

CRANSTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2006

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, and Mr. Stycos. Mr. Palumbo and Mr. Traficante were absent. Also present were Mr. Scherza, Mr. Votto, Mr. Balducci and Mr. Laliberte.

The meeting was called to order at 6:21 p.m. It was moved by Mrs. Greifer, seconded by Ms. Iannazzi 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 7:00 p.m.

The roll was called and the Pledge of Allegiance conducted.

Mr. Lupino stated for the record that both Mr. Traficante and Mr. Palumbo were excused.

I. Executive Session Minutes Sealed – February 13, 2006

Moved by Mrs. Greifer, seconded by Ms. Iannazzi and unanimously carried that the February 13, 2006 Executive Session minutes remain confidential.

II. Minutes of Previous Meeting – February 1, 2006

Moved by Mrs. Greifer, seconded by Ms. Iannazzi and unanimously carried that the February 1, 2006 minutes be approved.

III. Public Acknowledgements / Communications

There were none.

IV. Chairperson Communications

Mr. Lupino asked Mr. Scherza to apprise the committee of an event that happened today concerning the City regarding non-Cranston residents attending Cranston Public Schools. Mr.

Scherza stated that this afternoon a joint press conference was held before all three major television stations and the Providence Journal. In essence, the press conference was called to say that for the first time in the State of Rhode Island a community is starting to prosecute people who come to Cranston schools illegally. Irreparably this year there have been approximately 130 students who have been asked to leave Cranston who do not reside here legally who were here illegally.

At \$11,600 per person, that is approximately \$11.4 million. As such, the city solicitor has moved forward. The School Committee last spring, led by Mr. Lupino, enacted a resolution that became a policy for the Cranston schools that requires all parents to sign an Affidavit of Residency. When the people mislead the city, it has been treated as being analogous to stealing from the taxpayers of Cranston and that they will be prosecuted.

Mr. Lupino indicated to Mr. Scherza that the math he used sounded like the math that the Mayor used. Mr. Scherza is telling everyone that the school department's bottom line from last year should be adjusted by \$1 million because they found 130 students. Mr. Scherza responded that when one does a budget and if one does the simple math, it costs money when there are large numbers of students. Obviously, if one student were to leave the district, they wouldn't get a windfall and have \$11,000 plus in hand. However, if administration knows going into a year that there are 800 students less, that would

make a big difference for planning purposes. Mr. Lupino asked what the real numbers were as far as dollar savings. He noted that this is what happened the last time. He had people come before the committee, and every time he went to a City Council meeting, a couple of the Councilors would ask how many students were being found times \$11,000; and they don't understand the math and the administration is saying it again. Mr. Lupino asked what the real number of dollars was that were saved by not educating 130 students. Mr. Scherza responded that he didn't know the exact number because it was incalculable; it depended upon where the students are and how they fall out. For approximately every twenty to twenty-five students, another teacher is required. There are other costs as well such as administrative and supplies, and those numbers would be calculated in such a calculation.

Mr. Lupino stated that he heard about this because a member of the press called him for a comment, and he wasn't aware of it. He asked what kind of records were transposed or presented from the school department to the City. He asked if the school department was in violation of anything that was given to them. Mr. Scherza responded that the City Solicitor's office and the Assistant City Solicitor's office are handling this. The family was charged on Friday, but it was made known today to administration by the police; the school department did not supply the city with the information. They pointed out to the school department that the student was not living in this community. Mr. Lupino suggested strongly to the administration that if there was

going to be any joint press conferences like this in the future the School Committee not find out by accident; they should be notified ahead of time.

Page 3 February 13, 2006

Mr. Lupino stated to Mr. Votto that there is some pending legislation before the House, and he wanted to make sure that he read the communication correctly. He asked Mr. Votto to report back to the committee. He stated that in the most recent negotiations with the teachers and other employees, the committee had a health care provision that reduced the age of an eligible dependent adult student from 26 to 24. There is pending legislation right now that would change that statewide from any dependent adult child from 19 to 25. The communication said that current state law says that any full-time student between the ages of 19 and 25, either being a full-time student or disabled, must be covered. He asked if the committee and school department were in violation of state law by making it 24 years old, and what would be the cost to this district if they were forced to raise the age to 25 from 24. He would like this information in time for the budget questions.

