

CRANSTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

MONDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2005

WESTERN HILLS MIDDLE SCHOOL

400 PHENIX AVENUE

EXECUTIVE SESSION: 6:00 P.M.

PUBLIC SESSION: 7:00 P.M.

MINUTES

The regular monthly meeting of the Cranston School Committee was held on the evening of the above date at Western Hills Middle School with the following members present: Mr. Archetto, Mrs. Greifer, Ms. Iannazzi, Mr. Lupino, Mr. Palumbo, Mr. Stycos, and Mr. Traficante. Also present were Mrs. Ciarlo, Mr. Scherza, Mr. Votto, Mr. Balducci, Mr. Scaffardi, and Mr. Laliberte.

The meeting was called to order at 6:12 p.m. It was moved by Mr. Palumbo, seconded by Mrs. Greifer and unanimously carried that the members adjourn to Executive Session pursuant to RI State Law 42-46-5(a)(1) and contract and litigation pursuant to RI State Law 42-46-5(a)(2).

Mr. Lupino, acting Chair, reconvened the meeting at 7:27 p.m.

The roll was called and the Pledge of Allegiance conducted.

Mr. Lupino requested a moment of silence for Robert Kalafarski, a custodian for Cranston Public Schools, who died unexpectedly recently.

**I. Executive Session Minutes Sealed – November 28, 2005; December 5, 2005,
December 7, 2005; and December 12, 2005**

Moved by Mrs. Greifer, seconded by Ms. Iannazzi and unanimously carried that the Executive Session minutes of November 28, 2005, December 5, 2005, December 7, 2005, and December 12, 2005 remain confidential.

II. Minutes of Previous Meetings: November 7, 2005; November 14, 2005; November 16, 2005; November 21, 2005; November 28, 2005; December 5, 2005

Moved by Mrs. Greifer, seconded by Ms. Iannazzi and unanimously carried that the November 7, 2005, November 14, 2005, November 21, 2005, November 28, 2005, and December 5, 2005 minutes be approved.

Moved by Mrs. Greifer, seconded by Ms. Iannazzi and unanimously carried to amend the order of the agenda to take Resolution No.'s

05-12-3 and 05-12-4 next on the agenda.

RESOLUTIONS

SPONSORED BY THE COMMITTEE

NO. 05-12-3 – Whereas, Bain Middle School TV’s video “Brown vs. the Board of Education” was recently awarded the trophy for the “Best Educational Program” on Cable Access Television in Rhode Island for 2005, and

Whereas, there were more than 66,000 half-hour programs on Rhode Island Cable Access TV this year, and

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Whereas, this video was also awarded the prestigious “John Notte Award” as the “Best Rhode Island Cable Access Program of the Year” in all categories, and

Whereas, the following Bain Middle School students, faculty, and staff played a major role in this great accomplishment:

Students

Michael Aldana Robert Esposito Michael Martone Alyson Rodriguez

Brittany Alterio Anthony Liberatore Antonio Medina Michael Sammartino

Amanda Bedard Erick Mancebo Michael Mitchrone Sean

Sederstrom

Kyle Cooper Salvador Mancebo Victoria Nounpa Raymond Soccio

Faculty and Staff

Robert Gerardi, Former Principal, Bain Middle School

Gerald Silberman, Retired Teacher and Bain TV Director, Bain Middle School

Robert Perrotti, New Bedford High School Video Production Program

Be it RESOLVED, that the Cranston School Committee recognize the Bain Middle School students, faculty, and staff for their outstanding effort and this great accomplishment, and

Be it further RESOLVED, that they receive a copy of this Resolution signed by the members of the Cranston School Committee.

Moved by Ms. Iannazzi and seconded by Mrs. Greifer that this Resolution be adopted.

Mrs. Greifer read the Resolution and presented it to the students.

Honored guest, Chief Justice Frank Williams, stated that he graduated from Cranston Public Schools. He was a member of Hugh B. Bain Junior High School Class of 1955 and Cranston High School East Class of 1958. His father, who is 87, graduated in the first class

from Hugh B. Bain Junior High School, so it was a pleasure for him to be here at this important occasion honoring the students, faculty, and staff who have worked so hard in this award winning video and also members of the Thurgood Marshall Society who were also present and assisted in this video.

Chief Justice went on to say that the mission is education and growth of our young people. Nothing demonstrates that more to him than their working together as a team—the students, Gerry Silberman who has taught them so much about the video operation, the then high school principal and others who made this all possible. Some may know that in the Judicial system there is the Justice Rules Program, and this in part came about because of that. This is what is done in the Judiciary where they send out teams of judges and lawyers to the schools, and there is a K-12 curriculum that is presented to classes by these teams of judges and lawyers to tell them about the Judicial system. The curriculum has changed over the years from the time his civics teacher, Joe Coccia, tried to instill a sense of the three branches of government in him at Hugh B. Bain, they try to instill good civics and civility with the kids. They have reached over 40,000 students who have been treated to this program. Out of this comes other things like this award winning video on the United States Supreme Court case *Brown vs. the Board of Education*, and as all should know, there are few times in the history of the jurist prudence in the history of the Supreme Court where there is a significant decision that has great impact for the moment and for the years to

follow. Brown vs. the Board of Education decided in 1954 was one of these cases. To him, it was an important case because it was a continuation of a legacy left by his favorite American, Abraham Lincoln, which is the right that all men and women should be free. It took a long time for Brown vs. the Board of Education since Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation in 1863, but it did come; and that is how democracy works sometimes.

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These young people, with the support from the staff, put together this video looking back on Brown vs. the Board of Education and with the support of the Thurgood Marshall Society, in it goes for competition. As the resolution states, it was the best educational video and also received the John Notte Award for outstanding achievement in public access. The Chief Justice told the School Committee that they don't receive many compliments for their work, and he doesn't either. It is all called leadership with the decisions that have to be made. This is an occasion where the committee can reflect on their leadership vicariously through the accomplishment of their students at Hugh B. Bain and their faculty and staff leadership along with that of the Thurgood Marshall Society. The committee can go home tonight and feel good about what they are doing.

The Chief Justice further commented that this was like deja vu for

him. As former Mayor Traficante knows, he was one year ahead of the Chief Justice in school. The Chief Justice represented a lot of cities and towns before he went on the bench as solicitor and attorney for the school committee. Monday night was the worst night of the week because that is when their meetings were, and they were endless. One Monday it was a town council meeting; the next Monday it was a school committee meeting; and the next Monday it was a zoning board meeting or a planning board meeting. He is still catatonic when he goes to bed on Monday nights and has problems sleeping because the body is geared to those long meetings on Monday nights. He further stated that it was good to be at this meeting and good to be a graduate of the Cranston Public Schools which he recommended to everyone.

He commented that he wished to present in the committee's presence because it was important not only for the City of Cranston but also the entire State of Rhode Island in recognizing the people and their achievement.

This Resolution was adopted unanimously.

Chief Justice Williams presented citations from the Rhode Island Supreme Court to the students and faculty as well as Judge Edward Clifton, Attorney Sheila High King, and Bill Trezvant of the Thurgood Marshall Law Society. In addition citations were presented to Mr. Gerald Silberman, Robert Perrotti, Thomas Barbieri, and Robert

Gerardi. He presented the award winning trophy from Cox Cable to Thomas Barbieri, Principal, Bain Middle School

Photographs were taken.

