

CRANSTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

BUDGET ADOPTION

FEBRUARY 10, 2014

WESTERN HILLS MIDDLE SCHOOL

400 PHENIX AVENUE, CRANSTON, RI 02920

EXECUTIVE SESSION – 6:00 P.M.

IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWED BY PUBLIC MEETING

IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWED BY PUBLIC BUDGET WORK SESSION

MINUTES

This School Committee meeting was held on the evening of the above date in the auditorium of Western Hills Middle School with the following members present: Chairperson Iannazzi, Mrs. McFarland, Mr. Traficante, Mr. Colford, Mr. Gale, Mrs. Culhane and Mrs. Ruggieri. Attorney Cascione was present for executive session.

This meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. It was moved by Mrs. Ruggieri and seconded by Mr. Gale to convene to Executive Session pursuant to RI State Laws -

1. PL 42-46-5(a)(1) Personnel:

A. Special Education Director

B. Energy Manager

2. PL 42-46-5(a)(2) Collective Bargaining:

A. Contract Negotiations' Update(s)=

- B. (Secretaries)**
- C. (Teachers)**
- D. (Teacher Assistants)**
- E. (Bus Drivers, Mechanics)**
- F. (Tradespeople)**
- G. (Custodians)**

3. PL 42-46-5(3)

- A. District Safety Plan**

Called to Order at 7:00 p.m. – Public Session

The roll was called; there was a quorum present.

Executive Session Minutes Sealed – Ms. Iannazzi stated – no votes were taken in Executive Session.

Moved by Mr. Traficante; seconded by Mrs. McFarland. The roll was called; all were in favor.

Minutes of Previous Meetings Approved – January 16, January 27, and January 30, 2014. Moved by Mr. Traficante; seconded by Mrs. Culhane. The roll was called; all were in favor.

4. Public Acknowledgements/Communications - none

5. Chairperson's Communications

Ms. Iannazzi stated – I just wanted to take a moment to recognize and congratulate Providence Teachers’ union president, Steve Smith, on his retirement. A few years ago Peter Nero, Liz Larkin, myself, were fortunate enough to represent Cranston in Denver and spent the entire trip alongside Steve, Tom Brady and Kathy Craine and its unfortunate but Liz and I are the only members remaining so I am not sure what that means but..Steve has always been an innovator and collaborator and the city of Providence has a deep loss there but Steve will still be active in the labor movement and I know he will still represent Rhode Island well.

6. Superintendent’s Communications – Dr. Lundsten stated – it is delightful to see so many students in the audience. Just wanted to tell you that tomorrow up on the website, all of your art work will be featured for the next week. You can take a look at it. I had the pleasure of seeing it; you have done phenomenal work. We are so proud of all of you.

7. School Committee Member Communications – none.

8. Public Hearing

a. Students (Agenda/Non-Agenda Matters) - none

b. Members of the Public (Agenda Matters Only)

Ed Angilly – spoke on the procedures and roles of the school committee members during the budget process.

Nora Crowley – spoke on the budget, Cranston High School East

Band Alumni Association and the transportation issue concerning the band at East.

9. Consent Calendar/Consent Agenda – none.

10. Action Calendar/Action Agenda

RESOLUTIONS

Sponsored by the School Committee

NO. 14-2-1- Whereas a regional juried art competition was sponsored by the Scholastics Art and Writing organization, on January 11, 2014, and

Whereas, on January 12th, the Cranston secondary art teachers were notified that their students had been awarded Gold/Silver Keys in various visual arts categories; and

Whereas, the students had been awarded Gold Keys will now be judged on the National Level.

