

CRANSTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2006

WESTERN HILLS MIDDLE SCHOOL

400 PHENIX AVENUE

EXECUTIVE SESSION: 6:00 P.M.

PUBLIC SESSION: 7:00 p.m.

MINUTES

The regularly 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. Stycos, and Mr. Traficante. Mr. Palumbo was absent with cause. Also present were Mr. Scherza, Mr. Balducci, Mr. Votto, Mr. Laliberte, and Mrs. Lundsten.

The meeting was called to order at 6:10 p.m. It was moved by Mrs. Greifer, seconded by Mr. Traficante 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 7:10 p.m.

The roll was call, and the Pledge of Allegiance conducted.

Mr. Lupino stated for the record that Mr. Palumbo was excused from this meeting.

I. Executive Session Minutes Sealed – November 20, 2006

Moved by Mrs. Greifer, seconded by Mr. Archetto and unanimously carried that the November 20, 2006 Executive Session minutes remain confidential.

II. Minutes of Previous Meetings – October 11, 2006; October 16, 2006

Moved by Mrs. Greifer, seconded by Mr. Archetto and unanimously carried that the minutes of October 11, 2006 and October 16, 2006 be approved.

III. Public Acknowledgements / Communications

Mr. Lupino welcomed Councilman Jeffrey Barone, Councilwoman Cindy Fogarty, and congratulated School Committee member-elect Frank Lombardi who was also present. In addition, Mr. Lupino congratulated Mr. Traficante, Ms. Iannazzi, and Mr. Stycos for volunteering again. He also congratulated Mr. Archetto and Mrs. Greifer for some hard-fought campaigns. He congratulated them as well and wished them good luck.

IV. Chairperson Communications

Mr. Lupino noted that there was one elementary principal in the audience. He stated that Cranston West is putting on the production of the musical Grease. It is something he has been trying to do for the eight years he has been on the committee and finally got it together. They will be inviting fifth graders from the elementary schools to attend a performance at the school. He believed it would take place on December 6th to make some connection between high school and bring some artistic venues to the elementary schools.

Mr. Lupino commented that there was a consensus at the last work session to allow the Superintendent to present his State of the Schools Address. The original resolution stated that it would be given at this meeting. It has been postponed to the January 9th School Committee meeting.

V. Superintendent Communications

Mr. Scherza indicated that Peter Nero, the Assistant Superintendent, was recuperating and back on his feet after spinal surgery last Wednesday. He expects to be back to work in a few weeks.

VI. School Committee Member Communications

Mr. Stycos stated that a Wellness Committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 16th. Each School Committee member can appoint a parent to the committee. He is referring to new committee members, new appointments. The new committee members should be thinking about who they would like to appoint or reappoint to this committee. If the new members have a name, they can submit them to Mrs. Moretta who will add them to the master list of members.

Mr. Traficante stated that the Facility Use Sub-committee has met on several occasions. That committee consists of School Committee woman Mrs. Greifer, Mr. Zisseron, and himself. They have 90% of a draft completed. They will have one additional meeting with Mr. Zisseron within the next several days. Hopefully, by the next work session they will have something to present to the School Committee regarding a policy with facility use.

Ms. Iannazzi thanked Cranston High School West Principal Steven Knowlton for encouraging his students to attend the last Civics Education Program. Due to his and Beverly Prestage's hard work, it was a success. He also thanked the panelists who were Judge Bucci from District Court, Judge Thompson from Superior Court, and Chief Healy from Workers Compensation Court.

Mr. Traficante commented that the committee should thank

Councilman Barone for his generosity in donating a defibrillator to the Cranston Public Schools.

Page 3 November 20, 2006

Mr. Scherza added that this is not the first time Councilman Barone has made a donation. He does not have children in the school system, but he actually started this approximately one to two years ago. Through his efforts, the district has six or seven defibrillators plus the accessories to go with them. This has been a continuing piece he has been working on for the school department.

Mr. Lupino stated that there is a committee meeting regarding volunteer assistant coaches. Mr. Scherza commented that he believed that the committee would be meeting again on Wednesday to begin to draft a resolution for first reading. It will come to the committee first as a draft.

XI. Public Hearing

a. Students (Agenda/Non-agenda Items)

b. Members of the Public (Agenda Matters Only)

There were no students who wished to speak on agenda or non-agenda items.

There were no members of the public who wished to speak on agenda

matters.

XII. Consent Calendar / Consent Agenda

The following Resolutions appear under the Consent agenda:

No.'s 06-11-4 with addendum; 06-11-5; 06-11-6 with addendum; 06-11-7; 06-11-8 with addendum; 06-11-9 with addendum; 06-11-10; 06-11-11; 06-11-12; 06-11-13; 06-11-17; and 06-11-18.

NO. 06-11-4 - RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the following certified personnel be appointed as substitutes on a temporary basis as needed:

Nicolasa Jimenez General Subject Matter, K-12

Lisa Sylvia Physical Education, PK-12

Jennifer Storch General Subject Matter, K-12

Adriana Fargiorgio Secondary English/Italian

Danielle Alger Elementary

Roy Choquette Health and Adaptive Physical Education

Ellen Holland Elementary, PK-2

Page 4 November 20, 2006

Anne Pisaturo Elementary

Meg LoPresti Special Education, Elementary/Middle

Diane Goolgasian Secondary Business

Jennifer Lodge Elementary

Joyce Russell Elementary

Michael Giblin General Subject Matter, K-12

Elizabeth Broskie General Subject Matter, K-12

Elizabeth Camboia Secondary English

NO. 06-11-5 - RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the resignation of the following certified personnel be accepted:

Richard Grenier, English Teacher

Cranston High School West

Effective Date: October 20, 2006

NO. 06-11-6 – RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the following individuals be reappointed as athletic coaches:

