

Dighton~Rehoboth Regional School Committee  
A Regular Meeting of the Dighton~Rehoboth Regional School Committee  
was held on November 10, 2015, in the Dighton~Rehoboth Regional High School Library

Present:

Christopher Andrade  
Richard Barrett  
Tiffany Bartholomew  
Katherine Cooper  
Eliza Couture  
Heather Cross  
Glenn Jefferson  
David Katseff  
Timothy Rapoza  
Janice Terry

Also:

Dr. Anthony Azar, Superintendent of Schools  
Kerri Anne Quinlan-Zhou, Asst. Superintendent  
Catherine Antonellis, Business Administrator  
Kellie Partridge-Fagan, Recording Secretary

*Mrs. Bartholomew stated that the committee would enter into Regular Session, and was being broadcast / videotaped with the help of the Rehoboth Cable Advisory Committee, at: 6:30 PM.*

*Mrs. Bartholomew led the committee in the Pledge of Allegiance.*

Mrs. Bartholomew stated that the committee would enter into Executive Session as per MGL 30A, Section 21, #3, to discuss strategy with respect to litigation if an Open meeting may have detrimental effect on the litigating position of the public body, and the chair so declares, and return to open session.

It was moved by Mrs. Terry , seconded by Mrs. Couture and VOTED to enter into Executive Session as per MGL 30A, Section 21, #3 to discuss strategy with respect to litigation if an Open meeting may have detrimental effect on the litigating position of the public body, and the chair so declares, and would return to open session. Roll call vote 6:36 PM.

Mr. Andrade ~ Aye  
Mr. Barrett ~ Aye  
Mrs. Bartholomew ~ Aye  
Mrs. Cooper ~ Aye  
Mrs. Couture ~ Aye  
Mrs. Cross ~ Aye  
Mr. Jefferson ~ Aye  
Mr. Katseff ~ Aye  
Mr. Rapoza ~ Aye  
Mrs. Terry ~ Aye  
**MOTION CARRIES**

*The Committee returned to Open Session at 8:10 pm*

Agenda Item #4, Vote to Approve the May 12, 2015 Regular Session Minutes, as amended:

It was moved by Mrs. Couture, and seconded by Mr. Andrade, and VOTED to approve the May 12, 2015 Regular Session minutes, as amended.

**VOTE ~ AYE ~ UNANIMOUS**

**Agenda Item #4, Vote to Approve the June 09, 2015 Regular Session Minutes:**

It was moved by Mrs. Couture, and seconded by Mr. Andrade, and VOTED to approve the June 09, 2015 Regular Session Minutes.  
**VOTE ~ AYE ~ UNANIMOUS**

**Agenda Item #5, Bills and Payroll:**

It was moved by Mrs. Couture, and seconded by Mr. Andrade, and VOTED to approve the following bills and payrolls:

V – #13	\$ 82,810.00
V - #1032	\$ 7,685.11
V - #1033	\$ 395,150.89
V - #1110	\$ 702,313.54
V - #1111	\$ 14,861.58

**VOTE ~ AYE ~ UNANIMOUS**

**Agenda Item #6, Correspondence and Enclosures:**

Dr. Azar read the list of correspondence and enclosures.

**Agenda Item #7, Public Input:**

Katie Grillo, DES teacher, shared letters from parents and students expressing their appreciation of her as a teacher. She requested from the committee to support Dighton Rehoboth by supporting the teachers.

Helen Gianakoullis, BMS teacher (history), read a letter about herself from a parent expressing her appreciation. Please support DR by supporting a fair teacher's contract.

**Agenda Item #8a, United Way Presentation:**

Susan Cunniff, United Way of Greater Attleboro and Taunton, gave a presentation on the United Way services available to DR students & families.

- ✓ Their assistance includes, to build on education, foster services to build financial independence and human services are available through the United Way.
- ✓ Last year, over 3000 families were serviced in Dighton Rehoboth communities alone. Assistance is gained through forming alliances with community stakeholders to target the needy.
- ✓ Sustainability is built throughout both communities [\$.83 on every dollar goes to the community(ies)].
- ✓ Looking for contributions
- ✓ Question and answer:
  - Mr. Andrade stated, he contributes at work; a great organization.
  - Ms. Cunniff requested for her link to be on the district website and expressed her gratitude.
  - Dr. Azar spoke in favor of the United Way.
  - Mr Katseff asked, how this changes what we have already been doing and what is the plan if we form a partnership?
  - Mr. Andrade stated, we don't do anything at this point; so we'll go from nothing to helping folks. United Way and the district can get together on how to raise funds.
  - Mrs. Terry asked if this is done elsewhere. Are they looking to access the staff for contributions? Mrs. Antonellis stated that United Way used to come in (5-6 years ago); this will allow the staff to contribute and will give us additional resources.

