

Dighton~Rehoboth Regional District School Committee
Regular Session ~ April 15, 2014

A Regular Session of the Dighton~Rehoboth Regional School Committee was held on April 15, 2014, in the Dighton~Rehoboth Regional High School library.

Present:

Richard Barrett
Christopher Andrade
Tiffany Bartholomew
Eliza Couture
Heather Cross
David Katseff
Susan Lorenz
Raymond Medeiros
Janice Terry

Also:

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

Absent:

Tim Rapoza

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: 6:35 PM.

Mr. Medeiros led the committee in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Medeiros turned the meeting over to Mrs. Van Buren, Assistant Superintendent.

COMMITTEE REORGANIZATION:

Mrs. Van Buren called for nominations for Chairperson of the Dighton~Rehoboth Regional School Committee:

It was moved by Mrs. Bartholomew, and seconded by Mr. Medeiros, to nominate Eliza Couture as Chairperson of the Dighton~Rehoboth Regional District School Committee.

It was moved by Mr. Katseff and seconded by Mrs. Bartholomew to close nominations for Chairperson.

VOTE TO CLOSE NOMINATIONS - AYE

VOTE ON ELIZA COUTURE AS CHAIRPERSON - AYE

Mrs. Couture assumed her duties as Chairperson of the Dighton~Rehoboth Regional District School Committee, and called for nominations for Vice-Chairperson.

It was moved by Mr. Medeiros and seconded by Mrs. Lorenz to nominate Tiffany Bartholomew as Vice-Chairperson of the Dighton~Rehoboth Regional District School Committee.

It was moved by Mr. Katseff and seconded by Mrs. Bartholomew to close nominations for Vice Chairperson.

VOTE TO CLOSE NOMINATIONS - AYE

VOTE ON TIFFANY BARTHOLOMEW AS VICE CHAIRPERSON - AYE

It was moved by Mr. Katseff and seconded by Mrs. Bartholomew to nominate Richard Barrett as Secretary of the Dighton~Rehoboth Regional District School Committee.

It was moved by Mr. Katseff and seconded by Mrs. Bartholomew to close nominations for Secretary.

VOTE TO CLOSE NOMINATIONS - AYE

VOTE ON RICHARD BARRETT AS SECRETARY - AYE

It was moved by _____, seconded by _____, and **VOTED** to appoint _____ as the District Treasurer for the Dighton~Rehoboth Regional School District for the 2014~2015 fiscal year, from July 01, 2014 to June 30, 2015.

Mr. Katseff asked why there is no District Treasurer listed for a School Committee appointment. Ms. Antonellis replied that the central office is researching other options; looking to get someone in-house, rather than someone from outside of the district. We may have a person already in the district who can take over those responsibilities.

Mrs. Terry understood that an in-house staff member cannot perform the duties of the District Treasurer, and must be bonded. Ms. Antonellis explained that the Assistant Treasurer will have the authority to fill in for the District Treasurer.

VOTE: No vote taken at this time.

It was moved by Mr. Katseff, seconded by Mrs. Bartholomew, and **VOTED** to appoint **Kellie Partridge-Fagan** as the Recording Secretary for the Dighton~Rehoboth Regional School Committee for the 2014~2015 fiscal year, from July 01, 2014 to June 30, 2015.

VOTE: AYE

It was moved by Mrs. Lorenz, seconded by Mrs. Bartholomew, and **VOTED** to appoint **Gail Fisher** as the Assistant Treasurer for the Dighton~Rehoboth Regional School District for the 2014~2015 fiscal year, from July 01, 2014 to June 30, 2015.

VOTE: AYE

It was moved by Mrs. Bartholomew, seconded by Mr. Katseff, and **VOTED** to set the regular dates for the School Committee meetings as the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month.

Mr. Andrade asked if the committee should set a time for each meeting as well. Mr. Katseff noted that it is customary to vote for the dates themselves, and not a specific time.

Mr. Medeiros reminded the committee, and Ms. Fagan, that next year's School Committee calendar dates should be scheduled around town elections.