CRANSTON HIGH SCHOOL EAST

Carl Bishop Boys' Head Indoor Track

Robert Bouchard Boys'/Girls' Head/Assistant Swimming

Lauren Brown Girls' Head Basketball

William Coughlin Boys' Assistant Basketball

Michael Crudale Boys' Assistant Indoor Track

Paul Giarrusso Boys' Assistant Wrestling

Robert LaBanca Girls' Head Indoor Track

William Monigan Boys' Head Basketball

Chris Tribelli Boys' Head Wrestling

Robert Watts Boys' Head Hockey

Page 5 November 20, 2006

CRANSTON HIGH SCHOOL WEST

Matthew Cleason Boys' Head Wrestling

Jaime Ferretti Boys'/Girls' Head/Assistant Swimming

David Fontes Girls' Assistant Basketball
Carmine Goneconte Girls' Head Basketball
Kenneth Hopkins, Jr. Boys' Assistant Basketball
Sheila Lagasse Girls' Head Indoor Track
Gerard Marzilli Boys' Freshman Basketball
James Moretti Boys' Head Basketball
Craig Sacco Boys' Head Hockey

NO. 06-11-7 – RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the following individual be appointed as an athletic coach:

Lisa Sylvia, Head Coach Girls' Hockey

Cranston High School East / Cranston High School West

Step – 2

Class - B

Playing Competition – Northeastern University

Experience – Assistant Coach, Rhode Island Panthers Hockey

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

NO. 06-11-8 - RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the resignation of the following coaches be accepted:

Jessica Greene, Assistant, Girls' Basketball

Cranston High School East

Effective Date: October 25, 2006

Joseph Splendorio, Freshman Boys' Basketball

Western Hills Middle School

Effective Date: October 30, 2006

Michael Waterman, Head Girls' Basketball

Bain Middle School

Effective Date: November 1, 2006

Scott Maynard, Head Girls' Soccer

Cranston High School East

Effective Date: November 1, 2006

Page 6

November 20, 2006

NO. 06-11-9 - RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the following non-certified employees be appointed:

Dora Villari, Child Outreach Paraprofessional

Special Services

Effective Date of Employment: October 27, 2006

Authorization: Replacement

Fiscal Note: 14832031 519100

**Pamela Schiff, Child Outreach Paraprofessional
Special Services**

Effective Date of Employment: October 27, 2006

Authorization: Replacement

Fiscal Note: 14832031 519100

Kayla Oden, Bus Monitor

Transportation

Effective Date of Employment: October 12, 2006

Authorization: Replacement

Fiscal Note: 14347518 518600

Roberta Strezo, Mail Clerk

Human Resources

Effective Date of Employment: October 17, 2006

Authorization: New

Fiscal Note: 19643151 515100

Robert Salvagna, Three-hour Food Service Worker

Food Service

Effective Date of Employment: October 16, 2006

Authorization: Replacement

Fiscal Note: 31347179 511000

Lisa Pelino, Three-hour Food Service Worker

Food Service

Effective Date of Employment: October 16, 2006

Authorization: Replacement

Fiscal Note: 33047179 511000

Page 7 November 20, 2006

Barbara Guiot, Three-hour Food Service Worker

Food Service

Effective Date of Employment: October 24, 2006

Authorization: New

Fiscal Note: 32647179 511000

Frank Ruggieri, Three-hour Food Service Worker

Food Service

Effective Date of Employment: October 25, 2006

Authorization: New

Fiscal Note: 32347179 511000

Sheila Testa, Teacher Assistant

Orchard Farms School

Effective Date of Employment: November 8, 2006

Authorization: New

Fiscal Note: 13632032 519500

Karen Sepe, Teacher Assistant

Orchard Farms School

Effective Date of Employment: November 6, 2006

Authorization: New

Fiscal Note: 13632032 519500

Carol Corcelli, Instructor

Adult Education Program

Effective Date of Employment: November 1, 2006

Authorization: Replacement

Fiscal Note: 16278712 512100

Deborah Rushworth, Three-hour Food Service Worker

Food Service

Effective Date of Employment: November 1, 2006

Authorization: Replacement

Fiscal Note: 32447179 511000

Holly Gray, Three-hour Food Service Worker

Food Service

Effective Date of Employment: November 6, 2006

Authorization: Replacement

Fiscal Note: 31947179 511000

Patricia Branch, Bus Driver

Transportation

Effective Date of Employment: November 20, 2006

Authorization: New

Fiscal Note: 14347543 517200

Gail Frederick, Bus Driver

Transportation

Effective Date of Employment: November 20, 2006

Authorization: New

Fiscal Note: 14347543 517200

Robert Adams, Bus Driver

Transportation

Effective Date of Employment: November 20, 2006

Authorization: New

Fiscal Note: 14347543 517200

NO. 06-11-10 - RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the following non-certified personnel be appointed as substitutes on a temporary basis as needed:

SECRETARY

Betty Costantino

BUS DRIVERS

David Panarello

Lillian Ferrante

NO. 06-11-11 – RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the retirement of the following non-certified personnel be accepted:

Marie R. Accetturo, Teacher Assistant

Hope Highlands School

Effective Date: December 29, 2006

NO. 06-11-12 - RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the resignation of the following non-certified personnel be accepted:

Diane Scivola, Secretary

Hope Highlands School

Effective Date: November 9, 2006

Page 9 November 20, 2006

Debra Caruso, Three-hour Food Service Worker

Food Service

Effective Date of Employment: October 18, 2006

Authorization: Replacement

Fiscal Note: 31347179 511000

NO. 06-11-13 - RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the termination of Employee A be accepted.

NO. 06-11-17 - RESOLVED, the following purchases be approved (Fund 3 – School Food Service):

School Food Authority Inspection in the amount of \$11,954 (08/09) amended from Resolution No. 06-10-19 to include the final year of the bid inadvertently removed from the original resolution.