Be it RESOLVED, that the Cranston School Committee wishes to recognize and congratulate the following students for their wonderful achievement:

Cranston High School East:

Uzziel Gomez, Silver Key, Art, Drawing

Brittany Kirtlink, Silver Key, Art, Sculpture

Jonathan Lopez, Silver Key, Art, Mixed Media

Cranston High School West:

Alyssa Bailey, Silver Key, Art, Drawing

Hunter Colford, Gold Key, Art, Drawing

Annette Deion, Silver Key, Art, Drawing

Bridget Flaherty, Gold Key, Art, Drawing

Jacqueline Giuttari, Silver Key, Art, Drawing

Emma Impagliazzo, Gold Key, Art, Sculpture

Allison Parkes, Silver Key, Art, Drawing

Mike Pescione, Gold Key, Art, Drawing

Alexandra Smith, Gold Key, Art Portfolio, Drawing

Alexandra Smith, Gold Key, Art, Painting

Alexandra Smith, Silver Key, Art, Drawing

James Tsang, Gold Key, Film & Animation

Hugh B. Bain Middle School:

Oscar Barrera, Silver Key, Art, Sculpture

Lauren Guzman, Gold Key - American Visions Nominee, Art, Mixed Media

Park View Middle School:

Miya Lohmeier, Silver Key, Art, Painting

Matthew Procacini, Silver Key, Art, Printmaking

Western Hills Middle School:

Sofie Andrews, Gold Key, Art, Painting

Eunice Chung, Silver Key, Art, Printmaking

Sophia Mancini, Silver Key, Art, Mixed Media

Teachers:

Jill Cyr, Gloria Budz, Cathy Cox, Alicia Hawkins, Lisa Erb, Valerie Bruzzi, Barbara Voccola, Claudia Venditto, and Marty Russell.

Be it further RESOLVED, that these students and their teachers be presented with a copy of this Resolution signed by the members of the Cranston School Committee.

Moved by Mr. Traficante; seconded by Mrs. Culhane. The roll was called; all were in favor.

NO. 14-2-2- Whereas a regional juried art competition was sponsored by the Scholastics Art and Writing organization, on January 11, 2014, and

Whereas on January 12th, Mary Ann Schultheis was notified that her student, Paula Frost, had been awarded the Rhode Island National Flag Award. RI's theme this year was "Indigenous RI" and

Whereas the student's design will be printed onto a flag that

represents Rhode Island. The flags are then sent to the National Art Education Associations' yearly conference in San Diego, CA. All fifty state flags are hung in a gallery at the event.

The Cranston School Committee wishes to recognize and congratulate Paula Frost for her wonderful achievement.

Be it further RESOLVED, that Paula Frost and her teacher, Mary Ann Schultheis be presented with a copy of this Resolution signed by the members of the Cranston School Committee.

Moved by Mrs. Culhane; seconded by Mr. Traficante. The roll was called; all were in favor.

NO. 14-2-3- RESOLVED, whereas the National School Counseling Week is celebrated in February by the American School Counselor Association and,

Whereas, school counselors are employed in public and private schools to help students reach their full potential; and

Whereas, school counselors are actively committed to helping students explore their abilities, strengths, interests, and talents as these traits relate to career awareness and development; and

Whereas, school counselors help parents focus on ways to further

the educational, personal and social growth of their children; and

Whereas, school counselors work with teachers and other educators to help students explore their potential and set realistic goals for themselves; and

Whereas, school counselors seek to identify and utilize community resources that can enhance and complement comprehensive school counseling programs and help students become productive members of society; and

Whereas, comprehensive developmental school counseling programs are considered an integral part of the educational process that enables all students to achieve success in school;

Therefore, the Cranston School Committee, the Superintendent and the Executive Team recognize our school counselors for their dedication to actively engage students and working in partnership with teachers and administrators to enhance students' social/personal, educational and career development.

Moved by Mrs. McFarland; seconded by Mr. Gale. The roll was called; all were in favor.

ADMINISTRATION - PERSONNEL

NO. 14-2-4 - RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, said certified administrator(s) be appointed as follows:

Lisa Abbott, SE Administration, Horton

Effective Date: February 11, 2014

See attached Financial Impact Analysis

Moved by Mrs. McFarland; seconded by Mrs. Ruggieri. The roll was called; all were in favor.

