

CRANSTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE

PUBLIC WORK SESSION

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 15, 2011

WILLIAM A. BRIGGS BUILDING (REED CONFERENCE ROOM)

845 PARK AVENUE

EXECUTIVE SESSION: 6:00 PM

**PUBLIC WORK SESSION IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING EXECUTIVE
SESSION**

PUBLIC SESSION IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING PUBLIC MEETING

MINUTES

The School Committee Work Session was held on the evening of the above date in the Reed Conference Room at the Briggs Building with the following members present: Ms. Iannazzi, Mr. Lombardi, Mr. Bloom, Mr. Traficante, Mrs. McFarland, and Mrs. Culhane. Mrs. Ruggieri was absent with cause. Also present were Superintendent Nero, Dr. Lundsten, Mr. Votto, Mr. Balducci, Mr. Dillon, Mrs. Coogan and Attorney Cascione.

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. It was moved by Mr. Lombardi, seconded by Mr. Traficante and unanimously carried that the members convene 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); (Secretary Negotiations); (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

Roll Call – A quorum was present.

No votes were taken in Executive Session.

Executive Session Minutes Sealed – June 15, 2011

Motion was made by Mr. Lombardi, seconded by Mrs. Culhane and unanimously carried to seal the minutes of the June 15, 2011 Executive Session.

Public Work Session:

a. Medicaid Billing Bid Presentation

There were three presentations made tonight by three companies for the Medicaid Billing Services:

CompuClaim (Please see hand out in the office of the Superintendent) Presented first. The presenter was Mr. Peter Carson and he started by introducing CompuClaim's Senior Staff: Mr. Wiler and Alison Lowry. They are a Rhode Island based business. They have been doing RI Schools' Medicaid billing for 44 years. One of the first

companies to do School Medicaid billing in Rhode Island, since 1995. They currently provide services for 35 school districts and they are currently integrated with every TIENET installation in the State. They are also in the process of converting their TIENET clients to Aspen SIS system. As of September 1st they will be billing out of the Aspen Services. They are also in New Mexico and Michigan. Every new client they have in Rhode Island is usually a client that's been doing their own billing since the program began. They have been able to increase Medicaid Revenue every by approximately 10-20%.

Case management was changed in 2008. They advised their clients in RI not to bill Medicaid and they did not during that time that was contradictory. In fact, the legislature stated that every school that did bill Medicaid during that period, billed it improperly.

In terms of Cranston reaching its Medicaid potential, he suggests the following:

- They use electronic IEP and SIS student data base management tools to manage what's going on in a school district. They help to develop different tools with companies that will allow you to capture things like staff service numbering.**

Please see hand-out for information regarding CompuCliaam Medicaid Billing Services.

New England Medical Billing, Inc.

(Please see Hand Out #2 in the office of the Superintendent)

The presenter was Tom Hall, President of New England Medical Billing, Inc. Also present with Mr. Hall is Michelle DeRoch, Chief Operating Officer.

Mr. Hall noted that they are a little bit different than some of the other companies in that they are a multi-specialty billing company. They have been around since 1990 and based in Rumford, Rhode Island. They have been around for 21 years. They do things differently than larger billing companies. We go after the last 20%. Michelle has done a nice job building an organization that use the billing cycle completely so that we don't have claims that are missed time for filing or go un-followed up on denials. They have diverse client base in that they deal with municipalities; they work for the Department of Health; they work for surgeons, EMT's, and primary care doctors.

At this time Michelle DeRoch spoke on the billing process with a diagram.

Mr. Hall stated in closing that they put forth what they feel is a very competitive proposal. They've done so to be all-inclusive. There's no transaction fees, postage, statement fees, etc. and what you see is what you get. They work and live in Rhode Island and they work hard to maintain this business throughout the State.

Public Consulting Group (PCG Education)

(Please see hand-out #3)

The presenter was Mr. Peter Marshal who manages and oversees all PCG Medical revenue Maximization projects in New England. Also present was Mr. Tim Zubak, Oversees PCG school based Medicaid claiming operations in New England and Ms. Jackie Lussier, the lead contact and implementation specialist for all RI Medicaid Projects.