SPONSORED BY THE COMMITTEE

NO. 05-12-4 – Whereas, the Cranston High School East Varsity Football Team under the direction of head coach Tom Centore, assistant coaches James Dionizio, Ken Simone, Jason Ward, Jason Cerro, and volunteer assistants Dante Carnevale, Tony Centore, Victor Correia, Dick Downey, Mike Giblin, Chuck Jones, Paul Nadeau, and Mike Schiappa had an outstanding season in the fall of 2005, and

Whereas, through their hard work and dedication in the weight room and on the field, captured the Division II League Co-championship with a record of 8-1, and

Whereas, through their continued hard work, outstanding team and individual performances defeated Shea High School at Cranston Stadium in the State Semi-finals 27-24 allowing them to advance to the Division II State Championship Super Bowl on December 3, 2005 at Cranston Stadium where they were led by Super Bowl MVP Jon Pirolli in their 21-14 victory over defending State Champion Tolman High School giving Cranston High School East their first Football State Championship since 1987 while finishing the season with an overall record of 10-3,

Be it RESOLVED that the following team members be congratulated by the Cranston School Committee and that they receive a copy of this Resolution signed by members of the committee:

**Capt. Vincent Cromartie Capt. Nicholas Gaumond Nolan
Gaumond Zach Kirkwood David Giarrusso
David Krasnowiecki Thomas Cook Joseph Casale Russell Bacon
Heleno Miranda
Patrick Duffy Russell Pagano Rusbel Perez Boreth Ouk
Derek Moore
Ginauldi Arias Adam Garnetto Zeke Perrault Shane DeLoge
Arnold Castillo
Jaquen Scripsack Darnell Steele Akim Pittman Jonathyn Pirolli
Luis Diaz
Eddy Garcia Geoffrey Gillson Nathon Freedman Kenny De-Los
Santos Haniel Hernandez
Mark Richards Sunny Lei Scott Sanger Joseph Fortes Antonio
Mangione
Jason Theroux Roberto Luna-Santana Jeremy Beers Nathan
Nascenzi Patrick Meseck
Andrew Belmore Richard Houlihan Bryan Breedon Gustavo**

Ramirez Capt. Miguel Prata

**Mark Garafano Capt. Robert Angell Sean Benevides Roberto
Romero Jonathan Collado**

**Devan Henderson John Kosinski Robert Theroux Michael
Perry Rafael Hernandez**

**Josh Ahern Justin Breedon Desmond Brooks Mackensie
Dagobert Mark Silvestri**

Christopher Perrotta Patrick Stycos

**Moved by Mr. Palumbo and seconded by Mrs. Greifer that this
Resolution be adopted.**

**Mr. Archetto read the Resolution and presented it to the athletes. A
photograph was taken.**

**Mr. Archetto noted that Mr. Traficante has passed along some
information to him that Cranston East played in the first Super Bowl
in 1972 when head coach Traficante led them to victory over
Woonsocket High School.**

**Mr. Traficante commented to coach Centore that he had Mr.
Traficante's greatest respect and admiration because he knows how
difficult it is to win a Super Bowl. He has been there and done that.
He certainly recognized this championship team for the honor they
have bestowed upon this school department and city. It is a great
honor. He wished to salute a particular individual who he has the**

greatest admiration for and the greatest respect for. It is a person he has coached with, a person he taught with, and a person who coached him in high school. This person is coach Tom Centore's dad, Tony Centore who is still here after 47 years.

Mr. Lupino commented to coach Centore that the Resolution states that the athletes did a lot of hard work in the weight room and on the field, but everyone knows that they had to have an equal amount of study time. The committee later on this evening will be voting on some new requirements for high school students, and he noted to the seniors present that he hoped senioritis would not hit them too early this year. To the rest of the athletes, he told them there are three more semesters, three more report cards until next season. They owed it not only to themselves but also to their coach to report to him their grades over the three semesters. It was important to be in contact with Mr. Centore since he doesn't teach at Cranston East because they wouldn't want to break up a group that has accomplished what they have. He knows that Mr. Centore will keep on top of them so that they are academically eligible to repeat next year.

This Resolution was adopted with Mr. Stycos abstaining. His son plays on the team.

Coach Centore commented that his dad still teaches at the school. These athletes stuck it out for three years, and it wasn't easy in the

beginning. He is real proud of what they did as a team. There are ten all division academic players. They did a great job attendance wise. It was the best year they have had coming to school every day. There is a lot more than football that these players did. Coach Centore introduced the athletes who attended this meeting. He thanked the committee for their resolution.

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III. Public Acknowledgements/Communications

Cranston City Councilmen Fung and Barone and Councilwomen McFarland and Fogarty made a presentation to the School Committee. Mr. Fung stated that earlier this year the entire State was touched by the tragic death of a Lincoln High School baseball player. It touched everyone in the City of Cranston as well. At that time, the City Council introduced a resolution which was unanimously voted on to approve AED's for both Cranston East and Cranston West for all students but in particular the student athletes at both schools. He stated that it was a great honor for them to present the defibrillators to Principal Lemoi and Principal Frederick. Mr. Fung also thanked the Cranston Fire Department. When Principal Lemoi received his first defibrillator, he had to pay someone to train the faculty and coaches how to use this equipment so that all students can be saved. He

applauded the entire member of the City Council and in particular Councilman Barone for his initiative in trying to get AED's in all schools. It is a slow process, but they are trying to move forward with this initiative.

Mr. Lupino stated that the School Committee has formed a sub-committee to look into the actual implementation of these AED's. Hopefully it will be addressed at the January School Committee meeting. Dr. Cardoza has been gathering information from other cities and towns in what their procedures are. He thanked the Cranston Fire Department for offering to train individuals on its use.

IV. Chairperson Communications

There were no chairperson communications.

V. Superintendent Communications

Mrs. Ciarlo announced that Cranston High School East was awarded almost \$100,000 as a part of the Champlin Grant. Mrs. Ciarlo asked Mr. Frederick to briefly tell the committee what his plan is for this grant.

Mr. Frederick explained that Cranston East applied for a Champlin Grant, and they came up with the concept of teacher best practices where teachers often model good practices that their colleagues

demonstrate through work shops, etc. They thought they could apply the same principle to student best practices. The concept is that the students use a portfolio project to present their best works to fellow students throughout the school by way of TV's and computers and hopefully raising the achievement level and awareness level for every student in the school. The school had a site visit by the Champlin Foundation in October at which time the school explained to them what they wanted to do. They gave the example of a student in the advanced chemistry class, a business class demonstrating their work; and someone in the shop class demonstrating how to do a proper brake job. This went across the entire spectrum so that when students see the demonstration on TV, they will feel that they can do it too and hopefully it will elevate them to the next level in their level. The Foundation was impressed with what the school presented. It also follows very nicely on the policy the School Committee will be voting on this evening which is an advancement of the new diploma system. The school will receive a check for \$99,000 in approximately one week. It will be for TV sets and their association with computers in the classrooms so it can be projected to all the students in every class in the school. During difficult budget times, he knows the committee appreciates it as well.

Mrs. Ciarlo commented that since the last School Committee meeting, the district has had several visitors. Senator Chafee visited Bain Middle School. He was responsible for a \$350,000 grant which began Bain's After School Program and made them available for additional

federal funds. The Senator was very pleased with the progress that has been made and what the district is doing with the funds. In addition, Attorney General Patrick Lynch visited Bain regarding alcohol awareness and a program that

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he is supporting. Senator Reed also visited the Alternate Education Program and the Charter School to get an idea of what the district is doing at the high school level. The district has had accolades, but Mrs. Ciarlo wished to state how proud everyone is of Cranston East Division II Champions in football. She hoped Tony Centore continues working for Cranston Public Schools because as long as he stays on he is first on the seniority list and she is second.

VI. School Committee Member Communications

Ms. Iannazzi announced that the entire School Committee has joined together to call a special meeting on Tuesday, December 20, 2005, at 5:00 p.m. at the Briggs Building for a discussion of a resolution that is once again sponsored by the entire School Committee to address budgetary concerns and possible positive action. Mr. Lupino added that it is for the 05-06 budget and not to be confused with the budget the committee will be starting in January.

