

Dighton~Rehoboth Regional District School Committee
Regular Meeting ~ January 14, 2014

A Regular Meeting of the Dighton~Rehoboth Regional School Committee was held on January 14, 2014, in the Dighton~Rehoboth Regional High School Auditorium.

Present:

Richard Barrett
Christopher Andrade
Tiffany Bartholomew
Eliza Couture
Peter Hebda
Susan Lorenz
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
Kellie Partridge-Fagan, Secretary

Absent:

David Katseff

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. Bartholomew, seconded by Mrs. Lorenz, and VOTED to approve the December 17, 2013 Regular Session minutes.

VOTE ~ AYE ~ UNANIMOUS

It was moved by Mrs. Bartholomew, seconded by Mrs. Lorenz, and VOTED to approve the November 26, 2013 Executive Session minutes.

VOTE ~ AYE ~ UNANIMOUS

Agenda Item #4, Bills and Payroll:

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

V - #16	\$ 95,849.70
V - #1400	\$ 653,387.30
V - #1401	\$ 1,158.59
V - #17	\$ 100,566.54
V - #18	\$ 991.82
V - #1027	\$ 455.66

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V - #1028	\$ 30,642.96
V - #1029	\$ 88,236.03
V - #1030	\$1,814,991.21
V - #1500	\$ 627,965.42
V - #1501	\$ 1,900.14
V - #1510	\$ 361.47

VOTE ~ AYE ~ UNANIMOUS

Agenda Item #5, Public Input:

None at this time.

Agenda Item #6, Correspondence & Enclosures:

Mr. Malone addressed the following correspondence:

- ✓ D~R high school students collected food for the Food Bank and Food Pantry; thank you correspondence was enclosed
- ✓ The Gaetz Family's request for an extension of time to complete the construction of their new home in Dighton. Mr. Malone has visited the property and the house is basically built, and their child is already in the school system. The Gaetz Family is asking for a 60-day extension. Mr. Medeiros stated that Mr. Malone could grant this request, but for 60 days only (February 14, 2014 deadline).
- ✓ All other correspondence and enclosures will be addressed during the meeting

Agenda Item #7a, Superintendent's Report:

Mr. Malone highlighted the following:

- ✓ The DRRHS Marching Band will be representing the state of Massachusetts at the July 4th parade in Washington, DC. D~R is the only marching band representing our state.

Mr. Malone introduced Brian Michaud, Dighton Elementary School Music teacher. Mr. Michaud has written a children's book, "The Road To Nyn", which is currently being sold locally, as a Kindle book, and on Amazon.com. This is an adventure book for children of all ages. Kudos to Mr. Michaud from the School Committee and the district.

Mr. Malone introduced Anne Siachos, DRRHS English teacher. Mrs. Siachos has recently become a Nationally Board Certified Teacher. This honorable status is extremely difficult to achieve; however, Mrs. Siachos pointed out that the work has paid off in many areas of her teaching career (student assessments, classroom involvement, etc.). The committee thanked Mrs. Siachos for her hard work and dedication to the students of this district.

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Mr. Malone spoke about the Governor's budget, which is due out next week. Unfortunately, the district should not expect a great deal of financial assistance from the state this year. He urged that committee members contact their legislators and representatives for continued support. The House budget numbers are due out in February 2014.

Mr. Andrade asked about the CTE position not being on the personnel update. Mr. Malone will add it to the update for the next meeting, and filling this position should be addressed in February. Mr. Malone will have additional information regarding this position at the January 28, 2014 meeting.

Mrs. Couture inquired about the .75 librarian at Dighton Middle School. Mr. Malone confirmed that the position was budgeted as a .75 librarian (switched to a .25 ELA instructor).

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

Mrs. Loell reviewed the trip request for the DRRHS Speech/Debate Team. She pointed out that this is an annual trip.

It was moved by Mrs. Bartholomew, seconded by Mrs. Couture, and VOTED to approve the trip request for the DRRHS Speech / Debate Team to travel to the Columbia University High School Invitational in New York City, from January 24, 2014 through January 26, 2014.

VOTE ~ AYE ~ UNANIMOUS

Agenda Item #7b, MSBA Projects Update:

Mrs. Bartholomew spoke with the Board of Selectmen from both Dighton and Rehoboth, and both town meeting dates have been set. Dighton's will be held on March 11, 2014, while Rehoboth's will be held February 24, 2014.

