

Dighton~Rehoboth Regional District School Committee
Regular Meeting ~ February 11, 2014

A Regular Meeting of the Dighton~Rehoboth Regional School Committee was held on February 11, 2014, in the Dighton~Rehoboth Regional High School Auditorium.

Present:

Richard Barrett
Christopher Andrade
Tiffany Bartholomew
Eliza Couture
Peter Hebda
David Katseff
Raymond Medeiros
Janice Terry

Also:

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

Absent:

Susan Lorenz
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:

It was moved by Mrs. Bartholomew, seconded by Mr. Hebda, and VOTED to approve the Regular Session minutes of January 14, 2014 meeting.

Mr. Andrade had an amendment to page 6.

It was moved by Mrs. Bartholomew, seconded by Mr. Hebda, and VOTED to approve the Regular Session minutes of January 14, 2014 meeting, as amended.

VOTE ~ AYE ~ UNANIMOUS

It was moved by Mrs. Bartholomew, seconded by Mr. Hebda, and VOTED to approve the Executive Session minutes of January 08, 2014 meeting.

VOTE ~ AYE ~ UNANIMOUS

It was moved by Mrs. Bartholomew, seconded by Mr. Hebda, and VOTED to approve the Executive Session minutes of January 14, 2014.

VOTE ~ AYE ~ UNANIMOUS

Dighton~Rehoboth Regional School Committee
Regular Session
February 11, 2014
Page 2

Agenda Item #4, Bills and Payroll:

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

V - #20	\$ 104,779.69
V - #1033	\$ 1,702.50
V - #1034	\$ 313.39
V - #1635	\$ 334,567.37

VOTE ~ AYE ~ UNANIMOUS

Agenda Item #5, Public Input:

Alicen Adams, Dighton resident, addressed the committee regarding full-day kindergarten.

Agenda Item #6, Correspondence & Enclosures:

Mr. Malone highlighted the following correspondence:

- The NESDEC projected enrollment figures for the district (projected out to 5 years)

He noted that everything else will be addressed during the meeting.

With regards to the enrollment numbers, Mr. Andrade noted that there are a significant number of students attending out-of-district/private schools. Mr. Medeiros noted that there is an end-of-the-year survey to parent/guardians who are sending their children out of the district (not special education placements).

Agenda Item #7a, Superintendent Search Committee Update:

Mr. Medeiros updated the committee on the Superintendent's Search:

- There were 22 applicants
- Application reviews took place on January 27th
- Candidate interviews (6) took place on February 6th & 7th
- The three(3) finalists are (listed alphabetically):
 - Dr. Anthony Azar
 - Mr. Kyle Riley
 - Ms. Janice Rotella
- Site visits will be scheduled within the next few weeks
- Final interviews will be held on March 8th in the DRRHS Media Center at 9:00 AM

Mr. Medeiros thanked all members of the Search Committee: Linda Ferreira, Paul Giannakoulas, Tim Kelly, Kurt Loell, Carol Nagle, Janice Terry, Kelley Turner, Richard Wheeler, Michael Malone, and Raymond Medeiros.

Dighton~Rehoboth Regional School Committee
Regular Session
February 11, 2014
Page 3

Agenda Item #7b, Superintendent's Report:

Mr. Malone highlighted the following:

- The CTE Department had two students awarded scholarships: Dillon Pacheco, and Michael DeSa, to the Universal Technical Institute
- The trip for the DRRHS Marching Band to Disney and Washington DC ~ this is an excellent achievement for the Marching Band, as well as for the school district

Agenda Item #7c, Policy Subcommittee Report:

Mr. Hebda updated the committee on the meeting held on February 11, 2014:

- The subcommittee reviewed Section J
- The School Committee will vote on Section F tonight
- Section H is in blue folders for review, and will be voted at the next meeting

Agenda Item #7d, Capital Projects Task Force:

Mrs. Bartholomew updated the committee on the following:

- The task force met last week
- Project priorities will be submitted to the School Committee in the near future
- At the March 4th Dighton Special Town Meeting and the March 01st Rehoboth Special Town Meeting, the Capital Projects Task Force will do a presentation on capital project(s) recommendations

Agenda Item #7e, Chairperson's Report:

Mr. Medeiros stated that all topics would be discussed during the meeting.

