

Dighton~Rehoboth Regional District School Committee  
Regular Session ~ March 25, 2014

A Regular Session of the Dighton~Rehoboth Regional School Committee was held on March 25, 2014, in the Dighton~Rehoboth Regional High School library.

Present:

Richard Barrett  
Christopher Andrade  
Tiffany Bartholomew  
Eliza Couture  
Peter Hebda  
David Katseff  
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  
Kellie Fagan, Recording Secretary

*Mr. Medeiros stated that the committee would enter into Regular session and was being broadcast/videotaped with the help of the Rehoboth cable advisory committee, at: 6:40 PM.*

*Mr. Medeiros led the committee in the pledge.*

*Mr. Medeiros stated that the committee would enter into Executive Session, as per MGL 30A, Section 21, for the purpose of discussing union and non-union issues, potential litigation, and security.*

It was moved by Mrs. Bartholomew, seconded by Mrs. Lorenz, and VOTED to enter into Executive Session, as per MGL 30A, Section 21, for the purpose of discussing union and non-union issues, potential litigation, and security and would return to open session at 6:40 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

*Mr. Medeiros stated that the committee would re-enter open session at: 7:00 PM.*

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Agenda Item #4, Vote to Approve Minutes:

It was moved by Mrs. Bartholomew, seconded by Mrs. Lorenz, and VOTED to approve the minutes of the February 25, 2014 Regular Session minutes, as amended.

**VOTE ~ AYE ~ UNANIMOUS**

It was moved by Mrs. Bartholomew, seconded by Mrs. Lorenz, and VOTED to approve the minutes of the March 08, 2014 Special Meeting minutes.

**VOTE ~ AYE ~ UNANIMOUS**

It was moved by Mrs. Terry and seconded by Mr. Hebda to approve the minutes of the January 08, 2013 Executive Session minutes. No vote taken.

It was moved by Mr. Andrade, seconded by Mr. Katseff, and VOTED to table the January 08, 2013 Executive Session minutes.

**VOTE ~ AYE ~ UNANIMOUS**

It was moved by Mrs. Terry and seconded by Mr. Hebda to approve the minutes of the June 11, 2013 Executive Session minutes. No vote taken.

It was moved by Mr. Andrade, seconded by Mr. Katseff, and VOTED to table the June 11, 2013 Executive Session minutes.

**VOTE ~ AYE ~ UNANIMOUS**

It was moved by Mrs. Bartholomew and seconded by Mrs. Lorenz to approve the January 28, 2014 Executive Session minutes. No vote taken.

It was moved by Mr. Andrade, seconded by Mrs. Bartholomew, and VOTED to table the minutes of the January 28, 2014 Executive Session.

**VOTE ~ AYE ~ UNANIMOUS**

Agenda Item #5, Bills and Payroll:

It was moved by Mrs. Bartholomew, seconded by Mr. Hebda, and VOTED to approve the bills and payrolls as presented:

V - #23	\$104,299.97
V - #2010	\$652,693.11

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V - #2011      \$197,416.32

**VOTE ~ AYE ~ UNANIMOUS**

Agenda Item #6, Public Input:

None at this time.

Agenda Item #7, Correspondence & Enclosures:

Mr. Malone said that all correspondence will be addressed during the meeting.

Agenda Item #8a, Dighton Elementary School Student Presentation:

Mr. Badger, Dighton Elementary School Technology teacher, and newspaper club, consisting of:

- Kenneth Roca
- Caroline Kelliher
- Lily Lamontage
- Kevin Swanson
- Mya Souza
- Mason Tessier

These students gave a presentation on the first issue of their new school newspaper:

- Students went thru the process for making their newspaper
- 1<sup>st</sup> issue of the newspaper was handed out to School Committee members
- Students told the committee what they liked about the newspaper club
- The newspaper is completely electronic, so it may be accessed at any time, any where

Agenda Item #8b, Project 351~Middle Schools:

Emma Johnson and Noah Avila were present to review their experiences with the Project 351 program. Project 351 is a program to get and give items to families in need (i.e. clothing). Both students went to Boston to participate in Project 351:

- Emma and Noah described their experiences with Project 351 and the volunteer work they participated in
  - They both met with students from all over the state
  - Both students saw motivational speakers, and met with Governor Patrick
  - Project 351:
    - Students/schools get clothing donations for needy families
    - Dates for donations: March 31, 2014 through April 11, 2014

