

SPECIAL MEETING

CRANSTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE

WILLIAM A. BRIGGS BUILDING (REED CONFERENCE ROOM)

845 PARK AVENUE

FRIDAY, MAY 11, 2007

PUBLIC SESSION: 5:00 P.M.

MINUTES

A special meeting of the Cranston School Committee was held on the evening of the above date at the William A. Briggs Building with the following members present: Mr. Archetto, Mrs. Greifer, Ms. Iannazzi, Mr. Lombardi, Mr. Stycos, Mrs. Tocco-Greenaway, and Mr. Traficante. Also present were Mr. Scherza, Mr. Nero, Mr. Balducci, and Mr. Votto.

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m.

The roll was called.

I. Public Hearing

a. Students (Agenda Item)

b. Members of the Public (Agenda Matters Only)

There were no students who wished to speak on the agenda item. No

members of the public wished to speak on the agenda item.

II. Consent Calendar / Consent Agenda

NO. 07-5-1 – RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, pursuant to R.I. Gen Laws 16-2-3, the Cranston School Committee petition the Rhode Island Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education and the Rhode Island Commissioner of Education to allow the School Committee to reduce the number of school days for the students at Cranston High School East from 180 to 178 as a result of the school closure on May 3, 2007 and May 4, 2007 (and additionally for May 2, 2007 if the partial day of attendance does not qualify for a full school day under the regulations of the Department of Education). Said request for reduction in school days is brought as a result of the school closure concerning a chemical contamination discovered at the school. The chemical contamination was a potential health threat which could have endangered the health of children and the physical well being of the community.

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

Mr. Scherza stated that this Resolution amounts to a change in calendar that would give a dispensation for those students at Cranston High School East who missed two days of school because of a recent mercury spill. Counsel has advised school administration that this request had to be done by today in order for those students not to make up those two days of school.

Mr. Stycos asked for an explanation as to what happened with the employees in getting paid and not getting paid. In response, Mr. Votto stated that the custodians and food service personnel were called in to work because their contracts permit it. They were dispersed throughout the school system to assist other personnel. The secretaries in their contract have a provision that if the Superintendent closes down schools for any particular reason, unless the time is made up, they are paid for their time and don't have to make up the time. State statute for teachers is pretty clear. If the Commissioner or the Board of Regents waives the two days, the district cannot deduct or dock the teachers for the time not made up. The administrative team at Cranston East was assigned to the administration building. They were working the phones and working on the transition back into school. The teacher assistants and the technical assistants fall under the teacher provisions of the statute.

Mr. Stycos asked if there was any plan to survey the building during the summer months to determine if there are any other barometers there. Mr. Scherza noted that he placed information in this week's

update to the School Committee that addresses this question. Administration has already begun to find out this information. They are looking not only in the science rooms but also in every room and in every storage area. Mr. Votto further explained that Mr. Nero sent a memo to all principals, assistant principals, directors, and citywide coordinators that disciplinary action would be taken if anything turns up after. Mr. Nero noted that administration has asked the science teachers to do professional development with all teachers in the buildings to be on the watch for certain things.

This Resolution was adopted unanimously.

Mr. Stycos asked when the committee would be discussing the budget again. In response to Mr. Stycos's request, a special meeting has been set for Thursday, May 31st, at Western Hills Middle School. Executive Session will begin at 5:30 p.m. with the public meeting being held immediately following Executive Session.

III. Adjournment

Moved by Mrs. Greifer, seconded by Mrs. Tocco-Greenaway and unanimously carried that the meeting be adjourned.

There being no further business to come before the meeting, it was adjourned at 5:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrea M. Iannazzi

Clerk