

**SMITHFIELD SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
SMITHFIELD HIGH SCHOOL MEDIA CENTER
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2026
6:30 PM
MINUTES**

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

1. Meeting called to order. Mr. Iannitelli called the meeting order at 6:30 pm.
2. Mr. Iannitelli 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. Consider and Vote on Motion (by roll call vote) to convene Executive Session pursuant to RI Gen. Laws 42-46-5(a). Mrs. Sala moved to convene Executive Session regarding: Matters pertaining to legal advice in accordance with the Open Meeting Act RI Gen. Laws 42-46-5 (a)(2); Mr. LeBlanc seconded the motion. This requires an individual vote. The individual vote was 3-0 vote polled by Mr. Iannitelli, Chair.
5. Executive Session (Closed) pursuant to RI General Laws Section 42-46-5(a) to discuss:
 - A) Matters pertaining to legal advice in accordance with the Open Meeting Act RI Gen. Laws 42-46-5 (a)(2);
 - C) Consideration and Vote to convene into open sessionReturned to open session at 7:04 pm. Mr. Iannitelli reported there were no votes taken in the executive session.
6. Vote to seal minutes of executive session. Mrs. Sala moved to vote to seal minutes of the executive session. Mr. LeBlanc seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 3-0 vote.
7. Consent Agenda Items:

Mrs. Sala moved to approve Consent Agenda Items:

 - 7.1 Minutes:
 - A) Open Minutes of the September 17, 2026 School Committee Meeting
 - B) Approval of Executive Session Minutes of September 3, 2026
 - 7.2 Bills:
 - A) Regular Bills totaling \$122,745.27
 - B) Direct Checks from September 1, 2026 through September 28, 2026 totaling \$121,711.30
 - 7.3 Homeschooling: (As presented).

Mr. LeBlanc seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 3-0 vote.
8. High School Representatives Report.

Logan reported:

 - Seniors will be painting their parking spots next Thursday 10/8. Their senior shirts will be distributed at this time.

- Spirit week for homecoming is upcoming, with themes including Neon Day, USA Day, Class Color Day, and Green and gold day. Throughout the week there will be numerous events such as an impaired driving assembly for juniors and seniors and a class and club parade on Wednesday 10/14. Voting for homecoming royalty will take place the next day, and on Friday 10/16 there will be a pep rally with a modified schedule to prepare students for the homecoming football game that same night.
 - Tickets for the Homecoming dance are being sold from 10/7-10/14 in the cafeteria during all four lunches. Tickets will be \$10 and the dance will take place on 10/17 from 7:00-9:00 PM.
9. Second reading and approval of the district's Acceptable/Responsible Use Policy IJNDC. Mrs. Sala moved to approve the district's Acceptable/Responsible Use Policy IJNDC. Mr. LeBlanc seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 3-0 vote. The policy provides the rules that apply to students and staff, contractors and volunteers requiring users to act responsibly and in a legal manner when accessing the SPS network and hardware. There were no further changes to the policy.
 10. Discuss Review and Approve to go out to RFP #26928 to advertise for a 14 passenger Minibus. Mrs. Sala moved to approve to go out to RFP #26928 to advertise for a 14 passenger Minibus. Mr. LeBlanc seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 3-0 vote. Mr. Mencucci was present to answer questions, he explained the bus is associated with the grant. Superintendent Odom-Villella explained the purpose of the bus is for the CTE program to access internships and other work based learning experiences and other activities related to the CTE programs. At the end of the grant, we are expected to purchase 2 minivans. It is just to transport students to and from school.
 11. Discuss Review and Approve of FY27 Budget Transfers. Mrs. Sala moved to approve of FY27 Budget Transfers. Mr. LeBlanc seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 3-0 vote.
 12. Discuss Review and Approve Revised Transgender, Gender, Nonconforming and Transitioning Students policy ACA. Discussion item only. Mrs. Sala moved to table the vote of the revised Transgender, Gender, Nonconforming and Transitioning Students policy ACA to the next meeting. Mr. LeBlanc seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 3-0 vote. Mr. Iannitelli explained the changes to the policy have been recommended by the school department's attorney in light of a recent US Court decision revolving around parental rights. The policy revisions focus on increasing parental notification, involvement, and authority. Attorney Mr. Clough explained that the changes to the policy are large part driven by state law and federal laws regarding parents rights under FERPA as well as state level right around for parents rights to student records and additionally recent Supreme Court decisions - parental rights to access their child's record and that school departments cannot conceal or mislead parents about information about the status of their students. Mr. Clough explained the provisions concerning student privacy, names and pronouns, school records, safety, staff training, and compliance with applicable state and federal requirements. He further explained that gender identity in support for students will not change, with the policy revisions and in transitional cases, the school department will work with the student in a transition plan. The changes to the policy makes sure the school department is in line with federal state law and it codifies that students and families will be supported and all students are welcome. Schools are directed to work with students and, subject to recognized parental rights, families to develop a Gender Transition Plan when appropriate. Several members from the public spoke on the District's Transgender, Gender, Nonconforming and Transitioning Students policy.