Agenda Item #8c, Cambridge Education Institute ~ Foreign Exchange Program:

Mr. Malone introduced Bob Maguire from Cambridge Education Institute. Mr. Maguire gave a brief background of himself and the company. Their nationally-recognized company will be handling the process for foreign exchange students at Dighton~Rehoboth Regional High School:

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- They develop global education programs
- There are no fees assessed to the district; however, tuition is charged to each student
- Cambridge gets the district to be federally approved (mandated)
- Cambridge does the marketing for the district (social media, website info, etc.)
- They handle the student recruitment, screening, and applications for prospective students
- They handle host family recruitment, screening, etc. (host families are compensated)
- Cambridge Education Institute provides any necessary academic support for these students
- They work with schools that are looking to develop language programs
- They work with schools that are looking to create "partner" schools abroad
- They provide professional development for school staff and host families

Mr. Malone asked if there are current districts involved. Mr. Maguire noted the following districts: Natick, Uxbridge, Norton, Swansea, Milford, Marlborough, etc.

Mrs. Lorenz asked what the turn-around is for federal approval. Mr. Maguire said that it takes approximately 6-9 months. Mr. Malone noted that Dighton~Rehoboth is already federally (Homeland Security) approved.

The tuition charged would be based on a per pupil cost for that student. The district would use the per pupil expenditure figure for a Dighton~Rehoboth Regional High School student (range is \$9,000-\$14,000). These tuitions would be higher than charging School Choice tuition fees.

Mr. Katseff asked if the district is exclusively working with Cambridge Education Institute. Mr. Maguire noted that this is a stipulation in the one-year agreement between Cambridge Education Institute, and the Dighton~Rehoboth Regional School District.

Mrs. Lorenz asked how far in advance a district/Cambridge Education Institute should begin the process for a prospective foreign exchange student. Mr. Maguire stated that the district should be starting now.

Mr. Medeiros asked about the grade levels that would be attending. Mr. Maguire said that they could be from 9-12. Mr. Maguire stressed that these exchange students are very solid academically.

Mr. Malone addressed the committee regarding the program:

- There is compensation host families
- 5 seniors will be coming
- 5 additional students from grades 9-12 will also be attending
- Approximately \$100,000 will be collected in student tuition revenue

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Mr. Malone talked about this trip to China in April 2014. He will be staying with a school principal, as well as shadowing that person daily. This is a great opportunity for D~R students, and a win/win situation for the district. All students coming to D~R are academically strong.

Agenda Item #8d, Whitsons Food Services Update:

Joseph Armenti and Kelly Harrison, Whitsons representatives, reviewed the status of our food services program for the 2013-2014 school year.

- Guest chefs and promotions took place in each of the schools
- Whitsons met with the Food Advisory Subcommittee
- Whitsons catered the Father/Daughter dance, and the Advisory Board dinner
- They held an International Week at the high school – there were ethnic choices for the kids
- The district is ahead of the budgeted numbers; we should “break even” at the end of the year
- Statistics show that 20+ additional students per day are participating in the program

Mr. Medeiros noted that this is a very positive update from Whitsons. The students are happy, as well.

Mrs. Terry asked about our current equipment – updates needed at the schools. Was there an arrangement made with Whitsons for equipment replacement? Mr. Armenti stated that it was a capital investment, and that he will come back to the committee at a later date to review our schools’ equipment (mostly at the middle schools and high school). Ms. Antonellis’s office is working on a list of equipment updates/replacement. She will forward it to the committee when it is complete.

Mrs. Lorenz asked about the accounts receivable “charges” figure. She asked if this number is from this year alone (credit unpaid?). Ms. Antonellis explained that this figure includes what is owed from last year. She noted it is difficult to collect these past due debts.

Agenda Item #9a, Massasoit League Fund Raising for Beckwith Middle School:

Mrs. Pincince, Beckwith Middle School Principal, and Wendy Cordeiro, Rehoboth parent, were present to review and answer questions regarding the request to fund-raise for the Massasoit League activities at the Beckwith Middle School.

Mr. Katseff asked if we are expanding any Massasoit sports teams, and that is the reason for the fund-raising. Ms. Cordeiro explained that this is not the case, Beckwith will be keeping their current teams. Mrs. Pincince explained that the goal is to fund-raise for sports and teams that they have already.