Mr. Lupino reported that on February 6th a School Committee

meeting took place. There were some parents present who were protesting about late buses at Western Hills. Mr. Lupino asked Mr. Nero if the bus has been late since then. Mr. Nero responded that it has not been late but it has been later; it has been before 8:05 a.m. He will check into it. Mr. Lupino indicated that the parents are saying the bus is late, and he is hearing that the bus is getting to the school in time for the students to make homeroom. He knows there is a proposal to hire an additional bus driver to alleviate that problem. Mr. Lupino asked Mr. Nero to report to the committee as to how it is working out.

V. Superintendent Communications

Mr. Scherza reported on behalf of Mrs. Ciarlo that it was announced in the January 2006 edition of the Rhode Island Association of School Committees' Update that Mrs. Deborah Greifer had recently completed fifteen hours of professional development which is required to achieve recognition from the Rhode Island Association of School Committees and the Rhode Island Board of Regents. "The Rhode Island Association of School Committees recommends Deb Greifer and commends her for her dedication and commitment to her governance job."

VI. School Committee Member Communications

Mr. Stycos reported that he had cancelled the Wellness Committee

meeting for this week. The committee will meet in March. He also indicated that he had a couple of amendments that he would be offering to the budget. One has to do with starting an Energy Conservation Program and the second has to do with giving an option to some sixth graders to attend school in the elementary school. He asked the committee to look at them, and he welcomed suggestions on how to improve them. He planned to introduce them on March 1st.

Mr. Lupino read into the record an e-mail he received late this afternoon. He stated that it was addressed to him, School Committee member Mr. Traficante, and Mr. Traficante, Athletic Director. It reads as follows: Dear Tony and Mike, Thank you both for your continued support for the student athletes as well as your continued leadership for the entire City of Cranston

Page 4 February 13, 2006

during these very trying times for the school system. The student athletes that you met last fall are continuing their pursuit of a varsity hockey program in Cranston. Many are presently playing in youth sports leagues while the others are looking forward to the spring when the club sport program "The Thunderbirds" starts up again for students from both East and West. Private fundraising will continue to enable these girls to have first rate instruction and playing time starting this spring and lasting right through the summer both on and

off the ice. The girls are just as committed today to represent Cranston in the RIIL as they were when you first met with them last fall in the Briggs Building. However, a varsity hockey program from Cranston to be represented in the RIIL is somewhat of a catch 22. I will try to summarize: Most people involved believe that the first year the varsity program should fall under a co-op team from both high schools. The RIIL might be willing to grant a waiver for a co-op team for at least the first year, maybe longer. However two very important issues must be in place before they consider such: 1. The Cranston School Committee must have budgeted for Girls' Ice Hockey for 2006-2007. 2. An endorsement from one or more of either the principals of the high schools or from the Superintendent's office supporting a co-op team concept. The RIIL votes on petitions for coop teams in the spring/summer. It would be a moot issue for Mike Traficante (AD) to enter this petition without items 1 and 2 in place and as Mike (BC) has pointed out with his experience as a long time coach, it still isn't a 1000% sure thing that RIIL will grant the waiver anyway. But, having School Committee backing and an endorsement from administration will certainly make the RIIL look more favorably on our proposal. All of the parents and all of the students involved appreciate the situation the city is in. I believe the program for girls' hockey will cost much less than either of the two boys' programs because their practice schedule involves less ice time and a lot of the equipment can be recycled if it doesn't have to be re-certified. However, Mike Traficante (A.D.) would be the person who would have to advise you on what he feels would be the actual cost that can be

presented to the entire School Committee. If the funding is approved, I would have to believe the Administration would then be willing to endorse our proposal for a coop team. But, varsity status for girls' hockey is completely predicated on School Committee approval first before anything else can be put in motion. Again, we all understand what the state of affairs is concerning the School Committee and sports in general. We as parents are just advocating for our children what we feel is best for a successful high school experience. We all agree the more kids we can get involved in youth sports the better the chances they turn out to be good citizens. I'm sure these student athletes will continue to represent our schools and our city in the best light for many more years to come. Please advise us on what avenues we may take to bring varsity girls' hockey in Cranston to fruition. Thank you in advance for all your help in these matters. Your advice, candor and openness in the past have been greatly appreciated. Sincerely, Jeff Smith. Mr. Lupino indicated that based on this e-mail, and he had some preliminary numbers from Mr. Traficante, the Athletic Director, he will be looking for more hard numbers for him to present a budget amendment to add girls' ice hockey to the district's athletic program.

