

**CRANSTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING BUDGET ADOPTION**

**FEBRUARY 12, 2015**

**WESTERN HILLS MIDDLE SCHOOL**

**400 PHENIX AVENUE, CRANSTON, RI 02920**

**EXECUTIVE SESSION – 5:30 P.M.**

**IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWED BY PUBLIC MEETING**

**IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWED BY PUBLIC WORK SESSION**

**IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWED BY PUBLIC BUDGET WORK SESSION**

**MINUTES**

**The School Committee meeting was held on the evening of the above date at Western Hills Middle School with the following members present: Chairperson Ruggieri, Mr. Colford, Mrs. Culhane, Mr. Fusco, Mr. Gale, Mr. Traficante and Mr. Wall. Attorney Cascione was present during Executive Session.**

**The meeting was called to order at 5:32 p.m. It was moved by Mr. Colford and seconded by Mr. Traficante to convene to Executive Session pursuant to RI State Laws. The roll was called; all were in favor: Mr. Colford – Yes; Mrs. Culhane – Yes; Mr. Fusco – Yes; Mr. Gale – Yes; Mrs. Ruggieri – Yes; Mr. Traficante – Yes; Mr. Wall – Yes:**

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

**A. Discussion of Certified Administrator A**

**B. Discussion of Certified Administrator B**

**C. Discussion of Non-Certified Employee A**

**D. Teacher Layoffs**

**PL 42-46-5(a)(2) Collective Bargaining/Litigation:**

**A. Secretaries**

**PL 42-46-5(3)**

**A. District Safety Plan**

**P.L. 42-46-5 (a)(8);**

**A. Hearing for Student Re: Appeal of Placement of Student “A”**

**Call to Order - Public Session at 6:22 p.m.**

**The roll was called; a Quorum was present.**

**Executive Session Minutes Sealed – Mrs. Ruggieri stated that no votes were taken in executive session and all individuals listed under Personnel above have been noticed. A motion was made to seal the minutes of executive session; moved by Mr. Traficante; seconded by Mrs. Culhane. The roll was called; all were in favor.**

**Minutes of Previous Meetings Approved – January 15, 2015, January 20, 2015 and January 29, 2015; Moved by Mr. Traficante; seconded by Mr. Wall. The roll was called; all were in favor.**

**Public Acknowledgements/Communications – None**

## **Chairperson's Communications – None**

## **Superintendent's Communications**

**Dr. Lundsten stated – I just wanted to point out how lucky we are to have such talented students. Tonight you are going to see some samplings of wonderful art work that our students have done through the Scholastic Art Awards. Last night it was pointed out to me when I attended the Cranston High School West concert of their chamber orchestra and it was phenomenal. If you went into that auditorium and closed your eyes, you would have thought you were at the Rhode Island Philharmonic. What a testament to the students and those teachers. It just wanted to point that out to everybody. When we are talking about budgets and arts and everything, goes to show just how lucky we are. Thank you.**

## **School Committee Member Communications –**

**Mr. Wall stated – I just want to add very briefly, just prior to this meeting, Ms. DeSimone and Ms. Guttin, the teachers for Family and Consumer Science passed along a petition signed by some of the students who were in the program, some 700 students, on behalf of keeping this program. I just wanted to pass them along to the other members.**

## **Public Hearing**

**a. Students (Agenda/Non-Agenda Matters) - None**

**b. Members of the Public (Agenda Matters Only)**

**1. Matt Sheridan, Teacher at Arlington Elementary School – Spoke on Sodexo and Food Service**

### **Consent Calendar/Consent Agenda**

**The following resolutions were adopted unanimously under the proposed Consent Agenda:**

**The following resolutions were adopted unanimously under the Consent Agenda:**

**15-02-03, 15-02-04, 15-02-05, 15-02-06 w/addendum, 15-02-07, 15-02-08; 15-02-09, 15-02-10 w/addendum, 15-02-11, 15-02-12 w/addendum, 15-02-13, 15-02-14, 15-02-15 and 15-02-17**

**A motion was made to approve by Mrs. Culhane; seconded by Mr. Traficante. The roll was called; all were in favor.**

## **Action Calendar/Action Agenda**

### **RESOLUTIONS**

**Resolution No. 15-02-01** Whereas a regional juried art competition was sponsored by the Scholastics Art and Writing organization, on January 10, 2015.

Whereas, on January 10th, the Cranston secondary art teachers were notified that their students had been awarded Gold/Silver Keys in various visual arts categories.

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 and teachers for their wonderful achievement.