VOTE: AYE

A Warrant Subcommittee of no less than three (3) members and one (1) alternate should be appointed for the purpose of signing payroll and bill warrants allowing for the timely release of payment of checks. This subcommittee comes into the Central Office to review and sign bills and payroll warrants as needed.

It was moved by Mrs. Bartholomew, seconded by Mr. Katseff, and **VOTED** to appoint Mrs. Lorenz, Mrs. Terry, Mr. Barrett, and Mrs. Couture (alternate) to a **Warrant Subcommittee**, effective April 15, 2014, in accordance with Chapter 71; Section 16a, of the **Massachusetts General Laws**.

VOTE: AYE

It was moved by Mrs. Bartholomew, seconded by Mr. Katseff, and **VOTED** to authorize the District Treasurer of the Dighton~Rehoboth Regional School District to borrow in anticipation of revenue and to issue notes in accordance with **Massachusetts General Laws**, Chapter 44; Section 17, from the period July 01, 2014 through June 30, 2015.

Mrs. Lorenz asked if the Assistant Treasurer may perform these duties as well. Ms. Antonellis assured the committee that he/she could.

VOTE: AYE

It was moved by Mrs. Bartholomew, seconded by Mrs. Lorenz, and **VOTED** to appoint the Superintendent, or in his/her absence, the Assistant Superintendent to serve on the Board of Directors of the **South Coast Educational Collaborative**, for the period July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015.

VOTE: AYE

It was moved by Mrs. Bartholomew, seconded by Mrs. Lorenz, and **VOTED** to appoint the Superintendent, or in his/her absence, the Assistant Superintendent, to serve on the Board of Directors of **Project Contemporary Competitiveness (PCC)** for the period July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015.

Mr. Katseff asked if we are still members of PCC. Mrs. Van Buren confirmed that fact.

VOTE: AYE

It was moved by Mrs. Bartholomew, seconded by Mrs. Lorenz, and **VOTED** to appoint the Business Administrator, or in his/her absence the assistant treasurer, as the district representative for the **Energy Consortium**, effective April 15, 2014.

VOTE: AYE

It was moved by Mrs. Bartholomew, seconded by Mrs. Lorenz, and **VOTED** to appoint the following as Supervisors of Attendance: Kevin Braga, Elise DuBois, Melissa Folgo, Ashley Fullen, and Arlene Miguel from July 01, 2014 through June 30, 2015.

VOTE: AYE

It was moved by Mrs. Bartholomew, seconded by Mrs. Lorenz, and **VOTED** to appoint the following as members of the Career and Technical Education (CTE) General Advisory Committee for the 2014-2015 school year: Wanda Hanson, Clarence King, Irene Clausen, Mark Copeland, Diane Johnson, Christopher LaPierre, and Roger Sisson, Jr.

VOTE: AYE

Mrs. Couture called for volunteers to serve on the District Policy Subcommittee:

The following members volunteered: Mr. Medeiros, Mr. Barrett, Mr. Andrade, and Mrs. Cross.

New members appointed are as follows: Mr. Medeiros, Mr. Barrett, Mr. Andrade, Mrs. Cross, and Mr. Rapoza.

By consensus, Mrs. Couture stated that the Negotiations Committee appointments will take place at a later date.

Agenda Item #4, Vote to Approve Minutes:

It was moved by Mr. Katseff, and seconded by Mrs. Bartholomew to approve the March 25, 2014 Regular Session minutes. Committee discussion.

Mr. Andrade stated that the closing time for the meeting should be 12:25 AM.

It was moved by Mr. Katseff, and seconded by Mrs. Bartholomew to approve the March 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 March 11, 2014 Regular Session minutes.

VOTE ~ AYE ~ UNANIMOUS

It was moved by Mrs. Lorenz, seconded by Mrs. Bartholomew, and VOTED to approve the minutes of the March 11, 2014 Public Hearing of the FY '15 Budget.

VOTE ~ AYE ~ UNANIMOUS

It was moved by Mrs. Lorenz, seconded by Mrs. Bartholomew, and VOTED to approve the minutes of the February 11, 2014 Regular Session.