Page 5 February 13, 2006

VII. Public Hearing

a. Students (Agenda/Non-agenda Items)

Victoria Schuele, 27 Farm Street – Victoria stated that she is a junior at Cranston High School West, and she has been exposed to a great variety of course selections and opportunities. For example, over the summer, she and four other students won a free trip to Hawaii for the National Ocean Science Bowl Competition. This would not have been possible had she not been allowed to take Bio 1 Honors in her freshman year and met the advisor, Mr. Kraus. Other than this, she has been allowed an amazing course selection including Bio 1 Honors, Chem 1 Honors, Physics Honors, and Bio 2 Honors in her three years at Cranston West as well as many advanced level math, English, and history courses. Now that she is a junior, she has begun to look at all of the college choices including specifically Lehigh University and Cornell University, both of which look at the rigor of the student's secondary schooling schedule. This is where the compacting of teachers concerns her. With one-third of her senior schedule comprised of science 2 classes, mainly Physics 2 Honors and Chemistry 2 Honors, along with many of her friends and acquaintances, she is very worried about how compacting teachers will affect these classes and, therefore, her chances of getting into top college choices, as well as that of future generations attending Cranston West when faced with the fierce competition of applicants from schools who still have such classes available.

Mr. Lupino asked Mr. Laliberte for a sense of how this compacting

will affect honors classes and AP classes. He asked if these classes were one in the same or where they different. He also asked how this proposed compacting will affect programs such as these.

b. Members of the Public (Agenda Matters Only)

No members of the public spoke on agenda matters.

VIII. Consent Calendar/Consent Agenda

Mr. Lupino stated that the consent agenda included Resolution No.'s 06-2-13, 06-2-14, 06-2-15 with an addendum, 06-2-16 with an addendum, 06-2-17, 06-2-19, 06-2-20, 06-2-21, and 06-2-22.

RESOLUTIONS

ADMINISTRATION

PERSONNEL

NO. 06-2-13 – RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the following certified personnel be appointed as substitutes on a temporary basis as needed:

Jessica Capaldi Elementary/Middle Special Education

Katie Browne Secondary English

Lisa Connell Early Childhood Elementary, PK-2

Tina McDonough Elementary

Michael Hassell Music, PK-12

Sherry Powell Elementary/Middle Special Education

Roxanne Phillips Elementary

Angela Briggs Elementary/Middle Special Education

Jane Porricelli General Subject Matter, K-12

Lauren Tomasso Secondary English

Kimberly Chevian General Subject Matter, K-12

Craig Schmidt Secondary Mathematics

Tracey Watson Elementary, 1-6

Cendhi Arias Early Childhood, PK-2

Sarah Tavis Elementary/Middle Special Education

NO. 06-2-14 – RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the retirement of the following certified personnel be accepted:

Barbara Tarczuk, Teacher

Eden Park

Effective Date: June 30, 2006

NO. 06-2-15 – RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the resignations of the following certified personnel be accepted:

Michael Pacheco, Assistant Principal

Cranston High School West

Effective Date: February 28, 2006

Stephanie Martin, Occupational Therapist

Special Services

Effective Date: February 28, 2006

Page 7 February 13, 2006

Kimberly Saccucci, Occupational Therapist

Special Services

Effective Date: February 17, 2006

Sheri L. Poyant, Teacher
Elementary
Effective Date: February 7, 2006

Heather Folmsbee, Teacher
Special Education
Effective Date: February 7, 2006

NO. 06-2-16 – RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the following coaches be appointed:

Brian Flinn, Assistant, Fastpitch Softball, Cranston High School West
Step – 1

Class – C

Playing Competition- None

Experience – Volunteer Assistant, Fastpitch Softball, Cranston High School East

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

Scott Maynard – Assistant, Girls' Lacrosse, Cranston High School East

Step - 1

Class – D

Playing Competition – None

Experience – Has coached on a recreational level for several years
Certification – Rhode Island Coaches Certification; CPR/First Aid Certified

