

**CRANSTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

**SPECIAL MEETING**

**WEDNESDAY, JUNE 8, 2011**

**HOPE HIGHLANDS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

**300 HOPE ROAD**

**EXECUTIVE SESSION: 5:00 P.M.**

**PUBLIC SESSION IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**MINUTES**

**A special meeting of the School Committee was held on the evening of the above date in the teachers lounge at Hope Highlands Elementary School, with the following members present: Ms. Iannazzi, Mr. Lombardi, Mrs. Ruggieri, Mr. Bloom, Mrs. McFarland, Mrs. Culhane and Mr. Traficante. Mr. Nero, Dr. Lundsten, Mr. Votto, Mr. Balducci, Mr. Dillon, Mrs. Coogan, Mrs. Nota-Masse and Attorney Cascione were also present.**

**The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. It was moved by Mr. Lombardi and seconded by Mrs. Ruggieri and unanimously carried that the members adjourn to Executive Session Pursuant to RI State Laws PL 42-46-5(a)(1) Personnel; PL 42-46-5(a)(2) Collective Bargaining and Litigation (Contract Negotiations' Update – Bus Drivers / Trades People/Mechanics, Custodians); (Teacher Negotiations; Teacher Assistants/Technical Assistants/Bus Aides Negotiations), (Secretary Negotiations); (Teacher Memorandum of**

**Agreement); (Consideration of litigation options and legal options regarding status of aid to education appropriation and legal advice relating to the same).**

**Call to Order – Public Session**

**The Pledge of Allegiance was conducted.**

**Roll Call – A quorum was present.**

**No Votes were taken during Executive Session.**

**Executive Session Minutes Sealed – June 8, 2011**

**Public Hearing**

**a. Students (agenda/non-agenda matters)**

**There were none.**

**b. Members of the Public (agenda matters only)**

**Lizbeth Larkin – CTA President and Teacher at Park View Middle School**

**I wanted to speak to the agenda item; I noticed that there are a lot of renewal of contracts of Administrators in the District and I just wanted to stand in support of them. Many of them have come out of our ranks; they work very hard; they work long, diligent hours and**

they have had constant cost-shares but not raises in five (5) years. I know that the past president, Frank Flynn, always recognized them and their hard work and also all the initiatives that they help to put forth when we have such little resources and they seem to always be asked more and more to do with reduced staff. I just want to ask you to continue to support them, going forward, because we are going to need it and especially implementing the new teacher evaluation; they are going to be asked to do even more. I look forward to collaborating with them.

**Annette Bourne – 51 Community Drive**

I just wanted to make a few remarks tonight regarding the agenda item on the resolution wrapping up my thoughts from last weeks' public hearing. I also wanted to start out by thanking Stephanie Culhane who did visit Blackstone Prep and Janice and anybody else who goes anywhere. Mrs. Bourne spoke on the proposed Mayoral Academy and Mrs. Culhane who has been an excellent liaison to the CEAB which is an important group throughout the district. I also want to thank Mr. Nero for pulling together the parent involvement group earlier this year. Mrs. Bourne also spoke on how parents play a more critical role in a child's school, for example the Bullying issue.

She spoke on how grateful she is in the collaboration between the district and the CTA; proud of the recognition given to them by the Department of Education. She spoke on the Veasy Street School in Providence. Mrs. Bourne spoke on a Professor who is on the Town Council in Richmond who alluded to some research in the South

**Kingstown School District and the two Charter Schools they have. Our School Committee may want to reach out to that school committee.**

**Chairwoman Iannazzi:**

**I just want to say that there is no done deal. The Board of Regents is meeting on June 16th and any parent that wishes to send them either testimony via e-mail or in person is capable of doing so.**

**Superintendent Nero:**

**We actually have been going through the documents from Cumberland and the significant impact that the Charter School has had on their budget and their costs including a lot of other areas of transportation, etc. The jury is still out on what's going to happen regarding the LEA when it comes to Special Education but it has had a significant impact on the budget there. Please remember if we fully stock this school with Cranston kids (900) that's a \$12 million hit to our budget every single year. I'm not going to speak on that because what I was going to speak to you on tonight was, I went to Veasey St. School. That school closed for a number of years; in fact the Superintendent's grandchildren from Providence go to that school. Myself, Ray and a couple of other people went with Sodexo; they do a fully implemented breakfast program in the classroom that we're going to try to begin this year in three or four of our schools. They went from 30% participation in their lunch program to 80%. What was more astounding than that, they could see the percentage of students**

who went to the nurse's office decline dramatically because they had a full belly breakfast every single day. Their test scores shot up, also. The principal there; if we ever get anyone to retire in our district, I'm going to be the first one to run over to steal her out of there because she is absolutely phenomenal.

Tonight I just want to say that during the Commissioner's State of Education address, Park View was singled out as one of five schools for their extraordinary improvement above and beyond their AYP. We have scholars, we just don't call them scholars; we call them kids and students but they're the same thing. Bottom line is that the job that the administration, Mike and Joe, and the teachers are on board there. She also mentioned Cranston for having Regents Commended Schools; something that the Mayor denied in his piece.