Number of bids issued 4

Number of bids received 3

POLICY AND PROGRAM

NO. 06-11-18 - RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the following Conferences/Field Trips of Long Duration be authorized:

Christine Harrington, music teacher at Western Hills Middle School, to travel to Detroit, Michigan, to attend the American String Teachers' Association National Conference from March 7 through March 10,

2007.

Karen Verrengia, Energy Manager for the Cranston Public Schools, to travel to Austin, Texas, for a Winter 2007 Seminar (which is an Energy Education, Inc. requirement) from January 22, 2007 to January 24, 2007.

Richard W. Lepore, music teacher at Cranston High School East, and approximately seventy-four students to travel to New York City to do a music tour of the city with impromptu concerts, Broadway plays, etc. from March 30, 2007 to April 1, 2007.

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

XIII. Action Calendar / Action Agenda

Page 10 November 20, 2006

SPONSORED BY MR. LUPINO AND MRS. GREIFER

NO. 06-11-1 – Whereas, the Cranston School Committee recognizes its duty to provide to the students of Cranston, safe and environmentally safe buildings and grounds, and

Whereas, the Committee recently entered into an energy savings contract to realize energy savings to the district, and

Whereas, in years past the Committee has been forced into reducing funds in the “asset protection” account due to budgetary constraints, and

Whereas, the Committee realizes that this reduction may negatively impact the students and staff,

Be it RESOLVED that the Committee establish a recommended baseline in the “asset protection” account of \$_____, and

Be it further RESOLVED that the Committee recommend to Administration that ____% of the realized energy savings be added to the base amount in this account in subsequent years to assure that the physical needs of our buildings are being addressed with proper funding.

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

Mr. Lupino apologized that this Resolution was a much watered down version of what his original intent was. One of the last things he wanted to do as he is about to leave the School Committee is have a self-inflicted, unfunded mandate; but at the same time make the

committee and those in the community recognize how truly fragile some of the buildings are and how much in need of repair they are. This is something that should have been done a few years back. He provided some figures to the committee based on the prior years' experience. In the year 2002-2003, the district's asset protection budget was down to \$9,900. That was the year the district was drastically cut by the city appropriation. It was an amount that was just not enough to do what is needed for these buildings. As anyone knows, if the money isn't spent today, it costs more money later on. A leaky roof not addressed today will cause interior damage – leaking windows, damage to walls, etc. He purposely left the amounts blank so that the committee members could have a discussion on it. When he took out 2002-2003 which is the \$9,900, the average for those five years was \$126,900. With that added in, it was \$107,400. At this point, he asked for discussion from the committee as to what amount they would like to include in this Resolution. He apologized for stating a recommended base line but he would have liked to have said that it should be the base line; but he didn't see this happening with the new rulings from the state.

Mrs. Greifer suggested that rather than setting a dollar amount she recommended making it a total percentage of the budget which could be approximately 1% of the total budget. If there is a \$125 million budget, that is \$125,000. Mr. Lupino said that this could be a friendly

amendment that the asset protection account in the amount of 1% of the adopted or agreed upon budget. Mrs. Greifer stated that it would be the adopted budget.

Mr. Stycos asked if Mrs. Greifer meant 1% or .1% because 1% would be over \$1 million. Mr. Balducci stated that a \$125 million budget would be \$1,250,000. Mr. Traficante asked what account the money comes from when the school district receives the asset protection from the City Council. Councilwoman Fogarty responded that the money comes from the reserve account just for capital projects. It is a separate fund that is set up. Mr. Traficante further indicated that if the City Council continues that policy then the committee should go for broke. There are a number of projects that need to be addressed. It would address many of the schools that are in disrepair.

Mr. Zisseron advised the committee that they are discussing asset protection and also discussing capital projects; and they have to be very careful with this. Asset protection was a mandate from the Department of Education. The district had to keep projects within the \$50,000 range. There are a lot of projects or items that the district doesn't do because they don't have the money in an operating budget. They never get done through capital because the capital budget is used for \$150,000 to \$300,000 projects such as roofs, window walls, boilers, etc. The philosophy has been to use asset protection for paving playgrounds, repairing or replacing fences,

painting cafeterias in schools, etc. These are items the district never really gets to do because they never had that kind of money. Mr. Lupino asked what seats or carpets in the Western Hills auditorium would come under, and Mr. Zisseron responded that a rug could be replaced under asset protection. Auditorium seats cost approximately \$70 to \$100 each. For desks, there is a furniture account in the budget, and blackboards come out of asset protection.

Mr. Lupino indicated to Mr. Zisseron that he had asked him to look over the past several years the requests from principals that the committee never gets to see. These are items that go on their wish list at budget time year after year. He asked Mr. Zisseron what the total dollar amount would be if he were to take the repetitive items for the last five years, and Mr. Zisseron responded that it would be close to \$1 million. He further commented that a couple of years ago he totaled up their requests for furniture in the schools, and it was approximately \$397,000. Mr. Balducci added that it was \$384,000 which they put into the budget, and unfortunately it was the first line item to be cut during the deliberations. Mr. Zisseron commented that he understood the School Committee's problem, and the schools were hit in the newspaper a few times because it was reported that the schools are in deplorable condition. He indicated that he resented it because they are not deplorable. Esthetically they need work, and the district has never had the money for it. Part of it is asset protection, and part of it is capital. Asset protection is extremely important. From his point of view, he would like to manage to get \$200,000 a year under the asset protection. That could be a

makeup of a commitment from the School Committee that in the budget the line item is \$150,000 to \$160,000, and then a certain percent from energy savings to make up the difference to come up to \$200,000. They could then start paving parking lots and doing the things they should be doing. He further commented that as an example on tonight's agenda there are toilet partitions for Oak Lawn School. If one were to

Page 12 November 20, 2006

see them, they would be embarrassed what they look like because they are all rotted out. The same holds true at Stadium School and a number of other schools, but the cost is very high, and this comes under asset protection.