NO. 14-2-5 - RESOLVED, Whereas, the expiration of the teacher's limited employment contract effective at the end of the 2013-2014 school year, and

Whereas, there is uncertainty of sufficient Federal, State and local funding for general and categorical programs for the 2014-2015 school year, program reductions, and/or reorganization, consolidation of classes, realignment and/or reorganization of staff, and elimination of positions to meet student needs and/or to more efficiently and effectively use the school system's resources and

Whereas, the teacher was hired for a one-year position to fill the position of a teacher who is on leave of absence, and it is anticipated that the teacher will be returning from leave and

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

Whereas, because of these concerns, and in accordance with Title 16 of the General Laws of the State of Rhode Island, the Superintendent has recommended that the employment of certain teachers be terminated at the end of the 2013-2014 school year, and

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

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

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

A motion was made by Mr. Traficante; seconded by Mrs. Ruggieri. Mrs. Ruggieri made a motion to table this resolution; seconded by Mrs. Culhane. The roll was called; all were in favor.

NO. 14-2-6- RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the following certified personnel be appointed as substitutes on a temporary basis as needed:

Heather Santurri, Elementary
Nicole Sabetta, Social Studies

Moved by Mr. Traficante; seconded by Mrs. McFarland. The roll was called; all were in favor.

NO. 14-2-7- RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the following non-certified personnel be appointed:

Javier Torres, 5 hour Custodian
Plant Operations
Effective Date: February 11, 2014
Authorization: Replacement
Fiscal Note: 12247050 51110

Chris Kroeung, 5 hour Custodian
Plant Operations
Effective Date: February 11, 2014
Authorization: Replacement
Fiscal Note: 12047050 51110

Moved by Mrs. Culhane; seconded by Mr. Gale. The roll was called; all were in favor.

NO. 14-2-8- RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the following non-certified personnel be appointed as a substitute on a temporary basis as needed:

Jenna Remka, Secretary

Moved by Mrs. McFarland; seconded by Mrs. Culhane. The roll was called; all were in favor.

NO. 14-2-9- RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the following non-certified staff member be granted a leave of absence without compensation as provided in Article X, Section C of the Master Agreement between the Cranston School Committee and the Cranston Teachers' Alliance:

Rachel Bousquet, Teacher Assistant

Edgewood Highlands

Effective Date: February 10, 2014 to August 31, 2014

Moved by Mrs. McFarland; seconded by Mr. Gale. The roll was called; all were in favor.

NO. 14-2-10- RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the following non-certified staff member be granted a leave of absence without compensation as provided in Article XII of the Agreement between the Cranston School Committee and Local

1322 of the Laborers' International Union of North America:

Marilyn Pennacchia, Bus Driver

Transportation

Effective Date: February 10, 2014 to August 31, 2014

Moved by Mrs. Culhane; seconded by Mr. Traficante. The roll was called; all were in favor.

BUSINESS

POLICY AND PROGRAM

NO. 14-2-11- RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, Policy #7600 – Idling for all Cranston Public School Buses and Service Vehicles be approved for second reading. (See attached policy).

Moved by Mr. Traficante; seconded by Mr. Colford. The roll was called; all were in favor.

NO. 14-2-12- RESOLVED, that the 2014-2015 Operating Budget, as recommended by the Superintendent, be approved.

Moved by Mr. Traficante; seconded by Mr. Gale. Discussion.

Mrs. Ruggieri stated – based on some of the questions I had at the

last meeting, this one in particular regarding the social workers. According to the memo I received we would be requiring an additional seven social workers if this legislation went through and I just was interested in a round-about dollar figure for those seven positions? Dr. Lundsten asked Mr. Balducci to look at step 5 and explained – usually when we look at this we go to the middle of the road for the entry level. Mr. Balducci stated – it would cost approximately \$400,000. Mrs. Ruggieri stated – as far as we can tell that is an unfunded mandate. Mr. Balducci responded – currently, yes.

Mrs. Ruggieri stated – again, based on a question I had asked the last time regarding the Stadium gas heat budget. I understand that there was an overstatement in that account and I would like to see a reflection in the budget of a reduction of \$13,210.00 so that line now reads \$900. Ms. Iannazzi asked – are you offering that in a form of an amendment? Mrs. Ruggieri responded – yes. Ms. Iannazzi asked if there was a second to this amendment. Mr. Traficante seconded it. There being no discussion on the proposed amendment the role was called; all were in favor.