**Lizbeth Larkin:**

I wasn't going to speak to the Mayoral Academy. We've been speaking about it everywhere we can possibly speak about it. We have been diligently working against this and it is not about a union situation. It is about the ability to provide a really good public education for people; for students; for the future of Cranston. Mrs. Larkin spoke on the proposed Charter School at this time noting that they are about big business not a school. People are misconstrued on why the big fight and that the money goes there and it is not totally non-profit. Many of the schools are under this "no excuses". Mrs. Larkin went on to explain this phrase. She also noted that this is

**a complete conspiracy that has been hatched a long time ago.**

**Proposed Consent Agenda is as follows:**

**11-6-3 through 11-6-7, (11-6-8 has been withdrawn by the Administration), 11-6-9 through 11-6-30:**

**NO. 11-6-03 - RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, said certified administrator be renewed as follows:**

**Cheryl Anderson, Principal**

**Eden Park Elementary School**

**Contract Effective Date: July 1, 2011**

**See Attached Financial Impact Analysis**

**NO. 11-6-04 - RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, said certified administrator be renewed as follows:**

**Thomas Barbieri, Principal**

**Hugh B. Bain Middle School**

**Contract Effective Date: July 1, 2011**

**See Attached Financial Impact Analysis**

**NO. 11-6-05 - RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, said certified administrator be renewed as follows:**

**Susan Bryan, Principal**

**Stadium Elementary School**

**Contract Effective Date: July 1, 2011**

**See Attached Financial Impact Analysis**

**NO. 11-6-06 - RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, said certified administrator be renewed as follows:**

**Patricia Caporelli, Principal**

**George Peters Elementary School**

**Contract Effective Date: July 1, 2011**

**See Attached Financial Impact Analysis**

**NO. 11-6-07 - RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, said certified administrator be renewed as follows:**

**MaryAnn Casale, Principal**

**Garden City Elementary School**

**Contract Effective Date: July 1, 2011**

**See Attached Financial Impact Analysis**

**NO. 11-6-09 - RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, said certified administrator be renewed as follows:**

**Suzanne Coutu, Assistant Principal/Director**

**Cranston Area Career & Technical Center**

**Contract Effective Date: July 1, 2011**

**See Attached Financial Impact Analysis**

**NO. 11-6-10 - RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, said certified administrator be renewed as follows:**

**Don Cowart, Principal**

**Hope Highlands Elementary School**

**Contract Effective Date: July 1, 2011**

**See Attached Financial Impact Analysis**

**NO. 11-6-11 - RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, said certified administrator be renewed as follows:**

**Michael Crudale, Assistant Principal**

**Park View Middle School**

**Contract Effective Date: July 1, 2011**

**See Attached Financial Impact Analysis**

**NO. 11-6-12 - RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, said certified administrator be renewed as follows:**

**Christopher D'Ambrosio, Assistant Principal**

**Cranston High School East**

**Contract Effective Date: July 1, 2011**

**See Attached Financial Impact Analysis**

**NO. 11-6-13 - RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, said certified administrator be renewed as follows:**

**John DeCristofaro, Principal**

**Glen Hills Elementary School**

**Contract Effective Date: July 1, 2011**

**See Attached Financial Impact Analysis**

**NO. 11-6-14 - RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, said certified administrator be renewed as follows:**

**Paul DePalma, Assistant Principal  
Cranston High School West  
Contract Effective Date: July 1, 2011  
See Attached Financial Impact Analysis**

**NO. 11-6-15 - RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, said certified administrator be renewed as follows:**

**Frank DeVall, Assistant Principal  
Cranston High School West  
Contract Effective Date: July 1, 2011  
See Attached Financial Impact Analysis**

**NO. 11-6-16 - RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, said certified administrator be renewed as follows:**

**Marlene Gamba, Principal  
Edgewood Highland Elementary School  
Contract Effective Date: July 1, 2011  
See Attached Financial Impact Analysis**

**NO. 11-6-17 - RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, said certified administrator be renewed as follows:**

**Paul Heatherton, Principal  
Chester Barrows Elementary School  
Contract Effective Date: July 1, 2011  
See Attached Financial Impact Analysis**

**NO. 11-6-18 - RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, said certified administrator be renewed as follows:**

**Charlotte Josephs, Principal**

**Woodridge Elementary School**

**Contract Effective Date: July 1, 2011**

**See Attached Financial Impact Analysis**

**NO. 11-6-19 - RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, said certified administrator be renewed as follows:**

**Sean Kelly, Principal**

**Cranston High School East**

**Contract Effective Date: July 1, 2011**

**See Attached Financial Impact Analysis**

**NO. 11-6-20 - RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, said certified administrator be renewed as follows:**

**Carolyn Lepore, Special Education Administrator**

**Special Education Office – Horton School**

**Contract Effective Date: July 1, 2011**

**See Attached Financial Impact Analysis**

**NO. 11-6-21 - RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, said certified administrator be renewed as follows:**

**Sandra Matoian-Heard, Coordinator**

**Sanders Academy Program**

**Contract Effective Date: July 1, 2011**

**See Attached Financial Impact Analysis**

**NO. 11-6-22 - RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, said certified administrator be renewed as follows:**

**Deborah Mellion, Director**

**Literacy Program**

**Contract Effective Date: July 1, 2011**

**See Attached Financial Impact Analysis**

**NO. 11-6-23 - RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, said certified administrator be renewed as follows:**

**Joseph Potemri, Assistant Principal**

**Cranston High School East**

**Contract Effective Date: July 1, 2011**

**See Attached Financial Impact Analysis**

**NO. 11-6-24 - RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, said certified administrator be renewed as follows:**

**Suzanne Rathbun, Special Education Administrator**

**Special Education Office – Horton School**

**Contract Effective Date: July 1, 2011**

**See Attached Financial Impact Analysis**

**NO. 11-6-25 - RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, said certified administrator be renewed as follows:**

**David Schiappa, Assistant Principal for Special & Related Services**

**Cranston High School West**

**Contract Effective Date: July 1, 2011**

**See Attached Financial Impact Analysis**

**NO. 11-6-26 - RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, said certified administrator be renewed as follows:**

**Linda Stanelun, Principal**

**Oak Lawn Elementary School**

**Contract Effective Date: July 1, 2011**

**See Attached Financial Impact Analysis**

**NO. 11-6-27 - RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, said certified administrator be renewed as follows:**