#### **Cranston High School East**

**Gabriella Calvino (Mixed Media) – Silver Key; Paula Frost (Painting) – Silver Key; Cynthia Gatua (Drawing and Illustration) – Silver Key; Sophia Jordan (Mixed Media) – Silver Key; Jaime Struminsky (Painting) - Silver Key**

**Teachers: Kirsten Sorensen, Mary Ann Schultheis and Jill Cyr**

## **Cranston High School West**

**Theodore Paola (Drawing and Illustration) – Gold Key ; Jerry Savage (Drawing and Illustration) – Gold Key; Vada Bates (Drawing and Illustration) – Silver Key; Katie Bergquist (Mixed Media) – Silver Key; Anita Fang (Drawing and Illustration) – Gold Key and American Visions Nominee; Paul Hazian (Drawing and Illustration) – Silver Key; Sophia Perrotta (Drawing and Illustration) – Silver Key; Adriana Saccoccio (Drawing and Illustration) – Silver Key**

**Teachers: Barbara Voccola, Valerie Bruzzi-Krsulic, Heidi Copeman, Claudia Venditto**

## **Hugh B. Bain Middle School**

**Nathalia Flor (Mixed Media) – Silver Key; Aggerlynn Vetiaque (Mixed Media) – Silver Key**

**Teacher: Lisa Erb**

## **Park View Middle School**

**Brooke Gannon (Ceramics & Glass) – Gold Key; Zachary McCombe, Mixed Media- Gold Key; Matthew Laforge (Painting) – Silver Key**

**Teacher: Alicia Hawkins**

## **Western Hills Middle School**

**Arianna Deal (Drawing and Illustration) – Gold Key & American Visions Nominee; Alexa Lombardi (Painting) – Silver Key**

**Teacher: Gloria Budz**

**A motion was made to approve by Mrs. Culhane; seconded by Mr. Traficante. The roll was called; all were in favor.**

## **ADMINISTRATION**

**Resolution No. 15-02-02 RESOLVED, to Accept or Reject decision of the Superintendent regarding Appeal of Placement of Student “A”.**

**A motion was made by Mr. Traficante; seconded by Mrs. Culhane. Discussion.**

**Mrs. Ruggieri asked Mrs. Culhane to assume to the chair. She stated that based on the advice of legal counsel, we are prohibited by R.I.G.L 16-2-28, which requires completion of kindergarten before entry to first grade, so we are denying this appeal. However, we are directing Administration at the earliest possible time to jointly file a request for a waiver from the Department of Education provided for in another section of the same law.**

**There being no further discussion, a motion was made to accept the decision of the Superintendent; moved by Mr. Wall; seconded by Mr.**

**Traficante. The roll was called; all were in favor.**

## **PERSONNEL**

**Resolution No. 15-02-03 RESOLVED, that the three year agreement between the Cranston School Committee and Rhode Island Council 94, American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees, AFL-CIO, On Behalf of Local 2044, Cranston Public School Secretarial Employees, be accepted subject to ratification by the Cranston City Council (Revised Fiscal Analysis Attached).**

**Resolution No. 15-02-04 RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the non-renewal of certified Administrator A be accepted due to elimination of the position.**

**Resolution No. 15-02-05 RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the non-renewal of certified Administrator B be accepted due to elimination of the position.**

**Resolution No. 15-02-06 RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent the following certified personnel be appointed for the 2014-2015 school year:**

**Alicia Torres, Step 2**

**Education...RIC, BS**

**Experience...Cranston Substitute**

**Certification....Early Childhood Special Education PK-2**

**(emergency certification)**

**Assignment...Orchard Farms 1.0 FTE**

**Effective date...September 10, 2014**

**Authorization...Replacement**

**Fiscal Note... 13613260 51110**

**Add to Resolution No. 15-02-06**

**Kathryn Flinn, Step 8 + Masters**

**Education...PC, BS, MA**

**Experience...Blackstone Regional School District**

**Certification....Guidance K-12**

**Assignment...Itinerant .4 FTE**

**Effective date...March 2, 2015**

**Authorization...Replacement**

**Fiscal Note... 11015010 51110**

**Resolution No. 15-02-07 RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the following certified personnel be appointed as substitutes on a temporary basis as needed:**

**Alexandria Hornstein, Art Pk-12**

**Resolution No. 15-02-08 RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of**

**the Superintendent, the following certified staff member be granted a leave of absence without compensation as provided in Article XIX, Section B.4 of the Master Agreement between the Cranston School Committee and the Cranston Teachers' Alliance:**

**Brianna Tasca, Teacher**

**Leave**

**Effective Date...August, 2015 to January, 2017**

**Resolution No. 15-02-09 RESOLVED, Whereas, the expiration of the teacher's limited employment contract effective at the end of the 2014-2015 school year, and**