Charles Pearson, Assistant, Girls' Lacrosse, Cranston High School West

Step – 1

Class – D

Playing Competition – None

Experience – None

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

NO. 06-2-17 – RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the resignation of the following coaches be accepted:

Cory Capirchio, Girls' Softball
Cranston High School West
Effective Date: January 6, 2006

Page 8 February 13, 2006

Clement Soscia, Boys' Outdoor Track
Cranston High School West
Effective Date: February 1, 2006

NO. 06-2-19 – RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the following non-certified employee be recalled from layoff:

Cynthia Sweet, Teacher Assistant

Glen Hills School

Effective Date: February 13, 2006

NO. 06-2-20 – RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the following non-certified employees be appointed:

Nancy Hackett, Bus Driver

Transportation

Effective Date of Employment: February 13, 2006

Fiscal Note: 14347543 517200

Jane MacDonald, Bus Driver

Transportation

Effective Date of Employment: February 13, 2006

Fiscal Note: 14347543 517200

Maria Quintanilla, Three-hour Food Service Worker

Food Service

Effective Date of Employment: January 30, 2006

Fiscal Note: 32947179 511000

NO. 06-2-21 – RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the following non-certified personnel be appointed as substitutes on a temporary basis as needed:

SECRETARIES

Dorothy Miller

Cilla Reilly

BUS DRIVER

Peter Colarusso

CUSTODIANS

Anthony Saccoccia

James Corio

Edward Gervais

Carlton Doyle

Page 9 February 13, 2006

NO. 06-2-22 – RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the termination of non-certified Employee A be accepted.

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

Mr. Scherza commented that one of these Resolutions accepts the retirement of Barbara Tarczuk, and it is always with mixed emotions--happiness for the people who have been here for a long time and for what they have contributed, but sadness at the thought that they aren't going to be here for a lot longer in the school system. Barbara has been in Cranston as a teacher for thirty years most recently as a reading consultant at Eden Park. She has been at Eden Park since 1990 until the present, and before that, she served the Cranston Public Schools from 1973 to 1990 as a Chapter 1 Title 1 teacher at various schools. It is with regret that the School Committee accepts her retirement, but the entire school system wishes her well in her retirement.

Mr. Lupino noted that the addendum for Resolution No. 06-2-15 removes the name of Robert Snow, Principal. On Resolution No. 06-2-16, school assignments have been added to the coaches. Brian Flinn will be at Cranston West; Scott Maynard at Cranston East; and Charles Pearson will be at Cranston West.

These Resolutions were adopted unanimously

IX. Action Calendar/Action Agenda

SPONSORED BY THE COMMITTEE

NO. 06-2-7 – Whereas, Erin Lagasse, did an outstanding job as a

member of the Cranston High School West girls' cross country team during the 2005 fall sports season, and

Whereas, she helped guide her team to their third consecutive undefeated dual meet season which included a very impressive third place finish at the State Meet, and

Whereas, through her continued hard work, endless preparation, and dedication throughout the entire cross country season, was recognized as one of the state's runners finishing fifth at the State Meet with a time of 19.43, was the third Rhode Island finisher at the New England Meet and placed eighteenth at the prestigious Brown Invitational with the third fastest time among Rhode Island athletes, and

Whereas, because of her outstanding personal accomplishments throughout the entire cross country season has been recognized as a member of the 2005 Providence Journal First Team All-State Cross Country,

Be it RESOLVED that Erin Lagasse be congratulated by the Cranston School Committee for her hard work and dedication to the sport of cross country, and

Be it further RESOLVED that she be presented with a copy of this Resolution signed by the members of the committee.

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

Mrs. Greifer read the Resolution and presented it to Erin. A photograph was taken.

This Resolution was adopted unanimously.

NO. 06-2-8 – Whereas, Nicole Coccozza did an outstanding job as a member of the Cranston High School West girls' cross country team during the 2005 fall sports season, and

Whereas, she helped guide her team to their third consecutive undefeated dual meet season which included a very impressive third place finish at the State Meet, and

Whereas, through her continued hard work, endless preparation, and dedication throughout the entire cross country season was recognized as one of the state's runners finishing third at the State Meet with a time of 19.41, was the top Rhode Island finisher at the New England Meet with a time of 20.06 and placed tenth in the Varsity II race at the prestigious Brown Invitational, and

Whereas, because of her outstanding personal accomplishments throughout the entire cross country season has been recognized as a member of the 2005 Providence Journal First Team All-State Cross Country,

Be it RESOLVED that Nicole Coccozza be congratulated by the Cranston School Committee for her hard work and dedication to the sport of cross country, and

Be it further RESOLVED that she be presented with a copy of this Resolution signed by the members of the committee.