Agenda Item #9b, Vote to Approve Trip Requests:

Mr. Franczyk was present to review and answer questions for the 2 trip requests from the D~R Marching Band. He noted that the Disney trip is taken every 2 years, since 2001. There are no school funds required for the trip. The itinerary was provided.

Mr. Medeiros asked about 7th and 8th grade band members. Mr. Franczyk stated that there will be some 7th and 8th graders traveling with the band on both trips.

It was moved by Mrs. Bartholomew, seconded by Mr. Hebda, and VOTED to approve the trip request from the D~R Marching Band to travel to Disney World, Florida, from June 26, 2014 through July 02, 2014, as per the itinerary provided.

VOTE ~ AYE ~ UNANIMOUS

Dighton~Rehoboth Regional School Committee
Regular Session
February 11, 2014
Page 4

It was moved by Mrs. Bartholomew, seconded by Mr. Hebda, and VOTED to approve the trip request from the D~R Marching Band to travel to Washington, DC, from July 02, 2014 through July 05, 2014, as per the itinerary provided.

VOTE ~ AYE ~ UNANIMOUS

Agenda Item #8a, FY '15 Proposed Budget:

Mr. Malone spoke about the proposed FY '15 budget:

- There will be 3 levels to the budget ~ tonight's proposal is Level 1
- Level 2 will be presented at the February 25, 2014 meeting
- Level 3 will be presented at the March 11, 2014 meeting
- The Public Hearing of the proposed budget is changed to March 25, 2014
- Level 1 is currently at a 5.5 % increase
- Some major adjustments:
 - The Technology Instructors and the Special Education Director positions have been moved to the 2000 account (Instructional Positions)
 - Supplies, etc. have been reduced
 - There are additions to the Curriculum account
 - Some retirement positions will not be filled
 - The Operations and Maintenance Contracted Services line has been reduced
 - The proposed Director of Buildings, Grounds, and Operations position will be included in the budget

Mr. Malone stated that the budget is transparent. District administration has been completely involved in the budget process; the administration and the Superintendent meet every two weeks for budget discussions. Mr. Malone thanked all personnel involved in the process.

Mrs. Couture asked for the cost to the district of full-day kindergarten. Ms. Antonellis estimated that it is a \$300,000 cost to the district.

Mrs. Terry addressed the committee about the assessment votes. For the past 3 years, the assessments have been voted on or before February 15th of that year. She asked if the committee was voting the assessments tonight, as this is the last meeting before February 15th. Mrs. Terry noted that there was an amendment to the Regional Agreement in 2011, changing the vote due date from January 15th to February 15th.

Mr. Andrade addressed the committee regarding the proposed budget. He asked if there is a health insurance increase. Ms. Antonellis stated that the increase will be between 6% and 8%; therefore, there is an 8% percent increase built into the proposed budget.

Dighton~Rehoboth Regional School Committee
Regular Session
February 11, 2014
Page 5

Mr. Malone addressed energy costs for the district. He stated that the district may be able to lock into the current prices for another 6 months.

Mr. Katseff updated the committee on the Advisory Finance Committee:

- The committee met on February 10, 2014
- They would like some direction from the Superintendent for the proposed budget
- The committee will look at assessment methodology
- The committee will meet again on Wednesday, February 19, 2014

Mr. Katseff stated that the committee will focus on funding consistent programs throughout the district.

Mrs. Couture asked if there will be recommendations coming from the Advisory Finance Committee. Mr. Katseff stated that there would be recommendations made to the School Committee.

Mr. Malone asked for a preliminary budget vote. Mr. Medeiros recommended that the committee vote at the February 25, 2014 meeting.

Agenda Item #8b, Director of Buildings, Grounds, and Operations:

Mr. Malone discussed the proposed Director of Buildings, Grounds, and Operations position and job description.

Mr. Medeiros asked if this position is proposed for the FY '15 budget. Mr. Malone stated that it is. This position will be especially helpful with the upcoming roofing projects.

Mr. Medeiros asked for a timeframe to fill this position. Mr. Malone said that he felt the position could be filled in approximately 6 weeks.

With regards to the job description, Mr. Katseff questioned why this person would report to the Superintendent, and not the Business Administrator. Mr. Malone stated that the Business Administrator and the proposed Director of Buildings, Grounds, and Operations will work together on a daily basis; however, that position would report to the Superintendent.

Agenda Item #8c, Vote to Accept Section F of the Policy Manual:

It was moved by Mr. Andrade, seconded by Mrs. Bartholomew, and VOTED to accept Section F of the District Policy Manual.