**Lynda Wagner, Assistant Principal**

**Cranston High School East**

**Contract Effective Date: July 1, 2011**

**See Attached Financial Impact Analysis**

**NO. 11-6-28 - RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, said certified administrator be renewed as follows:**

**James Zanfini, Principal**

**E. S. Rhodes Elementary School**

**Contract Effective Date: July 1, 2011**

**See Attached Financial Impact Analysis**

**NO. 11-6-29 - RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the**

**Superintendent, the retirement of the following certified personnel be accepted:**

**Rena Anthony, Teacher**

**Western Hills Middle School**

**Effective Date...June 30, 2011**

**NO. 11-6-30 - RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the retirement(s) of the following non-certified personnel be accepted:**

**Carol Fontaine, Bus Driver**

**Transportation**

**Effective Date...June 23, 2011**

**Please note that 11-6-8 was withdrawn.**

**Moved by Mr. Lombardi, seconded by Mr. Traficante and unanimously carried that the Proposed Consent Agenda be approved.**

**Superintendent Nero:**

**I just want to say thank you for supporting my resolutions on the principals. I was completely taken aback by that OP piece and I have never responded in a public written document as I have on that and I continue to fly things out of my office because I am really upset. We have the high performing schools; the Regents Commended Schools today because of great teachers lead by great leaders. I have the greatest bunch of principal in the world who have not received a raise**

in five and six years and continue to go up in their cost share. They can go anywhere they want in the State of Rhode Island and elsewhere to get jobs but they choose to work in Cranston. The Mayor's hit on us has actually united us. I want to let him know that, to a point that I haven't seen it like this in a long time. It had the reverse effect and I want to thank them for being in work every single day and working hard for the children of Cranston. If I could, and I wish I could, I'd give you all a raise. Thank you very much for your support.

**Mr. Lombardi:**

I want to echo what the Superintendent indicated and over the course of the last two or three weeks it's what I like to call "the circuit" where we go as School Committee members and actually do the things we truly enjoy doing. We get away from the budgets; we get away from the prayers and we get away from negotiations. We get to go to the schools and see what happens in the schools and let me just say that every school that I have visited whether it be a Memorial Day Celebration, or a Flag dedication, an honors night or a certificate night or anything of that sort, or a dedication to someone who is deceased, every time that I've been there this year, I have been nothing but pleasantly happy with what's happening in those schools and the joy and the happiness that you see on the kids faces and that happens for one reason; it's because there are good leaders and there are good teachers and that is very simple. Last night I pointed this out and I had the opportunity to speak at Bain and I looked out at

those kids and how well prepared they were for the honors night and how very eclectic they are at Hugh B. Bain. I single that out specifically. They are anything but average kids and so I applaud all of you administrators for making that happen and thanking you for doing the sacrifices that you made. I would be remiss if the world didn't know also, that while it's just as symbolic measure and its a little number, our Superintendent puts his money where his mouth is. A couple of years ago, he did not take his raise that he was entitled to contractually; he's done so again in a memo to us. He puts his words and his promises right by his heart and he says what he feels and so I thank you all and I applaud you all for what you've done.

**Mr. Traficante:**

I am not a lawyer so I'll be very brief. I just want to say thank you for your commitment; thank you for your dedication and certainly thank you for the service you've given to the Cranston School Department over several years. You've done an outstanding job under very adverse conditions. Thank you again.

**Ms. Iannazzi:**

Just by way of comments, Mr. Lombardi alluded to the fact that we've been on a circuit lately; however I have also been on the circuit in testifying in opposition to the Mayoral Academy and I begin each speech with the same statement that I will say here once again for the record: I am proud to be the Chairperson of the Cranston School Committee because I am proud of the 10,800 students, 1,352 full time

**employees and 176 part time employees that comprise Cranston Public Schools. The Mayor has certainly brought us all together and I can only applaud him for that so continue going out and doing your good work and we will definitely show him that we are proud to be Cranston Public Schools.**

## **RESOLUTIONS**

**Sponsored by Chairperson Iannazzi, Vice-Chair Lombardi, Mrs. McFarland & Superintendent Nero**

**Moved by Mr. Lombardi, seconded by Mr. Traficante for discussion:**

**Mr. Lombardi reported that he does feel compelled to indicate why he continues to support this position. You've heard all of the issues and quite frankly, hostility may be a bad word but I must say that it was not I that cast the first stone in this. Nor was it Superintendent Nero that cast the first stone. It all began with some very nice, very cordial and very amicable negotiations among several bargaining units and then it brought in the lines of communication with the City Council. The City Council opened their doors and their ears to what we have to offer. I thought, because it was the work effort of several of the members of the School Committee, that this was going to be an example for the entire State of Rhode Island. We were going to save a lot of money and we were going to keep people happy. The Mayor chose not to attend; we did not choose to attack him for not**

attending; however, he chose to write an editorial piece that essentially told our administrators; told our teachers that you were not doing your job and told our students that they were average. He suggested that he has a better course; a better way and that better way is this Charter School. I sit back and I want to answer with hostility again but I sit back and think, because cooler heads will prevail; and I ask myself this question, "Why does Janice Ruggieri have 19 questions that can't be answered?" Why doesn't the Mayor give us the answers to how this is going to be funded? Why won't people tell us that it's going to cost us money? What is the real reason for doing this? Where is it going to be? How is it going to be populated? How are they going to be transported? Those are the questions that we were asking ourselves and at the same time, we're asking ourselves, "What has the Cranston School System done wrong to deserve this?" The answer to me is always a resounding "nothing". Again, last night I went to Bain and I saw the flags flying prominently in the back, that I don't know what you call it today but at least as far as 2009, you called it "High Performing". I still think its high performing. I went to Park View and everything I saw was "High Performing". I went to Western Hills and everything I saw there was "High Performing". Maybe, just maybe, in a time of affluence when we've got money to burn and money to spare, a Mayoral Charter School may be a good idea. How can it work when we need money now to keep our high performing schools, high performing and avoid becoming average? I don't know the answer to that and I don't know what the mechanism for the thought process is in City Hall. I said it

the other night; I am not running for Mayor. This is not a political springboard but this makes absolutely no sense to me whatsoever.