Mr. Marshall reviewed the presentation that was handed out to all committee members.

Mr. Marshall reported that he has worked at Public Consulting Group for 20 years. He oversees here in New England and in Washington, DC, Maryland and Delaware area.

Mr. Marshall reported that they are headquartered in Boston with 900 staff serving school districts in 34 States. (See hand out). They have some clients and services up in Canada. They are servicing over 1500 school districts across the country doing a number of Medicaid Reimbursement.

Ms. Lussier spoke on Rhode Island Districts and that they began Medicaid Reimbursement in 2003 and since then they've generated over \$24 million in Medicaid Reimbursements for their Rhode Island clients.

Mr. Zubak spoke on revenue maximization and billing. Along with their qualifications and experience, they are also offering Cranston

the best price for this bid. For the services that we will receive, with PCG, will be access to their national compliance department. (see handouts for memos on behalf of their districts) They have a web based provider logging system in place and compliant for Rhode Island. They are able to offer continuous provider support through their message board as well as their health desk.

Mr. Marshall reported that they have two RI customers, Providence and Woonsocket.

It was also noted, in regards to Response to Intervention, that it is a RTI system both the academic and the behavioral side in tracking the assessment data and tracking progress from starting point and having 6 months to reach it, tracking it on a weekly/monthly basis. Woonsocket is not using it this way yet but they have districts using it for personal learning plan.

There was a period of questions and answers for the companies.

Ms. Iannazzi noted that a vote will be taken on the June 28th agenda/meeting during the Public Session.

Summer Programs – Dr. Judy Lundsten

Dr. Lundsten wanted to let the committee know what is happening in the School System in regards to programming in the summer. It is broken out in two different sections:

- **Programs for Students**
- **Programs for Adults**

For the students, they have 176 children participating in an extended school year for Special Services at Glen Hills, Cranston West, and Garden City. They also have a Literacy Program for students (124) with 22 teachers with a morning program starting in July going to the end of July, three days per week. For teenagers, they've New and Innovative, Camp Excell which has got an academic component to it, and collaboration between the YMCA and the Bain +21, the Cranston Career and Technical Center and the Library. We're hoping that it flies so we can go after a bigger grant next year for it.

There is also some of the PTO's sponsoring some programs for the kids; like out at Orchard Farms they will have a Space Camp in August.

They also have Summer School next door at Cranston High School East. The fees have been raised for the Summer School Program this year. (went from \$160 to \$200)

For our adults, our teachers are participating in this summer in more Professional Development which is:

Technology with an E2T2 grant

Several schools are working on Positive Behavioral Intervention and Supports

There is a Literacy Initiative at Rhodes

Several Math In-Services, including Discreet Math with teachers

K-12 realigning the entire curriculum with the DANA Center from the University of Texas

Teachers are working on Spring Board on realigning Geometry

Teachers at the High School as well as the Middle, 5th and 6th grade, have all volunteered to participate in RITES – collaborative project between URI, RIC and us. They also provide us with additional equipment.

Salve Regina has approached us and we'll be starting a small project with them.

We will continue with the Univ. of Texas on the DANA

For our Administrators, we have a week of Evaluation Training for the new Teacher Evaluation Tool. Several of them are involved in Proper Behavior and Interventions of Support. Jim is doing things on Aspen data with them. Several of them are attending the RIASP Summer Conference and their doing the DANA Math.

Mr. Bloom asked for a memo in summary of what Dr. Lundsten just read to the committee. Mr. Bloom also asked if there was some way of updating our website noting that it communicates nothing right now. All the schools' websites have information; however, the cpsed.net website does not have any communication. Mr. Nero noted that because Donna-Marie has been busy with a variety of things, including that we are now fully automated with the POS System, that

was one of the things we were going to sit down with Donna-Marie in the summer and discuss this. Mrs. McFarland noted that there are a lot of vendors out there who can update companies. She also noted that she hired an intern from Roger Williams who could do it all. They can even do policy and grant research for you.

Individual Learning Plans

Dr. Lundsten introduced Leslie Conley who is our Coordinator/Program Supervisor for Guidance, who will give the committee a quick update on ILP's.