**Whereas, there is uncertainty of sufficient Federal, State and local funding for general and categorical programs for the 2015-2016 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, certain positions became available after the teacher assignment process on August 1, 2014 and as a result, other teachers may elect to occupy these positions under Article XVI C of the Collective Bargaining Agreement, and**

**Whereas, certain teachers may be terminated based upon their performance, 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 2014-2015 school year.**

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

**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.**

**Resolution No. 15-02-10 RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the following individual(s) be appointed as an athletic coach:**

**James Lucas, Head Coach Boys' Tennis**

**CHSW**

**Step-7**

**Class-B**

**Playing Competition-High School**

**Experience-CSHW Head Coach Girls' Tennis**

**Certification-RI Coaches Certification; CPR\AED\First Aid**

**Add to Resolution No. 15-02-10**

**Thomas Paquette, Head Coach Boys' Volleyball**

**CHSE**

**Step-6**

**Class-B**

**Playing Competition-High School & College**

**Experience-Cranston East Assistant Coach Boys Volleyball**

**Certification-RI Coaches Certification; CPR\AED\First Aid**

**Clem Soscia , Head Coach Girls' Outdoor Track**

**CHSW**

**Step-7**

**Class-B**

**Playing Competition-High School & College**

**Experience-Cranston West Assistant Coach Girls' Track**

**Certification-RI Coaches Certification; CPR\AED\First Aid**

**Arianna Colella, Assistant Coach Girls' Outdoor Track**

**CHSW**

**Step-4**

**Class-D**

**Playing Competition-High School & College**

**Experience-Cranston West Assistant Coach Girls' Indoor Track**

**Certification-RI Coaches Certification; CPR\AED\First Aid**

**Ryan Kavanagh, Assistant Coach Boys' Outdoor Track**

**CHSE**

**Step-7**

**Class-D**

**Playing Competition-High School & College**

**Experience-Cranston Track Coach**

**Certification-RI Coaches Certification; CPR\AED\First Aid**

**Resolution No. 15-02-11 RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the resignation of the following coach (es) be accepted:**

**Michael Boyajian, Jr., Assistant Boys' Lacrosse Coach**

**Cranston West**

**Effective date...January 16, 2015**

**Resolution No. 15-02-12 RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of**

**the Superintendent, the following non-certified employee(s) be appointed:**

**Richard Lecuivre, Bus Driver**

**Transportation**

**Effective...January 26, 2015**

**Replacement**

**Fiscal Note...1294519 51110**

**Alyson Foster, Secretary**

**Barrows**

**Effective...February 4, 2015**

**Replacement**

**Fiscal Note....11243210 51110**

**Emmanuel Suggs, 5hr Custodian**

**Peters**

**Effective...February 10, 2015**

**Replacement**

**Fiscal Note....12447050 51110**

**Add to Resolution No. 15-02-12**

**Paul Olszewski, Safety Officer**

**Central Administration**

**Effective...March 9, 2015**

**New**

**Fiscal Note....18082245 53502**

**Resolution No. 15-02-13 RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the following non-certified personnel be appointed as substitutes on a temporary basis as needed:**

**Victoriano Pamorada, Custodian**

**Resolution No. 15-02-14 RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the resignation(s) of the following non-certified personnel be accepted:**

**James Marianetti, Bus Driver**

**Transportation**

**Effective Date...January 23, 2015**

**Nicole Garganese, Bus Monitor**

**Transportation**

**Effective Date...August 14, 2014**

**Comfort Washington, CNA**

**Cranston West**

**Effective Date...January 23, 2015**

**Resolution No. 15-02-15 RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the termination of non-certified Employee A be accepted.**

## **BUSINESS**

**Resolution No. 15-02-16 RESOLVED, that the 2015-2016 Operating Budget as recommended by the Superintendent, be approved.**

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

**Mr. Traficante stated – Madam Chair, I wanted you to know that before you make any amendments to the budget, I met with Mr. Balducci prior to this meeting and he has approved what I am about to say and the amendment I am about to make. As you well know in our meetings that we have had regarding the restoration of middle school sports program, it called for an annual budget of approximately \$156,000. In the Superintendent’s proposed budget, if you look on page 2, there is an appropriation of \$108,000. If you look on page 3, there is an additional appropriation of \$14,000 for a total of \$122,000. There is a shortage of about \$35,000. With Mr. Balducci’s approval, I want to make a motion to amend the Superintendent’s budget to deduct \$35,000 from the property insurance line item located on page 74, leaving a balance of \$40,000 for property insurance. Mr. Balducci**