**Mrs. Culhane:**

I'm going to read from something I wrote, which I normally don't do but it is a way to get all my thoughts out. Myself, Mrs. Ruggieri and Mr. Bloom visited the Blackstone Valley Prep Mayoral Academy a couple of days ago. I will say that it is a beautiful school. To walk into it, it's a beautifully re-habbed formerly Catholic School building. It's bright and cheery and it's a very happy place. I like the fact that they assemble in the morning before they begin their day. The most impressive piece that I found from the school was the writing selections from the Kindergarteners. They are incredibly articulate and probably on-par with most first or second graders that are in any other district. How can you compare a full-day K and their classroom day is almost eight hours, with what we have here in Cranston which is 2 ½ hours. It's not fair. We would all love to have an all-day K. I think we do a pretty good job and having to have two kindergarteners go through the system, they were very well prepared and are doing very well right now in second and fourth grade. The teachers there, for the most part, are all very young. Each classroom is named after their own alma Mata. Overall I couldn't say that I saw anything that really stood out from what is done in my own children's school at Eden Park. I tell you that I went with an open mind and I was really ready to be "wowed". But, it was a school; not unlike many of our schools in Cranston. To me the most impressive aspect of their day

was the emphasis on the Arts. They have Music and Art several times during the week. I guess when you have an almost eight hour school day, you can do that. It was really wonderful and heartening to see. In talking with their principal, who is also their management leader; one of the best aspects to the mayoral academy is the management rights that he has. Each teacher is employed at will and although he has to pass recommendations on to the school Board of Directors, he has a say in who is hired and fired. I don't necessarily know if that's the best of ideas in a lot of settings because doesn't that open us up for favoritism and nepotism and I don't know that that is something that I necessarily would want to see wholly rest on one person's shoulders. I was impressed to hear that their compensation is fairly comparable to starting public school teachers and they also have an opportunity for raises. I spent some time with Mayor Dan McKee of Cumberland and he really has held a great interest in his City's education long before he decided to start a Mayoral Academy. In my opinion, his involvement in the Mayoral Academy stems from a true desire to make positive changes in education. This is not just a resume' builder for him; he seems to me to be very sincere. I also spent time with Christine Lopes who is the Director of Community and External Relations for RIMA (Rhode Island Mayoral Academies). She was also interested to hear how this is all played out in Cranston from the perspective of both the School Committee and the citizens. She should do all the talking when these presentations are given for the Mayoral Academy because she was great and she was far and above anything that we've heard from anybody else that has come

from the school as far as giving us a clear presentation and answering some of the questions that we've had. I was very impressed with her enthusiasm.

I should add that we did not see the Middle School with fifth grade. We only saw the elementary school which was Kindergarten and one. I am not against Charter Schools. Do I think they pull the answer for what ails education? No, but it is like a lab for new and innovative ideas and is a great place for people to learn to love teaching. What I am against is the constant bashing of teachers that is happening throughout the Nation. This perceived failure of education does not rest entirely on the shoulders of the teachers. Much like Annette said today, "the community, parents, etc. play a role". To deny that and blame teachers and educators is more of a failure than anything that could possibly be failing in Cranston Schools. Educators should constantly strive to be better and I think in Cranston they do. I have had a wonderful experience at my children's school. Not a day goes by where the majority of the teachers are not in their classrooms until well after the bell rings. We have extended school days through Title One teacher-lead programs as well as PTO after school programs. I love my school and I know that there are many schools in this City with the same spirit. As I said before, I wanted to be informed and that's why I went. I think if a different approach had been taken in introducing the school from the start; maybe from someone who has had a long and active role in education in the City; this might be an idea that citizens and educators can jointly be on board with. Sadly,

it all went horribly wrong here. Now is not the time for this school to come to our City. Maybe sometime down the road. Maybe with a bit more sincerity I might be convinced that this is about the kids and not about someone wanting their name on the side of a building. In the end, don't we all want our kids to have an awesome education; not just the basic education but one with all the nice-to-haves. Shouldn't every child have that option? Not just the ones who win the lottery. I will be voting in support of this resolution this evening.

**Superintendent Nero:**

I'm not against Charter Schools. I'm completely suspicious and I've said I've been duped and I really do think there's a conspiracy because we've been cut our money continuously for the last four years and I will finally have a meeting with RIDE coming up in a couple of weeks regarding our BEP. This Saturday, at 11:00 a.m. there will be a historic graduation and I'm going to be there to witness it. This goes back to pre-school when I met my first autistic child and my son was in pre-school. I knew that there were a bunch of kids that went all the way through Garden City and when Norma Cole did a great job with them through grade 5 that these kids would go to a private placement. I was a first year principal at Western Hills when I decided that in the next couple of years, we would put a classroom in place for kids with significant needs; most of them on the autism spectrum. There's a great article in the Herald and I ask you all to read it. Because a few parents many years ago who had kids with disabilities wanted the total public school experience for their kids.