Mr. Stycos stated that he wished to apologize to Mr. Balducci. During the last two meetings, the committee had some pretty heated discussions about the surplus that was generated this year, and there were two issues. One was whether the \$650,000 surplus from two years ago was budgeted in the past year, and the second was whether the committee was told about the \$450,000 that was remaining to be used in the current year budget. Mr. Stycos stated that he was apologizing because he mixed the two issues. He felt it was very clear from the material that was presented that the School Committee was informed about the \$650,000 in last year's budget. It was budgeted as it should have been. They were informed about it, so he was off base in that criticism. He still remains quite upset that they were not told about the \$450,000, but he did want to make it clear that he was not precise in his criticism; and he apologized for that.

Mr. Traficante reminded the School Committee that this Thursday, December 15th, from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. they will be sponsoring Business after Hours in conjunction with the Chamber of Commerce to showcase the Charter School. The committee is invited to attend. In addition, on Friday, December 16th, at 9:30 a.m., the Director of Labor and Training, Adelita Orefice, and the Chief of Staff from the Department of Labor and Training, Lisa D'Agostino, will be at the Charter School; and the committee is welcome to be there at that time.

VII. Public Hearing

a. Students (Agenda/Non-agenda Items)

b. Members of the Public (Agenda Matters Only)

Mr. Lupino commented that the committee would welcome any student or members of the public to speak with the exception of Resolution No. 05-12-6 which was the appointment of the new Superintendent. There were no students on agenda or non-agenda items. There were no members of the public on agenda items.

Mr. Lupino stated that the candidate of choice by unanimous consensus of the School Committee has been with the district for 1-1/2 years. The unanimous choice is R. Richard Scherza to be the next Superintendent of Cranston Public Schools. Mr. Lupino asked if anyone from the public wished to address or question Mr. Scherza at this point in time. No one addressed Mr. Scherza.

VIII. Consent Calendar/Consent Agenda

Mr. Lupino stated that the Consent Agenda included the following Resolutions: No.'s 05-12-7, 8, 10, 11, 12, 13, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 22, 23, 24, 25, and 26.

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ADMINISTRATION

PERSONNEL

NO. 05-12-7 – RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the following certified personnel be appointed for the remainder of the 2005-2006 school year:

Arlene Kibarian, salary to be at the ninth step of the prevailing salary schedule.

Education – Rhode Island College, B.A.

Experience – Valley Community School

Certification – Middle/Secondary Special Education

Assignment – Cranston High School East, Special Education, 1.0 FTE

Effective Date of Employment – December 5, 2005

Authorization – Replacement

Fiscal Note: 11332012 512100

NO. 05-12-8 – RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the following certified personnel be appointed as substitutes on a temporary basis as needed:

Kimberly Perschau General Subject Matter

Traci Rainone Physical Education, K-12

Lillian Rippey Speech Pathologist

Alice Hand Speech Pathologist

Edward Day Social Studies/Administration

Deborah St. Pierre Secondary English

NO. 05-12-10 – RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the resignation of the following certified personnel be accepted:

Kimberly Webster, Occupational Therapist

Special Services

Effective Date: January 2, 2006

NO. 05-12-11 – RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the following individuals be appointed as athletic coaches:

David Barr, Head Boys' Indoor Track

Step – 3

Class – B

Playing Competition – High School

Experience – Assistant Coach Boys' Outdoor Track, Cranston High School West

Certification – Rhode Island Coaches Certification; CPR/First Aid Certified

David Fontes, Assistant Coach Girls' Basketball

Step – 3

Class – C

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Playing Competition – High School

Experience – Coach CLCF GALS Basketball; Volunteer Cranston High School West Girls' Basketball

Certification – Rhode Island Coaches Certification; CPR/First Aid Certified

NO. 05-12-12 – RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the following individuals be re-appointed as athletic coaches:

CRANSTON HIGH SCHOOL EAST

Lauren Brown Head Girls' Basketball

William Coughlin Assistant Boys' Basketball

Jessica Greene Assistant Girls' Basketball

CRANSTON HIGH SCHOOL WEST

Jaime Ferretti Head Boys'/Girls' Swimming

Richard Perrotta Head Girls' Basketball

James Royal Assistant Wrestling

NO. 05-12-13 – RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the following non-certified employee be recalled from layoff:

**Rachel Bousquet, Teacher Assistant
Western Hills Middle School
Effective Date: December 15, 2005**

NO. 05-12-15 – RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the following non-certified personnel be appointed as substitutes on a temporary basis as needed:

TEACHER ASSISTANTS

**Alex Hirsch
Karen Sepe**

NO. 05-12-16 – RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the retirement of the following non-certified personnel be accepted:

**Lynda Regine, Secretary
Cranston High School East
Effective Date: December 30, 2005**

**Betty Tranghese, Teacher Assistant
Peters School**

Effective Date: January 2, 2006

Lena Sampietro, Teacher Assistant

Bain Middle School

Effective Date: December 30, 2005

Louise Lancellotta, Teacher Assistant

Garden City School

Effective Date: December 30, 2005

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Anna M. Stapleton, Bus Driver

Transportation

Effective Date: December 28, 2005

NO. 05-12-17 – RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the resignations of the following non-certified personnel be accepted:

Elaine Delaney, Instructor

Alternate Education Program

Effective Date: October 25, 2005

Sharon Piscitelli, Payroll Secretary

Business Office

Effective Date: December 2, 2005

Alice Depina, Teacher Assistant

Cranston High School East

Effective Date: November 28, 2005

Richard Campagnone, Custodian

Plant/Alternate Education Program

Effective Date: January 3, 2006

NO. 05-12-18 – RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, named non-certified staff member be laid off from their respective position due to budgetary reasons.

NO. 05-12-19 – RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the termination of Employee B be accepted.

NO. 05-12-22 - RESOLVED, the following purchases be approved through grant funding (Fund 3):

Cafeteria Food and Supplies for the Cranston School Lunch Program for the period of January 1, 2006 to June 30, 2006 be purchased in the estimated amount of \$358,069.39

Number of bids issued 11

Number of bids received 4

NO. 05-12-23- RESOLVED, that the following purchase through grant funding be approved:

Greenhouse for the Cranston Area Career & Technical Center in the amount of \$15,149.63 (funding from the Perkins Grant)

Number of bids issued 4

Number of bids received 1

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POLICY AND PROGRAM

NO. 05-12-24 - RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the 2005-2006 school calendar be amended to reflect that schools will be closed on January 2, 2006. New Year's Day falls on Sunday, January 1, 2006. According to Rhode Island Education Law 16-20-1, Rhode Island State Laws Title 25, Sections 25-3-3, 25-3-8, 25-3-9, and 25-3-11, January 1, 2006 falls on a Sunday; and, therefore, the holiday will be observed on Monday, January 2, 2006.

NO. 05-12-25 - RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the following field trips/conferences of long duration

be authorized:

Charles Jones, Cranston High School West baseball coach, and approximately twelve Cranston West baseball players, to travel to Delray Beach Florida, to participate in Bucky Dent's Baseball School from April 17, 2005 to April 22, 2005.

Ann-Marie Zodda, Director of Special Education, to travel to Orlando, Florida to attend the 27th National Institute on Legal Issues of Educating Individuals with Disabilities from April 30, 2006 to May 3, 2006.

NO. 05-12-26 - RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, Policy No. 5123 , Proficiency Based Diploma Policy, be amended for first reading.

Moved by Mr. Archetto, seconded by Mr. Traficante and unanimously carried that these Resolutions be adopted.

IX. Action Calendar/Action Agenda

SPONSORED BY MR. STYCOS

NO. 05-12-5 – RESOLVED, that the Superintendent's proposed 2006-2007 budget shall include columns for actual expenditures for

both 2004-2005 and 2003-2004. It shall also take steps to eliminate line items which are re-distributed to other line items during the school year.