VOTE ~ AYE ~ UNANIMOUS

It was moved by Mrs. Lorenz, seconded by Mrs. Bartholomew, and VOTED to approve the minutes of the January 08, 2013 Executive Session.

VOTE ~ AYE ~ UNANIMOUS

It was moved by Mrs. Lorenz, seconded by Mrs. Bartholomew, and VOTED to approve the minutes of the June 11, 2013 Executive Session.

VOTE ~ AYE ~ UNANIMOUS

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

VOTE ~ AYE ~ UNANIMOUS

It was moved by Mrs. Lorenz, seconded by Mrs. Bartholomew, and VOTED to approve the minutes of the February 25, 2014 #1 Executive Session.

VOTE ~ AYE ~ UNANIMOUS

It was moved by Mrs. Lorenz, seconded by Mrs. Bartholomew, and VOTED to approve the minutes of the February 25, 2014 #2 Executive Session.

VOTE ~ AYE ~ UNANIMOUS

It was moved by Mrs. Bartholomew, seconded by Mr. Katseff, and VOTED to approve the minutes of the March 11, 2014 Executive Session.

VOTE ~ AYE ~ UNANIMOUS

It was moved by Mrs. Lorenz, seconded by Mrs. Bartholomew, and VOTED to approve the minutes of the March 25, 2014 #1 Executive Session.

VOTE ~ AYE ~ UNANIMOUS

It was moved by Mrs. Lorenz, seconded by Mrs. Bartholomew, and VOTED to approve the minutes of the March 25, 2014 #2 Executive Session, as amended.

VOTE ~ AYE ~ UNANIMOUS

Mrs. Couture suggested that the committee meet before town elections. This would mean having the next School Committee meeting on May 06, 2014.

It was moved by Mrs. Bartholomew, seconded by Mrs. Lorenz, and VOTED to move this to an Action Item.

VOTE ~ AYE ~ UNANIMOUS

It was moved by Mrs. Bartholomew, seconded by Mr. Barrett, and VOTED to approve the revised School Committee calendar, changing the May 13, 2014 meeting to May 06, 2014.

VOTE ~ AYE ~ UNANIMOUS

Agenda Item #5, Bills and Payroll:

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

V - #24	\$106,234.25
V - #1052	\$ 4,725.00
V - #1053	\$551,376.06
V - #1054	\$ 2,000.00
V - #1057	\$ 13,222.25
V - #1058	\$689,403.89
V - #3010	\$690,554.54
V - #3011	\$ 1,125.89

VOTE ~ AYE ~ UNANIMOUS

Agenda Item #6, Public Input:

Rebeka Philip, DRRHS Junior Class Vice President, and Brendan Henrique, DRRHS Senior Class President addressed the committee regarding the following:

- ✓ Rumors of de-regionalization have affected the students: however, students are coming together as a result of this hostility
- ✓ Our towns work well together, so the students must see the two towns cooperating

Mrs. Couture thanked the students for coming forward with their concerns.

Agenda Item #7, Correspondence & Enclosures:

Mrs. Van Buren stated that all correspondence and enclosures would be addressed within the meeting.

Agenda Item #8a, Boston Globe Scholastic Art Awards Presentation:

Mr. Shifone, Ms. Rutkowski, Mr. Harrison, and Mr. Braga, did a PowerPoint presentation of the award-winning artwork by the Dighton~Rehoboth Regional High School students. There were 40 works submitted, with 32 winners. This is a record for the high school.

Mrs. Medeiros asked if the work will be on display this year. Ms. Rutkowski noted that the artwork will be displayed at Fine Arts night on May 22nd.

Mr. Katseff asked if there is a limit to the amount of submissions from a particular school or teacher. Ms. Rutkowski said that there is no limit to the amount of submissions from either a school or teacher.

Mr. Katseff asked about middle school students participating. Ms. Rutkowski stated that there were submissions to both the 7th and 8th grade categories.

Ms. Rutkowski introduced Mr. Gerald Schifone to the committee.