Mrs. Ruggieri continued – in addition to that, the question I had asked regarding the curriculum for instruction in musical education, I understood the resolution..the mandate as it read, I just didn't know if there was a dollar amount that might be attached to that or if we are currently reflecting what they are asking for in the mandate? Dr.

Lundsten responded – my understanding is that we are currently doing what is in the mandate. I spoke to the program supervisor about that and what he explained to me was that there are some school systems that do not have choral and ensemble type band orchestra and chorus and that is what this legislation is aimed at. He said that we are meeting the requirements as but forth in the legislation. There is no financial impact at all. Mrs. Ruggieri responded – okay that was my only concern.

Mrs. Culhane asked – I would like to make an amendment that we take the \$13,000 dollars that had been adjusted by Mrs. Ruggieri and put that towards reinstating transportation for the band program at the high school level. This was seconded by Mrs. Ruggieri. No discussion. The roll was called; all were in favor.

Mrs. Culhane continued – I just had two questions – looking at pages 71 of 81 – under Plant Laundry I just don't quite remember what that was. It had been zeroed out in years previous and I know a lot of that was due to UCOA but I just wasn't sure where that was. This question was directed to the superintendent. Dr. Lundsten stated – my understanding is that, for example, we need to launder all the blankets that are used in the nurses' offices that is my understanding that is where that account money goes. There are certain things that need to be laundered every year for obvious health reasons.

Mrs. Culhane continued – I had one more through the chair for the superintendent – there are several pages, on that same page, is listed

phone service and I'm just seeing that...I know we had budgeted the same amount for last years' budget for phone service but it was a \$1,000 increase from year previous so I am just curious as to what that difference was. Dr. Lundsten referred the question to Mr. Balducci. Mr. Balducci responded – most of the phone expenses are allocated down to the school level, however, a portion of it is left in the plant area. Again, that is just, I'll say, a catch-all because over the years unfortunately we have been adding lines to the district. Right now we have approximately 425 lines district-wide but the need arises every once in a while to add the lines for one reason or another and this is the account that we have been using to apply those expenditures to.

Mrs. Culhane continued – my last question through the chair for the superintendent – I haven't left this page yet so I'm still...I'm now on page 72, plant gasoline and plant diesel. I noticed that it has been...you know the same budget as last year. Are we concerned at all because we are not building in for any kind of inflation or rise in gas prices? Under our diesel and fuel costs? I noticed the line items were the same as the previous year. Mr. Balducci responded – again, if you look at the actual expenditures from 2013 with respect to gasoline you will see where we expended approximately \$62,691.61. What I usually do is see what has been spent and most recent actual year what has been spent year to date so to answer your question I am comfortable with the \$63,000. With respect to the diesel, again you can see there has not been a need in prior years but to be on the safe side we have been putting small amount of dollars in that area.

Mr. Gale asked – what is the diesel used for? What kind of machines?

Mr. Balducci responded – it would be plant related equipment, weed whackers, that type of combination, snow blowers.

Mrs. Ruggieri stated – I would like to make an amendment to the budget to make sure that we are increasing the set-aside that we are asking the city for so it reflects the full amount of the \$692,257 that was originally stated with the audit done by the city. The recommendation was that money should be held and set-aside for us and I want to make sure that is in our budget for this year. Ms. Iannazzi stated – Mrs. Ruggieri just understand your proposed amendment. Are you suggesting that special ed funds decrease by the same amount, whatever it is equalized, or you just proposing an addition in special ed funds?

Mrs. Ruggieri responded – well, it was my understanding when this was proposed that this is the amount that the city is supposed to be holding aside and the only use for this account was if we ran higher than outside tuitions and things like that and we ran over what we had proposed and that is what that is there for. They have never funded us at that full amount and we've been caught short because of it. So I just want to make sure, in addition to what we are looking at that that amount is set-aside because that is the amount that was supposed to be set-aside.

Ms. Iannazzi stated – so that amendment has been proposed, is there a second? Mrs. Culhane seconded this amendment. Discussion. Mr.

