

Dighton-Rehoboth Regional District School Committee
Special Session - July 16, 2014

A Special Meeting the Dighton-Rehoboth Regional School Committee was held on July 16, 2014, in the Dighton-Rehoboth Regional High School library.

Present:

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

Also:

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

Mrs. Couture 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.

Mrs. Couture led the committee in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mrs. Couture read a public statement from the committee, regarding the Town of Dighton litigation.

She reviewed the litigation and the settlement payment(s). All claims have been released on all parties.

Agenda Item #3, Vote to Approve Minutes:

It was moved by Mrs. Lorenz, seconded by Mrs. Bartholomew, and VOTED to approve the minutes of the May 27, 2014 Regular session.

VOTE - AYE - UNANIMOUS

It was moved by Mrs. Lorenz, and seconded by Mrs. Terry to approve the minutes of the May 27, 2014 Executive Session. No vote taken.

It was moved by Mr. Andrade, seconded by Mrs. Bartholomew, and VOTED to table the vote on these minutes.

VOTE - AYE - UNANIMOUS

Dighton-Rehoboth Regional School Committee
Regular Session
July 16, 2014
Page 2

It was moved by Mrs. Bartholomew, seconded by Mrs. Lorenz, and VOTED to approve the minutes of the June 10, 2014 Regular Session.

VOTE - AYE - UNANIMOUS

Agenda Item #4, Bills and Payroll:

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

V - #1	\$ 72,323.43
V - #2	\$ 49,785.11
V - #1000	\$ 297,247.56
V - #1001	\$ 800.27
V - #1002	\$ 30,418.96
V - #1003	\$1,084,119.41
V - #1004	\$ 30.15
V - #1084	\$ 511,496.17
V - #1088	\$ 25,420.65
V - #1089	\$ 722,671.78
V - #2000	\$ 460,499.30
V - #2001	\$ 1,326.27
V - #2611	\$ 264,430.94

VOTE - AYE - UNANIMOUS

Michael Costello, Rehoboth Board of Selectmen, discussed the 2 ½ override failure. He stated that the Rehoboth Board of Selectmen will re-assess their budget, and present it at the Special Town Meeting in August. Mr. Costello spoke about foregoing the full-day kindergarten program for now, to help lower the assessment for Rehoboth.

Mr. Katseff suggested that the School Committee meet again in July for a special meeting regarding the FY '15 budget.

Mr. Katseff, speaking as a Rehoboth resident, pointed out that there is great appreciation for the parents and the community members who came out to vote for the override. Thank you to everyone.

Glen Jefferson, Dighton, the residents, of both towns, have voted the budget in. Cuts should be on the Rehoboth side, but does that affect the Dighton budget. Mr. Jefferson thanked everyone involved in the 2 ½ override push for Rehoboth.

[Dighton-Rehoboth Regional School Committee](#)
[Regular Session](#)
[July 16, 2014](#)
[Page 3](#)

Polly Cardea, Beckwith Foreign Language teacher, read a statement regarding the Foreign Language programs at Rehoboth and Dighton.

Mrs. Couture stated that the foreign language program at the middle schools is under review at this time.

Mike Costello, Rehoboth Board of Selectmen, addressed the committee regarding forming a Regional Agreement Steering Committee immediately (before we hire a consultant).

Ralph Answitch, Rehoboth, will volunteer to work on the steering committee (new resident), as a community member.

Glen Jefferson, Dighton, also wants to serve on that committee, and has submitted his paperwork to the Dighton Board of Selectmen.

[**Agenda Item #5, Staffing Recommendation Discussion:**](#)

Dr. Azar reviewed the proposal for the Dean of Student Academics and Athletics Programs position. He reviewed the job description. We want to consolidate two positions: the Guidance Director (Lead Counselor stipend position) and the Athletic Director.

Mr. Braga and Mr. Harrison gave an overview of the position:

- They noted that our academics/athletic programs are advancing
- How do we attract the students back to the school district – our academic and athletic reputations are good and continuously advancing
- We need to get the kids excited about coming to the high school, with our activities and our sports. The Dean of Student Academics and Athletic Programs would take care of all after-school activities, etc. (these are the attention-grabbers for incoming students)
- Need to market our schools to keep up with the times
- Marching band: The Dean of Student Academics and Athletic Programs will help with coordinating Marching Band activities
- The district is not adding a position – we will be cutting ½ an administrator (-\$41,000.00)
- We need to think “out of the box”

Mr. Andrade thanked Mr. Harrison and Mr. Braga for their comprehensive proposal. This position can reach out to the middle schools and excite the students to come to D-R. Once the kids are here, they stay. This position will keep the Guidance Department stable, and help with the athletic program.

Mr. Barrett asked which part of the athletic programs this person will be responsible for. Mr. Harrison stated that the Dean of Student Academics and Athletic Programs, as well as the

[Dighton-Rehoboth Regional School Committee](#)
[Regular Session](#)
[July 16, 2014](#)
[Page 4](#)

department's secretary, will work together for scheduling, bussing, etc. This person will be the liaison to MIAA.