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Mrs. Couture asked if the students still pay user fees, along with the fund-raising. Mrs. Pincince said that the students pay a flat rate of \$50 for academic teams/clubs, and \$100 for sport(s). Note: The Massasoit league may be changing the Spelling Team to a Quiz Bowl.

Mrs. Pincince reiterated that it is the Massasoit League that will be changing the Spelling Team to a Quiz Bowl.

Mrs. Warren, Dighton Middle School teacher and Spelling Team Advisor, noted that no advisor/ Spelling Team advisor has been consulted about doing away with the Spelling Team.

Mr. Katseff asked if all interscholastic sports at Beckwith will be paid with user fees and fund-raising. Yes, and it is also the same in Dighton.

Mrs. Bartholomew asked what the approximate total cost for Massasoit League activities. Ms. Cordeiro stated that the total cost is approximately \$35,000 (with soccer).

Mrs. Couture asked if Dighton and Rehoboth are the same. Mr. Wheeler stated that Dighton does not fund-raise except for soccer. They pay user fees. Ms. Antonellis noted that the coaches are funded at both Rehoboth and Dighton. Also, the transportation budget allotment has been decreased to \$2,000 at Beckwith, and to \$2,000 at Dighton.

[Agenda Item #9b, Vote to Approve Fund-Raising for Beckwith Middle School Massasoit League Activities:](#)

It was moved by Mrs. Bartholomew, seconded by Mr. Hebda, and VOTED to approve Beckwith Middle School fund-raising efforts to support the Massasoit League activities.

***VOTE ~ AYE ~ UNANIMOUS***

Mr. Katseff suggested that Dighton Middle School return to the committee to determine how they plan on funding their programs. Mr. Wheeler is waiting for the final budget numbers.

[Agenda Item #8e, PARCC Update:](#)

Mrs. Van Buren gave a PowerPoint presentation on the upcoming, mandatory PARCC testing in schools versus MCAS testing:

- Pilot tests this week at high school and the following week at the middle school
- Mrs. Van Buren explained MCAS versus PARCC
- MCAS ~ pencil and paper testing only
- PARCC ~ measures common core; computer and pencil/paper testing; 2 subjects of ELA & Math
- PARCC ~ also measures text complexity; what level students can read at; and getting evidence

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- Spring 2014 PARCC Field test ~ 15% of MA students need to take the test (grade 3-11); April 8<sup>th</sup> - 10<sup>th</sup> (grade 6 & 8 - electronic and paper/pencil); March 31<sup>st</sup> for the high school
- Technology preparation:
  - Need to meet minimum PARCC specifications: memory, connected to internet, screen size, browser, firewalls, high security, etc.
  - Each year, we will lose some computers due to non-compliance with PARCC specifications
- Special Education needs will be built in to the tests
- Try to do the tests within a 20 day time span
- Technology readiness currently:
  - DES: 66 devices ready
  - DMS: 145 devices ready
  - PRES: 25 devices ready
  - Beckwith: 52 devices ready
  - DRRHS: 100 devices ready (now only)
- Test planning: length of the testing window; estimated time it will take the average student to complete each task; available testing space in the school; the number of computer devices available; the ratio of students to each device; and the available speed and level of access to the internet.
- Future PARCC timeline: 2014-2015 - initial administration of PARCC Assessment; summer 2015 - set performance levels and vote for adoption; 2015-2016 - PARCC testing, excluding grade 10

Mr. Hebda addressed the committee regarding mandated testing and testing assessments (i.e. "teaching to the test"). Mr. Katseff noted there is a federal mandate to assess students with testing.

Mr. Rapoza stressed that you must understand what common core is first, which is trying to get back to student-centered learning. Teachers will teach to the test, but we need computer-based testing for flexibility. We need more technology in the district for PARCC testing. This transition is going to cost a great deal of money. The district needs to decide between MCAS and PARCC before the final budget is set ~ we need to know the exact costs of upgrading to comply with PARCC testing technology needs.

Mr. Katseff pointed out that this is another unfunded/under-funded mandate. Schools are just getting used to MCAS testing, and now we have to go to PARCC - it's like starting from scratch.

Mr. Malone stated that the district will not be able to go to PARCC testing by next year.