Mr. Archetto stated that he felt this was a good idea and was all in favor of putting money one side. He asked if this money would be fixed or flexible and if in case of an emergency if the school department could tap into it for other purposes. Mr. Zisseron responded that the asset protection is tapped every year for emergencies. Mr. Archetto noted that \$205,000 is set aside for asset protection and asked who decides which asset gets fixed first. Mr. Zisseron responded that when the asset protection dollar amount is presented to the School Committee during the budget process, administration lists for them what projects they would like to do. They are not prioritized.

Mr. Stycos asked why asset protection was picked to have a dedicated revenue. He noted that the school department has old textbooks and too many students in classes. He asked why Mr. Lupino was singling out asset protection. Mr. Lupino stated that it is a priority because it affects all of the other items Mr. Stycos mentioned. If they don't take care of the buildings, they will run the risk of having to close down the building. There were some near emergencies at Edgewood Highlands this past summer. The chiller was \$22,000, and the sidewalks that were caving in cost another \$42,000. Had those not been done, they would close down Edgewood Highlands for a period of months. It is paramount to the educational experience. There are no schools without buildings. With regard to old textbooks, in some circumstances that is not the only answer to finding the facts. More and more of the programs are being internet based. Some of them are disposable situations. Literature textbooks, although they get worn, the literature doesn't change. Textbooks are a concern, but he felt that buildings are the number one priority when there has to be a safe and environmentally secure situation. Everyone remembers what happened at Cranston East a few years back when it became a health issue.

Mrs. Greifer commented that there is also the element that it is called asset protection. If some of these repairs are neglected, they turn into worse problems and the costs keep compounding. If they can catch some of these things early when they are small, they can prevent them from becoming high cost items later on.

Mr. Traficante stated that regardless of the amount the committee places in this Resolution, it is not carved in stone and it can change. He suggested encouraging the City Council to continue their policy of giving the School Committee and the school department repair moneys out of that reserve account because it is advantageous for the school district. Mr. Lupino added that where he stated recommended it could very easily have stated mandated. That is how strongly he feels about this issue, but he knew it wouldn't fly.

Mr. Stycos stated that Mr. Traficante is on the right course that the committee should think about a resolution that would encourage the City Council to give the district some capital funds. He could not support this Resolution because a budget is the setting of priorities. While

Page 13 November 20, 2006

Mr. Lupino's priority might be for buildings, other people have different priorities; and they change from year to year. The committee needs to address problems in their order of importance and have as much flexibility in doing that as they can. He would not support this Resolution.

Mr. Lupino stated that he would accept .2% as the recommended amount. Mr. Lupino stated that the fifth paragraph would state: Be it

RESOLVED that the committee establish a recommended baseline in the “asset protection” account in the amount of .2% of the adopted school budget.

The last paragraph would state: **Be it further RESOLVED** that the committee recommend to Administration that 25% of the realized energy savings...

Mr. Lupino noted that the committee went with an energy education savings program that discussed energy education but did not allow for replacement of thermostats, insulation where needed, or anything of that nature. For the program to continue to realize savings, the district has to go into hardware.

Ms. Iannazzi stated that she would not be supporting this Resolution for the same reasons that Mr. Stycos indicated. She wanted this to be done procedurally correct. If Mr. Lupino is offering it as an amendment, it needed to be moved and seconded.

Mr. Lupino stated that he was not offering it as an amendment; he was offering the figure that was left blank for discussion.

Mr. Lupino turned the chair over to Ms. Iannazzi.

Mr. Lupino moved to amend this Resolution as follows: adding 25% of the realized energy savings in the fourth paragraph.

Mrs. Greifer seconded the motion.

Mr. Stycos asked if the committee had already budgeted \$200,000 or \$300,000 savings in the current budget which is not balanced. Mr. Balducci responded that he was correct. They removed \$300,000 in coming up with a final \$124 million budget. Using the projections as put forth by the consultant company they are working with, over a seven-year period he believed they are projecting that this district will save \$3.5 million in all energy usage. Mr. Stycos stated that 25% of that amount would automatically put the district in a \$75,000 hole for the rest of the budget starting next year and \$75,000 for this year. Mr. Lupino explained that this would be the amount that would be added to the base line to increase the amount needed in asset protection.

Page 14 November 20, 2006

Mr. Archetto stated that using this year's figures and the .2% the committee would be voting on putting aside \$205,000 for asset protection. Mr. Balducci responded that the correct figure would be \$250,000.

Mr. Lupino stated that at this point the committee was discussing the 25% of the realized energy savings be added to the base line amount

in this account in subsequent years to assure that the physical needs of our buildings are being addressed with proper funding.

Mr. Archetto asked that the \$75,000 that the district receives from the energy education did it subtract from the \$250,000 or does it add to it.

He asked if the total amount would be \$325,000 or \$175,000. Ms. Iannazzi responded that she believed it was in addition to, but she did not sponsor the resolution.

Mr. Lupino read the last paragraph of the resolution as follows: “Be it further RESOLVED that the Committee recommend to Administration that 25% of the realized energy savings be added to the base amount in this account in subsequent years to assure that the physical needs of our buildings are being addressed with proper funding.”

Mr. Traficante stated that he was looking at this Resolution as a recommendation or a suggestion. Nothing is carved in stone; the committee can put any percentage they want in this Resolution but come the next budgetary season, if the committee finds themselves in a situation where they need more teachers or teacher aides which is a greater priority, then this Resolution bites the dust. Mr. Lupino responded that the last thing he wanted to burden this committee with is a self-imposed, unfunded mandate.