**felt as though that was more than sufficient and add \$35,000 to the middle school athletic budget for year 2015.**

**A motion was made by Mr. Traficante to amend the proposed budget; seconded by Mrs. Culhane. The roll was called; all were in favor.**

**Dr. Lundsten stated – I would like to make a proposed amendment to my proposed budget that we re-allocate the monies currently attributed to the Family and Consumer Science program, in the amount of \$237,000 and switch it over to support the Technology and Financial Literacy programs for the high schools. I strongly feel that financial literacy is an essential skill for our students if they are to reach their dreams. We want our students to be independent, adult consumers who are confident and fully prepared to make wise financial decisions for a lifetime of economic wellbeing. Our students when they leave us should have knowledge and skills, not only how to save and spend money appropriately, but to understand credit and debt, how to invest, the concept of risk management, the importance of insurance and how they are all related to employment income. In addition, we know that technology and the internet is a very important academic tool. It is paramount that our students have a deeper understanding and knowledge of concepts, methods and wide ranging applications of computer science. Our students need to be well prepared and innovative in order to compete in a global work force with science, technology, engineering, arts and math. I ask that you consider that.**

**Mrs. Culhane stated – I would like to make a motion to take \$237,000 from the Family and Consumer Science line item and add it to the Technology and Finance Literacy program. The motion was seconded by Mr. Fusco. The roll was called; all were in favor.**

**Mrs. Culhane stated – I understand that the Family and Consumer Science program is something that is near and dear to many people's hearts. I have a rising freshman and one of the things she says to me all the time when we talk about our mortgage and finances, is no one in school teaches you how to balance a check book. I think that she is right and it is a skill that while what Family and Consumer Science can offer something for some students that may be a skill that they want. Financial literacy and technology are skills that every child needs. Thinking about my own freshman college experience, you go onto that campus and everybody known to mankind is offering you credit cards with incentives and things to spend your money on and most of the kids, myself included, had no idea what we were getting into. I think the importance of financial literacy moving forward in the future far outweighs the nice to have of having kids take some of these classes which could potentially find other ways to have those programs and find those things out in life. Whereas, financial literacy is paramount to being a successful adult in society. I will be supporting this amendment.**

**Mrs. Ruggieri asked Mrs. Culhane to assume the chair.**

**Mrs. Ruggieri stated – I think it is important to point out that with the limited budget that we do have and allocating our resources to make sure that we are using our resources in the most effective way, we have to look at our programs and how far reaching they are to our student body. We know that right now technology is a graduation requirement and so it is important that we are looking at programs that are developing for those graduation requirements and for making sure we are reaching all our students. The same can be said for financial literacy as the administration has indicated that they would like to make some sort of financial literacy piece a graduation requirement for all of our students as well. When we look at some of our programs, we do have to make sure that we are covering what we are required for all of students to graduate based on the amount of monies that we do have and based on the programs that we are offering. I do think that we need to look at that as part of the picture when we are making these decisions.**

**Mr. Wall stated - I am just going to reiterate my support for keeping the Family and Consumer Science program. In my opinion it is not an either or, these are all valuable skills. Technology obviously is a life skill we will need in the future. I also think there is a value to Family and Consumer Science. I think it is a life skill you are going to need going into the future, how to plan a proper diet, know what the ingredients of foods are, it is something to take with you for the rest of your life. Unfortunately, I had to make it a competition between**

two things that are very valuable, but that being said I just want to reiterate my support for the Family and Consumer Science program and maintaining it.

Mr. Gale stated – I would also like to talk about my support for the Family and Consumer Science program. One of the things that really struck me about it is from the testimony that we heard of students saying that they show up for class and show up to school because of these classes. I would hate to lose the program for that reason. Just like Mr. Wall said, they are all life skills and all things that they need. I just don't think that this is the right decision.

Mr. Colford stated - Dr. Lundsten I have a couple of quick questions. Obviously when you put this budget together I am sure you had a lot of conversations with Mr. Balducci and others. Do we feel that this is the best use of these dollars? In all that budget, \$146 Million, this \$237,000, we felt that this is the best place to move it? I am presuming that we do not have enough for both of these programs as I understand it.