VOTE ~ AYE ~ UNANIMOUS

Dighton~Rehoboth Regional School Committee
Regular Session
February 11, 2014
Page 6

Mr. Hebda noted that the committee will be reviewing Section H at their next meeting, as well as completing Section G.

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

It was moved by Mrs. Bartholomew, seconded by Mr. Hebda, and VOTED to accept a monetary donation request from DonorsChoose.org, in the amount of \$294.24, to the Dighton Middle School.

VOTE ~ AYE ~ UNANIMOUS

Agenda Item #7f, MSBA presentation:

Taylan Ekici, Arcadis Project Manager, gave a PowerPoint presentation on the roofing projects. The total project amount is \$13,626,194, with a 52% (\$7,039,553) reimbursement coming from the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA). Mr. Ekici broke down each school's costs:

➤ Beckwith Middle School	=	\$2,827,207.00
➤ Dighton Middle School	=	\$1,565,283.00
➤ Dighton Elementary School	=	\$2,535,117.00
➤ Dighton~Rehoboth Regional High School	=	\$6,698,587.00

Kevin Riordon, project architect from Dietz and Company Architects, Inc., gave the design project specifications for each school's roofing project. The square footage for each school is:

➤ Beckwith Middle School	=	74,000 square foot project
➤ Dighton Middle School	=	41,000 square foot project
➤ Dighton Elementary School	=	69,000 square foot project
➤ Dighton~Rehoboth Regional High School	=	280,000 square foot project

Each school's roof problems were detailed by Mr. Riordon. He included existing roof conditions in his review. The proposed roof improvements were outlined by Mr. Riordon.

Mr. Hebda asked if the seals are being replaced around the skylights at the Dighton Elementary School. Mr. Riordon said that the seals would be replaced.

Mr. Katseff spoke about the initial study done approximately one year ago. He asked what the difference was between the 2 studies is (i.e. Habeeb Architects and MSBA). Mrs. Bartholomew explained that Habeeb Architects did a visual review only, and presented the "going rate" for roof replacements. The MSBA does a much more thorough study. It is an extensive review of all proposed projects.

Mr. Malone asked Mr. Riordon about the expected savings, after the projects are completed. Mr. Riordon explained that by replacing insulation, the district will save substantially. Mr. Malone asked for an approximate number. Mr. Riordon will get back to the committee with that information.

Dighton~Rehoboth Regional School Committee
Regular Session
February 11, 2014
Page 7

Mr. Malone also noted that the roof membrane replacements will be considerably more substantial than what is currently on the schools (30 years or greater warranties).

Mr. Andrade asked if the warranties at all schools are expired. Mr. Riordon said that all warranties are expired, with the exception of the renovated section over the high school auditorium.

George Solas, Rehoboth, asked if longer-lasting, metal roofs had been considered. Mr. Riordon noted that metal roofs cost 2-3 times more than what is proposed for the district. Therefore, no cost comparison was done.

Peter Jacobs, Rehoboth, asked if the insulation will be 'graded'. Mr. Riordan said that they will be replacing the old insulation with a tapered insulation, for a better fit.

Mike Costello, Rehoboth Board of Selectmen, asked if some of the project times could be staggered. Mrs. Bartholomew explained that the MSBA grant is for all 4 schools, and must be completed within a specific timeframe. Mr. Riordon stressed that our roofs are in disrepair, and should be attended to sooner rather than later.

Mr. Ekici, Arcadis, ensured the committee that the best possible installation is planned for all 4 schools. He will personally supervise the work.

Mr. Hebda reiterated that our current roofs are no longer under warranty.

Mr. Malone explained the MSBA:

- The MSBA assists towns with construction projects, using the best companies for the job(s)
- The MSBA has embedded the design architect and OPM for our district, we did not choose
- The MSBA sets the requirements, specifications, etc.

He stressed that the towns need to fund all the projects, or the district will not receive the 52% reimbursement. The grant is available now, and may not be around in the future; it is possible to lose funding, if the district does not go forward with this proposal. Mrs. Bartholomew noted that if the district does not fund these projects, then we will go to the end of the funding request 'list'.

Mr. Malone stated that the MSBA has rated our 4 schools as "immediate needs", so that is why we were approved for these critical projects.