- ✓ By consensus, it was decided that we would proceed forward with working with United Way.

Agenda Item #8b, MCAS Update:

Mrs. Quinlan-Zhou gave a PowerPoint presentation on the MCAS scores from the Spring of 2015:

- ✓ MCAS ANALYSIS TERMS:
  - Composite performance index (cpi), score shows progress of narrowing proficiency gaps.
  - Student growth percentile (sgp), students' academic rate of change.
- ✓ Congratulations to the high school with 97% proficient and advanced in ELA; math at 88%; SCT/tech also at 88% proficient and advanced.
- ✓ Grade 7 scores were well-above the state average in ELA.
- ✓ ELA/state 4-year comparison:
- ✓ Can't really compare to last year, because ½ of the MA districts now take PARCC, we have moderate growth throughout with mostly flat scores.
- ✓ Ultimate goal is to improve. We think it's possible with our great teachers and curriculum resources.
- ✓ Another goal is to improve our special needs results, but we do have a good amount of growth over the years to better scores in ELA. Mrs. Griffith talked about our results (69% student growth).
- ✓ We are aggressively looking at the co-teaching model to and close the achievement gap between special needs students and general education students.
- ✓ MATH SCORES:
  - We are expecting a large growth spurt in math over the next few years due to the new EnVisions program.
  - Our scores have remained similar; however, they are still below state averages. Mrs. Griffith said that the math growth for special needs is also at 69% student growth.
  - Student growth is our main concern. We show moderate growth in most schools.

Mr. Andrade stated that we are not getting the growth that we want or need. Mrs. Zhou answered that we haven't had a sustained push for student growth.

- ✓ As a district, we are slightly above the state average.
- ✓ Eventually, we will be administering a PARCC-like, MCAS exam.
- ✓ In SCI/TECH, Dighton Rehoboth is above the state average.
- ✓ STEM SCORES – pilot program (free); hands-on science kits are being implemented as part as the district improvement plans.
  - Piloting the STEM Environmental piece in the 4<sup>th</sup> grade for \$0.00
- ✓ Mrs. Griffith is looking to add STEM to pre-school:
  - Found Professional Development in CO-TEACHING; now teachers know their roles and what is expected.
  - We have Karen Rose, who is a Science Ambassador for the state and can provide Professional Development.

Mrs. Andrade expressed his thanks for a great presentation. We owe it to our communities to be great again, like we were!

Dr. Azar commented that this was an excellent total overview of the scores.

Agenda Item #8c, MASC/MASS Conference Report:

Mrs. Cooper, DRRSD voting delegate, gave the MASC Resolution vote results from the recent MASC/MASS Conference:

- ✓ Mrs. Couture stated there were a lot of great presentations; social /emotional overall theme.
- ✓ Mrs. Couture and Mr. Katseff, went to the MCAS vs PARCC workshop. They are introducing "MCAS 2" (basically a version of PARCC).



## Dighton~Rehoboth Regional School Committee

### Regular Session

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- ✓ Mrs. Couture went to Strategic Planning workshop, which on Monday will help with a meeting scheduled with Mrs. Cross and Dr. Azar about our strategic plan.
- ✓ Mrs. Jefferson mentioned it looks like regionalization may be in our future (add Seekonk, Swansea, etc.).
- ✓ Mr. Katseff shared that school choice has played a big part in getting revenues for some district.
- ✓ Mr. Katseff also went to a Vocational/Technical presentation; this is an opportunity that we really need to tap into.

#### Agenda Item #8d, Negotiations Subcommittee Report:

Mr. Katseff reviewed the following:

- ✓ Have not met with DRRTA or secretaries in the last 2 weeks.