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Agenda Item #8f, Superintendent's Report:

Mr. Malone updated the committee on the following:

- The DECA marketing competition commended Quentin Brooks, DRRHS student.
- Mr. Malone read a letter of commendation for Quentin; he is a great representative of D~R, himself, and his family
- Mr. Malone reviewed the workshops that he attended at the ASCD Conference in LA

Agenda Item #8g, Athletic Fields Subcommittee Report:

Mr. Andrade updated the committee on the athletic fields project (subcommittee meeting held March 20, 2014):

- The third design chosen was Concept C
- Concept C was approved by the School Committee on January 15, 2014
- Tim Gerrish, Gerrish and Gardner, gave a presentation on Concept C:
  - Replaces field with synthetic, multi-use field
  - Renovates baseball, softball, and field hockey fields
  - New soccer fields
  - Cross-country track added
  - New concession stand, public restrooms
  - Additional seating and equipment storage
  - Additional lighting
  - Additional irrigation

Tim Gerrish updated the committee on current field issues:

- We had many issues ~ soils, field locations, drainage problems, etc.
- We are not MIAA up-to-date

Mr. Gerrish reviewed everything that Gerrish and Gardner have done to date. He asked what the priorities for these fields will be.

Gerrish and Gardner will (under Concept C):

- Fix the water source, soils, and irrigation problems
- Create a multi-purpose field ~ will spread out the wear of each surface and meet MIAA guidelines
- Will create spectator comforts (restrooms, upgraded lighting, additional seating, access paths, etc.)
- Will meet all MIAA requirements with upgrades
- Will redevelop the football, soccer and field hockey fields
- Developed athletic field improvement plan:



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Mr. Gerrish suggested that the next step would be the wetland delineation and water well pump test. Design developing is next; which consists of construction documents, and contractor procurement.

Mr. Tibbels, Athletic Fields Subcommittee participant reviewed the history of this project. Suggested that perc tests will be needed.

Mr. Medeiros reiterated that this was an Athletic Fields update presentation only.

Mr. Katseff asked where are we at in the actual planning process?

Mr. Andrade explained that the committee needs to approve the athletic fields project as presented, in order to begin fund-raising efforts.

Mr. Andrade: need to put a plan into place to fund-raise, then continue to work with Capital Projects Task Force for funding possibilities. Ms. Antonellis researched another district with the same issues, and they did get approval to begin the fund-raising (votes through their towns). Any funds received would decrease the amount of the bond issue.

Mr. Malone reiterated that the fields need to be done.

Mr. Andrade is looking for a vote from the committee to approve going forward with the Athletic Fields Concept C plan, as presented.

Mrs. Lorenz asked if fund-raising can begin without a bond issue. Ms. Antonellis stated that we can, as long as these funds are air-marked for this project. Mrs. Lorenz then asked what would happen to the funds collected for the projects, if we are not accepted into the MSBA program?

Mr. Katseff addressed the committee asking that the committee look at the picture as far as capital projects are concerned. Not the best time to go to the towns asking for more money, after the roof projects.

Mr. Rapoza stated that the subcommittee should take the steps to begin fund-raising.

Mrs. Bartholomew asked if the fund-raising should begin immediately.

Mr. Hebda noted that the roofs and the Palmer River Elementary School are priorities before the athletic fields. Ms. Antonellis suggested that the district could "break down" the project by fields in order to manage the funds more easily.

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Mr. Al Rose, DRRHS CTE Director, asked who would be overseeing the new athletic fields. He asked if this be the responsibility of the new Director of Grounds, Buildings, and Operations.

It was moved by Mrs. Bartholomew, seconded by Mrs. Couture, and VOTED to move this to an action item.

***VOTE ~ AYE ~ UNANIMOUS***

It was moved by Mr. Andrade, seconded by Mrs. Bartholomew, and VOTED to accept the athletic fields design, as presented.

Mr. Andrade stated that the subcommittee would meet to talk about the steps for fund-raising.

Mr. Hebda addressed the committee regarding fund-raising.

Mr. Malone will continue to research ways to fund-raise.

***VOTE ~ AYE ~ UNANIMOUS***

**Agenda Item #8h, Rehoboth Campus Septic System Report:**

Mr. Hebda updated the committee on the septic system project at the Rehoboth campus:

- 2-5 times per week the system is tested
- DEP receives our test results for review every month
- Wastewater Treatment Services ~ has made modifications to and recommendations for the system
- Gave us the protocol for manual override
- Entire system does not need to be replaced; however the hydraulic flow is more than what the system can handle
- Enhancements required:
  - Additional tank capacity
  - Upgrade to the controls
- Overall, the plant system needs modifications; the DEP will continue to review test results and stay in-touch with Wastewater Treatment Services; On-Site will have recommendations for compliance; and we will see a draft proposal within the next few weeks
- We have no budgetary estimate/figures as of yet

Ms. Antonellis suggested that the committee consider a future, new Palmer River Elementary School. The district must make sure that the septic system will accommodate a new school.

