SMITHFIELD SCHOOL COMMITTEE BUDGET WORKSHOP
SMITHFIELD HIGH SCHOOL MEDIA CENTER
THURSDAY, JANUARY 22, 2026
5:00 PM

MINUTES

Members present: Mr. Richard Iannitelli Chair, Mrs. Jessica Sala, Vice-Chair, Mrs. Amanda Fafard, Secretary, and Mr. Jeffrey LeBlanc and Dr. Ashley Hogan. Also present: Lisa Odom-Villella, Interim Superintendent, John Ward, Interim Director of Financial Operations, and Eileen Crudele, Director of Special Education.

1. **Budget workshop called to order.** Mr. Iannitelli called the budget workshop to order at 5:00 pm.

2. **Salute to the Flag.** Mr. Iannitelli conducted a Salute to the Flag.

3. **Emergency Evacuation and Health Notification.** Mr. Iannitelli read the Emergency Evacuation and Health Notification.

4. **Discuss Review and Approve transportation extension of contract or approve to go out to RFP.** Mrs. Fafard moved to approve transportation extension of contract. Dr. Hogan seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 4-1 vote, with Mr. LeBlanc voting nay.

5. **FY27 Budget Workshop: Discussion of Staffing and Operations Plan.**

   Budget presentation overview. Lisa Odom-Villella shared a powerpoint presentation which highlighted general education, curriculum, special education, tuition, staffing, benefits, facilities, transportation, and athletics.

   Enrollment History. Enrollment history from 2020-2021 through 2025-2026 was shared, along with enrollment projections for 2026-2027.

   Curriculum. Review of RI Curriculum Legislation and HQCM Materials Adoption Timeline at elementary, middle, and high schools. Chemistry EEP Textbooks are more than 20 years old, and funds have been cut from the budget every year for the past several years.

   Special Education Expenses. An overview of FY25 actual, FY26 adjusted, and FY27 proposed expenses. Mrs. Crudele answered questions from the committee.

   CTE Program Overview. Biomedical Science will be added as a new program. An overview gave an overview of programs offered at the high school and of which programs students are leaving Smithfield to enroll in another district for, as well as CTE tuition expenses and revenue projections.

   Staffing Summary. Review of staff additions and decreases. Once course selection is complete at the high school on 2/13/26, information will be used to build a schedule and examine the number of sections offered. This may impact the number of FTEs needed at the high school.

Salaries. Review of approved FY26 salaries and benefits and Draft FY27 increases.

Facilities. Review of expected increases in the cost of transportation, utilities (electricity and natural gas) and custodian products. Review of RIDE Stage II approval and Stage III process beginning. Mr. Mencucci answered questions from the committee.

Transportation. Review of Dattco extension and the associated costs.

Technology. Review of FY27 budget request for new student devices, staff devices, and projector replacements.

Athletics. Review of equipment, uniforms, and the request for a girls' volleyball team with associated costs. Request for stipend increase for boys and girls lacrosse coaches.

Other Budget Increases. Review of contractual increases and increases to medical and dental. Interim Director of Finance, Mr. Ward answered questions from the committee.

Capital Improvement Plan. The project would need to begin July 1, 2026 with substantial completion prior to June 30, 2027 and not to exceed $500,000 for housing aid reimbursement. Review of state and town aid for FY24, FY25, FY26, and projected FY 27.

State and Town Aid. A review of both state and town aid for FY24, FY25, FY26, and proposed FY27.

Budget. A review of budget cuts already made by the Superintendent, and budget request overview for 3%, 3.5% and 4% town increase options and the impacts on the proposed FY 27 budget.

Proposed Cut Options. Review of proposed cuts to technology teacher devices and additional staff.

Mr. Ian McLean was present and asked questions about the bus contract, curriculum, and technology.

6. Motion to adjourn was made by Mrs. Fafard, seconded by Mr. LeBlanc. The motion passed with a 5-0 vote.

The workshop ended at 7:53 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Boscio
Interim Secretary