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

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

This Resolution was adopted unanimously.

NO. 06-2-9 – Whereas, Anthony Castelli did an outstanding job as a member of the Cranston High School West varsity football team during the 2005 fall sports season, and

Whereas, he helped guide his team to an overall record of 10-5 which included a very impressive 28-21 non-league win over Fitch High

School (one of the top rated teams in

Page 11 February 13, 2006

Connecticut) as Cranston West made their second consecutive Division I playoff appearance, and

Whereas, through his continued hard work, endless preparation, and dedication throughout the entire football season was recognized as one of the state's top defensive backs making an incredible 106 tackles, had 5 interceptions and pound for pound widely considered the hardest hitter in the entire state, and

Whereas, because of his outstanding personal accomplishments throughout the entire football season has been recognized as a member of the 2005 Providence Journal First Team All-State as a defensive back,

Be it RESOLVED that Anthony Castelli be congratulated by the Cranston School Committee for his hard work and dedication to the sport of football, and

Be it further RESOLVED that he be presented with a copy of this Resolution signed by the members of the committee.

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

Ms. Iannazzi read the Resolution and presented it to Anthony. A photograph was taken.

This Resolution was adopted unanimously.

NO. 06-2-10 – Whereas, Anthony Ferrer did an outstanding job as a member of the Cranston High School West varsity football team during the 2005 fall sports season, and

Whereas, he helped guide his team to an overall record of 10-5 which included a very impressive 28-21 non-league win over Fitch High School (one of the top rated teams in Connecticut) as Cranston West made their second consecutive Division I playoff appearance, and

Whereas, through his continued hard work, endless preparation, and dedication throughout the entire football season was recognized as one of the state's top linebackers making 64 solo tackles, on the offensive side of the ball rushed for 1,438 yards and 20 touchdowns, and

Whereas, because of his outstanding personal accomplishments throughout the entire football season has been recognized as a member of the 2005 Providence Journal First Team All-State as a

linebacker for the second consecutive season,

Be it RESOLVED that Anthony Ferrer be congratulated by the Cranston School Committee for his hard work and dedication to the sport of football, and

Page 12 February 13, 2006

Be it further RESOLVED that he be presented with a copy of this Resolution signed by the members of the committee.

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

Mr. Lupino read this Resolution and presented it to Anthony. A photograph was taken.

This Resolution was adopted unanimously.

NO. 06-2-11 – Whereas, Rob Angell did an outstanding job as a member of the Cranston High School East varsity football team during the 2005 fall sports season, and

Whereas, he helped guide his team to an overall record of 10-3 which included a very impressive 27-24 playoff win over Shea High School

and a thrilling 21-14 victory over Tolman High School that gave Cranston East their first state championship since 1987, and

Whereas, through his continued hard work, endless preparation, and dedication throughout the entire football season was recognized as one of the state's top linebackers making 114 tackles, including 17 for losses, 4 sacks and 3 forced fumbles and on the offensive side of the ball blocked for a backfield that gained over 3,000 yards, and

Whereas, because of his outstanding personal accomplishments throughout the entire football season has been recognized as a member of the 2005 Providence Journal First Team All-State as an offensive lineman,

Be it RESOLVED that Rob Angell be congratulated by the Cranston School Committee for his hard work and dedication to the sport of football, and

Be it further RESOLVED that he be presented with a copy of this Resolution signed by the members of the committee.

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

Rob Angell was not present.

This Resolution was adopted unanimously.