Mr. Hebda will stay on, as the contact person for this project.

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Agenda Item #8i, Chairperson's Report:

Mr. Medeiros updated the committee on the following issues:

- Reminder: Day On The Hill; if you are interested, please call Ms. Fagan
- Tickets for the high school Drama Club's performance of "The Drowsy Chaperone" are available
- Reminder: the next School Committee meeting is April 15<sup>th</sup>, not the 8<sup>th</sup>; there may also be a meeting scheduled for April 29, 2014
- Thank you Peter for your time and dedication to the School Committee

Agenda Item #9b, MSBA Palmer River Elementary School Repairs Project:

Mrs. Bartholomew reviewed the following for the PRES repairs project:

- Palmer River has been recommended for MSBA Core Program - deadline April 11<sup>th</sup>, need a decision tonight to make the deadline
- Palmer River has many issues to be addressed ~ estimate of \$8.5 million dollars (not everything priced out)
- The Statement of Interest (SOI) commitment is \$500,000 - \$1 million dollars
- Then wait to be accepted ~ no money required at this point, just a commitment
- There is always the option to decline, if we are accepted

Mr. Andrade asked what Rehoboth's ideas are on this. Mrs. Bartholomew had spoken with Mr. Deignan, Rehoboth Finance Committee, who recommends that we go to the Town of Rehoboth with the request. Rehoboth may finance part of the \$500,000.

Mr. Katseff addressed the committee regarding the SOI. Mrs. Bartholomew stated that the SOI from last year was saved. We can re-apply with the vote of commitment tonight. We need to give Ms. Antonellis access to do this.

Agenda Item #10c, Vote to Approve the MSBA Funding Commitment for the Palmer River Elementary School Repairs Project:

It was moved by Mrs. Bartholomew, seconded by Mr. Hebda, and VOTED:

Resolved: Having convened in an open meeting on March 25, 2014, prior to the closing date, the Dighton~Rehoboth Regional School Committee of Dighton~Rehoboth, MA, in accordance with its charter, by-laws, and ordinances, has voted to authorize the Superintendent to submit to the Massachusetts School Building Authority the Statement of Interest Form dated March 25, 2014 for the Palmer River Elementary School located at 326 Winthrop Street, Dighton~Rehoboth, MA, which describes and explains the following deficiencies and the priority category(s) for which an application may be submitted to the Massachusetts School Building Authority in the future: replace roofs, replace HVAC, replace boilers, and window replacement; and hereby further specifically acknowledges that by submitting this Statement of Interest Form, the Massachusetts School building

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Authority, in no way guarantees the acceptance or the approval of an application, the awarding of a grant or any other funding commitment from the Massachusetts School Building Authority, or commits the Dighton~Rehoboth Regional School District to filing an application for funding with the Massachusetts School Building authority.

Mr. Katseff addressed the committee regarding Palmer River repair projects. Mrs. Bartholomew reiterated that Palmer is getting worse. We can no longer put this project off.

Mrs. Bartholomew stated that the timeline for acceptance is anywhere in between July and January.

Mr. Andrade stressed that Palmer River cannot wait any longer for repairs.

Mr. Medeiros agreed that this is a great opportunity to repair the building. Mr. Hebda brought up possible capacity issues at the school.

Darcy Maguy, Palmer River Elementary School teacher, addressed the committee regarding the safety issues at Palmer River.