Mr. Medeiros pointed out that these projects will tie-in with the recommendation for a facilities manager. With that position filled, these situations can be avoided in the future.

Dighton~Rehoboth Regional School Committee
Regular Session
February 11, 2014
Page 8

Mr. Katseff stated that 52% reimbursement from MSBA is a great opportunity. The work needs to be done now before we lose the funds. Funding will mostly likely not be available in the near future, but the work needs to be done now. The MSBA approved all projects with the plans that were submitted and proposed tonight, so a vote is appropriate.

Ms. Antonellis described the financial bonding portion of the projects:

- Dighton is \$534.59 total impact per \$100,000
- Rehoboth is \$307.45 total impact per \$100,000

A Dighton resident asked about unforeseen damages and a possible, future addition to any school. Mr. Ekici explained that a contingency fund of \$300,000 (5% per project) has been built in their costs, to cover any unforeseen damages.

Mr. Malone pointed out that the NESDEC enrollment figures included in the packet will give a better idea of the next 5 years growth, etc. concerning the possibility of a school addition.

Mr. Medeiros asked that the NESDEC enrollment figures be put onto the district website.

Mrs. Bartholomew said that the roofs have been leaking in various places for years. These leaks have been repaired, but different leaks keep occurring.

Lynn Foster, Unibank, addressed the committee on the MSBA bond funding. She stated that the district will have to finance our portion of the projects with a bond. Bond interest rates currently stand at 4%. She noted that the bond will be short-term; however, we will not borrow until we receive the final audit from MSBA.

After continued committee discussion, it was moved by Mrs. Bartholomew, seconded by Mr. Hebda, and VOTED that the District appropriates Six Million Six Hundred Ninety-Eight Thousand Five Hundred Eighty-Seven Dollars (\$6,698,587) for the purpose of paying costs of making roof repairs to the Dighton~Rehoboth Regional High School, located at 2700 Regional Road, North Dighton, including payment of all costs incidental or related thereto (the "Project"), which proposed repair project would materially extend the useful life of the school and preserve an asset that otherwise is capable of supporting the required educational program, and for which the District has applied for a grant from Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA), said amount to be expended under the direction of the School Building Committee. To meet this appropriation the Treasurer, with the approval of the Chair of Regional District School Committee, is authorized to borrow said amount under M.G.L. Chapter 71, or pursuant to any other enabling authority. The District acknowledges that the MSBA's grant program is a non-entitlement, discretionary program based on need, as determined by the MSBA, and if the MSBA's Board of Directors votes to invite the District to collaborate with MSBA on this proposed repair project, any

Dighton~Rehoboth Regional School Committee
Regular Session
February 11, 2014
Page 9

project costs the District incurs in excess of any grant that may be approved and received from the MSBA shall be the sole responsibility of the District; and that, if invited to collaborate with the MSBA on the proposed repair project, the amount of borrowing authorized pursuant to this vote shall be reduced by any grant amount set forth in the Project Funding Agreement that may be executed between the District and the MSBA.

VOTE ~ AYE ~ UNANIMOUS

It was moved by Mrs. Bartholomew, seconded by Mr. Hebda, and VOTED that the District appropriates Two Million Five Hundred Thirty-Five Thousand One Hundred Seventeen Dollars (\$2,535,117) for the purpose of paying costs of making roof repairs to the Beckwith Middle School, located at 1250 Somerset Avenue, in Dighton, including payment of all costs incidental or related thereto (the "Project"), which proposed repair project would materially extend the useful life of the school and preserve an asset that otherwise is capable of supporting the required educational program, and for which the District has applied for a grant from Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA), said amount to be expended under the direction of the School Building Committee. To meet this appropriation the Treasurer, with the approval of the Chair of Regional District School Committee, is authorized to borrow said amount under M.G.L. Chapter 71, or pursuant to any other enabling authority. The District acknowledges that the MSBA's grant program is a non-entitlement, discretionary program based on need, as determined by the MSBA, and if the MSBA's Board of Directors votes to invite the District to collaborate with MSBA on this proposed repair project, any project costs the District incurs in excess of any grant that may be approved and received from the MSBA shall be the sole responsibility of the District; and that, if invited to collaborate with the MSBA on the proposed repair project, the amount of borrowing authorized pursuant to this vote shall be reduced by any grant amount set forth in the Project Funding Agreement that may be executed between the District and the MSBA.