NO. 06-2-12 – Whereas, Miguel Prata did an outstanding job as a member of the Cranston High School East varsity football team during the 2005 fall sports season, and

Whereas, he helped guide his team to an overall record of 10-3 which included a very impressive 27-24 playoff win over Shea High School and a thrilling 21-14 victory over Tolman High School that gave Cranston East their first state championship since 1987, and

Page 13 February 13, 2006

Whereas, through his continued hard work, endless preparation, and dedication throughout the entire football season was recognized as one of the state's top defensive linemen making 81 tackles, 3 forced fumbles and an incredible 14 quarterback sacks on the offensive side of the ball blocked for a backfield that gained over 3,000 yards, and

Whereas, because of his outstanding personal accomplishments throughout the entire football season has been recognized as a member of the 2005 Providence Journal First Team All-State as an offensive lineman,

Be it RESOLVED that Miguel Prata be congratulated by the Cranston School Committee for his hard work and dedication to the sport of

football, and

Be it further RESOLVED that he be presented with a copy of this Resolution signed by members of the committee.

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

Miguel Prata was not present.

This Resolution was adopted unanimously.

NO. 06-2-18 – Whereas, there may be more qualified individuals who will apply for current positions, and

Whereas, certain positions became available after the teacher selection of July 26, 2005 and more senior teachers may elect to occupy these positions under Article XVI of the Collective Bargaining Agreement, and

Whereas, funding for certain positions is not assured for the 2006-2007 school year, and as a result, more senior teachers could elect to take a current position, and

Whereas, positions occupied by retirees must be posted each year, and

Whereas, there may be changes in student distribution, and as a result, more senior teachers may take a current position, and

Whereas, positions must now be made available for more senior teachers who are scheduled to return from leave, and

Whereas, because of these concerns, and in accordance with Title 16 of the General laws of the State of Rhode Island, the Superintendent has recommended that the employment of certain teachers be terminated at the end of the 2005-2006 school year, and

Page 14 February 13, 2006

Whereas, the Superintendent has sent prior notice to said teachers informing them of the specific reasons for their termination, and

Whereas, the Committee has provided said teachers with the opportunity to be heard in Executive Session regarding their termination,

Be it RESOLVED that said teachers be terminated at the close of the school year under provisions of Title 16 of the General Laws of the State of Rhode Island, and

Be it further RESOLVED that the Superintendent notify those teachers of the Committee's action to terminate their employment.

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

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

Mr. Stycos indicated to Mr. Laliberte that no music teacher was listed on the layoff list, and last year 13-1/2 elementary classes were eliminated and this year there is the prospect of eliminating more. He asked why there wasn't at least a half-time music teacher listed. Mr. Laliberte responded that he believed last year they eliminated a music teacher. When they looked over the itinerant schedules this year, they had only a .2 extra somewhere throughout the system. They did not have enough to eliminate one.

This Resolution was adopted unanimously.

POLICY AND PROGRAM

NO. 06-2-23 - RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the following Conferences and Field Trips of Long Duration be authorized:

1. Susan M. Bryan, Principal of Stadium School, to travel to San Antonio, Texas from March 30, 2006 to April 4, 2006 to attend the National Association of Elementary Principals Annual Conference.

2. John DeCristofaro, Principal of Arlington School, to travel to Boston, Massachusetts from April 19, 2006 to April 21, 2006 to attend a conference on “Linking Understanding by Design and Curriculum Mapping.”

3. Mr. Joel Gluck, teacher at the NEL/CPS Charter School, and approximately twenty-five students to travel to Philadelphia, Gettysburg, and Hershey, Pennsylvania for an educational tour from May 11, 2006 to May 13, 2006.

Page 15 February 13, 2006

4. Mr. Joel Gluck, teacher at the NEL/CPS Charter School, and approximately nineteen students to travel to Orlando, Florida from May 17, 2006 to May 21, 2006.

5. Paula Titon, advisor at Cranston High School West, and approximately thirty students to travel to Boston University from February 10, 2006 to February 12, 2006; to Northeastern University

from March 2, 2006 to March 3, 2006 (Model Arab League) and to Northeastern University from May 12, 2006 to May 13, 2006 (Model UN) for a series of three field trips for members of the Model United Nations activity.

6. Linda Stanelun, teacher and Math Coach at Oak Lawn School, to travel to St. Louis, Missouri to attend the National Council of Supervisors of Mathematics and National Council of Teachers of Mathematics Annual Conferences from April 24, 2006 to April 26, 2006 (NCSM) and April 26, 2006 to April 29, 2006 (NCTM.)