***VOTE ~ AYE ~ UNANIMOUS***

[Agenda Item #9c, FY '15 Proposed Budget Discussion:](#)

Mr. Malone led a discussion on the proposed FY '15 budget:

- Worked with his administrative team and asked for their proposals
- Mr. Malone went through the list of reductions/increases:
  - DES: team coordinators to 3; correction to non-athletic stipends; health insurance decrease; special education secretary to be reorganized
  - DMS: team coordinators to 3; general teaching Grade 5 reduction due to enrollment; librarian switched to an integration specialist; health insurance; special education secretary reorganization; special education teacher retirement due to enrollment; special education instructional support reduced after updated review of student needs
  - PRES: team coordinators reduced to 3; Grade 2 teacher; Kindergarten (.5 position); .5 nurse assistant; athletic officials line corrected; health insurance increase; special education secretary reorganization; and special education teacher decreased based on student needs
  - Beckwith: team coordinators to 3; teacher salaries - language to be put into 8<sup>th</sup> grade curriculum; instrumental will be available after school; supervisory support (lunch duties) addition; librarian switched to an integration specialist; health insurance increase; special education secretary reorganization; special education support decrease due to student needs

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- DRRHS: general teaching: reducing Art, Biology, .5 Business, English, Foreign Language, Math, .5 Social Studies, librarian switched to an integration specialist; special education secretary reorganization; Director of Guidance reduced to 10 months; health insurance increase; minor supplies and postage decreases
  - CTE: Vocational Director reduced to 10 month position; .5 automotive/.5 Business teacher reduction due to enrollment
  - CENTRAL: reduced maintenance plumber
  - DISTRICT WIDE: add Technology Engineer; Network Technician reduction (1); Pre-Kindergarten teacher reduction (1); integration teachers added (3); add a ELA/STEM specialist position (.5 ELA, .5 STEM) - teaching level position; will be some responsibility changes
- Total level 2 reductions = \$796,195.00 (3.38% increase)
- This proposal includes full-day kindergarten and the Director of Buildings, Grounds, and Operations position

Mr. Malone asked for a recommendation on a budget number (percentage) from the committee to shoot for in the next, proposed budget.

Mrs. Couture asked about the Dighton Middle School Grade 5 teacher reduction. She asked how many Grade 5 teachers there are going to be at Dighton Middle School. Mr. Wheeler explained that the number will be reduced by 1 (5 teachers to 4) due to enrollment figures. Some teachers may end up teaching more than 1 subject (everyone is elementary certified, so they may teach all subjects). Mrs. Couture thought that the district was trying to get away from this practice; a few years back. We moved to the other model wherein a staff member teaches only 1 subject.

Mr. Rapoza requested a consolidation of all of the proposed budgets on one sheet. Mr. Malone and Ms. Antonellis will take care of that.

Mrs. Couture asked if the 8<sup>th</sup> grade world language program at Dighton Middle will be the same at the Beckwith Middle School. Mrs. Pincince said that after 2 years, DMS and Beckwith will be compatible. Both towns will go to the high school with the same amount of world languages.

Mr. Katseff asked why there are increases and decreases in the health insurance, according to a specific school. Ms. Antonellis stated that the staff enrollment has changed, and there were no "safe" areas built into that line item. There have been 2 additional health insurance family plans added to each school as a buffer. Ms. Antonellis noted that we have had people change from one school to another ~ would change the school's line amounts.

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Mr. Katseff asked if the ELA/STEM specialist (.5 each) is the same as the math teacher. Ms. Antonellis stated that it is now ELA/STEM; this will be 1 additional full-time employee. This would be a two-year position at Dighton Middle, and then a two-year position at Beckwith. So, at the end of the four-year cycle, the 2 schools will be compatible.

School Committee discussion ensued regarding the Technology Integration Manager (teaching position) and Technology Integration Specialist ~ both new, stipend positions. These people will provide professional development, and work with students. Mr. Katseff asked for a description of these positions. Mrs. Van Buren explained that these positions would combine media, professional development, and student coaching.

Mr. Rapoza stated that the district is seriously lacking in technology development for staff and students.

Mr. Medeiros asked each principal how the proposed 3.38% increase plan would affect their school and why:

Mrs. Striano ~ she will lose a host of staff, electives would be reduced (what's available to the kids) and some lose in CTE. Overall, the high school would be deeply affected.

Mrs. Manchester ~ ELA will definitely be impacted with the decrease in team coordinators (to 3); DES needs a .5 ELA, not a .25 ELA shared with DMS. There will be an overall impact at the school.

Mrs. Miguel ~ would not really impact PRES so much: losing a .5 nurses' assistant.

Mr. Wheeler ~ no major affect on his school for reductions, with the exception of getting a .5 ELA/STEM (not a .25 to share with DES)

Mrs. Pincince ~ team coordinators and no more curriculum coordinator will impact the school. She noted that anytime staff is reduced, it is a concern. Beckwith may be losing their instrumental music program, with an alternative of having instrumental music lessons in the afternoon.