Agenda Item #7c, Policy Subcommittee Report:

Mr. Hebda updated the committee on the meeting held January 07, 2014. The subcommittee is now reviewing Sections I and J. Section F will be brought to the committee for review at the next School Committee meeting.

Mrs. Couture asked about School Committee "Remote Participation". Mr. Medeiros stated that this is an issue that must be voted on by the School Committee, and will be addressed at a future meeting.

Agenda Item #7d, Assessment Task Force:

Mrs. Lorenz read a statement, on behalf of the School Committee, regarding district assessment allocation methodology. There will be an informational presentation on this subject at the January 28, 2014 School Committee meeting.

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Agenda Item #7e, Athletic Fields Subcommittee Report:

Mr. Andrade updated the committee on the athletic fields subcommittee:

- ✓ Meeting to be held January 15, 2014 with the architect
- ✓ Will be reviewing draft project numbers
- ✓ May try to get funding through outside sources

Agenda Item #7f, Chairperson's Report:

Mr. Medeiros reported on the following:

- ✓ The Comcast contract with the district is expiring; this needs to be addressed
- ✓ The Superintendent's Search:
 - 22 applicants
 - The search committee will meet on the 27th to discuss applicants, and to review potential interview questions
 - By February 2014, the search committee will have narrowed down the search to 3-4 candidates
 - February 2014 will be candidate site visits
 - Would like to see an offer in-place by the end of March 2014

Agenda Item #8a, Pre-School PTSA Presentation:

Rose Roulier, Pre-School PTSA Chairperson, and Nancy Blythe, Pre-School Coordinator, reviewed their request for the pre-school PTSA to become a fund-raising organization.

Mr. Andrade noted that these PTSA fund-raising events should be cognizant of timing for other school fund-raising efforts in the district.

Mrs. Lorenz asked if the PTSA's primary function would be fund-raising. Mrs. Blythe responded that the PTSA will be fund-raising for special occasions/events only. Money from the PTSA will go to a wish list: adding a playground; having petting zoo visits; bringing in story tellers for the kids; booking musicians, etc.

It was moved by Mrs. Bartholomew, seconded by Mrs. Lorenz, and VOTED to approve the Pre-School PTSA as a fund-raising organization.

VOTE ~ AYE ~ UNANIMOUS

Agenda Item #8b, Capitalization Stabilization Account Discussion:

Mrs. Antonellis stated that this issue would be brought up at the next meeting.

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Agenda Item #8c, Paraprofessional Evaluation Tool:

Mr. Riley reviewed the proposed Paraprofessional Evaluation tool for the committee:

- ✓ The evaluation tool is broken down by: “meets/exceeds expectations”, “meeting expectations”, “not meeting expectations”, or “non-applicable”
- ✓ This evaluation tool needs to be put into place sooner rather than later
- ✓ Mrs. Lorenz noted some minor language changes that Mr. Riley will take care of for the official evaluation tool
- ✓ Mr. Riley noted that there are currently 60+ Paraprofessionals in the district

Mrs. Terry asked if the principals will do these evaluations. Mr. Riley confirmed that principals will be performing these evaluations, along with their teacher evaluations.

It was moved by Mrs. Bartholomew, seconded by Mrs. Couture, and VOTED to approve the Paraprofessional Evaluation Tool, as amended.

VOTE ~ AYE ~ UNANIMOUS

Agenda Item #9a, Vote to Approve Donation Requests:

It was moved by Mrs. Bartholomew, seconded by Mrs. Lorenz, and VOTED to approve a monetary donation in the amount of \$32.32 from Abibow Recycling, to the Beckwith Middle School.

VOTE ~ AYE ~ UNANIMOUS

It was moved by Mrs. Bartholomew, seconded by Mrs. Lorenz, and VOTED to approve a monetary donation in the amount of \$780.50 from Box Tops for Education, to the Beckwith Middle School.

VOTE ~ AYE ~ UNANIMOUS

It was moved by Mrs. Bartholomew, seconded by Mrs. Lorenz, and VOTED to approve a monetary donation in the amount of \$853.00 from Chestnut Hills Studio, to the Dighton Elementary School.

VOTE ~ AYE ~ UNANIMOUS

It was moved by Mrs. Bartholomew, seconded by Mrs. Lorenz, and VOTED to approve a monetary donation in the amount of \$1,647.20 from Box Tops for Education, to the Dighton Elementary School.

