

**SMITHFIELD SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
SMITHFIELD HIGH SCHOOL MEDIA CENTER
THURSDAY, JULY 16, 2026
6:30 PM
MINUTES**

Members present: Mr. Richard Iannitelli Chair, Mrs. Jessica Sala, Vice-Chair, Mr. Jeffrey LeBlanc and Dr. Ashley Hogan. Excused absence: Mrs. Amanda Fafard, Secretary. Also present: Lisa Odom-Villella, Superintendent, Wendy Amelotte, Assistant Superintendent, Eileen Crudele, Director of Special Education, Stephen Mulcahey, Finance Director.

1. Meeting called to order. Mr. Iannitelli called the meeting order at 6:30 pm.
2. Mr. Iannitelli asked that everyone observe a moment of silence in remembrance of Dennis Finlay, former Smithfield Town Manager. Mr. Iannitelli then conducted a Salute to the Flag.
3. Emergency Evacuation and Health Notification. Mr. Iannitelli read the Emergency Evacuation and Health Notification and notified the public regarding the public comment sign up sheet as well as notification to the public to speak at the podium when addressing the committee.
4. Consent Agenda Items:
Mrs. Sala moved to approve Consent Agenda Items:
 - 4.1 Minutes:
 - A) Open minutes of the June 4, 2026 School Committee Meeting
 - 4.2 Bills:
 - A) Regular Bills totaling
 - 25/26 totaling \$1,036,543.15
 - 26/27 totaling \$2,360.17
 - Grand Total: \$1,038,903.32
 - B) Direct Checks
 - 25/26 totaling \$1,012,610.54
 - 26/27 totaling \$77,863.37
 - Grand Total: \$1,090,473.91
 - 4.3 Approval to pay invoices through August 20, 2026
 - 4.4 Approval of recalls 26/27 School Year: (as presented)
 - 4.5 Homeschooling (as presented)

Dr. Hogan seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 3-0 vote.

5. Recognition of high school students. Kaeden Manni, a SHS Jr. was presented with the Superintendent's Award of Recognition for winning the New England championship in Track and Field (Discus). Emma Reed, SHS Sr., was presented with the Superintendent's Award of Recognition for winning the National Championship in Track and Field (Hammer). The students were present with their families and Chairman Iannitelli and Superintendent Odom-Villella presented the students with the awards.
6. End of year bullying report. According to Smithfield Public Schools Bullying Policy JICK-C, the school principals shall provide a summary report of bullying incidents to central administration and the School Committee twice per year. Assistant Superintendent Wendy Amelotte gave the report. She reported the total number of incidents that were investigated and the number found to be bullying within each school at the midpoint of the school year 2025-2026. The number of bullying reports has increased slightly from the 24-25 SY, but the percentage of incidents found to be bullying fell by 9% from the previous year.

7. Wellness Report. Assistant Superintendent Wendy Amelotte gave a report on the activities of the Wellness Committee that included a review of accomplishments of 2025-2026 and also the goals for 2026-2027. In accordance with the Wellness Policy, she reported on the 2025-26 Wellness Food and Beverage Exceptions in which all schools must report any foods and beverages served to students during the school day that do not comply with the nutrition guidelines. She noted that the faculty and staff utilize a variety of techniques to reward and recognize students such as additional recess, fitness breaks, and classroom spirit days. Smithfield's Wellness Committee is composed of 10 dedicated members representing parents, teachers, nurses, administrators, food service personnel, and community groups. The committee, co-chaired by Jeff LeBlanc and Wendy Amelotte, met 3 times this year. Dr. Amelotte added that Smithfield's Wellness Committee focused on school programs, staff wellness, and positive school culture. Key initiatives included expanding the Food Ranger Program, delivering nonviolent and social-emotional training, and promoting staff wellness through resources like the FitOn app. Future goals include enhancing school climate, expanding programs, and supporting staff well-being.

Mr. LeBlanc was attending a town meeting and arrived at the school committee meeting at this time during the meeting.