**These kids would leave in Gr. 5 and go into some outside placement. These kids went through the lifeskills programs and all activities for these kids in education. They did Digital Portfolios; they went to dances; they went to proms. They are walking across the stage and some of them are being wheeled across the stage with significant needs. Their parents would not be dropping a ball into a bucket to be picked out. These kids go to public schools and they're graduating. So, when I read all kids go to college, let me tell you that's a wonderful thing. We have a number of kids who you're going to see working in stores who have limited capability but went through our school district to pick up life skills in the things necessary to make them productive that they wouldn't have gotten even eight years ago. This is the stuff that we do. This is priceless.**

**Mrs. Ruggieri**

**As Mrs. Culhane said we did go to visit the Mayoral Academy in Cumberland this week. When we started out our tour and people were pointing out things to us, I didn't realize but I kept saying that we have that here or we do that here. Mrs. Kelleher was with us and she said that I was sounding a little defensive. I didn't realize at the time that I was sounding so defensive. I think I was just more surprised that how much of the things that we were already doing, were being done at this school and we're doing it with the limited resources that we have. I think that I was defensive in a way because of everything that has been going on and what I will say is that I did say to Mayor McKee and anybody else who would listen to me was**

that they should use Cranston as a blueprint for what not to do when they want to expand their Mayoral Academy's in other Cities. I think that this could have been done better and I think that this may have even worked if it had been done better. I asked 19 questions and its three weeks and I still have no answers. I didn't ask hard questions. I hesitate with this process because I can't understand why it's more transparent or not more easily available to anybody who wants this information. It shouldn't be this difficult to get this information. I say this school had three big things that we don't have. More time in the classroom plus optional Saturdays, including the full day kindergarten; they do have support from their municipalities, including a municipally funded pre-K program and a Mayor who has a vision for education that does not extend only to his academy. Lastly, they have funding for their programs for their curriculum for their infrastructure. Where this funding comes from is another story but they do have the funding. If Cranston had these three things, I can't imagine what we would be able to do considering what we're doing with what we have now. I do believe we have space for improvement; but for this to have gone the way that it went; I really think it's a shame and a shame on Mayor Fund that he didn't make sure that this opportunity for our kids was done correctly. I honestly feel that I have no choice. I don't know how anybody can support this without having just even the basic information that would be required to make this decision. I've said it a number of times and I'm hoping that somebody's listening.

**Mrs. McFarland**

**I'm not going to repeat everything that my colleagues said because I agree with all of it. I've had the opportunity for my daughter to go through the public schools system and I think that you've all done a wonderful job. She wouldn't be the person she is today without all of the teachers; all of the administrators who helped her out along the way so I'm very proud. I speak highly every day of it. One of the things that I've found that I've had the opportunity to read through but haven't had the opportunity to go and visit the school, but I had the opportunity to read about it through community development magazines that I still stay interested in because I spent 25 years of my career doing housing and we speak a lot about tax credits and people investing and creating affordable housing. We talk about it across the country that we still haven't made all the headway that we really want to; we need to have more opportunities for affordable housing both for home ownership and for people who rent throughout our country. Charter Schools are the new vision of tax credits and I can share this article with anybody. It's the new opportunity for people to invest to create tax credit structures. It's about \$8.7 billion industry of investors investing in Charter Schools to make money. It's not free; they're making money off of students because they have to pay admin. costs and they have to make sure the share holders who invested in these tax credits make and investment on their money. When we're talking about the structure of this, we're talking about that type of investment. Then they look further; just like housing. If you took affordable housing and looked at it, it's all the same. They**

look at State grants; they look at local grants; they look at CBBG money; they look at banks; they look at community investments from banks. All of the structures that we've been talking about for housing over the last 40-50 years, someone woke up and said we can do the same thing by investing in private charter schools and make money on our investment and make money on our dollars while we are investing them. That's my take on it and if anybody wanted to invest 8.7 billion dollars for 20 Charter Schools why don't they come here to Cranston and they can invest in our public school system and I'm sure we can do a lot with \$8.7 billion.

**Mr. Traficante**

This subject is a rather sensitive and delicate issue for me and I made that very clear at Cranston High School East during that public hearing. If I stated that I was against Charter Schools, I would be a total hypocrite; however, there is a distinct difference between a Mayoral Charter School, an Independent Charter School and a District Charter School. The Charter School we have in Cranston is the District Charter School. We're in partnership with the public school system. All our teachers are from the Cranston Teachers' Union. There's a major difference and I am going to be in favor of this resolution based on our economic crisis that we are facing in this City and this school department. We can ill-afford to loose a single dollar of resource and I should know. It's very simple. The formula for Charter Schools is the money follows the child. It's as simple as that minus 5% which goes back to the sending district. In Cranston

our per pupil is \$13,500 and 5% of that money goes back to Cranston; the rest of that money goes to the Charter School. It does cost a District. I don't care how you look at it. I should know because we are involved in that very same formula. In addition to that, if this school is not its own LEA, then the Cranston School Dept. is responsible for its transportation; responsible for its food service and it's responsible for its special education. That is a very costly endeavor. I'm not knocking Charter Schools; I'm just saying that this timing is very, very poor; we can't afford it. We're facing a \$6 million deficit. We have \$3.9 million shortfall to meet the BEP and we have a structurally unbalanced budget right now which we have to balance within the next several days. That's why I'm voting in favor of the resolution.

**Mr. Bloom**

I too went to the Mayoral Academy. Mrs. Culhane was very articulate in expressing the school that we all saw there. It was not an evil place; it was beautiful and the kids all looked happy. All of buildings had new coats of paint on them; I wish some of our schools had the same. I have been very disturbed about this process. The Editorial which occurred just a few weeks ago; I cannot understand how our cheerleader for this City can cheerlead and entice other people to come to Cranston if he is bashing our students, our teachers and our schools. It is appeared that this has been an issue of education vs. money and we really haven't seen how the first achievement Mayoral Academy would help either of them. Without reiterating all of the

things that have been expressed tonight, I think those are really the two key issues. How has what's been proposed and we haven't seen any answers to those questions as to how it's going to make the education better for all of the students of Cranston or how the bills are going to be paid for this district and the new district. I will also support this resolution.