Agenda Item #8b, Student Advisory Committee:

Matt Couture, Zoe Karavolis, Ed Medeiros, Brendan Henrique, Emily Parker, Rebekah Philip, Tori Scott, and Tony Scott updated the committee on the following:

- Spring musical / comedy - excellent show
- The Best Buddies prom was in Easton, MA last month - Dighton~Rehoboth sent 37 students to the prom
- AP testing begins in approximately 3 weeks - the high school has a passing rate of 70% for all AP students
- Spring athletics started last week - we have winning records in baseball, track, and tennis
- Honor Bowl competition was held at the beginning of April - the team has been victorious/undefeated this year
- 95 DRRHS students have been accepted at various colleges, so far this year
- Talent Show, Remembrance Walk, Movie Night, the Junior Prom, and Fine Arts Night are all coming up

Mr. Medeiros talked about user fees with the students. Ms. Antonellis was thanked for her assistance in explaining user fees to the Student Advisory Committee.

Mrs. Van Buren congratulated our students for their AP successes.

Mr. Medeiros stated that there will be one more Student Advisory Committee visit to the School Committee in June 2014.

Mr. Medeiros talked about the septic system on the Rehoboth campus. He read a letter from Mr. Hebda, former School Committee member, regarding costs to upgrade this system. It may cost between \$30,000 and \$35,000.

Mr. Andrade asked if there is one system for both schools. Mr. Medeiros stated that there is only one system on the Rehoboth campus. Mrs. Lorenz noted that there is also a holding tank in the system. Both schools work off of this system.

Mr. Katseff noted that the septic system is approximately 15 years old.

Mrs. Terry spoke about the Cafeteria Advisory Subcommittee. She noted that, due to a request from Whitsons, no members are allowed in the schools to speak with Whitsons employees. Two meetings with committee members were cancelled by Whitsons. Mrs. Terry is recommending that this subcommittee be disbanded at this time.

Mr. Medeiros stated that we need to have this subcommittee.

Mrs. Bartholomew asked why the School Committee is not allowed to speak with the employees. Mr. Medeiros responded that, according to Whitsons, speaking with the employees may be construed as a personnel evaluation.

Mr. Andrade stated that Whitsons may feel uncomfortable with the committee visits. He suggested that the Whitsons Food Services contract verbiage be reviewed and revisited.

Mr. Medeiros suggested that Ms. Antonellis meet with the subcommittee and Whitsons, together. Ms. Antonellis reiterated that Whitsons is uncomfortable with employee/School Committee contact.

Mrs. Terry stated that she would step down from this committee. Mr. Medeiros and Mr. Barrett said that they will remain on the committee.

Mrs. Bartholomew asked if the committee had been able to eat lunch with the students. Mrs. Terry said that they were not, although it had been done in the past.

Mr. Barrett will contact Ms. Antonellis to set up a meeting with Whitsons.

Agenda Item #8c, Superintendent's Report:

Mrs. Van Buren reviewed:

- ✓ "Brighter Than The Moon" - the Beckwith Middle School play. Mr. Collard, the Beckwith art teacher, wrote this musical.
- ✓ The Outstanding CTE Student Dinner - Casey Claussen was honored as the top DRRHS CTE student

Mr. Andrade asked about the Finance Committee meetings with Dighton and Rehoboth. Both Dighton and Rehoboth Finance Committee meetings had positive dialogue. Both towns would like the Regional Agreement to be reviewed.

Mr. Medeiros asked who initiates any discussion on the Regional Agreement. Mr. Katseff stated that the School Committee does, and then selects a Regional Agreement Subcommittee. Mr. Katseff also suggested that the review process begin as soon as possible.

Agenda Item #8c, Chairperson's Report:

Mrs. Couture thanked Mr. Medeiros for his time and dedication to the School Committee for the past year. She also congratulated Mrs. Terry on her re-election to the School Committee, representing the Town of Dighton.