13. Communications:

- A) A copy of new hires/resignations in the district
- B) A copy of the FlexDecks Purchase for SHS ISE Room
- C) A copy of 50 amp extended service for the SHS Food Trailer
- D) A copy of SHS Boys and Girls Cross Country trip to Cape Cod Fairgrounds in Falmouth, MA
- E) A copy of FY27 Budget Transfers

14. Superintendent's Report:

SHS: Commended Students in the 2027 National Merit Scholarship Program

SHS has two Commended Students in the 2027 National Merit Scholarship Program: **Laurel Crapulli** and **Luca Savastano**.

Commended students are recognized for exceptional academic promise demonstrated by their outstanding performance on the PSAT/NMSQT, the qualifying test used for program entry.

While they are not, unfortunately, semifinalists in contention for the Merit Scholarship, they are among the top 50,000 scorers of the approximately 1 million students who took the test, and rightly are commended for their achievements. Congratulations to Laurel and Luca on this great achievement.

Rural Health Transformation Program Grant

Smithfield Public Schools has been awarded **\$513,689.77 in Year 1 funding through the Rhode Island Rural Health Transformation Program (RHTP)** to expand opportunities for students to discover and pursue careers in health care.

The Rural Health Transformation Program (RHTP) is supported by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) of the United States Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), to improve the health and healthcare services of rural Rhode Islanders. Rhode Island is working towards a connected, community-based system that ensures every rural resident has timely, coordinated, high-quality care where they live. This program will build lasting infrastructure that empowers communities to lead their own health transformation.

CMS recently announced approximately **\$5.48 million in funding for 14 Rhode Island local education agencies and schools** to expand health-care-focused Career and Technical Education (CTE) opportunities. The initiative is intended to provide students with greater awareness, preparation, and exposure to high-demand health professions, including behavioral health, biomedical sciences, emergency medical services, nursing, rehabilitation, and other health-care fields.

Smithfield's project, led by CTE Coordinator Kristen Luongo, will build upon the district's existing **Biomedical Sciences CTE pathway while developing new opportunities in Behavioral Health and other health-care career fields**. The funding will support health-care career education infrastructure, including specialized instructional materials and equipment, professional learning and certifications, work-based learning supports, and minor renovations to create appropriate learning environments for health-care education.

Sentinel Showcase

The Sentinel Showcase will be October 21, 2026 from 6-8pm. The showcase provides an opportunity for all families and students in Smithfield and surrounding areas to visit our CTE programs, core academic courses, Advanced Placement and Early Enrollment courses, electives, clubs, and sports available at Smithfield High School. Highly recommended for students and families of 6th, 7th, and 8th graders.

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15. Public Forum: None.
16. Consider Items to Add to Future Agendas. Items brought forward will try to be addressed next week
17. Consider and Vote on Motion to Adjourn. Motion to adjourn made by Mrs. Sala; Mr. LeBlanc seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 3-0 vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Petrone
Secretary