Mr. Medeiros stated that this district does not need to model itself after other schools, we can be a leader.

Mrs. Couture reminded the committee that the Assistant Principals will also take on some of these responsibilities.

Mrs. Terry stated that this will be a savings to the district, not an administrative addition.

Mr. Katseff noted that the secretary position for the Athletic Department will increase to 18 hours.

Mr. Katseff asked that a survey be sent to parents of children who will be leaving the district. Mr. Katseff stated that the high school principal's position should be the most important opening that the district is looking to fill.

Heather Cross this is the perfect time to save money and to change how we do things. This position needs to be filled for the start of the school year, as well as for the fall sports season.

Both Mr. Medeiros and Mrs. Terry pointed out that administration has recommended this position, and this is the perfect time for a change.

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

VOTE - AYE - UNANIMOUS

It was moved by Mrs. Lorenz, seconded by Mr. Andrade, and VOTED to approve the job description for the Dean of Student Academics and Athletic Programs. Roll call vote:

Mr. Andrade - Aye
Mr. Barrett - Nay
Mrs. Bartholomew - Aye
Mrs. Couture - Aye
Mrs. Cross - Aye
Mr. Katseff - Nay
Mrs. Lorenz - Aye
Mr. Medeiros - Aye
Mr. Rapoza - Aye
Mrs. Terry - Aye

[Dighton-Rehoboth Regional School Committee](#)

[Regular Session](#)

[July 16, 2014](#)

[Page 5](#)

AYE - 7.0 NAY - 2.0

MOTION PASSED

It was moved by Mrs. Lorenz, seconded by Mrs. Bartholomew, and VOTED to approve the job description for the stipend position of Lead Counselor.

VOTE - AYE - UNANIMOUS

It was moved by Mrs. Lorenz, seconded by Mr. Medeiros, and VOTED to direct the administration to post for the Dean of Student Academics and Athletic Programs position. Roll call vote:

Mr. Andrade - Aye
Mr. Barrett - Nay
Mrs. Bartholomew - Aye
Mrs. Couture - Aye
Mrs. Cross - Aye
Mr. Katseff - Nay
Mrs. Lorenz - Aye
Mr. Medeiros - Aye
Mr. Rapoza - Aye
Mrs. Terry - Aye

AYE - 7.0 NAY - 2.0

MOTION PASSED

It was moved by Mrs. Lorenz, seconded by Mrs. Bartholomew, and VOTED to direct the administration to post for the stipend position of Lead Counselor. No vote taken.

Mr. Katseff stated that the vote's wording must be changed to include "negotiate".

It was amended by Mrs. Lorenz, seconded by Mr. Katseff, and VOTED to negotiate the stipend position of Lead Counselor with the DRRTA.

VOTE - AYE - UNANIMOUS

Mr. Katseff explained the timeline of proposals from the Rehoboth Board of Selectmen before the end of July. The Town of Rehoboth is scheduling a Special Town Meeting in August.

By consensus, it was decided to meet on July 29, 2014 @ 6:30 PM.

**[Dighton-Rehoboth Regional School Committee](#)
[Regular Session](#)
[July 16, 2014](#)
[Page 6](#)**

Mrs. Bartholomew asked for a clarification of this meeting. Mrs. Couture said that this meeting would be held to revisit the FY '15 budget.

Mr. Katseff stated that it is the responsibility of the committee to revisit the FY '15 budget.

Mrs. Lorenz pointed out that the towns have voted on and accepted this budget.

Mrs. Terry addressed the committee regarding full-day kindergarten.

Mr. Barrett left the meeting at 7:50 PM.

Mr. Rapoza suggested that the meeting on the 29th have a time limit imposed.

The committee discussed putting time constraints on this Special School Committee Meeting.

Mr. Swartz, Dighton Board of Selectmen, addressed the committee regarding a possible assessment reduction.

Ms. Antonellis stated that when there is a reduction in an assessment, notification will be sent to the town(s). The town(s), in turn, decide whether they will hold a Special Town Meeting to vote on the reduction.

Mrs. Bartholomew asked that the School Committee meeting videotaping issues be addressed.

Mrs. Couture state that the committee would enter into Executive Session as per MGL Chapter 30A, Section 21, for the purposes of discussing litigation, union and non-union issues, and security, and would not return to open session.

It was Mrs. Bartholomew, seconded by Mr. Andrade, and VOTED to enter into Executive Session as per MGL Chapter 30A, Section 21, for the purposes of discussing litigation, union and non-union issues, and security at: 8:00 PM, and would not return to open session. Roll call vote:

Mr. Andrade
Mrs. Bartholomew
Mrs. Couture
Mrs. Cross
Mr. Katseff
Mrs. Lorenz
Mr. Medeiros
Mr. Rapoza
Mrs. Terry

[Dighton-Rehoboth Regional School Committee](#)
[Regular Session](#)
[July 16, 2014](#)
[Page 7](#)

MOTION PASSED

Ms. Antonellis was recused at 8:05 PM.

Mr. Barrett returned to the meeting at 8:05 PM.

Richard Barrett