

Dighton~Rehoboth Regional District School Committee  
Regular Meeting ~ December 17, 2013

A Regular Meeting of the Dighton~Rehoboth Regional School Committee was held on December 17, 2013, in the Dighton~Rehoboth Regional High School Library.

Present:

Richard Barrett  
Christopher Andrade  
Tiffany Bartholomew  
Eliza Couture  
Peter Hebda (7:00)  
David Katseff  
Susan Lorenz  
Raymond Medeiros  
Timothy Rapoza

Also:

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

Absent:

Janice Terry

*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. Lorenz, seconded by Mrs. Bartholomew, and VOTED to approve the Executive Session minutes of November 12, 2013 meeting.

**VOTE ~ AYE ~ UNANIMOUS**

Agenda Item #3, Vote to Approve Minutes:

It was moved by Mrs. Bartholomew, and seconded by Mrs. Couture, to approve the Regular Session minutes of the November 26, 2013 meeting.

Mrs. Lorenz addressed amendments for the November 26, 2013 regular session meeting.

After additional committee discussion on minute revisions, it was moved by Mrs. Bartholomew, seconded by Mrs. Couture, and VOTED to approve the Regular Session minutes of the November 26, 2013 meeting, as amended.

**VOTE ~ AYE ~ UNANIMOUS**

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

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

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V - #13	\$ 104,074.35
V - #14	\$ 182.90
V - #15	\$ 106,590.20
V - #1026	\$ 537,469.51
V - #1200	\$ 736,680.33
V - #1201	\$ 935.24
V - #1210	\$ 43.17
V - #1300	\$ 650,993.98
V - #1301	\$ 230,378.22

*VOTE ~ AYE ~ UNANIMOUS*

*Agenda Item #5, Public Input:*

None at this time.

*Agenda Item #6, Correspondence and Enclosures:*

Included in the December 17, 2013 back-up was the following enclosures/correspondence: Minutes of the November 26, 2013 Regular Session; district report cards; COTA draft job description; pre-school PTSA request information; MSBA Repair Program Option ~ Palmer River Elementary School; donation request; surplus equipment request; Palmer River Elementary School Weekly Updates; Dighton Lion; Board & Administrator; and principals' reports (blue folders).

Mr. Malone stated that all correspondence would be addressed during the meeting.

*Agenda Item #7a, Pre-School PTSA as a Fund-Raising Organization Discussion:*

Mrs. Bartholomew quickly reviewed the request from the pre-school PTSA to become a fund-raising organization. Mrs. Bartholomew stated that the pre-school would like to form their own PTSA, but will need collaboration and recognition from the School Committee.

Mr. Katseff asked if the Pre-School PTSA is asking to be a fund-raising group, or are they looking for approval from the School Committee to be a recognized PTSA.

A PTSA representative will come to a January 2014 meeting, to answer questions and clarify their request. Mr. Medeiros stated that this request would be an action item, at that January meeting.

*Agenda Item #8b, Policy Subcommittee Report:*

Mr. Hebda noted that the committee will be meeting in January, and is close to finishing all policy revisions. No meeting date has been set.

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Agenda Item #8c, Chapter 70 Task Force Report:

Mrs. Lorenz updated the committee on the Chapter 70 Task Force meeting, held December 10, 2013. Mr. Steve Hemmens, Massachusetts Association of Regional Schools (MARS), and Mrs. Antonellis explained the statutory method of funding reimbursement(s) using the FY '14 budget, in relation to the district Regional Agreement.

The task force will seek a second opinion, on this subject, from The Abrahams Group. This will ensure a thorough investigation of the Chapter 70 funding methodology.

The task force will make full disclosure of Chapter 70 funding, as dictated by the State of Massachusetts regulations, and the District Regional Agreement.

Agenda Item #8d, Health Insurance Task Force Update:

Mrs. Lorenz stated that the safety-net charter is complete. The task force is now waiting for all task force members' signatures, before sending out the charter to employees/retirees. Mrs. Lorenz thanked all members of the Health Insurance Task Force.

Agenda Item #7b, Budget FY '15 Discussion:

Mr. Malone stated that budget planning with the principals has begun. He highlighted major line item increases for FY '15:

- ✓ 4% Bristol County Retirement
- ✓ 6-8% health insurance
- ✓ 5% special education tuitions and transportation
- ✓ 1.75% salaries (contractual)
- ✓ 10% utilities

Mrs. Antonellis reviewed the spreadsheets provided, which outlined all major line item increases (1000 account, 2000 account, etc.).