7. Debra Lancia, teacher and Math Coach at Oak Lawn School, to travel to St. Louis, Missouri to attend the National Council of Supervisors of Mathematics and National Council of Teachers of Mathematics Annual Conferences from April 24, 2006 to April 26, 2006 (NCSM) and April 26, 2006 to April 29, 2006 (NCTM.)

8. 1SG Joseph Fratiello, Cranston High School East JROTC Drill Instructor, and approximately fifteen JROTC students to travel to Macon, Georgia to attend and compete in the All Army National Drill Championships.

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

Mr. Stycos referred to the two trips for Charter School students. He

asked why the School Committee was approving these trips because this committee doesn't approve the Charter School budget. He asked why this committee is involved in this. Mr. Scherza responded that it was his understanding that since this is a partnership between the Cranston Public Schools and the New England Laborers that in terms of liability the Cranston Public Schools does assume a big chunk of that on an equal footing. Mr. Stycos stated that he assumed the Charter School was a separate corporation. That is the traditional way to limit liability. Mr. Balducci responded that the Charter School does have separate recognition under state law; it is a separate entity. It has its own separate board of directors. In this case, it is made up of both members of the Laborers International Union and the Cranston Public Schools because of the partnership. Under state law, it is separate and apart. Mr. Stycos asked if it was a separate corporation, and Mr. Balducci was unsure as to whether or not it was a separate corporation. He did not know the specific language under state statute, but it is supposed to be a separate entity. Mr. Stycos requested that administration look into this issue, because if the School Committee doesn't have any control over the Charter School, he didn't think they should be approving things that might put them on the hook. If something happened on this

Page 16 February 13, 2006

trip, and this School Committee has approved it, it seemed to him that someone who would be upset about it could come after the School

Committee when they really don't have any control over what happens at the Charter School.

Mrs. Greifer asked if they are covered by their own insurance or under the Cranston Public Schools insurance. If they are under the Cranston Public Schools' insurance, then this committee would have something to say about it. Mr. Balducci commented that this district is insuring the contents of the building where these students are located. As far as any off-site work study program, those students are covered by the district's insurance policy, because they are conducting programs, and they are supervised by teachers who are employed by Cranston Public Schools. So, yes they are covered. Mrs. Greifer commented that if something happened to them while they are on this trip it would be the school department's insurance that would pay for it. Mr. Balducci added that if it is a school sanctioned event supervised by Cranston teachers, the likelihood is that they would be insured and covered.

Mr. Archetto asked if the committee should table this Resolution until they have these questions answered. He didn't think the answers were that specific. Mr. Stycos suggested that the committee table item No.'s 3 and 4. Both trips are in May, and the committee could get the answers to these questions.

Mr. Stycos moved to table item No.'s 3 and 4 on Resolution No. 06-2-23.

Mr. Archetto seconded the motion.

This amendment was adopted with Mr. Lupino opposed.

Mr. Stycos withdrew his motion to table item No.'s 3 and 4; Mr. Archetto withdrew his second.

Mr. Stycos moved to reconsider tabling item No.'s 3 and 4 on Resolution No. 06-2-23.

Mrs. Greifer seconded the motion to reconsider.

Motion to reconsider was adopted unanimously.

Moved by Mr. Stycos to amend Resolution No. 06-2-23 to remove item No.'s 3 and 4 from this Resolution.

Mrs. Greifer seconded the motion.

Ms. Iannazzi asked Mr. Scherza if this would in any way influence or effect this trip, and Mr. Scherza responded that he would notify the Charter School that these two trips have not been approved by the committee. He would have to bring it back to the board of directors at the Charter School. Mr. Stycos added that there is a meeting on February 27th and another one

scheduled for March 1st. If Mr. Scherza finds out that it messes up the trips somehow, he could come back to the committee earlier than next month.

This Amendment was adopted with Mr. Lupino opposed.

This Resolution as amended was adopted unanimously.

This Resolution now reads:

NO. 06-2-23 - RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the following Conferences and Field Trips of Long Duration be authorized:

1. Susan M. Bryan, Principal of Stadium School, to travel to San Antonio, Texas from March 30, 2006 to April 4, 2006 to attend the National Association of Elementary Principals Annual Conference.

2. John DeCristofaro, Principal of Arlington School, to travel to Boston, Massachusetts from April 19, 2006 to April 21, 2006 to attend a conference on “Linking Understanding by Design and Curriculum Mapping.”

