

**Southampton School Committee**  
Thursday, March 10, 2016  
Richard Dragon Library-William E. Norris School

MINUTES

I. Call to Order- Erin Couture, Chair

Ms. Couture called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM

Present: Virginia Ahart, Erin Couture, Lorna Shirer, Cheryn Wojcik, John Fitzpatrick, Dr. Jurgensen, Aliza Pluta, Kevin Cousineau

Visitors: sign in sheet included with meeting materials (handout)

II. Routine Matters

A. Approval of minutes:

On a motion (Fitzpatrick/Wojcik) the minutes of February 22 were approved. (5-0-0)

III. Items Requiring Action

A. Paraprofessional Contract

The Paraprofessional membership ratified the proposed contract on March 8.

Mr. Fitzpatrick presented an overview of the negotiated updates including:

- An hourly rate for paraprofessionals that are required to attend meetings in addition to their regular work hours
- An hourly rate for paraprofessionals that are required to attend training in addition to their regular work hours
- Statements on equity in duty assignments and professional development planning

On a motion (Shirer/Wojcik) the Committee agreed to authorize the Chair to sign the updated agreement (5-0-0).

B. Transportation

Safety discussion:

Mrs. Pluta and Mr. Cousineau presented the ridership count details (handout):

- Counts were taken over 8 days
- Norris administration and staff collected information for the study
- Most three-to-a-seat situations were voluntary rather than necessary
- Drivers have differing styles for managing seating
- Some territorial issues were observed and will be monitored going forward
- Most days and most runs included less than 50 students per run
- Counts will be monitored from time to time as this was a good exercise for administration

After discussion, it was generally agreed there is not a safety concern evident in the counts presented. Administration will talk to the bus company requesting that further balancing of timing and loads be studied for next year. Durham will be asked to review current routes to determine if any of the buses that are nearing optimal loading (48 riders) could be considered for balancing this year (specifically Bus 6). It was agreed that ridership will be reviewed later in the spring to determine if counts are stable.

Financial discussion:

Current status on the collection of fees was reviewed (included in handout). After discussion, it was agreed that liaisons to the Finance Committee and Board of Selectmen would reach out to discuss options in order to understand their next steps. Given these inputs, we will develop and approve a recommendation at our March 23 regular meeting.

Questions for clarification include:

- Will the savings in the Transportation line be made available for yearend transfer to the Education line this year?
- Will the transportation contract be fully funded (multiple years, including stops within the mileage boundary) if no fees are collected going forward?

No votes were taken.

XI. MGL Chapter 30, 21A(2) Executive Session: Preparation for negotiations and Collective Bargaining with Paraprofessionals

No Executive Session was held.

XII. Adjourn –

On a motion (Fitzpatrick/Shirer) the Committee agreed to adjourn (5-0-0) at 7:47 PM.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, March 23, 2016

Handouts (posted to Open Meeting site):

- A-Bus Counts & Fees 030716
- B-Visitor sign in sheet