This amendment failed with a tie vote: Mrs. Greifer, Mr. Lupino, and Mr. Traficante in favor; Mr. Archetto, Ms. Iannazzi, and Mr. Stycos

opposed.

Mr. Traficante moved to amend the Resolution as follows: The Superintendent and the Chairman of the School Committee send correspondence to the Cranston City Council encouraging them to follow the same procedures they have utilized in the past to fund the asset protection account via the reserve account that the City has established during the last budgetary cycles.

Mr. Lupino seconded the motion.

Mr. Stycos asked if this amendment was replacing something in the Resolution. Mr. Traficante stated that he was adding to the Resolution. Mr. Stycos said that it was what they saw in front of them plus what Mr. Traficante said.

This Amendment was adopted unanimously.

Mr. Lupino moved to amend his original motion of 25% to 20%.

Page 15 November 20, 2006

Mrs. Greifer seconded the motion.

Mr. Traficante reiterated his statement that regardless of what percentage the committee approves, whether it be 1% or 25% or

100%, it is not a binding situation. It is not going to commit them; it is just a suggestion and a recommendation to the Superintendent.

Mr. Lupino gave the example that Mr. Traficante had an unfortunate circumstance during the flooding. Had he not addressed the issue and had not made some improvements in that situation and it happened again, he asked Mr. Traficante if his insurance company would have covered him. Mr. Traficante responded that his insurance company did not cover him. Mr. Lupino added that Mr. Traficante made improvements so that hopefully it would not happen again.

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

Mr. Lupino asked what the committee members in the negative were objecting to. Mr. Archetto stated that he would be amenable to 10%. Mr. Lupino reiterated Mr. Traficante's comment that it is a recommended amount. The committee is trying to establish that this is a crucial piece of what is done in Cranston schools.

Mr. Lupino turned the Chair over to Ms. Iannazzi.

Mr. Lupino moved to amend that the amount be 15% of the realized energy savings be added to the base amount...

Mrs. Greifer seconded the motion.

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

This Resolution as amended was adopted with Mr. Archetto, Mrs. Greifer, Mr. Lupino, and Mr. Traficante in favor; Ms. Iannazzi and Mr. Stycos opposed.

This Resolution now reads:

SPONSORED BY MR. LUPINO AND MRS. GREIFER

NO. 06-11-1 – Whereas, the Cranston School Committee recognizes its duty to provide to the students of Cranston, safe and environmentally safe buildings and grounds, and

Whereas, the Committee recently entered into an energy savings contract to realize energy savings to the district, and

Page 16 November 20, 2006

Whereas, in years past the Committee has been forced into reducing funds in the “asset protection” account due to budgetary constraints, and

Whereas, the Committee realizes that this reduction may negatively impact the students and staff,

Be it RESOLVED that the Committee establish a recommended baseline percent in the “asset protection” account of .2% of the adopted school budget amount, and

Be it further RESOLVED that the Committee recommend to Administration that 15% of the realized energy savings be added to the base amount in this account in subsequent years to assure that the physical needs of our buildings are being addressed with proper funding, and

Be it further RESOLVED that the Superintendent and the Chairman of the School Committee send correspondence to the Cranston City Council encouraging them to follow the same procedures they have utilized in the past to fund the asset protection account via the reserve account that the City has established during the last budgetary cycles.

SPONSORED BY MRS. GREIFER AND MR. STYCOS

NO. 06-11-2 – Whereas, in recognition of its record of promoting healthy foods in its schools, the Cranston Public Schools recently

received the Rhode Island Action for Healthy Kids' Award of Honor from The Rhode Island Healthy Schools Coalition, and

Whereas, Vinny Confreda and Confreda Farms have been partners in the Cranston Public Schools healthy foods endeavors, providing farm fresh corn to the School Lunch Program for the last three years,

Be it RESOLVED that the Cranston School Committee commend Vinny Confreda and Confreda Farms for their generous commitment to the students of the Cranston Public Schools, and

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

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

Mr. Stycos stated that this Resolution was Mrs. Greifer's idea, and he thought it was a good idea. This Resolution is to recognize Vinny Confreda and Confreda Farms for their cooperation in getting fresh corn into the school lunch program. Several years ago they looked into the possibility of buying the corn, and it did not work financially. Mr. Confreda then agreed to allow volunteers to husk the corn which they have done for the past three years. Mrs.

Greifer has been there all three years. In addition, Mr. Confreda donated the corn to the public schools so this is recognizing his efforts. Mr. Confreda is very easy to work with and is an asset to have in this City.

Mrs. Greifer mentioned that even though this Resolution was her idea the whole idea of corn in the school lunch program was Mr. Stycos's idea; and he was the driving force behind it.

Mr. Confreda was not present.

This Resolution was adopted unanimously.

Mr. Lupino recognized School Committee member-elect Donna Tocco-Greenaway from Ward 4 who was present at this meeting. He also recognized several newly hired personnel.

ADMINISTRATION

PERSONNEL

NO. 06-11-3 - RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the appointment of Assistant Principal, Cranston High School West, be approved.

Moved by Mr. Traficante and seconded by Mr. Archetto that this

Resolution be adopted.

Mr. Scherza stated that it gave him great pleasure to seek the committee's advice and consent on the appointment of Ms. Jacqueline Striano to the position of Assistant Principal at Cranston High School West. Ms. Striano is currently Director of the Community Learning Program of the Greenwich, Connecticut public schools. She has been a director of student activities, a summer school assistant principal, a social studies teacher and mentor, and has worked in their alternative learning program. She has a doctorate in education from California Coast University, a Masters in Secondary Administration from Sacred Heart University in Connecticut, a Masters in History from Western Connecticut State University, and a Bachelors Degree in History Education from Boston University. Ms. Striano distinguished herself through the application and screening process, and she will be a welcome addition to the staff.

This Resolution was adopted unanimously.