Moved by Mr. Stycos and seconded by Mr. Palumbo that this Resolution be adopted.

Mr. Stycos stated that the purpose of this Resolution is to make the budget a more useful document for the members of the School Committee. He had three subjects he wished to talk about. The first is the first sentence that Mr. Balducci has already addressed to members of the committee in which Mr. Balducci indicated that it could be done. It will help the committee when they have two years of actual expenditures to craft the next budget. With regard to the second sentence, he would take suggestions from the committee on how to improve it. He further indicated that when the committee passes the budget, they budget a lump sum for textbooks. Then, during the year, that lump sum for textbooks is divided up among the schools to reflect where the textbooks landed. The problem is that at the end of the year, the committee can't tell whether they spent what they budgeted on textbooks, more than they budgeted, or less than they budgeted. The same thing happens with supplies. He would like to eliminate that system so that at the end of the year, the committee can see where their expenditures on those items line up with what they budgeted. He understands that this is done because the State requires some reporting. He felt a better way to handle the situation

would be to do an addendum or

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some kind of detailed breakdown that gives the breakdown but still gives the committee in the budget an easy-to-see place the lump sum of these items. He asked for some comments from administration regarding this.

Mr. Balducci responded that there are two types of textbooks. When the district decides to introduce a new curriculum, and as an example a math series, that is budgeted in one line item of the budget. Then during the budgeting process, it is identified by what grades will get the benefit of those textbooks. The other category is the annual order process. Those are the consumable type order books that students get during the year, write in, and at the end of the year, they are discarded. An allocation is given to each school. It is broken out into three general types of accounts which are supplies, text related materials, and equipment. During the year, that money is then shifted from those three general type accounts into the numerous other accounts, maps and globes, art supplies, science supplies, etc. Mr. Balducci went on to say that he felt that the district does a better job the way they are doing it because someone can see in total how much a certain school is given as an allocation. As an example, Oak Lawn School may be given \$15,000 to accommodate all of their

school needs. Once that is budgeted, Oak Lawn School is put on notice that they have a certain amount of money to spend. It is his job to make sure that the school doesn't over spend, depending upon the prices that come in for the supplies they want. At that point, the district will not take their allocation. It is their right to choose how they wish to spend their allocation. During the year for the annual order process, the Business Office gives out 75% to the schools and holds back 25%. This is done to accommodate any emergencies that come up during the year. The emergencies at the beginning of the year include student enrollment changes at a given school, a copy machine breaks and the school needs a new one; but as the year goes on and all their needs have been accommodated and he has an issue later on and he has to take money in April he will address the district's needs. He will always make sure first that the schools' needs are taken care of. One of the items he identifies in his executive summary is supplies. He identifies to the committee at least four times a year if money is added to that account, money is taken from that account, and where it goes. His office maintains records with regard to what is purchased, where, and by whom. If information is needed during the year, his office has it and would be more than happy to share it with the committee for whatever purpose. He added that he runs into the problem of timing. Normally right now they would be purchasing material for next school year, but, unfortunately, this has been changed because of the court case. The information from the schools has not been brought back to his office with regard to their needs for next year. The district will be talking

about next year's budget sooner than he will be getting information from the schools about what their needs will be for next year. For budgeting purposes, seeing it in three general types of accounts in the beginning, the schools know what the amount is; and he leaves it to their discretion as to how they will spend their amount. It depends on their priorities. At the end of the day, if they receive \$15,000, they will spend \$15,000.

Mr. Stycos asked that if the 25% was not spent by the district because a decision was made to put it in the oil fund, that is very hard to pick up when one is looking at the budget. The committee needs a number that shows what is being spent so that they can compare over the years on textbooks, supplies, and materials. He was suggesting to keep the big number, put an asterisk by it, and then put a breakdown of how that money was spent. Mr. Balducci responded that the annual order allocation district wide has remained at approximately \$1 million for the past couple of years. If the School Committee, as part of the budgeting process, chooses to up that to \$1.2 million, then the schools would be given more money to spend for texts, supplies, etc. If the committee chooses to elect to increase the allocation, he will accommodate that.

Mr. Traficante commented that he had no problem showing two reference years for the expenditure. He did have a problem with the second portion of this Resolution in terms of identifying expenditures that are disbursed during the course of the year. He commented that

when he was Mayor he was constantly looking at the format for the municipal budget to make it more user friendly. He requested that a four-

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person committee be established to study this over the next month and then report back to this committee before their budget presentation sometime in February to look at a more user friendly situation for a better format to give the School Committee an opportunity to identify those expenditures and those transfers during the course of the year. He further commented that he would like to be on this committee because he is on the Budget Committee. Mr. Balducci should be on this committee along with two other members of the School Committee.

Mr. Traficante moved to amend this Resolution that there be a four-member committee consisting of Mr. Balducci, Mr. Traficante, and two members of the School Committee to work with Mr. Balducci to study the format to make it more user friendly and to make it easier to identify those expenditures that are transferred during the course of the year.

Mr. Stycos stated that he would like to be a member of the committee.

Mr. Lupino indicated that the second sentence of the Resolution

would be eliminated.

Mrs. Ciarlo asked that Mr. Votto serve on the committee.

Mr. Archetto seconded the motion.

Mrs. Greifer offered it as a friendly amendment. Mr. Stycos responded that he would accept it as a friendly amendment.

Mr. Lupino stated that the committee would consist of Mr. Balducci, Mr. Votto, Mr. Traficante, and Mr. Stycos.

Mr. Stycos indicated that there could be five members on this committee.

Mr. Traficante stated that the friendly amendment added Mr. Votto.

Mr. Lupino asked who would like to be the third member, and Ms. Iannazzi responded that she would serve on the committee.

This amendment was adopted unanimously.

Mr. Stycos commented that he was going to offer another amendment and indicated that there is a Government Finance Officers Association, and moved to amend this Resolution that the

Superintendent shall also make the budget in compliance with the recommended budget practices of the Government Finance Officers Association.

He further commented that the City budget is in compliance with this association, and the school department should be also. Mr. Palumbo suggested voting on the main amendment. Mr. Stycos responded that this would be a third sentence added to the Resolution.

Mr. Archetto seconded the motion.

Mr. Lupino asked Mr. Balducci if the district complies with this request, and Mr. Balducci explained that the GFOA is a federal organization that recommended that certain information be provided in a budget document. The document that the committee sees is very detailed in nature, and the district is in compliance. The GFOA is more geared to municipalities. The school district has a similar organization

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referred to as ASBO. If the committee is recommending that this district be in compliance with a nationally recognized organization, he suggested that the district be in compliance with ASBO as a guide. They do offer recommendations as to what a budget document should look like and certain information that should be provided in it.

Ms. Iannazzi seconded the motion.

Mrs. Greifer stated that she opposed this amendment. She felt that it would be more appropriate to discuss it in this newly formed committee. If they felt it was a recommendation that should be made at that time, they could come forward with a resolution.

Ms. Iannazzi withdrew her second to the motion.

Mr. Stycos withdrew his amendment.

This Resolution as amended was adopted unanimously.

This Resolution as amended now reads:

SPONSORED BY MR. STYCOS

NO. 05-12-5 – RESOLVED, that the Superintendent’s proposed 2006-2007 budget shall include columns for actual expenditures for both 2004-2005 and 2003-2004, and

Be it further RESOLVED, that a committee consisting of Mr. Balducci, Mr. Votto, Ms. Iannazzi, Mr. Stycos, and Mr. Traficante be formed to work with Mr. Balducci to study the format to make it more user friendly and to make it easier to identify those expenditures that are

transferred during the course of the year.

SPONSORED BY THE COMMITTEE

NO. 05-12-6 - RESOLVED, that the Cranston School Committee appoint a new Superintendent of the Cranston Public Schools effective July 1, 2006.

Moved by Ms. Iannazzi and seconded by Mrs. Greifer that this Resolution be adopted.