Mrs. Pincince stated that there will be a possible restructuring of the schedule at Beckwith; she will come back to the School Committee at a later date.

Mr. Katseff asked about the principals about the impact of reorganization for special education secretaries. Ms. Antonellis stated that the secretaries would concentrate on elementary, middle, and the high school. Mr. Riley explained the reorganization services proposed. He noted that this has been done in other districts. Will they be located in the central office? Mr. Malone stated that there will be a central, special education office.

Mrs. Terry asked how the secretaries can be decreased and reorganized, and keep the services for the kids. Mr. Riley explained the decrease of 5.5 to 4.0 secretaries.

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Mr. Malone stated that other districts do just fine with this type of reorganization. We are ultimately looking for efficiency throughout the special education department. All of this would be under the control of the Special Education Director.

Mr. Andrade asked about the CTE Exploratory Program. Mrs. Striano stated that this program will be available to all 9<sup>th</sup> graders, as well as a digital literacy skills course with the Integration Specialist. Some of the CTE electives will be lost.

Mrs. Couture asked if there is currently an instrumental music program after school at Beckwith. Mrs. Pincince stated that if the program moves to the afternoon, there will be no transportation for the students. These children, therefore, would lose out on the instrumental lessons.

Mr. Wheeler spoke about the special education secretary concerns. There will also not be a guidance director secretary (guidance secretary is the special education secretary). There will be a huge void in the work that is required of this position.

Mrs. Lorenz asked if the district can keep the integrated specialist positions in the proposed 5.4% increase. Mr. Malone stated that he can compute those numbers, if that is the pleasure of the committee.

Mr. Hebda addressed the committee regarding the budget number for town meeting. At town meetings, there is one-shot for the budget number. We don't have any back-up options.

Mr. Rapoza requested a clearer picture of what all the budgets look like. Ms. Antonellis stated that this is a "work in progress".

Mr. Katseff addressed the committee regarding assessment numbers with a 3.38% increase proposal. These are numbers that the towns and the School Committee can work with.

Mrs. Lorenz stated that the Special Education department proposed reorganization is crucial. She also believes and there should be a .5 ELA/STEM position (vs. a .25 position) at both Dighton Elementary and Dighton Middle Schools.

Matt Haynes, DRRHS student and Young Peoples Association for the Preservation of Music president, spoke to losing the music program at Beckwith. Music after school is a great lose to any children who have music as their only outlet. The students will lose out on life skills preparation (patience, discipline, teamwork, creative thinking, friendship, etc.).

Public discussion ensued on the music program at Beckwith. Basically, no parents want to see it go away. Many parents cannot accommodate an after-school program for their children (no after-school transportation), thus leaving the child without instrumental lessons.

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Al Rose, Interim CTE Director, spoke about losing the Office Technology teacher ~ that skill is being phased out. CTE class size numbers are different than general education class size numbers. Certain classes cannot support large class sizes due to safety issues (woodshop, autoshop, etc.)

Overall, the CTE enrollment numbers have increased ~ the program was filled to capacity (additional auto teacher was added). Mr. Rose feels that the program can only afford losing a .5 teacher at the most, not an entire teacher. The same holds for the Child Care teacher ~ only go down by .5. Mr. Rose suggested assessing our current programs for their usefulness, and maybe get into the medical area and/or a technology specialty.

Mr. Rose mentioned the CTE Advisory Boards meeting next week. The Advisory Board would like to come before the School Committee for a presentation before the end of the school year.

Jennifer Gallant, band director at Beckwith, spoke to the committee about Beckwith's music program: she now has about 100 students who participate in band. Parents should not be charged for this after-school activity, when they didn't pay before. There is no transportation for some children. However, there will be an overall large impact on the kids; they will lose out. She also noted that the Dighton Middle School is not moving in that same direction, causing differences between the schools; the district is moving toward school alignment, not the opposite.

Ed Swartz, Dighton Finance Committee, reiterated that the School Committee needs to adhere to the statutory method of figuring assessments. He would like to see the 5.65% increase budget (level-service) to bring to the towns' people for a vote.

Mr. Swartz reminded members that the Dighton Finance Committee meeting is scheduled for April 3<sup>rd</sup>. Would like to have the budget numbers by that meeting, so the town may have the budget on the warrant by the middle of April 2014.