VOTE ~ AYE ~ UNANIMOUS

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Mr. Andrade asked about the Special Education audit that was included in the packet. Mr. Riley briefly reviewed the audit and noted that this was included in the packet for informational purposes only. Mr. Andrade requested a special education update / presentation at a future meeting.

Agenda Item #8d, FY '15 Proposed Budget Discussion:

All principals were present to review their respective budgets.

Mr. Malone explained that the budget is currently at a 7% increase. This proposed budget is a draft only, and this budget proposal will be revisited several times before the final proposal is presented to the committee.

Mrs. Miguel and Mrs. Manchester presented their philosophies together:

- ✓ Student achievement goals are the same at both schools
- ✓ Priorities mirror each other as well: develop literacy curriculum; creating a nurturing, caring environment; focus on continued professional development; and increased technology for each school

Palmer River staffing requests:

- ✓ Team leaders
- ✓ Lunch and recess supervisors (4 of them)
- ✓ Increase their Adjustment Counselor to full-time

Dighton Elementary School staffing requests:

- ✓ None at this time

Both principals reviewed their “wish list” items (i.e. supplies, building maintenance items, technology software and hardware, etc.)

Mrs. Miguel and Mrs. Manchester will collaborate with each other to become more unified as elementary schools.

Mrs. Couture addressed the principals about technology/equipment being share by the students. Mrs. Miguel noted that some teachers share, so there is a greater need for replacements.

Mr. Rapoza reminded the committee that with the new GoogleDocs application, we will be saving on printing costs. Mr. Rapoza also noted that Core Business Technologies has helped reduce copying / printing costs (with company leases, and a new district-wide contract).

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Mrs. Miguel noted that their "Storytown" software is now outdated, and needs to be updated for higher reading skills. Palmer River's math program is outdated as well, and the school will need to research a new program. Each subject's technology needs will be reviewed.

Mr. Malone addressed the committee regarding the possibility of purchasing some items now, using the FY '14 budget. This can be determined in March 2014.

Mr. Medeiros addressed the safety issues at the Palmer River playground. Mrs. Miguel explained that additional monitors are in her staffing request. The current ratio is approximately 140 students for 3 adults (monitors). Need at least 4 more.

Mrs. Pincince and Mr. Wheeler reviewed the middle schools proposals:

- ✓ Mrs. Pincince and Mr. Wheeler will be working together to create a more cohesiveness between Dighton Middle and Beckwith Middle schools
- ✓ They currently meet once per week to align the schools as much as possible, by looking at each budget and curriculum needs
- ✓ There are no major changes in the Dighton Middle School budget

Mr. Wheeler addressed the committee regarding the decline in enrollment at the grade 3 level. Therefore, there will be 4 world language teachers next year, instead of 5.

Mrs. Pincince outlined the major change in her budget, which was an increase of \$100,000 in her health insurance line.

Beckwith Middle School staffing requests:

- ✓ None at this time

Dighton Middle School staffing requests:

- ✓ None at this time

Mr. Wheeler stated that the world languages content areas will be different at Beckwith and Dighton Middle, due to the enrollment numbers.

Mr. Malone stated that the middle school schedules are being looked at as well.

Mr. Medeiros asked if safety and security issues had been included in all budgets. Mr. Malone stated that each principal has put in for increased security, and that additional security items will be discussed at future meetings.

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Mrs. Striano addressed the committee on the high school:

- ✓ She explained that the NEASC visit is underway
- ✓ The Guidance Department has really pushed forward this year to increase it's support of, focus on, and guidance of our students

DRRHS staffing requests:

- ✓ None at this time

Mr. Andrade inquired about the enrollment numbers for the high school. Mrs. Striano responded that there are currently 875 students enrolled, and that the incoming class will be larger than that.

Mr. Malone has the NESDEC projected enrollment numbers available for School Committee members, and will include them in the next packet.

Mr. Malone stated that the high school budget has increased by 4% due to lane changes, salary increases, and other mandated costs.

Mr. Malone talked about our Voc Tech course offerings:

- ✓ The district needs to be 'cutting edge' in it's course offerings
- ✓ The district is looking at medical assistant curriculum, healthcare courses, and computer technology classes

Agenda Item #10, Executive Session:

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 issues, and security, and would not return to 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), for the purpose of discussing potential litigation, union issues, and security, at: 8:40, and would not return to open session. Roll call vote:

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

MOTION PASSED

Mr. Medeiros closed the meeting.

Janice Terry, Secretary