GRANTS

NO. 06-11-14 - RESOLVED, that the Cranston Public Schools submit the following grants

To Target Stores:

**Cranston High School East Science Classes (2) Field Trips to
Boston Museum of Science \$1,000.00**

**Cranston Area Career & Technical Center Graphic
Communications Program Field Trip \$1,000.00**

**Cranston Area Career & Technical Center Marketing
Program Field Trip \$1,000.00**

**Cranston Area Career & Technical Center Early Childhood
Program and Preschool – Learning to Make a Difference Field
Trip \$1,000.00**

**Cranston High School East Band Program Competition
Trips \$1,000.00**

To the Rhode Island State Legislature

Oak Lawn School \$ 500.00

Glen Hills School \$1,000.00

Western Hills Middle School \$2,500.00

Woodridge School \$1,500.00

Cranston High School East Band \$ 500.00

To Best Buy Stores

Stone Hill School – “No Child Left Bored” \$2,500.00

**Cranston High School West – Industrial Technology
Department \$2,495.00**

To the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics

All Cranston Public Schools’ Elementary Schools \$ 4,000.00

To the Doug Flutie, Jr. Foundation for Autism

**Cranston Public Schools’ Early Childhood Center and \$19,987.00
all elementary schools servicing students diagnosed on
the Autism Spectrum**

To Teaching Tolerance

Stone Hill School – “Family Under One Sky” \$ 2,500.00

To Hamburger Helper

**Cranston High School West – Building Visual
Perspectives \$10,000.00**

**Cranston High School West – Beautifying Meshanticut
Lake \$15,000.00**

Park View Middle School – Porta-Tech \$15,000.00

**Cranston Area Career & Technical Center – School-to-
Career Transport \$15,000.00**

**Cranston Early Childhood Center – Handicapable \$15,000.00
Playground for Children with Autism**

**Cranston High School East Band Uniforms – Oh, I Want \$15,000.00
To Be in That Number**

**Cranston High School West – Cabot Civic/Community \$11,260.21
To CVS Trust for Students with Disabilities
Special Education Parents Advisory Board \$ 5,000.00**

Early Childhood Center Playground \$ 5,000.00

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

**Mr. Stycos referred to the grants proposed for beautifying
Meshanticut Lake and asked where they came from and what they
plan to do there. Mrs. Campbell responded that the idea came from**

getting teachers involved in writing grants and supporting them to be able to write grants to obtain funds for projects that they would like to do but there aren't funds in the budget for them to do particular things. The district is moving forward with secondary reform, and at each of the high schools, they have undergone a process whereby they have school wide expectations, and they are aligned with the grade span expectations, etc. One of the school wide expectations addresses a student's civic responsibility and community responsibility. In her discussions with Mrs. Prestage, she thought it would be wonderful to have the area in and around Meshanticut Lake cleaned up so that young families and people would be able to enjoy the beauty of the lake and feel safe around the lake. There would be places for them to be able to picnic and enjoy the beauty. The grant involves planting some shrubbery, flowering bushes, and putting up some benches and picnic tables so that people could enjoy the beauty of the lake and at the same time it would be done under the supervision of a social studies teacher whereby these students would be able to get their service actually documented. It would go toward their school wide expectation No. 6 which is their community service expectation which would then go into their proficiency based portfolio which is a requirement. It is a service to one's community with a purpose.

Mr. Stycos commented that there are two grants. He asked if it was the same or trying the same thing twice. Mrs. Campbell responded that the Hamburger Grant for \$15,000 provides the money for soil,

equipment, saws, planting equipment, bushes, picnic tables, etc. Mr.

Page 20 November 20, 2006

Stycos referred to the grant for \$11,000, and Mrs. Campbell indicated that it is the Cabot Civic Community Grant. It is somewhat of a replication of the one to Hamburger Helper, but it is not the same grant. They both have the same purpose to get the students involved in beautifying the lake.

Mr. Stycos suggested that if the district is awarded either grant he would hope that the school would work closely with people who know about bushes. He has been a part of a number of these projects, and if the wrong thing is planted in the wrong place, it can die. In addition, it can cause environmental harm by planting the wrong thing. Mrs. Campbell stated that if the grant is awarded, they would go through a consultation with the city. There are certain things they would need to obtain as far as going in the area. Mr. Lupino added that Meshanticut Lake is a state park. Mr. Archetto commented that DEM would have to be contacted.

Mr. Stycos referred to the grant for the Cranston East band uniforms. He asked why there weren't uniforms for Cranston West as well. He asked how it was determined that they would choose one high school. Mrs. Campbell stated that she had a conversation with Mr.

Colozzi who is the program supervisor for music. These grants are put out via the internet to all of the department chairs, program supervisors, and building level principals for them to be able to share them with their staff. Someone will contact her indicating they are interested in applying for a particular grant and ask for her help in writing the grant. This is the beginning of attempting to build capacity for the school system to obtain funds to be able to do some of the things that need to be done. In her conversations with Mr. Colozzi, he was very fortunate to be able to get some band uniforms for Cranston East on E-bay. Bands are very big in Texas, and he explained to her that he was able to get almost brand new uniforms very inexpensively. Mr. Lupino indicated that they cost \$1,200, and it cost more to put emblems on the uniforms than he paid for them. Mrs. Campbell further explained that this would be a base line grant that if it was determined that Cranston West was in more need of band uniforms than East, they would be able to modify the grant and put it forward for Cranston West. Each of the grants that went forward to Hamburger Helper are also referred to as Hometown Grants. In a Hometown Grant there has to be a community connection. The community connection for the band is all the performing they do such as marching in parades, etc.