VOTE ~ AYE ~ UNANIMOUS

It was moved by Mrs. Bartholomew, seconded by Mr. Hebda, and VOTED that the District appropriates One Million Five Hundred Sixty-Five Thousand Two Hundred Eighty-Three Dollars (\$1,565,283) for the purpose of paying costs of making roof repairs to the Beckwith Middle School, located at 1250R Somerset Avenue, in Dighton, including payment of all costs incidental or related thereto (the "Project"), which proposed repair project would materially extend the useful life of the school and preserve an asset that otherwise is capable of supporting the required educational program, and for which the District has applied for a grant from Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA), said amount to be expended under the direction of the School Building Committee. To meet this appropriation the Treasurer, with the approval of the Chair of Regional District School Committee, is authorized to borrow said amount under M.G.L. Chapter 71, or pursuant to any other enabling authority. The District acknowledges that the MSBA's grant program is a non-entitlement, discretionary program based on need, as determined by the MSBA,

Dighton~Rehoboth Regional School Committee
Regular Session
February 11, 2014
Page 10

and if the MSBA's Board of Directors votes to invite the District to collaborate with MSBA on this proposed repair project, any project costs the District incurs in excess of any grant that may be approved and received from the MSBA shall be the sole responsibility of the District; and that, if invited to collaborate with the MSBA on the proposed repair project, the amount of borrowing authorized pursuant to this vote shall be reduced by any grant amount set forth in the Project Funding Agreement that may be executed between the District and the MSBA.

VOTE ~ AYE ~ UNANIMOUS

It was moved by Mrs. Bartholomew, seconded by Mr. Hebda, and VOTED that the District appropriates Two Million Eight Hundred Twenty-Seven Thousand Two Hundred Seven Dollars (\$2,827,207) for the purpose of paying costs of making roof repairs to the Beckwith Middle School, located at 330R Winthrop Street, in Rehoboth, including payment of all costs incidental or related thereto (the "Project"), which proposed repair project would materially extend the useful life of the school and preserve an asset that otherwise is capable of supporting the required educational program, and for which the District has applied for a grant from Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA), said amount to be expended under the direction of the School Building Committee. To meet this appropriation the Treasurer, with the approval of the Chair of Regional District School Committee, is authorized to borrow said amount under M.G.L. Chapter 71, or pursuant to any other enabling authority. The District acknowledges that the MSBA's grant program is a non-entitlement, discretionary program based on need, as determined by the MSBA, and if the MSBA's Board of Directors votes to invite the District to collaborate with MSBA on this proposed repair project, any project costs the District incurs in excess of any grant that may be approved and received from the MSBA shall be the sole responsibility of the District; and that, if invited to collaborate with the MSBA on the proposed repair project, the amount of borrowing authorized pursuant to this vote shall be reduced by any grant amount set forth in the Project Funding Agreement that may be executed between the District and the MSBA.

VOTE ~ AYE ~ UNANIMOUS

It was moved by Mrs. Bartholomew, seconded by Mr. Hebda, and VOTED that within seven (7) days from the date on which the foregoing votes are adopted the Secretary be and hereby is instructed to notify the Boards of Selectmen of each of the Towns of Dighton and Rehoboth as to the amount and general purposes of the debt herein authorized, as required by the District Agreement and by Chapter 71 of the General Laws.

VOTE ~ AYE ~ UNANIMOUS

Dighton~Rehoboth Regional School Committee
Regular Session
February 11, 2014
Page 11

Agenda Item #9d, Vote to Approve Transfer Request:

Ms. Antonellis reviewed the transfer request.

It was moved by Mr. Andrade, seconded by Mrs. Bartholomew, and VOTED to approve the following transfer request:

FROM:

001.05.06.136.2420.616.000.1 ~ "Vocational Copy Machine Lease"
\$4,382.75

TO:

001.05.06.136.4230.448.000.1 ~ "Vocational Equipment Maintenance Contracted Services"
\$3,394.50

AND

001.05.06.136.4230.531.000.1 ~ "Vocational Equipment Maintenance Supplies"
\$988.25

\$4,382.75 TOTAL TRANSFER

VOTE ~ AYE ~ UNANIMOUS

Mr. Medeiros stated that the committee would adjourn.

It was moved by Mrs. Bartholomew, seconded by Mr. Barrett, and VOTED to adjourn the meeting at: 9:15 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
Mrs. Terry ~ Aye

MOTION PASSED

Janice Terry, Secretary