Mrs. Conley (Also see hand-outs)

The ILP's now are all the way down to the 6th grade.

Passed the information around to committee members noting that it was just a follow-up to the October meeting where Dr. Lundsten and Mrs. Conley introduced the Grade 6 ILP mandated by the BEP. What I did for may was to ask guidance counselors who have been facilitating this and collaborating with Grade 6 teachers across the District. In May I asked them for an update. The green threefold is very self-explanatory and basically what it shows is our 17 elementary schools, 16 of which have 6th grade. Barrows does not have Grade 6. It shows the total number of days that a counselor spends at a particular school and also shows a total number of 6th grade vs. the total population of the schools and basically dates as to when all three goals had been written and then when the mid-year

review, which are the three component pieces that the goal page, the mid year review and the self-reflection. The final column shows students who have achieved at least one goal that they wrote about. I also included some highlights on one of the foldouts and the highlights came from monthly reports from my guidance counselors and also came from observations. I have observed a number of ILP lessons and it also came from the summary sheets that I received back from counselors in May. Also, with some student comments which is supposed to be a student centered initiative and it's very exciting that some of the students have really embraced it and feel that it has value.

The final fold out is the largest list which would be our list of challenges. With any new initiative, there are always challenges and if I were to summarize I would say time is our biggest challenge. We have 5.7 guidance counselors going to those 17 elementary schools. We've added this on to their curriculum.

I serve on the Executive Board of the RI School Counselor Association and I am very fortunate because I have the opportunity to share documents and the opportunity to share best practices with different districts across the State and Warwick engaged the services of Carl Squire to write their elementary ILP and he was a consultant that we also used at the very beginning when we started with the ILP in the high schools. They were willing to share their end of the year survey. I sent that out to elementary principals and I've asked them

to have their teachers complete and return to me. We have begun some curriculum revision work with the elementary counselors that we'll be doing up to June 30th and part of that will entail some revisions to how we deliver the ILP. We were fortunate in the beginning of the year to have an hour of P.D. We're looking for more parent engagement and also try to look at engaging teachers; not as an add-on but rather as a piece of the puzzle that we collaborate with them on a multitude of things and this being one of them.

Mr. Traficante asked if there was a secondary survey like this. Mrs. Conley answered that there was not an ILP survey. She is actually working with the high school people on the ILP; she would say that Cranston East is very fortunate that they have Diana Petroniselli who facilitates that ILP process as part of advisory. They already have their schedule for next year. I would comment that in the high school this year, they took the initiative to take all of the students who had successfully completed goals, over 200 names, put them in a hat and with funding from Mr. Kelly, they were awarded around 40 gift cards for subway in the amount of \$5 to student that have completed their goal. We want to add some value to the ILP. I think it's hard to encourage students to embrace something new and they don't always see that connection. It connects their life with what they do in school. I would also mention Sandra Tessier; I met with her and Vicky Clark. Sandy is a teacher at West and she facilitates the advisory program there and they were looking for some new ideas so we're going to try to align West with what East does only with their

own little twist because, that's a different population and different teachers, faculty and staff.

My concern, actually, with the high school ILP is we definitely have to make those connections and I think make the connections from high school to the middle school ILP to the elementary ILP because now the ILP is part and parcel of our PBGR Graduation requirements. We have to make sure that everyone does embrace it and I think we've got a great start now that it has been in the 6th grade. I know that the high school has had good response to students coming in who had the ILP in Middle school so I'm hoping that as we progress, middle school will see a difference with students who have had it in 6th grade and then we'll travel on down the road. It will be something of value.

Mr. Traficante stated that he would like to see this at the Charter School also because this is one area I think we kind of fell behind on. Because of the schedule at the Charter School, that may be part of the problem. Mrs. Conley stated that there is a new person coming on board at the Charter School which she looks forward to working with that person and they will definitely set those forms up and get things rolling as soon as they can.

Cranston Public Schools Fiscal Year 2012 Budget Analysis

This item was withdrawn.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before this committee, a motion was made by Mr. Lombardi to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mrs. McFarland and unanimously carried to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Frank Lombardi

School Committee Clerk