Mr. Malone brought up some general budget ideas:

- ✓ Possibility of additional "maintenance staffing" in the buildings (i.e. electrician, plumber, etc.)
- ✓ The Superintendent will be proposing a Facilities Manager for the district
- ✓ A request of \$300,000 for technology is being studied for student needs, academics, etc.
- ✓ A vehicle needs to be purchased for the high school (sander @ \$54,000)
- ✓ The district is researching full-day kindergarten ~ the cost to establish a full-day kindergarten would be approximately \$225,000

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Agenda Item #7c, Certified Occupational Therapist Assistant (COTA) Draft Job Description:

Mr. Riley reviewed and answered questions regarding the Certified Occupational Therapist Assistant (COTA) draft job description. He went over previous School Committee points of concern, and reviewed the proposed changes to the job description.

Mr. Riley reminded the committee that students can be serviced in-district by having a COTA, which saves money.

Mr. Katseff asked if there is an Occupational Therapist (OT) within the district. Mr. Riley replied that there is.

Mr. Katseff addressed the committee regarding the word "Certified" being part of the job title.

Both Mrs. Lorenz and Mrs. Couture stated that the district is focusing on highly qualified personnel; therefore, the word "Certified" should remain in the job title.

After continued discussion, it was moved by Mrs. Lorenz, seconded by Mrs. Couture, and VOTED to approve the Certified Occupational Therapist Assistant's (COTA) draft job description.

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

AYE ~ 6.20    NAY ~ 1.8

MOTION PASSED

Agenda Item #7d, MSBA Update:

Mrs. Bartholomew and Mrs. Antonellis led a discussion on the MSBA project status. Mrs. Bartholomew gave tentative numbers for the MSBA project (roofs); and the task force project timelines. Both Mrs. Bartholomew and Mrs. Antonellis met with Unibank Financial (district bond counsel). The task force is looking for a special town meeting date within the week of March 10, 2014. There will be a presentation on February 11, 2014, with Dietz & Company, Architects; Arcadis; OPM; and Unibank Financial Advisors. The School Committee will then vote on each

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project. Unibank will provide the wording for the bond article, and the towns will be notified within 5 days of this vote.

Mrs. Bartholomew noted that the figures submitted to MSBA increased slightly from the original figures given by Habeeb Architects. Habeeb Architects basically scanned the project, while the MSBA conducted an in-depth, detailed look at all of the roofs.

Mrs. Bartholomew stated that MSBA will give us a reimbursement figure/percentage, after they complete our project review (January/February 2014).

Agenda Item #8a, Superintendent's Report:

Mr. Malone highlighted the following:

- ✓ FY '15 budget is being worked on with district principals
- ✓ State district report cards went out to all parents/guardians

Agenda Item #8e, Chairperson's Report:

Mr. Medeiros discussed the following:

- ✓ Superintendents Search:
  - Sample interview questions have been sent to search committee members
  - The Search Committee is reviewing the proposed questions, and
  - The committee will compile the final list of questions in January 2014
- ✓ The Finance Advisory Committee has been formed: Mrs. Bartholomew, Mrs. Lorenz, Mr. Katseff, and Mr. Andrade.

Agenda Item #9a, Vote to Accept Donation Request:

It was moved by Mrs. Lorenz, seconded by Mrs. Bartholomew and VOTED to accept a monetary donation of \$300.00 from the Dighton Lions Club, to the Dighton Elementary School.

**VOTE ~ AYE ~ UNANIMOUS**

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

It was moved by Mrs. Lorenz, seconded by Mrs. Bartholomew and VOTED to approve surplus equipment at the DRRHS.

**VOTE ~ AYE ~ UNANIMOUS**

Agenda Item #10, Executive Session:

*Mr. Medeiros stated that the committee would enter into Executive Session as per MGL 30A, Section 21, for the purposes of discussing potential litigation, union issues, and security, and will not return to open session.*

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It was moved by Mrs. Lorenz, seconded by Mrs. Bartholomew, and VOTED to enter into Executive Session as per MGL 30A, Section 21, for the purposes of discussing potential litigation, union issues, and security, and will not return to open session at: 7:55 PM. Roll call vote:

Mr. Andrade ~ Aye  
Mr. Barrett ~ Aye  
Mrs. Bartholomew ~ Aye  
Mrs. Couture ~ Aye  
Mr. Hebda ~ Aye  
Mr. Katseff ~ Aye  
Mr. Medeiros ~ Aye  
Mr. Rapoza ~ Aye

MOTION PASSED

*Mr. Medeiros closed the meeting.*

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*Janice Terry, Secretary*