Colford stated – as I understand it, we have \$536,000 in there and what you are proposing is adding an additional \$156,000. Mrs. Ruggieri stated – yes because we have been caught short by that amount or more. That was the amount that was put forth by the external audit to say that would cover us. Mr. Colford stated – it is my understanding, if you have an agreement with the city that they would cover that \$692,257...Mr. Balducci interjected – again, Janice is referring to a couple of years back. The city hired an outside auditor to audit the budget. They were in agreement that it was prudent for the city to setup a reserve account to assist the school district in this area. That particular year it was identified at \$692,000 but since that time that account has fluctuated in the city budget. Currently it stands at \$536,536 and I believe again this amendment would bring up that reserve by about \$155,000 dollars. Now how that translates into this budget I would reduce the special education outside tuition expenditures by \$155,000 because someone else is helping me pay for those expenses at a higher rate than currently was established in the budget. So that is the adjustment I would make to the budget if you reduce it by \$155,000.

Mrs. Culhane stated – If I may, through the chair, just to Mr. Colford's point. We had at our budget presentation for the 2013 budget. We had presented it and discussed the fact that we were being reduced, I think it was actually the mayor had given us about \$160,000 dollars of the \$690,000 that the auditors had asked for and when asked, Mr. Strom, at this particular meeting that was held at Cranston West, we said what happens if we go over and he assured us at that meeting,

verbally, in front of probably this many people, that the city would cover us and that has yet to happen and then in the subsequent year, we were once again in the mayor budget, underfunded by roughly \$450,000 dollars. The city council was able to restore, I think, about \$130,000 but has never to this day been fully funded and even with the finance director saying that he would find the funds to do it. That is the history behind it. Mr. Colford stated – so what you are saying is they did cover \$536,536, not the....Mrs. Culhane interjected – in the initial presentation from the mayor in the 2013 budget, we had proposed the \$690,000 and the mayor came back to us with about \$160,000. That was all he was going to put aside for that because in the year previous we hadn't used the full amount; we hadn't touched any of the set-aside so he reduced it because we hadn't touched it. Ms. Iannazzi stated – I think the mayor proposed \$270,000 and the council added to get it up to the \$500,000. Ms. Iannazzi asked – any other discussion on this proposed amendment? Mr. Balducci stated – again, just so we are clear, that the actual dollar amount is \$155,721 dollars.

Ms. Iannazzi asked if there was any other discussion on this proposal. There being none the roll was called; all were in favor.

Mr. Traficante stated – Joe I asked you the question about purchased services at the last meeting. It is a staggering amount, \$16 million. Clarify something for me. Asset protection purchased services – the reason I am questioning is because we have a plant contract for purchased service, we have an electrical purchase service, we have

an equipment maintenance purchase services, we have a plumbing, so the asset purchase service – what would that consist of?

Mr. Balducci stated – small projects like replacing particular doors in a location, it is actually purchasing an asset verses repairing an existing item. Some of the areas you just mentioned, the contract work as an example, a recent example of how we are using the budget line item, is we have a situation at Cranston High School West, where a section of the roof is leaking so we need to go to an outside vendor to repair that roof so we would use that line item, contract purchase service, to take care of that type of repair. If a plumbing issue arises we would use the plumbing purchase service if our own in-house personnel could not handle the repair in-house and unfortunately we would need to go to an outside vendor we would use that account.

Mr. Balducci stated- in next year's budget the superintendent has set aside \$200,000 in safety related projects so the normal asset protection budget has been level funded at \$50,000 and as of today we have overspent that \$50,000. Mr. Traficante stated – we still have \$1.3 million dollars in a bond that we haven't utilized for maintenance and repair. Mr. Balducci stated – the difficulty in tapping into unused bond dollars is because it has to go through several layers of approval which may take sometimes months, and sometimes even years. The reason why we just put in small dollars into the budget it to again accommodate if an emergency arises and we need to address it today and that is the reason why we put in \$50,000. Again, the superintendent is making the recommendation to put in \$200,000

for safety related projects that we need to address sooner than later and that is something we cannot use bond dollars to accomplish that. In some cases the way the bond is worded, we can only use it as the bond requires.