Mr. Lupino stated that the committee as a consensus has selected M. Richard Scherza who has been the Assistant Superintendent for 1-1/2 years. Before that, he was Superintendent in North Smithfield; Assistant Superintendent of Exeter/West Greenwich; Superintendent/Principal on Block Island; Harvard Graduate School of Education; Academic Dean and Assistant at Massasoit Community College; teacher, administrator, and coach at St. Raphael's Academy. He has a Masters in Education Degree in Planning and Social Policy of Education from Harvard Graduate School of Education; Masters in Education in Secondary Administration and Curriculum from Rhode Island College; and a Bachelor of Science Degree from Northern Michigan University. Mr. Lupino stated that it was his pleasure to introduce Mr. Scherza. He noted that the selection process went national and came down to three finalists. There was an extensive interview process from this committee. He personally was impressed by Mr. Scherza's response to those interview questions, but more

importantly his proof in his 1-1/2 years since he has been in Cranston.

Mr. Traficante stated that he believed this committee has selected a Superintendent who has the talent and the capability of filling some rather large, large, large, educational and professional shoes in that of Catherine Ciarlo. He has the personality, vision, the talent, and years of experience to do exactly that in his opinion. The district has been so fortunate during this past 1-1/2 years to have him on board to

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assist Catherine Ciarlo in moving the school department forward, and the district is so fortunate for continuity of success to have him now to lead the charge to make this a bigger and better school system. He welcomed Mr. Scherza and wished him God speed in his new tenure as Superintendent of Schools in Cranston.

Mrs. Ciarlo commented that it was with pleasure that she is delighted that the committee has chosen Rick Scherza as Superintendent. She has three loves, and the third one is this school system. She could not be happier that she is leaving this system in excellent hands. In the 1-1/2 years that Rick has been in Cranston, he has demonstrated that he is an honest, caring, down-to-earth individual who cares about kids and the business of teaching and learning. That is what we are

all about. He is a nice human being as well. He has an excellent background with much experience, and she happily gives him a school system that she knows is a good school system, but she knows that Rick will bring it to an even higher level. It was with pleasure that Mrs. Ciarlo welcomed him. It means that she can begin to relax knowing that this school system will be in excellent hands.

Mr. Lupino commented that Mr. Scherza has been appointed at a base salary range of \$126,700. His total compensation package, if extended over the next three years, will result in a net savings to the district of almost \$90,000. That is assuming that if he had been hired at the same salary step Mrs. Ciarlo is at now and he continued for three years, the net savings would be \$90,000. He should be commended for taking the incentive to deal with this school district knowing the difficult budgetary times. Mr. Lupino further commented that he was very pleased that the committee could work this out with Mr. Scherza.

This Resolution was adopted unanimously.

Mr. Scherza received a standing ovation.

Mr. Scherza thanked the committee for the confidence they have shown in him. He is both gratified and humbled. He assured the committee that this was not false rhetoric that this confidence is well deserved. There are some big educational shoes to fill and some

leadership shoes to fill, and in no way does he expect to try to be Catherine Ciarlo. He means this in the most honorable of ways. He has had this love affair with Catherine for a while, and he could honestly say that in no way would he be taking over for Catherine Ciarlo, but that he would be carrying on.

Mr. Lupino told Mr. Scherza to be assured that he was the best choice for this system. The rest of his colleagues will attest that at some point the committee will feel proud to have appointed him.

NO. 05-12-9 – RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the retirement of the following certified personnel be accepted:

**Robert J. Scaffardi, Executive Director
Educational Programs and Services
Effective Date: December 30, 2005**

Moved by Mrs. Greifer and seconded by Mr. Palumbo that this Resolution be adopted.

Mrs. Ciarlo stated that it was with regret that she sees as a resolution the retirement of Robert Scaffardi as Executive Director of Educational Programs and Services. She and Bob have been together for thirty plus years. She could see in the audience Louise Martone, her secretary who has since retired, and she promised both

of them that they would have a lull. The truth is that there has never been a lull yet. Bob has had an extensive 32-1/2 years in the district. He was an outstanding English teacher, Department

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Chair for English at Cranston High School East, Director of Literacy, and most recently Executive Director for Educational Programs working very closely with his pal, Norman Laliberte. It isn't very easy to fill those shoes. She understands that Bob has to move on, but she wanted him to know that anyone who ever had anything to do with reading she never really let them go but rather let them take a sabbatical. She knows that Bob would like to be best remembered as an outstanding teacher because that is the profession he entered. As an aside, Mr. Scaffardi told her recently that some of his students from Western Hills Junior High School invited him out to dinner, and they actually brought their English notebooks that they had kept because Bob was very much of a task master in his English classes. They remembered the excellent education they had received. Mrs. Ciarlo wished him well and good health. It has been a pleasure.

Mr. Lupino noted to Mrs. Ciarlo that Mr. Scaffardi's retirement becomes effective December 30th. He asked what Mrs. Ciarlo planned to do with his position for the remainder of the year. Mrs. Ciarlo responded that knowing the current budget constraints, she will post the position to see if the district can do some maneuvering

internally with an appointment effective July 1st which will give the district a little bit of leverage. She can't do that with the assistant superintendent's position. There have been some informal plans. She has not formalized them yet; she has not spoken with the individuals. She will put it in one of the updates when the plans have been finalized.

This Resolution was adopted unanimously.

NO. 05-12-14 – RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the following non-certified employees be appointed:

Gail Rodrigues, Bus Aide

Transportation

Effective Date of Employment – November 21, 2005

Fiscal Note: 14347542 519500

Edward Pontarelli, ESL Instructor

Alternate Education Program

Effective Date of Employment – November 7, 2005

Fiscal Note: 54262129 512100

Sandra Ellis, Teacher Assistant

Orchard Farms School

Effective Date of Employment – November 28, 2005

Fiscal Note: 13632032 519500

Michelle Rondeau, Teacher Assistant

Orchard Farms School

Effective Date of Employment – December 5, 2005

Fiscal Note: 13632032 519500

Charles Moreau, Four-hour Custodian

Plant/Garden City

Effective Date of Employment – December 13, 2005

Fiscal Note: 12247481 518200

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John E. McHugh, Four-hour Custodian

Plant/Barrows School

Effective Date of Employment – December 13, 2005

Fiscal Note: 11247481 518200

Jessica Placido, Kidventure Instructor

Gladstone School

Effective Date of Employment – October 17, 2005

Fiscal Note: 53115111 511360

Victoria Faiola, Kidventure Instructor

Gladstone School

Effective Date of Employment – October 17, 2005

Fiscal Note: 53115111 511360

Keri Pearlman, Social Worker Intern

Bain Middle School

Effective Date of Employment – October 17, 2005

Fiscal Note: 53115111 51360

Melissa Curren, Social Worker Intern

Bain Middle School

Effective Date of Employment – October 17, 2005

Fiscal Note: 53115111 511360

Jorge Vargas, Computer Repair Technician

Technology Services

December 27, 2005

Fiscal Note: 14723560 516550

Moved by Ms. Iannazzi and seconded by Mrs. Greifer that this Resolution be adopted.

Mr. Stycos stated that while he has been convinced that most of these positions are necessary, he thought that the computer repair technician at this point is premature because of the budget problems.

The district has not gotten the \$1 million from the City Council, and the committee will have to make some difficult choices; and one of

those choices might be not to have a computer repair technician. It might be to have the computer repair technician, but he didn't think this job should be filled yet. He stated that he would be voting no on this Resolution.

Mrs. Ciarlo commented that the district has not been able to purchase many new computers this year, so they have to keep going the ones that they have. The district absolutely needs someone who can help keep the computers running. Given the number that the district has and the number of schools in the district, she urged the committee to consider that this position is absolutely needed to be replaced.