**Ms. Iannazzi**

I want to say that there's been some tension between the Mayor and the School Committee and in a "only in RI" story. I've known the Mayor my entire life. His parents live next door to me and I honestly believe that the Mayor is a decent guy with a difficult job. I also believe that the Mayor was led astray and he became a cheerleader for this Mayoral Academy and in doing so, he turned his back on Cranston Public Schools. That was his mistake and I honestly believe, knowing the Mayor, which he at one point and hopefully soon, will realize his error and apologize publically to the Cranston School Committee and to the Superintendent of Schools. I certainly think that that is what we deserve. I just need to say for the public record and if one quote is published tonight, I hope it is this: This Mayoral Academy is not a done deal. We need members of the public to voice their opposition to a school proposal that will siphon funds away from Cranston Public Schools. You're going to hear from advocates of the Mayoral Academy that say it doesn't do that. They will tell you that money follows the student and that is true; but as we have explained time and time again, let's say that a hypothetical

kindergarten class opens at the Achievement First Mayoral Academy. That kindergarten class has 25 students, which is unrealistic. Twenty-five students from throughout Cranston would win a lottery to then be enrolled in the Achievement First Academy. That does not mean that those 25 kids would come from the same school in Cranston which would offset the loss in funding by the School Committee being able to reduce a teacher. Instead there would be students coming from each of our 17 elementary schools. Our class size in each of our schools would be reduced which by the way is great educationally; however, fiscally it hurts us. That's the message that is not getting through to the general public. This proposal going through now at this time, is a financial nightmare for Cranston Public Schools. That's the reason for the resolution in opposition; that's the reason why you will see members of the school committee testifying in opposition to the proposal at the Board of Regents and once again, this Mayoral Academy is not a done deal. I see a lot of administrators here; a lot more administrators here than attend our normal meetings. You know what that is. If you support Cranston Public Schools and you're opposed to this proposal, send a quick e-mail to the Board of Regents because your voice matters. That's the message that needs to get through tonight. Each and every one of you have a voice and you need to use it.

**Mr. Lombardi:**

I would ask that you personalize it. Because of the way that this is being portrayed, it's being portrayed as if it's the Mayor's office

**against the School Committee and that can't be. They've got to hear from households within the City of Cranston; parents within the City of Cranston; students within the City of Cranston; teachers and administrators on a personal basis. Inundate them with your letters in opposition to this Charter School.**

**The Roll was taken as follows:**

**Mrs. McFarland Yes Mr. Bloom Yes**

**Mr. Traficante Yes Mrs. Culhane Yes**

**Mr. Lombardi Yes Mrs. Ruggieri Yes**

**Ms. Iannazzi Yes**

**Resolution No. 11-6-01 (below) passed unanimously.**

**NO. 11-6-01 - Whereas, Mayor Allan Fung has submitted a formal application to the Rhode Island Department of Education to open K-12 Achievement First Mayoral Academies (two elementary schools, two middle schools, and one high school, with one elementary school to open in Fall of 2012); and**

**Whereas, based on test scores and the latest indicators used by the RIDE, sixteen (16) of the seventeen (17) elementary schools and all three (3) of middle schools that comprise Cranston Public Schools continue to reach Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP); and**

**Whereas, the United States Department of Education selected Cranston as one of 150 school districts in the nation to celebrate our extraordinary collaboration and work in education among**

**administration, school committee and Cranston Teachers' Alliance;  
and**

**Whereas, Mayor Fung commissioned an "analysis" of Cranston Public Schools by Sal Augeri and Jeffrey Wadovick, CPA, which reported that Cranston Public Schools are operating \$3.9 million dollars below the Basic Education Plan (BEP); and**

**Whereas, over the past three years, between 18 and 20 million dollars in new tax revenue has been generated. Cranston Public Schools has received \$3.2 million of that new revenue; and**

**Whereas, Mayor Fung has yet to address where funding for the proposed Mayoral Academy will come from; and**

**Whereas, the Mayor's proposal has been met with opposition from the community at public meetings in Council Chambers and before the Cranston Education Advisory Board; and**

**Be it RESOLVED that the Cranston School Committee voices its opposition to the proposed Mayoral Academy until such time as Cranston Public Schools is funded to the BEP level; and**

**Be it FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to members of the Board of Regents, Governor Chafee, Speaker of the House Fox, Senate President Paiva-Weed, and the legislative**

**delegation from the City of Cranston.**

## **ADMINISTRATION**

### **PERSONNEL**

**A motion to approve Resolution 11-6-02, subject to the Cranston Teachers' Alliance also accepting the Memorandum of Agreement, was moved by Mr. Lombardi, seconded by Mrs. Culhane.**

**NO. 11-6-02 - Now be it RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Memorandum of Agreement between the Cranston Teachers' Alliance and the Cranston School Committee, as it pertains to the discipline of an employee, be accepted.**

**There being no discussion, the roll was called and the resolution passed:**

**Mr. Bloom Yes Mr. Traficante Yes**

**Mrs. Culhane Yes Mrs. McFarland Yes**

**Mr. Lombardi Yes Mrs. Ruggieri Yes**

**Ms. Iannazzi Yes**

**Mr. Lombardi moved to table Resolution No. 11-6-31, seconded by Mr. Traficante and unanimously carried to accept to table the resolution.**