Mrs. Couture reviewed the following:

- ✓ All 3 roof projects were passed in Dighton; however, Rehoboth only passed the Beckwith Middle School, and not the high school (there will be a vote recount)
- ✓ The Rehoboth Finance Committee meeting was very positive. Mrs. Couture, Mr. Malone, Mr. Katseff, and Mr. Andrade attended this meeting.
- ✓ The Rehoboth Finance Committee asked about reviewing our Regional Agreement
- ✓ The Finance Committee has recommended paying the minimum contribution plus transportation

Mr. Katseff spoke about budget amendments being made on town meeting floor (in Rehoboth only). Rehoboth allows for amendments on town meeting floor; however, in Dighton there are no amendments allowed on town meeting floor. The Dighton Finance Committee was pleased with the actual FY '15 budget results from the School Committee.

Mr. Andrade stated that the School Committee has created the best budget to adequately serve our students; however, the minimum contribution from Rehoboth is inadequate. He also noted that the committee planned on using the statutory method from the beginning (since February 2014).

Mr. Katseff stated that the Rehoboth Finance Committee is leaving the vote to town meeting.

Mrs. Bartholomew addressed the committee regarding the Rehoboth Finance Committee. Rehoboth should have made the effort to put forth a recommendation – don't leave it for a town meeting vote.

Mrs. Terry reiterated that Rehoboth has to be shown, and understand, where the town's reductions would be. Mrs. Bartholomew noted that the statutory method states that cuts will come from all 5 schools.

Mr. Andrade suggested that a "fact sheet" be distributed at town meeting. This should show Rehoboth the reductions with a minimum contribution. The fact sheet should list mandated costs, salary increases, health insurance increases, etc. Mr. Andrade stated that the sheet should show both the 4.8% proposed increase, and the reductions with a minimum contribution.

Mrs. Bartholomew noted that, with the minimum contribution, everything that was added into the 4.8% proposed budget will be taken away.

Mrs. Couture stated that Mr. Malone is trying to have a meeting with a DESE representative, to have a Special School Committee meeting (open to the public). Hopefully, this will take place the first week in May 2014. The Business Office will do a fact sheet for the town meetings (both).

Mrs. Couture spoke about the MASC Day On The Hill workshop. This will be held for School Committee members and Superintendents on April 29th. Mrs. Bartholomew, Mrs. Lorenz, Mr. Katseff, and Mr. Malone will be attending.

Mr. Katseff gave a brief update on the Negotiations Subcommittee:

- ✓ April 29th there will be a meeting with the DRRTA for a final draft of the Teacher Evaluation and Parent Portal sections of their contract.

Agenda Item #10j, Vote to Approve a Trip Request:

Mr. Rose, DRRHS CTE Department, was present to review and answer questions regarding the trip request for the CTE students. He noted that this trip does not come out of the high school budget.

Mrs. Lorenz asked how many students will be traveling. Mr. Rose said that approximately 20 students will be going.

It was moved by Mrs. Lorenz, seconded by Mr. Medeiros, and VOTED to approve from the CTE Department students to travel to Marlborough, May for SkillsUSA competition from May 01, 2014 through May 03, 2014.

VOTE ~ AYE ~ UNANIMOUS

Agenda Item #9b, Section I and the Residency Policy for the District Policy Manual:

Mrs. Couture noted that the Residency Policy has been re-visited many times. At the last Policy Subcommittee meeting, Mr. Medeiros pointed out the within one section of the policy states that the decision to grant a waiver to families moving into the district after the start of the school year, would be the Superintendent's. Mr. Katseff recommended that the discretion of the School Committee should be the only way to get a waiver from the Residency Policy.

Mrs. Lorenz thinks that the Superintendent may be in a better position to give the waiver, not the School Committee.

Mrs. Bartholomew agreed with this being the School Committee's responsibility.

Mrs. Couture will get a draft together of the Residency Policy for the Policy Subcommittee at their next meeting, and then distribute to the School Committee.

Once again, Mr. Katseff suggested that any waiver request should come to the School Committee, with or without the Superintendent's recommendation.

Agenda Item #10a, Vote to Approve Donation Requests:

It was moved by Mrs. Lorenz, seconded by Mrs. Bartholomew, and VOTED to approve monetary donations in the amount of \$16.34 and \$19.28, from Abibow, to the Palmer River Elementary School.