Mr. Traficante continued – let's talk about the athletic transportation purchased services. I recall from our last budget we passed a resolution allowing the athletic department to keep their funds and their own revenue account. Can any of that money pay for athletic transportation services?

Mr. Balducci stated – it does not. When we proposed that arrangement we agreed with the athletic director at that time and the school committee supported it, was that all supply related budget line items, capital related supply items, with respect to athletics, those are the expenditures that they are responsible for by using their receipts. Sport officials, i.e., referees, gate staff, coaches stipends, transportation would remain an obligation of the school department. If you look at the athletic transportation, that alone is approximately \$60-70 thousand dollars. In a good year the gate receipts bring in about \$60-70 thousand dollars. All those funds would be wiped out just by transportation requirements. Mr. Traficante asked Mr. Balducci for a breakdown of the revenue of that and what it was spent on.

Mr. Balducci stated – whatever monies are not spent are rolled into the next year so right now they may have a fund balance that they can use for the future for uniforms, equipment, and so forth but I will get

you that answer.

Mrs. Ruggieri asked – Joe I had a question, about state-wide out of district transportation. There are a couple of different lines in our budget and then based on the purchased services proposed budget, I'm just trying to match them up. Can you just let me know on page 70 which lines actually reflect that line item? Mr. Balducci replied – if you look at the end of the transportation area on page 70 you will see one account that says TRANS SPED STATEWIDE; it's the \$1.1 million and \$83,000. Mrs. Ruggieri stated – and just to be clear the transportation state-wide that first line, that was the state took over that was going to save us money every year? Mr. Balducci stated – yes, the first one you are identifying is the bill I receive for the out of district special education transportation. Mrs. Ruggieri asked – has there been any study or anything done not only with our district obviously it is state-wide where they have actually seen a savings from using this state-wide transportation? Or..I mean I am looking at our district and our district hasn't saved anything since this started and I am wondering if there anything that we can do about that? I mean I know that we don't want to take on more of a burden of transportation but I'm wondering if there would be another way to go with this that we might find an actual savings? Mr. Balducci stated – if there has been a study done state-wide it hasn't been shared with the business managers at the local level. I can't answer that question.

Mrs. Ruggieri replied – okay, I was just curious because I know that we haven't saved a dime.

Mr. Colford asked – are you looking to privatize that? Mrs. Ruggieri replied, no, I’m wondering...when this came about...this piece is privatized state-wide. But if there was another way to do it that would actually help our district with savings that were proposed when this originally came about. I think the first year we were in a hole for over a million dollars from this service and we haven’t seen any savings since and that money is going up and down every year so I am just wondering what the purpose of this was. This was supposed to save us money and it hasn’t.

Ms. Iannazzi stated – we will have to dig up the minutes for you Mr. Colford but we had a feisty school committee meeting to say the least with Carolyn Diaz from RIDE and she came here and explained the process and promised certain amount of dollar savings for the district and it never came to fruition. Mr. Colford asked – do you know what year that was? Ms. Iannazzi stated - Superintendent Nero was here at that time, relatively recent.

Mrs. Culhane stated – I just have two more questions, I’ll ask the superintendent, I don’t know if you know the answer but through the chair, it’s on page 70 again, two listings, transportation sped outside maintenance and transportation outside maintenance. One has an increase of \$75,000; one had an increase of \$43,000. I just don’t know exactly what that is. Mr. Balducci stated – if I may, again, if one of our bus mechanics cannot handle a repair to one of our vehicles it is sent to an outside placement. Whether it is putting on a new muffler or brakes. As I mentioned earlier, when I am looking to build next years’

budget I am looking to see what we actually spent in the prior year and currently what we are spending. Unfortunately we have been spending more in the areas then what we budgeted for so this is an attempt to get it to a level where unfortunately we have been spending that. That is the reason why you will see significant increases.

Mrs. Culhane asked – so is there a potential hope with the line item fleet replacement that maybe we'll have that money left over in the budget next year and we'll have an overage there? Mr. Balducci replied – that is a possibility.