Mr. Archetto asked if the committee was taking each one of these individually because many of them were grant funded, at least half a dozen. Mr. Lupino responded that these were non-certified positions.

Mr. Archetto stated that his question is "Are we voting on the bill in its entirety or voting on each job", and Mr. Lupino responded that the Resolution No. is 05-12-14, and there is a motion and a second.

This Resolution was adopted with Mr. Stycos opposed.

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BUSINESS

Mr. Lupino turned the chair over to Mr. Palumbo.

NO. 05-12-20 – RESOLVED, that Anthony J. Lupino be reimbursed for travel and miscellaneous expenses in the amount of \$453.76 for the period June 9, 2005 to December 1, 2005.

Mr. Palumbo stated that this Resolution would reimburse Mr. Lupino for travel and miscellaneous expense in the amount of \$453.76 for the period June 9, 2005 to December 1, 2005.

Moved by Mrs. Greifer and seconded by Mr. Traficante that this Resolution be adopted.

Mr. Stycos asked for an explanation of what this money was for specifically. Mr. Palumbo stated that Mr. Lupino filled out a form for reimbursement, and the secretary has it. The secretary gave the report to Mr. Stycos for his perusal. Mr. Stycos read as follows: 507 miles @ the IRS rate for an amount of \$227.00; an additional phone or extension at \$225. Mr. Stycos asked Mr. Lupino to explain the additional phone or extension. In response, Mr. Lupino said that the additional phone is the line that he has been using for the past seven years that allows his constituents to contact him. When he first joined the School Committee, several of the members elected to have a line installed in their homes paid for directly by the school department. He had an existing line in, and he was told he could be reimbursed for it, and this is a reimbursement for the phone in his home that he answers for his constituents' affairs. The other portion

is mileage to meetings. It does not include mileage for warrants which he signs on Fridays. It does not include internet access, e-mail access, or postage. It does not include anything else that he expends money on. It also is something that is typically from other committee members paid for out of their campaign organizations. He noted that he does not have a campaign organization; he does not collect funds; he does not accept donations from anyone. It is a reimbursable expense that is afforded to all the School Committee members here.

Mr. Palumbo stated that any member of the School Committee has the right to have a phone put in, and they have the right to get mileage paid along with parking. It is something that is automatically given to a member who applies for it.

Ms. Iannazzi stated to Mr. Lupino that she did not mean to offend him in any way. She does have a campaign account. She uses it about every other month to pay for her phone line, however, she does not reimburse herself mileage nor does she think that any School Committee member should receive mileage for attending meetings. It is their responsibility to attend meetings, and she didn't think that receiving mileage is appropriate.

Mr. Palumbo told Ms. Iannazzi that whether she thought it was right or not does not matter. The rule says that the School Committee is allowed mileage. Whether she felt it was right or not, he doesn't take it either. Whether she thinks it is right or not, does not make anyone

who takes this guilty of anything.

Ms. Iannazzi commented that she personally would not support this Resolution for mileage reimbursement.

Mr. Traficante stated that he was not familiar with what happened in the past. He asked what the stipulations were that were voted on by former School Committee members. Mr. Palumbo responded that the committee voted each time any one put in for mileage. Mr. Traficante asked if there was a regulation or policy set up to reimburse School Committee members for traveling expenses. Mr. Palumbo responded that there is a regulation that a member can have the phone line and travel, and he didn't feel this School Committee had the right not to follow regulation.

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Mr. Lupino asked to see his expense form. He noted that the form also included other appropriate expenses incurred in the performance of school related duties. He commented that he didn't know why this was coming up. He has been on the committee for seven years. He knows that Mr. Cardarelli when he was a member didn't put in for mileage because he lived one mile from the meeting place. He lives on the western end of the City. He was taken back by some of the questions about this. This is a matter of record. One can

check back on all the prior meetings where this has been done. He does it every six months. It is not something he is getting paid for; it is a reimbursement.

Mr. Stycos remarked that what Mr. Lupino had said is accurate that this has gone over the time he has been on the committee. He believed that Jackie White also use to do something similar to this. He, however, also has thoughts of whether people should be paid for coming to regular meetings with regard to mileage. If one goes to a conference at URI, that seems above and beyond the expenses, but to drive across town, he doesn't agree with that. He has never seen a written policy on this. He agreed with Mr. Palumbo that this has been done, but he has never seen any written policy.

Mr. Palumbo asked how many years this has been done, and Mrs. Ciarlo responded that she could recall that it has been done for thirty plus years. She asked the committee to keep in mind that most School Committees receive a stipend. This committee does not. Some committees receive Blue Cross. This is a voluntary committee basically, and the only reimbursement is if they went to a conference, phones, and mileage. Some decided not to put the lines in, and they get a two-drawer file cabinet which is filled in the course of one year. As far back as she can recall, this has always been the practice. She would check the policy book to see if there is a policy for this.

Mr. Traficante commented that going back a few years there was a

Charter Review Commission at which time one of the amendments to the Charter indicated that the School Committee should be reimbursed similar to that of the City Council which he believed received \$4,000 or \$5,000 per year. The City Council amendment did pass, but the School Committee amendment failed. He is assuming that because this amendment failed for the Charter Review Commission before the general public, the policy went into effect to reimburse School Committee members for their travel expenses. Since it is a policy that has precedence, he will support it. He personally does not submit expenses because he doesn't feel he should, but it is a policy that has been on the books.

Mr. Lupino corrected Mr. Traficante and stated that the Charter Review amendment was a stipend. This is a reimbursement.

Mrs. Greifer stated that in all her years of attending these meetings, she remembers numerous occasions when committee members were reimbursed for their expenses. She decided that since she lived one-half mile away, the paperwork involved would be more onerous than the amount of money she might be reimbursed. If she had known the number of contract negotiations she would be attending, she may have reconsidered.

Mr. Archetto stated that this is a very difficult issue. He doesn't reimburse himself for mileage or anything else. As the Superintendent said, it is a volunteer position, however, when he was

elected he found out the hours and countless hours the committee would spend in negotiations and numerous other activities that go on. Perhaps, this might be a message to the general public to be aware that the hours and time and travel is quite extensive. It is more than he understood. However, the principle is that once one is elected, mileage shouldn't be reimbursed. The person is elected to the position, and to and from meetings the public official should take the hit on that.

Mr. Lupino asked Mr. Traficante if he had a campaign finance committee or something called Friends of Traficante. Mr. Traficante responded to Mr. Lupino that he was looking at him. Mr. Lupino asked Mr.

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Archetto if he had a campaign finance committee, and Mr. Archetto responded that he had his own personal funds that he submits to his campaign account. Mr. Lupino stated that he does not raise funds, take contributions, and as he has said in the past, people who have not taken this reimbursement have done so through their own campaign funds. Mr. Traficante indicated that the committee was getting into a sensitive issue. Mr. Traficante stated emphatically that he does not take money out of his campaign fund to reimburse himself for travel. Ms. Iannazzi stated that she seconded it. Mr. Stycos stated that it was a violation of the law. Mr. Traficante

commented further that he would support the resolution because precedence has been set here over the years; he would support it and Mr. Lupino is entitled to it. It is a personal decision of Mr. Traficante's that he will not ask for reimbursement whether it be for travel or telephone.

This Resolution was tabled to the next meeting because of a tie vote with Mrs. Greifer, Mr. Palumbo, and Mr. Traficante in favor; Mr. Archetto, Ms. Iannazzi, and Mr. Stycos opposed; Mr. Lupino abstained.

NO. 05-12-21 - RESOLVED, that the following purchases be approved:

Wheelchair Lift for Alternate Education Program in the amount of \$39,724. Funding provided by Community Development Block Grant.

Number of bids issued 6

Number of bids received 1

Trucks in the amount of \$53,985

Number of bids issued 6

Number of bids received 1

Moved by Mrs. Greifer and seconded by Mr. Traficante that this Resolution be adopted.

