

STONINGTON BOARD OF EDUCATION SPECIAL MEETING April 27, 2023-Page | 1

Farouk Rajab, Board Chairman called the special meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Members present were Heidi Simmons, Secretary, Dan Kelley, Sara Baker, Kevin Agnello, and Craig Esposito. Member Absent: Chris Donahue. Also present were Mary Anne Butler, Superintendent of Schools, Recording Secretary, Ana de Oliveira, and members of the administration staff.

Discussion and Motion Regarding Reduction In Force (RIF)

Mary Anne Butler, Superintendent explained the Reduction in Force (RIF) process, the reason for the change in wording to the agenda item, and the May 1st deadline. Farouk Rajab, Chairman noted there was a memo from the Superintendent to the Board of Education that addressed the non-renewals and the teachers' names. Dan Kelley had questions as to why this item was not on last week's meeting agenda. Superintendent Butler explained she wanted to make sure everything was in order since it is her first experience with non-renewals, and hopes to add it to the regular monthly meeting in the future if this issue arises again and if the Board chooses to do it at a regular meeting in the future.

The following motion was made by Farouk Rajab and seconded by Dan Kelly:

Motion 1: To accept Superintendent Butler's recommendation to non-renew employment contracts for the six listed certified staff effective June 30, 2023, due to fiscal year 2023-2024 budget reductions of force, Karen Balestracci, Shandon Foley, Samantha Ide, Kaleigh Ludka, Dora Pero, and Lianne Royle.
All: Aye - Motion Passes

Dan Kelley asked are these the only six non-tenure staff that we have on duty, if they are classroom teachers, and how it affects the teaching and classroom sizes. Superintendent Butler explained that we do have other non-tenure teachers. Superintendent Butler explained the district looks at seniority and certification in the roles that they are in. The six are teachers and one school psychologist. She also reviewed the impact on the schools and classroom sizes. However, noted there is also an opportunity to recall some of these positions if the referendum passes, or if staffing changes.

Adjournment

The following motion was made by Craig Esposito and seconded by Sara Baker:

Motion 2: To adjourn at 6:08 p.m.
All: Aye

Complete Board Meeting can be heard on the Stonington Public Schools YouTube Channel at:
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCFXjoLyIU1KT9YnO3SQSrvQ/>



Heidi Simmons, Secretary