#### Agenda Item #8e, RAAC Update:

Mr. Andrade updated the committee on the November 3rd meeting:

- ✓ Will send letters to Board of Selectman of both towns: we are moving forward to bringing the amended agreement to both towns ( BOS, Finance Committees, PTO, PTSA, other stakeholders); it will then have to go to town meeting at a much later date.

#### Agenda Item #8f, Superintendent's Report:

Dr. Azar highlighted the following district events and school happenings:

- ✓ On Monday, is meeting with Mrs. Couture and Mrs. Cross to discuss a strategic plan for the district.
- ✓ Still waiting for representatives from towns for the Advisory Finance Committee.
- ✓ Thursday begins budget discussions: looking at coming in a lot closer to 3.5% as a preliminary Budget.
- ✓ Smart goal appointment and contract extension meetings are taking place.

Mrs. Antonellis added we should have a final E&D number shortly (Netting out \$536,000 that will go into E&D this year). Auditors are moving forward to complete our financials.

Mr. Katseff also added that after we took money out to help the assessments, how much is left (took out \$750M); approximate number \$1.4 million in E & D this year (approximately \$200M less than last year).

Mr. Nappi updated the committee on the high school boiler project. By the end of January, we should have the TRANE contract underway.

#### Agenda Item #8f, Chairperson's Report:

Mrs. Bartholomew reviewed the following:

- ✓ Play ~ "7 keys to Balpate" coming up.
- ✓ Bluesforschools reminder.

#### Agenda Item #9a, Insurance Advisory Committee:

Mrs. Antonellis talked about our MIIA health insurance reporting to the state which is very difficult. School committee appoints the insurance retiree representative. Meeting is to be held November 19, 2015.

#### Agenda Item #9b, DRRHS Proposed Graduation Date Change ~ Survey Results:

Mr. Braga came back to the committee with new survey results:

- ✓ 59% voted for Friday graduation, 38.3% voted for Saturday for 2016 graduation.
- ✓ Asked students, as well (paper ballot) 68.4% want Friday graduation.

Mr. Katseff expressed his thanks for checking with surrounding districts/schools.

**Agenda Item #10a, Vote to Accept Donation Requests:**

It was Moved by Mrs. Couture, and seconded by Mrs. Bartholomew, and VOTED to accept a monetary donation in the amount of \$1,050.00, from the Friends of the DR Marching Band, to DRRHS Athletics.

Mr. Andrade asked if all has been resolved with Friends of DR Marching Band? Mrs. Antonellis answered, absolutely; Mr. Kelly has resolved this with this parent-funded group. We need to scrutinize all donations in the future from parent-funded groups.

**VOTE ~ AYE ~ UNANIMOUS**

It was Moved by Mrs. Couture, and seconded by Mrs. Cross, and VOTED to accept a monetary donation in the amount of \$1,500.00, from the Dighton PTO/Walmart, to the Dighton Elementary School.

**VOTE ~ AYE ~ UNANIMOUS**

**Agenda Item #9b, Vote to Appoint the Retiree Representative to Insurance Advisory Committee:**

It was Moved by Mrs. Couture, and seconded by Mrs. Cross, and VOTED to appoint Mr. Day as the retiree representative for the Advisory Finance Committee.

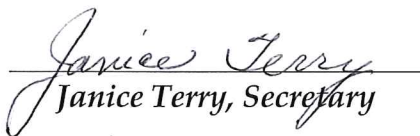
**VOTE ~ AYE ~ UNANIMOUS**

It was moved by Mr. Katseff, seconded by Mrs. Couture, and VOTED to enter into Executive Session as per MGL 30A, Sections 21, (3), for the purpose of discussing collective bargaining strategy for the DRRTA, Secretaries' and the Paraprofessionals' union personnel issues, and potential litigation, and would not return to open session. Roll call vote:

Mr. Andrade ~ Aye  
Mr. Barrett ~ Aye  
Mrs. Bartholomew ~ Aye  
Mrs. Cooper ~ Aye  
Mrs. Couture ~ Aye  
Mrs. Cross ~ Aye  
Mr. Jefferson ~ Aye  
Mr. Katseff ~ Aye  
Mr. Rapoza ~ Aye  
Mrs. Terry ~ Aye

MOTION PASSED

**Mrs. Bartholomew adjourned the regular session meeting at 9:16pm**

  
**Janice Terry, Secretary**