Mr. Stycos requested that this Resolution be divided and that the committee vote on each item separately. He asked that the Chair separate the question.

Mr. Archetto stated that this was his recommendation earlier in the meeting, and it wasn't granted. He believed he asked it on Resolution No. 05-12-14. Mr. Lupino indicated to Mr. Archetto that on a prior Resolution he had asked if the committee was voting on it separately.

Mr. Lupino asked the secretary to read back that section of the minutes. "Mr. Archetto asked "Are we voting on the entire resolution, and Mr. Lupino answered, "Yes, we have a motion and a second." Mr. Archetto stated that he believed he used the word "individually" in his sentence. "Are we voting on the bill for each individual position, or we are voting on the bill in its entirety." That is what I said." Mr. Archetto told Mr. Lupino that he said that his point is that on Resolution No. 05-12-14 he asked that if those positions could be voted on individually or in its entirety, and he said that they were voting on the Resolution in its entirety. Mr. Lupino apologized to Mr. Archetto. He said he heard it as, "Are we voting on those individually, and not can we vote."

Mr. Traficante asked Mr. Balducci if the money for the lift and the trucks was asset protection money that was offered to the school department from city administration. Mr. Balducci responded that the money for the wheel chair lift is from the City's Community Block

Grant. The trucks are part of the \$631,000 asset protection money.

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Mr. Stycos asked the status of the \$631,000. He asked if the school department sends them bills. Mr. Balducci responded that the school department does have it and is spending it. Most recently, textbooks were purchased, and that was one of the areas identified as part of the \$631,000. The school district processes all the paperwork, selects the vendor, pays the bill, and then he submits the reimbursement to the City's Controller Office. He cuts a check to the school department to reimburse the funds. Some of the money has been used for plant and transportation type vehicles, which was one of the other areas. The other money has been set aside for asset protection. The boiler was replaced at Peters School, and this revenue source was used for that repair work. Mr. Stycos asked if the committee has the discretion to change items on that list, and Mr. Balducci responded that approximately \$175,000 was set aside for both plant/transportation vehicle and equipment replacement. This meets the definition of one of the uses of those funds. Mr. Stycos asked again if the committee decided to spend this \$53,000 on something else, would they be permitted to do that under the guidelines of how the City Council gave the money. Mr. Balducci responded that he believed they would have to have a conversation

with the City Council to make sure it still meets the parameters of the use of the funds. Mr. Stycos asked how much of the \$631,000 has been expended. Mr. Balducci responded that approximately \$200,000 to \$300,000 of actual expenditures are counted plus money that has been encumbered. He is waiting for some bills to come in.

Mr. Stycos asked for an explanation of what these trucks were and why they were needed. Mr. Balducci responded that they are three 2006 GMC Sierra's. Their approximate value is \$17,995 each. Mr. Zisseron stated that it is very rare that he would have an opportunity to buy service vehicles. On Friday, at the time of the mini blizzard, his department was trying to service buses that were broken down on the road. The present vehicles do not have four-wheel drive and are very small Toyota pickup trucks. They are approximately fifteen years old. The last few trucks the school department purchased was fifteen years ago, and they have the sanders on them and they are used for plowing. If he didn't feel these trucks were necessary, the committee wouldn't be seeing it on this agenda. He would be going after something else. He told the committee that they have to understand that the district needs equipment. He understands that the committee wants the books and the pencils, but there is a plant and transportation operation where equipment is needed to go out and service things. This bid originally was for used trucks, and no one wants to bid on them. This is the fourth bid looking for used equipment, and no one would bid because on the street they will try to get as much for the vehicle as they can. If this resolution is

successful tonight, he will use the old trucks during the summer doing little jobs and use them until they blow up; they are pretty close to it now. It is very seldom that he asks for new equipment; he is always buying used equipment, but he needs these trucks. In response to Mr. Traficante's question as to the mileage on the present trucks, Mr. Zisseron said that they put new engines in the trucks, and they have approximately 130,000 miles on them. They were purchased used. Fifteen years from now, the person replacing him will be coming before the committee asking for new trucks. The district gets its money's worth out of everything they have.

Mr. Archetto stated to Mr. Zisseron that he was not debating whether or not the district needs these new trucks, however, it is the wrong message to send to the community when the district buys three brand new trucks. He asked about buying a truck that is two or three years old and is a four-wheel drive vehicle. Mr. Zisseron responded that no one wants to bid on them. He called dealerships telling them that the school department has a bid and that they wanted the dealerships to bid. They told Mr. Zisseron okay, but they didn't bid. He differed with Mr. Archetto's statement regarding sending the wrong message to the public. On Friday during the snow storm, the parents were calling frantic that their child's bus was stuck some place, and his department was out trying to get them going. Every year the City has a new fleet of trucks. The school department runs junk in their fleet. He didn't feel that the school department was being unreasonable or squandering money asking for three new

trucks.

Mr. Balducci said that one of the reasons the \$600,000 was set aside in a city related fund was to make sure the school department used it appropriately for the categories that they originally budgeted in their post budget to the City Council. The City Council said that the district could take it out of their operating budget, and they would set it aside in city funds, but it has to be used in the areas originally designated in the district's operating budget. As an example, if the district ran into hard times with textbooks, they can come to the committee and indicate that they can't afford to buy those textbooks because there are other issues. The city tried to make sure that the school department didn't go down that road, and they strongly recommended to the district that they spend that money as originally budgeted. This is a similar example where money has been put in the budget, and they said they would budget for it, but the district has to spend it accordingly. The district is following the City Council's recommendation on this.

Mr. Stycos stated that he was requesting that the committee vote separately on these items. Mr. Lupino responded that he did not hear it as a motion.

Moved by Mr. Stycos and seconded by Mr. Archetto that the committee vote separately on these items.

This Amendment failed with Mr. Archetto, Mr. Stycos and Ms. Iannazzi in favor; Mrs. Greifer, Mr. Lupino, Mr. Palumbo, and Mr. Traficante opposed.

This Resolution was adopted with Mr. Archetto opposed.

TABLED RESOLUTION:

NO. 05-11-12 – RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the termination of Employee A be accepted.

Moved by Ms. Iannazzi, seconded by Mrs. Greifer and unanimously carried to remove this Resolution from the table.

Moved by Ms. Iannazzi, seconded by Mr. Stycos and unanimously carried that this Resolution be adopted.

X. New Business

Mr. Stycos requested a report from the School Buildings Committee regarding the Cranston East addition. Mr. Lupino reported that the

minutes were sent for the November meeting, and the December minutes should be forthcoming. He further commented that the design build team of Saccoccio and Associates and Ahlborg and Sons have been selected. They are in the process of doing their preliminary design work as far as looking at the assessments that were made from the Prout Associates. There are also ongoing weekly meetings of the School Buildings Committee or a portion thereof with the architects on a weekly basis because this is a project that they have never embarked upon before. This method of design build is new, and in the past it has always been done by a design firm and an architect and put out to bid for a contract. This is a unique situation where it is an ongoing situation. The first design projections will be presented at the January 4th School Buildings Committee meeting. He told the committee that the ultimate design must come before this body first. It is still the prerogative of the School Committee to present to the School Buildings Committee. They have the care and control of the situation once it has been projected out, but it still has to come before this body before moving forward. The projected time to get something in the ground is May 2006. The other issue to deal with is the parking and the movement of administration which is an ongoing process.