**Please note that #31 is the correct resolution (The Budget).**

**NO. 11-6-31 - RESOLVED, that the 2011-2012 Operating Budget, as adopted by the School Committee, be revised.**

## Adjournment

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Frank S. Lombardi, School Committee Clerk  
Administrator's Compensation Schedule  
Fiscal Year 2011-2012

NAME	POSITION	SCHOOL	ANN	SALARY
HEALTH	DENTAL	LIFE	PENSION	SURV
BEN	OASDI	MEDICARE	TOTAL	Fringe Sal & Fringe

Anderson, Cheryl	Principal	Eden Park	94,639.00	13893	1002	33
12,521	96	0	1372	28,917	123,556	

Barbieri, Thomas	Principal	Bain	101,537.00	0	0	33	13,433	96	0	1472
15,035	116,572									

Bryan, Susan*	Principal/Director	Stadium	100,564.00	5296	286	33
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13,305	96 0 1458	20,474	121,038				
Caporelli, Patricia	Principal Peters	93,806.00	13893 1002 33	12,411			
96 0 1360	28,795	122,601					
Casale, Maryann	Principal Garden City	95,364.00	13893 1002 33				
12,617	96 0 1383	29,023	124,387				
Charpentier, Dennis	Principal O. Farms	89,767.00	5296 286 33				
11,876	96 0 1302	18,889	108,656				
Coutu, Suzanne	Director CACTC	101,537.00	13893 1002 33	13,433			
96 0 1472	29,930	131,467					
Cowart, Donald	Principal HHighlands	93,806.00	13893 1002 33				
12,411	96 0 1360	28,795	122,601				
Crudale, Michael	Asst. Principal PView	85,997.00	13893 1002 33				
11,377	96 0 1247	27,648	113,645				
D'Ambrosio, Christopher	Asst. Principal East		91,463.00				
13893 1002 33	12,101	96 0 1326	28,451	119,914			
DeCristofaro, John	Principal Glen Hills	100,704.00	13893 1002 33				
13,323	96 0 1460	29,807	130,511				
DePalma, Paul	Asst. Principal West	91,463.00	13893 1002 33	12,101			
96 0 1326	28,451	119,914					
Devall, Frank	Asst. Principal West	91,463.00	13893 1002 33	12,101			
96 0 1326	28,451	119,914					
Gamba, Marlene	Principal EHighland	94,639.00	13893 1002 33				
12,521	96 0 1372	28,917	123,556				
Heatherton, Paul	Principal Barrows	87,546.00	5296 286 33	11,582			
96 0 1269	18,563	106,109					
Josephs, Charlotte	Principal Woodridge	94,639.00	13893 1002 33				

12,521 96 0 1372 28,917 123,556

Kelly, Sean Principal East 105,894.00 0 0 33 14,010 96 0 1535

15,674 121,568

Lepore, Carolyn Director Horton 90,229.00 13893 1002 33 11,937

96 0 1308 28,270 118,499

Matoian-Heard, Sandra Director Sanders 89,650.00 13893 1002 33

11,861 96 0 1300 28,185 117,835

Mellion, Deborah Director Literacy 96,529.00 13893 1002 33 12,771

96 0 1400 29,194 125,723

Potemri, Joseph Asst. Principal East 91,463.00 0 0 33 12,101

96 0 1326 13,556 105,019

Rathbun, Suzanne Director Horton 91,463.00 13893 1002 33 12,101

96 0 1326 28,451 119,914

Schiappa, David Asst. Principal West 87,375.00 13893 1002 33

11,560 96 0 1267 27,851 115,226

Stanelun, Linda Principal Oaklawn 88,582.00 13893 1002 33 11,719

96 0 1284 28,028 116,610

Wagner, Linda Asst. Principal East 93,021.00 5296 286 33 12,307

96 0 1349 19,366 112,387

Zanfini, James Rhodes Rhodes 87,099.00 5296 286 33 11,523

96 0 1263 18,497 105,596

3,086,372

\*Director of Library Services

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25% cost share for health/dental

**Administrator's Compensation Schedule**

**Fiscal Year 2012-2013**

**NAME POSITION SCHOOL ANN SALARY**  
**HEALTH DENTAL LIFE PENSION SURV**  
**BEN OASDI MEDICARE TOTAL Fringe Sal & Fringe**