8. Discuss Review and Approve to advertise RFP for bathroom renovations for the high school. Mrs. Sala moved to advertise RFP for bathroom renovations for the high school. Dr. Hogan seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 4-0 vote. Mr. Mencucci was present to inform the committee the project involves renovating four restrooms at Smithfield High School, requiring experienced contractors with at least five years in similar work, completing by February 2027. Bidders must submit sealed proposals, attend a pre-bid site visit, and follow strict procedures. Evaluation emphasizes experience, local presence, pricing, and compliance with safety, legal, and diversity requirements. Mr. Mencucci informed the committee the project will be worked on after school, and there will not be overtime shifts.
9. Second reading and approval of the district's medication policy JLCD. Mrs. Sala moved to approve of the district's medication policy JLCD. Dr. Hogan seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 4-0 vote. The committee did a first reading at the last meeting. There were no further changes.
10. Second reading and approval of the district's Attendance and Academic Achievement Policy JE. Mrs. Sala moved to approve of the Attendance and Academic Achievement Policy JE. Dr. Hogan seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 4-0 vote. The committee did a first reading at the last meeting. There were no further changes.
11. Discuss, Review and Approve FY27 Revised Budget. Mrs. Sala moved to approve FY27 Revised Budget. Dr. Hogan seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 4-0 vote. Superintendent Odom-Villella reminded everyone that \$245,000 less than what the school department requested and the budget is still a reduction. The budget increases revenue mainly from state aid and categorical funds, while expenditures focus on salaries, benefits, and services. Adjustments include slight reductions in salaries and benefits, it includes contractual professional services, supplies, and equipment. Overall, the plan aims to balance higher operational costs with targeted budget reallocations for educational and infrastructure needs. Proposed additional staffing was discussed as a possibility, if savings were incurred relating to busing and with any title grant funding.
12. Discuss Review and Approve of FY26 Budget Transfers. Item not acted upon, item was not needed.

13. Discuss, Review, and Approve Fund Balance Reserve Amounts. Mrs. Sala moved to approve Fund Balance Reserve Amounts. Dr. Hogan seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 4-0 vote. The Smithfield School Department plans to increase reserve funds for special education, transportation, utilities, and other tuition due to rising costs. Current surplus of \$1.9 million will be allocated to raise reserves from \$510,000 to \$640,000, enabling coverage for additional buses, higher tuition, and utility expenses, ensuring fiscal stability and preparedness for future needs.
14. Discuss, Review, and Approve District Student-Athlete Handbook. Mrs. Sala moved to approve the District Student-Athlete Handbook. Mr. LeBlanc seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 4-0 vote. Smithfield Schools' athletic program emphasizes academic eligibility, sportsmanship, and conduct standards, including policies on substance use, hazing, and behavior. Participation requires registration, physical exams, insurance, and parent acknowledgment. The handbook emphasis is also on coaches enforcing rules on attendance, equipment, travel, and discipline, with communication protocols for concerns. NCAA (National Collegiate Athletic Association), eligibility and college recruitment guidelines are also outlined. Superintendent Odom-Villella reviewed changes with the committee. Athletic Director Glenn Castiglia was present and answered questions the committee had.
15. Communications:
- A) A copy of resignations/retirements/new hires in the district
 - B) A copy of a SPS memo regarding computer purchases
 - C) A copy of FY26 Budget Transfers (none)

16. Superintendent's Report:

Food Trailer:

The food trailer for the Culinary Program has arrived. We are parking it at the Central Office for the summer. Facilities staff will be getting training on maintenance and usage of the trailer next week. Our pick up truck should be arriving within the next few weeks as well. The culinary team will incorporate its usage in the curriculum this fall and the committee discussed that the food truck be utilized for a variety of other district events.

Survey Works:

SurveyWorks data is now publicly available on the RIDE website. The district will be digging into Smithfield Public Schools data over the summer and will provide an update in the fall as part of our School Improvement Plan and Assessment Results Report.

Staffing:

We are actively working to fill open positions. The following positions are available:

Assistant Principal at SHS

School Psychologist at GMS

School Psychologist at OCRS

One Year only Math teacher at SHS

0.4 MLL teacher district-wide

Grade 2 at PVES

The district is always interested in expanding our substitute pool.

Congratulations to our new Dean of Students James Connell at SHS.

Food Services:

Chartwells will be at next month's meeting to present their new contract and review their annual report from 2025-26 SY. RIDE has awarded them to the state MPA.

Building Projects Update:

Gallagher Middle School Elevator Repairs:

- Timeline for parts delivery is still at 10 to 14 weeks (tracking first and second week of August). The contractor knows this is a priority project and will begin as soon as parts are delivered.
- Demo of existing equipment in the elevator room will only take one day and will happen before parts are delivered.
- Angelo is in contact with this contractor every week to get updates on the status of the project.

High School Lavatory Renovations (2)

- RGB Architects have submitted a proposal (\$90,270.00) for all drawings and oversight associated with both Lavatory renovations. (Please note this cost is on the low end of what we had budgeted for A&E)
- RGB has also started submissions to the RIDE portal for review for this project.
- Currently refining Schematic Design (SD Drawings).
- RFP Contractor tour is scheduled for July 28th @ 10:00am

17. Public Forum: None.

18. Consider Items to Add to Future Agendas: Mr. Iannitelli - Policy sub committee will be looking at the AI Policy, the policy will be sent to the school committee soon. Mr. Iannitelli spoke with the Town Council regarding Overbrook Academy, on some brainstorming ideas.

19. Consider and Vote on Motion to Adjourn. Motion to adjourn made by Mrs. Sala; Dr. Hogan seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 4-0 vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Petrone
Secretary