Mr. Traficante stated – Joe, help me understand the asset situation again. Can you give me a breakdown of what you think that \$250,000...actually what you have thought about already insofar what that \$250,000 will be utilized for? Dr. Lundsten replied – the \$200,000 is for safety. If you recall the Cranston Police Department did a safety assessment of the 25 properties (schools) and they listed out what we need to do in each building. However, that is confidential; what needs to be done. But we have also asked Jeannine when she met with the safety coordinator to review those assessment plans and prioritize what needs to be done first and second. Some of it will be very upfront; some is kind of behind the scenes in order to increase the safety and security of all our buildings for our students and teachers.

Mr. Traficante continued – Joe I know it's miniscule, peanuts, compared to our entire budget, I would like to have the summer school be a wash. It should not be costing us money each year for summer school. Mr. Balducci stated – we agree. If you look at the

revenue page it's identifying that we are proposed to bring in \$58,000 and that's what we hope to spend. Right now the budget is in balance. We won't know until after the summer school program has ended.

Mr. Traficante asked – I know we lost \$300,000 at the Career & Technical School based on regulations from RIDE. Have we thought about what we plan on doing to try to correct that problem? Dr. Lundsten stated – Mr. Auth is going out and heavily recruiting, doing open houses, increasing publicity and awareness of the programs. He is looking at his programs, looking at the Perkins Grant money to see what we can do with that.

Mr. Colford asked – one of the questions I did have...I was curious as to what our actual increases were for this year, of that 4.62% - what was the actual fixed cost? You came back with the actual fixed cost was 3.6% and again I should have done a little bit more of my homework but last year I wanted to say we were at 2 or 2.2%. It seemed like there was a larger increase in the pension fund. Is there a point where we get back to a smaller amount? Mr. Balducci replied – I hope so. Right now, the rate as given to me a couple of months back is 16.01% going into next year. Currently it is 14.86%. When you look at the percent increase on the odd dollars it is significant. The increase is just under a million dollars to the budget. The non-certified pension is going up at just about the same pace, smaller dollars only because salaries tied into that are not as significant but between the two it's about \$1.1 million dollars to our budget. In other

years it has been a half million dollars and other years \$1.8 million dollars. I don't know from year to year where it is going to end up and this is with pension reform. We have all been reading the articles on potential settlement; I honestly don't know what that is going to do to future budgets.

Mrs. McFarland asked – the new positions, \$147,129 dollars. What are these positions? Dr. Lundsten stated – there are two positions. One is a certified position for a technology person for the elementary schools which would be like a coach to go into the elementary schools to work with our teachers on technology. Our teachers have done a phenomenal job of going out through grants and finding technology and doing workshops but now we need someone to go into the classroom and actually work in the classroom with the teacher to make sure technology is being used in the most efficient way because our kids, frankly, in many ways are way beyond us. We need to support our teachers. That was the certified position. There was one non-certified position and that's for a non-certified person to assist Mr. Dillon with the amount of data that we are using. For example – we are using ASPEN as our platform, we would like to use it for professional development and put our whole PACE website and put that up on ASPEN to make it more efficient. Another thing we are finding very cumbersome and with no assistant...we are moving to PARCC. When we move to PARCC we have to move a lot of files and data over to RIDE. Mr. Dillon has spent countless hours getting prepared to do this for several thousand students. That is one piece

he needs additional help on. At the high school level the students have been working with RIEPS for their portfolios, we want to migrate all that material over into the ASPEN system. We need to make sure we back it up because we certainly don't want to lose any student work where these students have worked on these portfolios for four years. Right now he is so overwhelmed he needs an assistant for a help desk. One of our goals is to have ASPEN open the portal to parents at the elementary level. When that happens people will need passwords; people forget passwords; that means literally picking up the phone and giving people passwords. So we need some extra support there. Those are the only two positions we put in. Mrs. McFarland asked what the salaries would be. Mr. Balducci stated – for the certified technology teacher we used the fifth step – approximately \$51,918 base plus master's degree; for the non-certified position we used \$45,000 as the base. In both situations, employer related benefits on top of that. The total individual – the certified position - \$77,474; the non-certified position - \$70,355.