Mr. Traficante remarked that the last time the committee spoke with Mr. Colozzi at a work session the band uniforms at Cranston West were approximately twenty years old but yet the East band uniforms were replaced most recently. He also asked why the twenty year old

uniform wasn't addressed as a priority prior to Cranston East going out for a grant. Mrs. Campbell responded that it is not a matter of determining who they would prefer to give the grant to. At this particular point in time, it is the person or persons who are coming forward and expressing an interest in writing the grant. Consequently, if she wanted to apply for a \$500,000 grant that came out through the Grants Office and she called Mr. Laliberte and said that they want to go for it, they would go for it. They are trying to build capacity; it is not a matter of East over West; it is a matter of who came forward at that particular time.

Page 21 November 20, 2006

Mr. Traficante asked if the Cranston West band director responded at all, and Mrs. Campbell responded that this grant had to be in by September 15th or October 15th. At that point in time, an interest had not been expressed from Cranston West. Mr. Traficante commented that with regard to the beautification of the lake, it is DEM property. If the district receives the grant, Mrs. Campbell should approach DEM about getting some matching funds from the state since it is their property.

Mr. Archetto noted that he was employed by DEM for twelve years in many different capacities. One cannot tamper with a state park unless they submit a plan and the plan gets approved. He said he

was reluctant to approve this grant until the district sets up a conduit between the state and Mrs. Prestage. Mr. Lupino explained that the committee is not approving the grant but rather that someone is going to apply for this grant. The district has to apply by a certain date or they lose the grant. The committee is allowing Cranston Public Schools to submit these grants. Anything they get is found money. Mrs. Campbell remarked that one of the beauties of the Hometown Helper Grants is the fact that they are awarded on the 15th of every month, and if the district is not considered in one month, they will be rolled over into the next month up until May 2007. Mr. Archetto stated that there is still time. Mrs. Campbell stated that she will make sure that the district follows the appropriate process to obtain whatever permits and whatever the process is. This will also be a part of the students' learning ability to see how government and the community work together in the process that one needs to go through to make things happen. They want it to be a learning experience for the students.

Mr. Scherza indicated to the committee that they very seriously consider the fact that even if one of these grants were to be awarded, the district couldn't move forward with expenditure or even accepting it until they had the appropriate approval. It is very important that in the past the district didn't have this type of incentive to teachers, administrators and members of the school community to go out and do these things. He hoped that the committee would support the initiative that these people are taking to go forward to procure

resources for the school department and the community and not in any way making them feel they will be criticized for trying. Since Mrs. Campbell has been doing this, the district has applied for grants totaling seven figures or more just this year already. He hoped the committee would encourage these grants and at the same time be sure the district has the appropriate approvals before moving forward with an expenditure.

Mrs. Greifer stated that on this Resolution alone the total of grants is \$148,742.21; this is a sizable amount of money to hope to get it into the system from some place other than the taxpayers' pockets.

Mrs. Campbell stated that the district can't get the money unless they apply for it. They will continue in this particular venue and hopefully they will be successful on some and will learn from those they are not successful on.

Page 22 November 20, 2006

Mr. Traficante asked who applied for the Beautification Grant, and Mrs. Campbell remarked that Mrs. Beverly Prestage applied. She is the Program Supervisor for Social Studies. Mr. Traficante indicated that Mrs. Prestage should write a letter now indicating that she is applying for a grant for the beautification of Meshanticut Lake because DEM does put money one side for matching funds for things

such as this. She should approach them now stating that the district is applying for grants to beautify Meshanticut Lake. She would like to sit down in a meeting to discuss matching funds or some donation on their part.

This Resolution was adopted unanimously.

BUSINESS

NO. 06-11-15 - RESOLVED, that the First Budget Revision be approved as recommended by the Superintendent.

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

Mr. Stycos stated that when the committee passed this budget a majority voted to take \$1.2 million out of the health care account in order to balance the budget. He asked if the \$1.2 million was at all addressed in this revision. In response, Mr. Balducci said that it was not. He referred to the Executive Summary on page 2. No. 6 under the expenditures does make a small adjustment to benefits removing approximately \$17,000 from that area. That was to align the literacy component within this budget. As far as the personnel that the district pays for using state literacy dollars, he needed to make a small adjustment in that area. When it says benefits, that is the

reason for the adjustment there. The \$1.2 million was not addressed in this budget revision. Mr. Stycos commented that there is an increase of \$83,000 in revenue in this budget and \$83,000 more in expenses. Mr. Balducci said that he was correct. Two are category areas that were not entirely spent last year. One is literacy, and they are allowed to carry forward any unspent monies as part of the literacy appropriation which was approximately \$9,300. Article 18 is another category within the state aid which are categories districts get from the State of Rhode Island. Any unspent money by the individual schools because a certain percentage of Article 18 is school based spending, and there was approximately \$55,000 that was not spent last year. The district is allowed to carry over those dollars from one year to the next. The other revenue category is summer school which is this past summer. Since that program has been completed, from the amount of money budgeted, the district took in an additional \$19,000 above what was budgeted. Those three line items add up to the \$83,000. There was no increase in state aid and no increase in any of the other major categories right now.

Mr. Stycos asked if administration has a plan for this \$1.2 million problem, and Mr. Balducci responded that he believed that administration was given some directive for the Superintendent to report to the committee at its January meeting. He believed administration

would be addressing that situation then. He added that he deals with this on a weekly basis. Through the month of October, if he looks at actual to actual, health and dental expenditures last year as compared to this year were running about \$75,000 to the good. The \$1.2 million is now \$1,125,000. Mr. Stycos stated that he hoped that as the committee saw the budget revisions the \$1.2 million would be chipped away through various savings that the administration had been able to ring from here and there, but he didn't see it at all in this document. Mr. Balducci stated that this will be his goal in budget revisions 2, 3, and 4 so they do balance the year. He can't promise that this will happen before the end of this fiscal year.