3. Paula Titon, advisor at Cranston High School West, and approximately thirty students to travel to Boston University from February 10, 2006 to February 12, 2006; to Northeastern University from March 2, 2006 to March 3, 2006 (Model Arab League) and to Northeastern University from May 12, 2006 to May 13, 2006 (Model UN) for a series of three field trips for members of the Model United Nations activity.

4. Linda Stanelun, teacher and Math Coach at Oak Lawn School, to travel to St. Louis, Missouri to attend the National Council of Supervisors of Mathematics and National Council of Teachers of Mathematics Annual Conferences from April 24, 2006 to April 26, 2006 (NCSM) and April 26, 2006 to April 29, 2006 (NCTM.)

5. Debra Lancia, teacher and Math Coach at Oak Lawn School, to travel to St. Louis, Missouri to attend the National Council of Supervisors of Mathematics and National Council of Teachers of Mathematics Annual Conferences from April 24, 2006 to April 26, 2006 (NCSM) and April 26, 2006 to April 29, 2006 (NCTM.)

**6. 1SG Joseph Fratiello, Cranston High School East JROTC Drill Instructor, and
approximately fifteen JROTC students to travel to Macon, Georgia to attend and
compete in the All Army National Drill Championships.**

X. New Business

There was no new business.

Page 18 February 13, 2006

XI. Pubic Hearing on Non-agenda Items

Valerie Schuele, 27 Farm Street – She stated that she doesn't want the committee to forget between now and the budget. She indicated that her daughter spoke before her. She loves the opportunities that Cranston offers its students. Tonight there were athletes, and most of the athletes are good students as well. Her son hopefully will go the Career and Technical Center. He has done well in school with the goal to attend the Career and Technical Center. She is very concerned about the size of classes in high school. Just Thursday night at the Horton hearing Mr. Archetto indicated how difficult it is to teach large classes at Bishop Hendricken. She is also very concerned about the new mandates. If the district compacts and doesn't offer at least what the students have, it means a lot to the high schools and also the students being able to keep those requirements. Her children don't take study halls; she doesn't believe in them. For those who do take them, she would like to believe that those classes are going to be more than basket weaving 101 for those students, and it is going to be called educational time. There have to be a lot of thought and resources, and she hasn't

touched on the digital portfolio. She told the committee that they have to do something, or it isn't going to happen. If the students aren't provided the necessary resources, the committee will have to amend their graduation requirements. She knows that many of them are unfunded mandates, and it isn't fair; but this is reality. If the schools don't have the proper resources and maintain what they have to do the state mandates, all of these things take huge resources; and the students won't be successful, not because they don't want to be or haven't tried; it will be because they haven't been provided what they need to do it. The committee needs to be aware of this. It petrifies her, and she doesn't know how it can be done. She has been involved every step of the process, and she is very concerned about what larger classes will do and what it will mean for the students, not only the honors students but also for students like her son who is in CP classes. She is concerned for the kids in the middle like him. He is an athlete and a good student. Those kids get the short end of the stick all the time, and usually there is nobody to speak for them. The honors students will do well, and it is for those other kids that she is the most concerned about. She asked the committee to keep this all under consideration.

XII. Announcement of Future Meetings

Mr. Lupino announced that the School Committee meeting on February 27th has been changed to an additional budget hearing. He wanted to confirm with Mr. Scherza that Mr. Scherza had a

conversation with the Mayor, and the committee is holding their budget adoption on March 1st. It is not a big violation, but the committee is moving away from the tradition of getting the adopted budget to the Mayor on March 1st. He has accepted the committee's proposal to send it to him on March 2nd. Mr. Scherza indicated that this was correct, and it was at the request of the school department so that they would have another hearing before the public so that they could get everything in. The Mayor gave the district an extra day, and if necessary, the extra two days. March 1st is the date, and he gave the committee until Friday, March 3rd.

Page 19 February 13, 2006

Mr. Votto clarified that there is an executive session on February 27th at 5:30 p.m. there is a special meeting at 7:00 p.m. followed by a public budget hearing. The budget adoption will take place on Wednesday, March 1st.

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 the meeting, it was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Anthony J. Lupino

Clerk