Tim Kelly, DRRTA Co-President, Steven Patrick, DRRTA Co-President, addressed the plans for the adjustment counselors, guidance, and the school psychologist (except for DMS Adjustment Counselor) ~ are reinstated in this proposal. Ms. Antonellis stated that the secretary reorganization will be the only change. Will the ELA and math positions be teachers or administration, and will they be able to evaluate other staff members? Mr. Malone stated that they would be included in the DRRTA.

Mr. Patrick stated that the proposed technology integration specialists/professional development are great ideas, but are not very useful without new equipment and infrastructure (no computer lab for the students). Mr. Medeiros asked if there is money in the budget for technology infrastructure. Ms. Antonellis stated that there is; however, it is not enough money to complete every project ~ it is a good starting point.



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Mr. Kelly addressed the committee regarding losing the librarians. Will the school data be lost? Mr. Rapoza noted that there would still be access for the school. Mr. Kelly addressed the health insurance increase for next year, and the decrease for this year. Mrs. Lorenz noted the change in

the health care this year. Ms. Antonellis explained the health insurance figures for the last 2 years. She said that this year, everyone will experience a 5.9% increase in their health insurance plan.

Mr. Kelly noted that this is not the time to restructure and reorganize the district ~ maybe look at this for next year, after collaborating with staff, administration, etc. Ms. Antonellis also explained that there is no longer a decrease in teaching staff in the new, proposed budget. There is only the Director of Grounds, Buildings, and Operations position has been added in administration.

Rachel Phillip, Rehoboth parent, addressed the committee regarding the proposed academic and elective cuts at the high school, and the Beckwith school music program. Mr. Malone explained that only "extra" electives will be reduced at the high school, not AP courses. Mr. Malone noted that some of the teacher cuts are due to enrollment decreases; this leaves small class sizes intact.

Mr. Malone spoke to adding the music program and the ELA teacher (full-time) back into the budget proposal. This would not have a huge impact on the budget increase (3.67% total increase).

Mrs. Couture addressed the committee regarding high school electives being decreased. Mr. Malone spoke with administration and they recommended some electives to be removed.

Mr. Medeiros stated that this is why the committee originally voted the 5.4% level-service budget.

Mr. Barrett spoke on behalf of the Beckwith Middle School music program.

Mrs. Bartholomew asked what direction the School Committee is going toward at the next meeting. She suggested a concise list of cuts be prepared by the business office for the next meeting.

Mrs. Lorenz asked if the 5.4% level service budget will be voted on at town meetings. Mr. Katseff said that the 5.4% increase was voted on in order to give the towns our assessments. He said that the budget talks will continue, as per the usual School Committee process. The 5.4% increase proposed budget is being looked at, but maybe not all of it will remain intact.

Mr. Medeiros and Mrs. Terry stressed that we need the towns' people to vote for the 5.4% increase.

Mr. Medeiros stated that the committee would hold on reviewing of the 2 policies (Residency and Section I).

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Agenda Item #10g, Vote to Approve the READS Collaborative Agreement:

Mr. Malone reviewed the revised READS Collaborative Agreement.

It was moved by Mrs. Lorenz, seconded by Mrs. Bartholomew, and VOTED to approve the READS Collaborative agreement, as revised and presented.

**VOTE ~ AYE ~ UNANIMOUS**

Agenda Item #10a, Vote to Approve Contract for the Superintendent of Schools:

Mr. Medeiros announced the hiring of Dr. Anthony Azar as the new Superintendent of Schools and the acceptance of the contract. Mr. Medeiros and Dr. Azar signed copies of Dr. Azar's contract.

No vote needed, Dr. Azar was previously appointed by the committee on March 11, 2014.

Agenda Item #10f, Vote to Approve Surplus Equipment:

It was moved by Mrs. Bartholomew, seconded by Mr. Hebda, and VOTED to approve surplus equipment from the Dighton Middle School.

**VOTE ~ AYE ~ UNANIMOUS**

Agenda Item #1h, Vote to Approve a Leave of Absence Request:

It was moved by Mrs. Bartholomew, seconded by Mrs. Couture, and VOTED to approve an unpaid leave of absence for the 2014-2015 school year.

**VOTE ~ AYE ~ UNANIMOUS**

*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 21, for the purpose of discussing potential litigation, union issues, and security. Roll call vote: 12:25 AM.

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

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*Janice Terry, Secretary*