

OXFORD SCHOOL COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF MEETING

September 16, 2019 - 5:30 p.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

School Committee Members Present: Daniel Coonan, Chairman; David Cornacchioli, Vice Chairman; September Forbes, Secretary; Palmina Griffin, Member

School Committee Members Absent: William Spitz, Member

Others Present: Dr. Elizabeth Zielinski, Superintendent; Justin Leduc, School Business Administrator and Director of Operations; Helen Coffin, Recording Secretary

Chairman Coonan opens the regular meeting at 5:30 p.m. and advises that the Committee wishes to enter Executive Session to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining negotiations since an open meeting could be detrimental to the position of the Committee.

On a motion by Forbes with second from Cornacchioli, the Committee votes unanimously by roll call vote to enter Executive Session under MGL c.30A, s.21(a) ¶13. {Roll Call: Coonan, Yes; Cornacchioli, Yes; Forbes, Yes; Griffin, Yes}

Dr. Zielinski explains her conversation with Attorney Marc Terry regarding the Committee's last Executive Session meeting and the vote taken. She was advised that members of a negotiating team must vote positively on the terms of the contract they negotiated, otherwise the union could file an unfair labor charge. She also learned that a Committee can vote in Executive Session to ratify a contract - it does not need to be in open session provided an announcement is made in open session. This poses a problem with the Open House scheduled at Chaffee tomorrow night. Going forward, she proposes a Memorandum of Agreement could be drafted which addresses the DW Kickoff language in the spring. She will also need to work with the union regarding the Head Nurse position.

Mr. Coonan asks if the Committee has any questions or comments regarding this matter. Mr. Cornacchioli apologizes for the confusion - he came into negotiations midway and did not clearly understand this particular language. His primary concern is that the kindergarten teachers should still attend the fall Open House. Mrs. Forbes agrees - she apologizes that she missed this point during negotiations as they were focused on many various terms of the contract. She emphasizes that the focus is on being equitable to all teachers. Mrs. Griffin reiterates her stance from previous meetings that she feels all teachers should be required to attend fall Open House as she simply does not want to set precedent in the District of teachers not attending Open House in lieu of attendance at other events. She wants to be fair to all teachers who do sometimes attend other events in addition to Open House. She also has concerns regarding the fact that she raised this question and issue prior to the last School Committee Meeting and prior to union ratification, and also has concerns in the way the language was presented. Dr. Zielinski clarifies how the language was presented to the District. She will also work with the union to draft a Memorandum of Agreement on this issue going forward.

Brief discussion follows regarding the Head Nurse/Nurse Leader position. Mrs. Griffin has concerns regarding the Epi-Pen delegation - she wants to be sure the District is covered due to the current resignation. Dr. Zielinski will contact the Department of Public Health to ensure the District is covered. Mr. Cornacchioli suggests the creation of a job description that clearly identifies the responsibilities of the position. Dr. Zielinski will draft a Job Description for the Committee's review.

On a motion by Forbes, with second from Cornacchioli, the Committee votes unanimously by roll call vote to RESCIND the previous vote taken on September 9, 2019 "to not approve the teachers' contract as written, seeking to strike the new language regarding the DW Kickoff on Page 21." {Roll Call: Cornacchioli, Yes; Forbes, Yes; Griffin, Yes} {Coonan abstains}

On a motion by Forbes, with second from Cornacchioli, the Committee votes unanimously by roll call vote to ratify the 3-year Oxford Education Association contract, as presented. {Roll Call: Coonan, Yes; Cornacchioli, Yes; Forbes, Yes; Griffin, Yes}

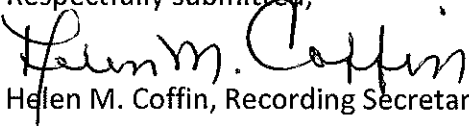
The Committee members sign two originals of the contract.

On a motion by Forbes, with second from Cornacchioli, the Committee votes unanimously by roll call vote to authorize Dr. Zielinski to work with the Oxford Education Association to draft a Memorandum of Agreement and negotiate language with respect to all teachers attending fall Open House. {Roll Call: Coonan, Yes; Cornacchioli, Yes; Forbes, Yes; Griffin, Yes}

On a motion by Forbes, with second from Cornacchioli, the Committee votes unanimously by roll call vote to authorize Dr. Zielinski to prepare a Job Description and Memorandum of Agreement for the Committee's review with respect to a Nurse Leader position. {Roll Call: Coonan, Yes; Cornacchioli, Yes; Forbes, Yes; Griffin, Yes}

On a motion by Forbes, with second from Cornacchioli, the Committee votes unanimously by roll call vote to exit Executive Session and adjourn the regular meeting at 6:23 p.m. {Roll Call: Coonan, Yes; Cornacchioli, Yes; Forbes, Yes; Griffin, Yes}

Respectfully submitted,


Helen M. Coffin, Recording Secretary