VOTE ~ AYE ~ UNANIMOUS

It was moved by Mrs. Lorenz, seconded by Mrs. Bartholomew, and VOTED to approve a monetary donation in the amount of \$363.00, from Hannafords Helps Schools, to the Dighton Elementary School.

VOTE ~ AYE ~ UNANIMOUS

It was moved by Mrs. Lorenz, seconded by Mrs. Bartholomew, and VOTED to approve a monetary donation in the amount of \$33.30, from the Funding Factory, to the Dighton Elementary School.

VOTE ~ AYE ~ UNANIMOUS

It was moved by Mrs. Lorenz, seconded by Mrs. Bartholomew, and VOTED to approve a monetary donation in the amount of \$162.30, from Hannafords Helps Schools, to the Beckwith Middle School.

VOTE ~ AYE ~ UNANIMOUS

It was moved by Mrs. Lorenz, seconded by Mrs. Bartholomew, and VOTED to approve a monetary donation in the amount of \$429.30, from Hannafords Helps Schools, to the Dighton Middle School.

VOTE ~ AYE ~ UNANIMOUS

[Agenda Item #10b, Vote to Approve the 2014-2015 School Year Calendar:](#)

It was moved by Mrs. Lorenz, and seconded by Mrs. Bartholomew, to approve the 2014-2015 school year calendar.

Mr. Katseff asked if there are any changes. Mr. Medeiros stated that this would be similar to previous calendars.

Mr. Andrade asked why 'Good Friday' is designated as a holiday. Mr. Katseff explained that this holiday is included in all union contracts.

VOTE ~ AYE ~ UNANIMOUS

[Agenda Item #10c, Vote to Approve School Choice for the 2014-2015 School Year:](#)

It was moved by Mrs. Lorenz, and seconded by Mrs. Bartholomew to approve School Choice for the 2014-2015 school year.

Mr. Katseff asked if School Choice would make sense for the district at this time. Mrs. Van Buren stated that she had contacted each principal, and they do not have the space for additional students. If there are budget cuts, there will also be issues.

VOTE ~ NAY ~ UNANIMOUS

[Agenda Item #10d, Vote to Appoint a Sick Bank Committee Member:](#)

It was moved by Mrs. Lorenz, seconded by Mrs. Bartholomew, and VOTED to appoint Mrs. Arlene Miguel to the Sick Bank Committee.

VOTE ~ AYE ~ UNANIMOUS

[Agenda Item #10e, Vote to Extend the Athletic Trainer Contract:](#)

It was moved by Mrs. Lorenz, and seconded by Mrs. Bartholomew, to extend the Athletic Trainer's contract (AT Care) in the amount of \$48,500.00, for the 2014-2015 school year.

Mrs. Terry requested a copy of the job description for this position. Mr. Andrade suggested that the School Committee be given a copy of the AT Care contract.

VOTE ~ AYE ~ UNANIMOUS

[Agenda Item #10f, Vote to Approve Section I of the District Policy Manual:](#)

It was moved by Mrs. Lorenz, seconded by Mrs. Bartholomew, and VOTED to approve Section I of the District Policy Manual.

VOTE ~ AYE ~ UNANIMOUS

[Agenda Item #10h, Vote to Approve Surplus Equipment:](#)

It was moved by Mrs. Lorenz, seconded by Mrs. Terry, and VOTED to approve surplus equipment from the Dighton Middle School.

VOTE ~ AYE ~ UNANIMOUS

Mrs. Couture 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. Katseff, seconded by Mr. Medeiros, 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, and would not return to open session at: 8:35 PM. Roll call vote:

Mr. Andrade ~ Aye
Mr. Barrett ~ Aye
Mrs. Bartholomew ~ Aye
Mrs. Couture ~ Aye
Mrs. Cross ~ Aye
Mr. Katseff ~ Aye
Mrs. Lorenz ~ Aye
Mr. Medeiros ~ Aye
Mrs. Terry ~ Aye

MOTION PASSED

Mrs. Van Buren, Ms. Antonellis, and Ms. Fagan were recused at: 8:35 PM.

Richard Barrett, Secretary