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Mr. Stycos asked if the locations had been chosen for the Summer

Reading Program. He noted that last year there were no sites on the eastern side of the City. By the time it came up, it was too late to change anything. An indication was made that it would be corrected this year. Mrs. Ciarlo commented that there weren't many students who applied from Edgewood Highland. Mrs. Mellion, Director of Literacy, stated that there has been no discussion as of yet; it is too early to plan for it. The year before last year there were students at Edgewood Highlands, and last year she didn't put students there in order to give that school a break, and most of the students were from other parts of the City. She will take it into consideration again, but it is too soon yet. Mrs. Ciarlo added that the district will be conscious of providing an opportunity to both sides of the city. Mr. Stycos commented that he was not saying that one should be Edgewood, but he definitely thought that there should be one in the low income area which might be the Gladstone area. He wanted to make sure that the committee knows what is going on before it is too late to have input. He didn't think it was done intentionally last year. Mrs. Mellion commented that she appreciated the reminder, and she will notify the committee what is going on.

XI. Public Hearing on Non-agenda Items

Chris Box – He stated that he wished to speak about busing. He indicated that his child was left on a school bus last year. He further commented that a lot is still happening this year. The monitors are nasty to the children. He told the committee that they have to look

into who they are hiring. His son has come off the bus crying. He has had to talk to them about nasty comments. Mr. Lupino reminded the committee that this is a portion for the public to speak on non-agenda items, and there is no response from the committee. He told Mr. Box that the committee would listen to him, but they could not respond to him. Mr. Lupino told Mr. Box that he was allowed to speak. He could hand his concerns to the committee in writing; he can call his representative on the committee or Mr. Palumbo who represents the entire city; and e-mail is a good way to communicate with the committee because of their busy schedules. He could put in writing his concerns, and then there could be a meeting with him and the powers who control this situation. The committee would be in violation of the Open Meetings Law if they responded. Mrs. Ciarlo said that she hoped that before any of this writing would take place, she hoped that Mr. Box would make use of the administration, whether it be Mr. Scherza, herself, or Mr. Zisseron. Mr. Box responded that this week alone he made three phone calls, and he hasn't received one call back. To give a brief history, within five years his child was left at the wrong school, was left on a bus in an empty parking lot wandering the neighborhood knocking on doors. He had to pick him up at a stranger's house. Three times from the beginning of the school year, he has been on a special needs bus. He is a loud child and needs attention. The kids can't talk on the bus and need to sit and be quiet. Most recently he got off the bus and said that the bus driver might quit because it takes an hour to get home. They told him good so we can get rid of you. There are people on the

bus talking like this to special needs children, and it is appalling. From him being left at the wrong school and Mr. Box having to pick him up, then a couple of years later being left alone and waking up on a bus in an empty parking lot is even more traumatizing. He is trying to get his son back on the bus and happy about going to school. Every time he gets on the bus something happens. He reiterated his earlier comment that he had made three calls this week and not one was answered. Channel 10 still calls to this day and asks how his son is doing, and he tells them no comment. If something has to be done, he feels like he has to make a comment so that something will get done. No kid should be treated like. His wife talks to all the parents, and he is not the only kid this has happened to. He asked the committee to look into this.

Mr. Lupino indicated to Mr. Box that his response should be either to one or several members of this committee along with someone from administration. His building level should be his first communication, and this person is the principal. If the principal does nothing about it, then he has every right to go beyond that situation. He should certainly make the principal aware of it. Mr. Box responded that the principal is aware of the situation and has done a great job.

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XII. Announcement of Future Meetings

Mr. Lupino stated that the next meeting will be a special meeting of the School Committee on Tuesday, December 20, 2005.

XIII. Adjournment

Moved by Ms. Iannazzi, seconded by Mrs. Greifer and unanimously carried that the meeting be adjourned.

There being no further business to come before Executive Session, it was adjourned at 9:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Anthony J. Lupino

Clerk

Students

Promotion/Retention

Promotion

Elementary / Middle School

In general, students will be placed at the grade level to which they are best adjusted academically, socially and emotionally. Students will usually progress annually from grade to grade, spending one year in each grade. However, some students will profit by staying another year in the same grade. In such cases, the parent will be contacted in advance, although the final decision will rest with the school authorities.

Following sound principles of child guidance, it will be the Cranston Public Schools' policy not to advocate the skipping of grades.

High School

On the high school level (Grades 9 through 12), this policy recognizes uniform graduation requirements to ensure that Cranston high school graduates leave with an educational experience that prepares them to demonstrate proficiency in a common core of studies. This enables students to produce evidence and reach proficiency that supports the

following: that they are an inquisitive, literate, culturally aware, life-long learner, with positive self-esteem, who is able to think creatively and to analyze information critically. The student is a resourceful, technologically proficient worker, who contributes to team efforts. As a responsible citizen, the student is an ethical, self-reliant, and socially responsible member of the global community.

A student must complete the four components of the Rhode Island Department of Education's Proficiency Based Graduation Requirements to be eligible to receive a high school diploma from the Cranston Public Schools. The four components are as follows:

- Completion of 20 Carnegie Units in designated course work (Six Core Areas)**
- Participation in end of course assessments**
- Participation in the Rhode Island Department of Education's Assessment Program**
- Completion of the Digital Proficiency Portfolio yearly artifact requirements at the proficiency level**

The number of subjects passed and credits earned as well as completing the above-noted Proficiency Based Graduation Requirements will determine a student's progress towards graduation. When it has been determined that students have successfully completed the work prescribed for their grade level, they

shall be promoted to the next grade level.

Proficiency Based Diploma Policy 5123 (Continued)

Cranston Public Schools, in compliance with the Rhode Island Department of Education's High School Regulations, will implement the New High School Diploma System commencing with the Graduating Class of 2008. High school students will be required to pass and earn a minimum of 20 credits in specific content areas, as one measure, to earn a high school diploma from the Cranston Public Schools.

Indicated below are the minimum 20 credits required as part of the Proficiency Based Graduation Requirements that must be met by all students commencing with the Class of 2008.

CONTENT AREA CREDITS

English 4 credits

Mathematics 4 credits (3 credits in mathematics classes; 1 credit in a math related content course.*)

Science 2 credits

Social Studies 2 credits—(1 credit must be in US History)

Physical Education

Health 1 credit-- .25 credits each year in Physical Education.

1 credit-- .25 credits each year in Health. Students excused from physical education due to medical reasons must complete the health portion of the curriculum.

Digital Proficiency Portfolio 1 credit-- .25 credits each year.

Fine Arts .5 Credits

Computer Technology .5 Credits

Electives The remaining 4 credits should be selected in conjunction with the student's guidance counselor and parent/guardian, while considering the student's goals and personal objectives to meet graduation requirements.

TOTAL MINIMUM CREDITS 20

***Cranston Public Schools will publish a list of acceptable courses**

from which students may select to meet the 4th credit in mathematics. This course credit will count towards mathematics and cannot be used to meet the minimum graduation requirement of 20 credits in any other content area.

Proficiency Based Diploma Policy 5123 (Continued)

Students will be required to demonstrate their proficiency in six core-content areas: English Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies, The Arts, Technology as well as the Applied Learning Skills. Students will be required to use multiple measures of performance that are consistent with the Rhode Island Common Core of Learning adopted by the Rhode Island Board of Regents. Student proficiency will be demonstrated by a minimum of two measures chosen by the Cranston Public Schools. These measures are end-of-course assessments and the digital proficiency portfolio.

Grade placement shall be the responsibility of the principal following consultation with professional staff. This placement shall be based on general achievement in relationship to the above-noted Rhode Island Department of Education's Proficiency Based Graduation Requirements with consideration being provided to the psychological, physical, social and emotional maturity of the student.

Grade placement is based on course credits earned and digital proficiency artifacts as follows:

- Grade 10 at least 5 credits and 10 digital proficiency artifacts and 10 reflections**
- Grade 11 at least 10 credits and 20 digital proficiency artifacts and 20 reflections**
- Grade 12 at least 15 credits and 30 digital proficiency artifacts and 30 reflections**

Policy adopted: March 20, 1972

Policy amended: CRANSTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Resolution No.: CRANSTON, RI