**Anderson, Cheryl Principal Eden Park 94,639.00 15282 1052 33**  
**14,395 96 0 1372 32,230 126,869**

**Barbieri, Thomas Principal Bain 101,537.00 0 0 33 15,444 96 0 1472**  
**17,045 118,582**

**Caporelli, Patricia Principal Peters 93,806.00 15282 1052 33 14,268**  
**96 0 1360 32,091 125,897**

**Casale, Maryann Principal Garden City 95,364.00 15282 1052 33**  
**14,505 96 0 1383 32,351 127,715**

**Charpentier, Dennis Principal O. Farms 89,767.00 5826 300 33**  
**13,654 96 0 1302 21,210 110,977**

**Coutu, Suzanne Director CACTC 101,537.00 15282 1052 33 15,444**  
**96 0 1472 33,379 134,916**

**Cowart, Donald Principal HHighlands 93,806.00 15282 1052 33**  
**14,268 96 0 1360 32,091 125,897**

**Crudale, Michael Asst. Principal PView 85,997.00 15282 1052 33**

13,080	96	0	1247	30,790	116,787				
<b>D'Ambrosio, Christopher Asst. Principal East</b>						<b>91,463.00</b>			
15282	1052	33	13,912	96	0	1326	31,701	123,164	
<b>DeCristofaro, John Principal Glen Hills</b>				<b>100,704.00</b>		<b>15282 1052 33</b>			
15,317	96	0	1460	33,240	133,944				
<b>DePalma, Paul Asst. Principal West</b>				<b>91,463.00</b>		<b>15282 1052 33 13,912</b>			
96	0	1326	31,701	123,164					
<b>Devall, Frank Asst. Principal West</b>				<b>91,463.00</b>		<b>15282 1052 33 13,912</b>			
96	0	1326	31,701	123,164					
<b>Heatherton, Paul Principal Barrows</b>				<b>87,546.00</b>		<b>5826 300 33 13,316</b>			
96	0	1269	20,840	108,386					
<b>Josephs, Charlotte Principal Woodridge</b>				<b>94,639.00</b>		<b>15282 1052 33</b>			
14,395	96	0	1372	32,230	126,869				
<b>Kelly, Sean Principal East</b>				<b>105,894.00</b>		<b>0 0 33 16,106 96 0 1535</b>			
17,771	123,665								
<b>Lepore, Carolyn Director Horton</b>				<b>90,229.00</b>		<b>15282 1052 33 13,724</b>			
96	0	1308	31,495	121,724					
<b>Matoian-Heard, Sandra Director Sanders</b>				<b>89,650.00</b>		<b>15282 1052 33</b>			
13,636	96	0	1300	31,399	121,049				
<b>Mellion, Deborah Director Literacy</b>				<b>96,529.00</b>		<b>15282 1052 33 14,682</b>			
96	0	1400	32,545	129,074					
<b>Potemri, Joseph Asst. Principal East</b>				<b>91,463.00</b>		<b>0 0 33 13,912</b>			
96	0	1326	15,367	106,830					
<b>Rathbun, Suzanne Director Horton</b>				<b>91,463.00</b>		<b>15282 1052 33 13,912</b>			
96	0	1326	31,701	123,164					
<b>Schiappa, David Asst. Principal West</b>				<b>87,375.00</b>		<b>15282 1052 33</b>			

13,290 96 0 1267 31,020 118,395

Stanelun, Linda Principal Oaklawn 88,582.00 15282 1052 33 13,473

96 0 1284 31,221 119,803

Wagner, Linda Asst. Principal East 93,021.00 5826 300 33 14,148

96 0 1349 21,752 114,773

Zanfini, James Principal Rhodes 87,099.00 5826 300 33 13,248

96 0 1263 20,766 107,865

2,912,671

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25% cost share for health/dental

**Administrator's Compensation Schedule**

**Fiscal Year 2013-2014**

**NAME POSITION SCHOOL ANN SALARY**

**HEALTH DENTAL LIFE PENSION SURV**

**BEN OASDI MEDICARE TOTAL Fringe Sal & Fringe**

Anderson, Cheryl Principal Eden Park 94,639.00 16810 1105 33

16,268 96 0 1372 35,685 130,324

Barbieri, Thomas Principal Bain 101,537.00 0 0 33 17,454 96 0 1472

19,055 120,592

Caporelli, Patricia Principal Peters 93,806.00 16810 1105 33 16,125

96 0 1360	35,529	129,335					
Casale, Maryann Principal Garden City	95,364.00	16810 1105 33					
16,393 96 0 1383	35,820	131,184					
Charpentier, Dennis Principal O. Farms	89,767.00	6409 315 33					
15,431 96 0 1302	23,586	113,353					
Coutu, Suzanne Director CACTC	101,537.00	16810 1105 33	17,454				
96 0 1472	36,970	138,507					
Cowart, Donald Principal HHighlands	93,806.00	16810 1105 33					
16,125 96 0 1360	35,529	129,335					
Crudale, Michael Asst. Principal PView	85,997.00	16810 1105 33					
14,783 96 0 1247	34,074	120,071					
D'Ambrosio, Christopher Asst. Principal East	91,463.00						
16810 1105 33 15,722 96 0 1326	35,093	126,556					
DeCristofaro, John Principal Glen Hills	100,704.00	16810 1105 33					
17,311 96 0 1460	36,815	137,519					
DePalma, Paul Asst. Principal West	91,463.00	16810 1105 33	15,722				
96 0 1326	35,093	126,556					
Devall, Frank Asst. Principal West	91,463.00	16810 1105 33	15,722				
96 0 1326	35,093	126,556					
Heatherton, Paul Principal Barrows	87,546.00	6409 315 33	15,049				
96 0 1269	23,172	110,718					
Josephs, Charlotte Principal Woodridge	94,639.00	16810 1105 33					
16,268 96 0 1372	35,685	130,324					
Kelly, Sean Principal East	105,894.00	0 0 33	18,203	96 0 1535			
19,868	125,762						
Lepore, Carolyn Director Horton	90,229.00	16810 1105 33	15,510				

96 0 1308	34,863	125,092				
Matoian-Heard, Sandra Director Sanders	89,650.00	16810	1105	33		
15,411 96 0 1300	34,755	124,405				
Mellion, Deborah Director Literacy	96,529.00	16810	1105	33	16,593	
96 0 1400	36,037	132,566				
Potemri, Joseph Asst. Principal East	91,463.00	0 0	33	15,722		
96 0 1326	17,178	108,641				
Rathbun, Suzanne Director Horton	91,463.00	16810	1105	33	15,722	
96 0 1326	35,093	126,556				
Schiappa, David Asst. Principal West	87,375.00	16810	1105	33		
15,020 96 0 1267	34,331	121,706				
Stanelun, Linda Principal Oaklawn	88,582.00	16810	1105	33	15,227	
96 0 1284	34,556	123,138				
Wagner, Linda Asst. Principal East	93,021.00	6409	315	33	15,990	
96 0 1349	24,192	117,213				
Zanfini, James Principal Rhodes	87,099.00	6409	315	33	14,972	
96 0 1263	23,088	110,187				
	2,986,194					

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25% cost share for health/dental