Mrs. Ruggieri asked – when we talk about our budget and we did talk last time about the controllables and the stuff we have no control over. When I am looking at our fixed and our other that is what we are looking at. So, when we talk about saying we're asking for a certain increase, most of what we are asking for are the things that we have no control over and I think it is really, really important for people to realize that moving forward that almost the entire 4% increase that we are allowed to get is going towards things that we have no control

over and even that amount is probably not enough when we look the two that we know of right now, possible unfunded mandates that it might come down to RIDE one of which could cost us \$400,000. My only question is, the other budget line items, is that like the private schools, nurses, books, transportation, is that included in this because we don't have any control over the bus that goes behind that and we are required to put that money up front. Mr. Balducci stated – yes, I won't call it contractual but we are required to provide or expend those dollars. From one year to the next those areas go up as well.

A motion to table this resolution to the February 13, 2014 meeting was made by Mrs. Culhane; seconded by Mrs. Ruggieri. The roll was called; all were in favor.

PURCHASED AND PURCHASED SERVICES

NO. 14-2-13 - RESOLVED, to approve the contract with ePlus Technologies, Inc. to create a district –wide wireless classroom solution. The amount of the contact is \$1,119,336.35. The funds will be provided through a grant from the Rhode Island Department of Education.

A motion was made by Mr. Gale; seconded by Mrs. Ruggieri. The roll was called; all were in favor.

11. Public Hearing on Non-Agenda Items - none

12. Announcement of Future Meeting(s) – February 13, 2014.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Mrs. Culhane; seconded by Mr. Gale. All were in favor. The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Paula B.M. McFarland

Clerk

Policy #7600

Idling Policy for All Cranston Public Schools

School Buses and Service Vehicles

Definition: Idling - The operation of an engine when a vehicle is stationary or a piece of non-road equipment that is not performing work

Purpose: The purpose is to reduce exhaust exposure, minimize emissions and improve fuel economy

This policy applies to all district owned and contracted vehicles

1) Pre-Trip Inspection and Morning warm-up

A. Drivers are to limit idling time to 5 minutes (the time required to inspect the bus and equipment)

- Extreme Weather Exception: up to 15 minutes (per hour) when temperature fall below 32 degrees Fahrenheit**
- Drivers should not routinely start and unnecessarily leave vehicle running**

2) Loading and Unloading

A. Drivers should turn off engines as soon as possible, prior to loading and unloading students/deliveries if there is a delay (Leaving radios on for communication)

B. Drivers MUST ensure they are back on their bus prior to loading and should not start the vehicle until they are ready to depart and there is a clear path to exit

- Wheel Chair and Special Need Exceptions: buses may remain running while operating wheel chair equipment or to accommodate heat/air conditioning for medically fragile students**

3) Lay-overs, Field trips, Sport events and Extracurricular Activities

A. Drivers should not idle buses while waiting for students

B. If a driver is required to stay with the bus, minimal idling is allowed and the vehicle should be moved well away from the school/building

4) EXCEPTIONS

A. Maintenance of Operation – Cranston Public Schools will follow Air Pollution Control Regulations No. 45

B. Traffic conditions that the driver has no control – Including but not limited to official traffic control device/signal, law enforcement or

emergency personnel and road construction

5) Policy Verification

A. School Bus drivers will receive a copy of this policy at the beginning of the school year

B. Cranston Public Schools busing and utility fleet currently follows the State of Rhode Island Environmental Management Air Pollution Control Regulation Number 45 Anti-Idling Policies.

First Reading: January 27, 2014

Second Reading: February 10, 2014 Resolution No. 14-2-11

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

Abbott, Lisa	SE	Administrator	Horton	31,846.00	4631	335	8
4,732	32	0	462	10,200	42,046		

Fiscal Year 2014-2015

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

Abbott, Lisa	SE	Administrator	Horton	92,000.00	14310	1035	25
---------------------	-----------	----------------------	---------------	------------------	--------------	-------------	-----------

13,671 96 0 1334 30,471 122,471

First year impact reflects start date of 2/11/14.

Projections for 3% increase for health & dental in year 2.

Projections for pension remain flat at 14.86% for both years.