Item #10c, Approve the School Committee Meeting Date Change:

It was moved by Mr. Hebda, seconded by Mrs. Couture, and VOTED to approve the School Committee meeting date from December 10, 2013, to December 17, 2013.

VOTE ~ AYE ~ UNANIMOUS

Mrs. Bartholomew left the meeting at: 8:50 PM.

Agenda Item #9a, Palmer River Elementary School Technology Presentation (Google Docs):

James Pearce, and Sue Boulder gave a PowerPoint presentation of Google Docs/Google Drive. Mr. Pearce outlined basics, examples, etc. of google docs and google apps. Mr. Pearce is training our teachers to "train other teachers" at Palmer River.

Mr. Pearce and Mrs. Boulder reviewed some of the advantageous to Google Docs:

- ✓ Students are excited, enthusiastic, and learning – this is a tool for learning
- ✓ Accounts were created for all students
- ✓ There is total access from any device;
- ✓ Student projects can be started and stopped at any time; there are virtually no limitations
- ✓ There will be consistency throughout each document for every student in every school (all documents will look the same)
- ✓ Documents can be shared "live" with their teachers – comments will appear real time and students can write/respond/reply
- ✓ Can test documents for plagiarism

Dighton~Rehoboth Regional School Committee
Regular Session
November 26, 2013
Page 7

- ✓ Google Docs is a totally secure system

Mrs. Couture asked if there would be professional development conducted. Mr. Pearce explained that there will be “trainers” within each school, training other teachers. Palmer River students will be going to the other schools to “spread the word” about Google Docs.

Agenda Item #9b, FY '15 Budget Discussion:

Mr. Malone stated that the FY '15 budget is under review and the proposed budget will be presented to the committee at the December 17th meeting. The district is using more facets of Budget Sense this year, thus giving the committee true budget figures. The entire budget is under review, and personnel are being validated. There will be no more manual entry of the budget.

Mr. Malone said that the Stabilization Fund would be discussed at a future meeting. Capital Stabilization accounts must be voted by the School Committee, and then at town meeting(s).

Mr. Katseff reviewed the background of a stabilization account.

Mr. Malone noted that Town Representatives and Town Finance Committee members will be at the school committee budget talks.

Agenda Item #9d, Super's Search Committee Orientation Update:

Mr. Medeiros reviewed the meeting held November 14, 2013, with the Superintendent's Search Subcommittee, and Mr. Glenn Koocher, MASC.

Agenda Item #9f, Policy Subcommittee Report:

Mr. Hebda will look for a mutual date/time for the next subcommittee meeting.

Agenda Item #9g, Chapter 70 Task Force:

Mr. Katseff updated the committee on Chapter 70 funding.

Agenda Item #9h, Health Ins. Task Force Report:

Mr. Katseff updated the committee on the proposed safety-net account wording. The final draft has been sent to task force members; waiting for their responses/comments. The task force will not employ a Memorandum of Understanding for the proposed safety-net account.

Agenda Item #9k, Chairperson's Report:

Mr. Medeiros discussed the following:

- ✓ The high school play, “12 Angry Jurors” was excellent
- ✓ The current “Budget Advisory Committee” should actually be entitled the “Advisory Finance Committee”. This committee is formed to recommend budget suggestions to the School Committee

Dighton~Rehoboth Regional School Committee
Regular Session
November 26, 2013
Page 8

- ✓ School Committee members are not required to be on this committee;
 - Currently, Mr. Andrade, Mrs. Lorenz, and Mrs. Bartholomew are the School Committee representatives
- ✓ The Superintendent's Search Committee met on November 14, 2013:
 - Glenn Koocher, MASC, provided much appreciated guidance for the search
 - The committee will meet again to choose interview candidates in January 2014

Agenda item #9i, Cafeteria Advisory Report:

Mrs. Terry reviewed the Cafeteria Advisory Committee make-up. The committee will meet sometime in December. The subcommittee has gathered the following feedback from the schools (both students and staff) on the new food program:

- ✓ Overall, the food tastes more satisfying
- ✓ Students have noted that lunch lines have been shorter
- ✓ The "salads are good"
- ✓ The teaching staff and school personnel think that the product(s) is better

Mr. Katseff addressed the committee regarding "free and reduced" lunches within the district.

Ms. Fagan left the meeting at: 9:45 PM.

Mr. Medeiros adjourned the meeting at 9:50 PM.

It was moved by Mr. Hebda, seconded by Mrs. Couture, and VOTED to adjourn the Executive Session at: Roll call vote:

Mrs. Couture ~ Aye
Mr. Hebda ~ Aye
Mr. Katseff ~ Aye
Mr. Medeiros ~ Aye
Mr. Rapoza ~ Aye
Mrs. Terry ~ Aye

MOTION PASSED

Janice Terry, Secretary