Mr. Stycos referred to page 73 of the budget revision where there is a \$1 million increase in teacher retirements. Mr. Balducci indicated that this is the account he uses to recognize the savings from teacher retirements plus the re-organization of the personnel at Horton School. One of the other areas was the compacting of classes at both East and West. This is the net result and is an accounting entry on his part. It is not that he is adding \$1 million to the budget. He is realigning the budget in recognizing those savings.

Mr. Stycos stated that he hoped that when administration does this year's budget that when it says teacher retirements it is the money in that account that should represent teacher retirements and not teacher retirement plus or minus the savings at Norwood Avenue

School and the compacting. If there needs to be a separate line item that says elimination of high school teachers that is the way it should be done. This is almost like needing a key to remember what is in what account, and it should be simpler than that.

Mr. Stycos stated that he would not be voting for this budget revision because it still contained the \$1.2 million hole which several committee members objected to at the time. He cannot support the budget until it is addressed.

This Resolution was adopted with Mr. Stycos opposed.

NO. 06-11-16 - RESOLVED, that the following purchases be approved:

Sousaphones for Cranston West in the amount of \$5,120.00

Number of bids issued 13

Number of bids received 5

Bathroom Partitions in the amount of \$14,200.00

Number of bids issued 6

Number of bids received 3

Fencing for Stone Hill in the amount of \$4,750.00

Number of bids issued 12

Number of bids received 4

2 (two) Box Trucks in the amount of \$49,482

Number of bids issued 11

Number of bids received 5

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

Mr. Stycos referred to the fencing for Stone Hill School and asked someone to explain it. Mr. Scherza indicated that there is an area in the back of the school that is a wooded area where there are a lot of trees, brush and shrubs. They have had incidents where fox and other nocturnal animals have been seen during the day which was cause for alarm. They have found a number of items back there including syringes, broken bottles, and condoms. It is an unsafe area for the students, and they want to make sure the area is secured. Mr. Stycos asked Mr. Scherza that given the budget situation if he felt it was a priority to spend almost \$5,000. In response, Mr. Scherza said that this would be one of the types of things that would come under asset protection. This would probably come from the monies

appropriated by the City for that purpose. The assets are not the assets of the school department, but the buildings and property are assets of the City. That is one of the things asset protection money was appropriated for. Mr. Stycos said that he never heard of this as an issue, and he questioned given the discussion of the need for asset protection whether a fence is the top priority, not that it isn't needed, but that it is a priority. Mr. Scherza added that it is a matter of opinion. There are a lot of small asset protection items such as small paving areas, repairs, small amounts of fencing that are safety situations; and nothing is more paramount for their consideration for students than their well being. Mr. Stycos asked if it was a priority, and Mr. Zisseron responded that it is one of the priorities. He further commented that administration lives with a lot of things every day, and at times they have to move forward; and the School Committee has to have some kind of confidence in their judgment as to what is needed in the schools. It is an asset protection, the money is there, and it is something that has to be done. Quite frankly, they will be coming forward with a couple of other schools like this one.

Mr. Stycos asked Mr. Zisseron that of all the district's asset protection needs this was the priority, and Mr. Zisseron responded that this is just one of the district's priorities. He was not going to say that this was the top priority because he could give a long list of top priorities. Mr. Stycos asked why this item was being requested, and Mr. Zisseron responded that they have had a lot of problems at this school; and they are a lot more than he has had at other schools.

Mr. Lupino indicated that he is very familiar with the area, and this area has always been wooded since the school was built. The city took over some of the parcel in the back of the school, and it has compounded the problem. There is an inlet that was never there twenty years ago, and it becomes a place of congregation for kids after hours. He was unaware that people were doing drugs there, but they found syringes. There is an other access from the other street through a driveway. He doesn't know if it is ever patrolled, but he could understand that there would be some contraband where they would want to make a delineation between the students out to recess and the rest of the property. Mr. Zisseron noted that the piece of land behind the school is school department/city owned. At some point, it is the school department's land and then turns into city land. It goes down into a playground area, and that is the reason for so much vandalism at Stone Hill. This past summer, with the cooperation of the Public Works Department, they were able to go back three feet from the woods from their property back into the woods as a buffer zone to define it more so that they could put up a fence and perhaps stop what is going on there.

Mr. Traficante explained that there are several acres of property

behind the school, and Senator D'Amico was able to obtain federal and state funds to build a nature walk back there. Within one year it was totally destroyed, and that property has been lying vacant ever since. When he was Mayor, he approached the neighbors to sell the property for housing; and the neighbors didn't want to see the city develop that property. Therefore, it remained as a wooded area because of their input. It has turned into an area that is embarrassing as to what occurs back there. It is a priority because the district tries to protect those children who belong to that particular playground. Mr. Zisseron noted that Glen Hills School has the same problem and told the committee that they would be seeing a resolution for this school in the near future.

This Resolution was adopted with Mr. Stycos opposed.

XIV. New Business

There was no new business to discuss.

XV. Public Hearing on Non-agenda Items

There were no speakers on non-agenda items.

XVI. Announcement of Future Meetings

Mr. Lupino noted that the January 8, 2007 originally scheduled

meeting of the School Committee has been changed to Tuesday, January 9, 2007. At this meeting, the Superintendent will present his State of the Schools Address. To accommodate the City Council members who wish to attend and not to conflict with their sub-committee meetings which are held on Mondays, the School Committee is changing the date of their meeting to

Page 26 November 20, 2006

January 9th. The next meeting will be a work session on December 6th. This meeting date was changed from December 13th in order to prepare for the City Council Omnibus meeting being held on December 12th at a time to be announced. This is a state mandated meeting.

XVII. Adjournment

Moved by Mrs. Greifer, seconded by Mr. Archetto and unanimously carried that the meeting be adjourned.

There being no further business to come before the meeting, it was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Anthony J. Lupino

Clerk