Dr. Lundsten stated – We need to reallocate our resources to use the money most efficiently. I really feel that this is one way to do it. Is it going to do the whole thing for these two programs, absolutely not. For example, on the technology piece, yesterday I spent a part of my afternoon with people from URI looking at a grant to support additional technology because they feel so strongly that this is what

**our kids need. This is just a piece of it. I would like to say that it will do the whole thing, but it is not. I do not want to mislead you that it is. I think this is what we need to do. This will handle the financial literacy piece.**

**Mr. Colford stated – Thank you.**

**Mr. Traficante stated – Is this program going to be imbedded in the Business Department?**

**Dr. Lundsten stated – Yes. The financial literacy is.**

**Mr. Traficante stated – In what particular program will it be imbedded, business, math, where?**

**Mrs. Nota-Masse stated – The actual course will be Financial Literacy. The curriculum is coming from the State and I believe they are working with Jump Start and Pawtucket Credit Union to assist in developing a curriculum for financial literacy.**

**Mr. Traficante stated – This will be a mandatory graduation requirement?**

**Mrs. Nota-Masse stated – That would be going before the Curriculum Advisory Board, but it is the Administration's desire to have it be a required course before students graduate.**

**Dr. Lundsten stated – The Jump Start standards are nationally recognized. They cover all those areas that I mentioned in my opening statement.**

**Mr. Traficante stated – I am familiar with Jump Start because we started that program at the Charter School a few years back, so we have been working with Jump Start on that particular program. We have it in our World of Work Program.**

**Mr. Fusco stated – I have been struggling with this up until this very second. I see the value in both areas. In my line of work, I deal with finances. Also, I am a technology person so I see the value in that. I also see the value in the Family and Consumer Sciences program. The struggle that I have been having is figuring out whether to go with my heart or my head. Honestly, when I was elected I took a vow to look out for the entire school population and when I put the numbers on the paper, I do this at work, I put a cost/benefit analysis and things of that nature, it is swaying towards the financial side. I am going to support the amendment. Thank you.**

**Mrs. Culhane made a motion to approve the amendment; seconded by Mr. Fusco. The roll was called: Mr. Colford – Yes; Mrs. Culhane – Yes; Mr. Fusco – Yes; Mr. Gale – No; Mrs. Ruggieri – Yes; Mr. Traficant – Yes; Mr. Wall – No.**

**Mrs. Ruggieri asked if there were any other amendments to the budget.**

**Mr. Traficante stated – During our last budget session, unfortunately you could not be here, we asked the question to Mr. Balducci to do some investigating for us, regarding the Special Education account and also the account that was set up by the City Council for both music and middle school sports. Do you have an answer from that particular investigation?**

**Mrs. Ruggieri stated – It was my understanding that Mr. Balducci had contacted the City of Cranston finance director to get clarification because the City Council at their May 12, 2014 budget meeting declared that they were going to create a middle school sports and music reserve account and that any money that was left over from the Special Education tuition contingency dollars that were unused, were going to be placed into that account. According to Mr. Balducci at the time he sent in his first indication, we were notified that there was actually only one dollar placed in that account. We did seek further clarification for that. The account was opened and a dollar was placed in it as a place holder. According to our numbers, the account currently should have a balance of \$425,723. Based on the fact that several members of the City Council actually campaigned on promises that they were going to be bringing programming back, we are looking for them to come back to say to us that is that money and this is where it is going.**

**Mr. Traficante stated – Is this response from the finance director for the City?**

**Mrs. Ruggieri stated – This was Mr. Balducci's note to Mr. Strom and included in that was the language from the actual minutes of that meeting.**

**Mr. Traficante stated – So Mr. Strom has not responded?**

**Mrs. Ruggieri stated – No we have not heard back from him, but we are fully expecting to hear back.**

**Mr. Traficante stated – Just to verify what you are saying, on May 12, 2014, a resolution was passed by the City Council indicating that?**

**Mrs. Ruggieri stated – Yes.**

**Mr. Traficante stated – Mr. Balducci asked for about \$109,000 be taken from that account, which would leave a balance of roughly \$435,000?**

**Mrs. Ruggieri stated – Yes.**

**Mr. Votto – Madam Chairwoman and Mr. Traficante, Joe (Mr. Balducci) and I met with Mr. Strom over the Capital Budget as well as Mr.**

**Collins (Ed) and then after that as an off shoot, he had a discussion with Mr. Strom. What Mr. Strom did was take those dollars and balanced his budget with it at the conclusion of last year. The monies have been part of his reconciliation at the end of the 2013-2014 fiscal year. That was his feedback to Mr. Balducci. In terms of the City Council, it is up to them during the appropriation part of the budget come April/May. Those dollars have already been allocated separately by the finance director.**

**Mrs. Ruggieri stated – So based on the fact that we do know that the motion passed on a vote of 9-0 with everyone voting in favor for that account to be created and any residual money go into that account. We will be requesting the City Council to give us direction and clarification on that during our budget presentation to them.**

**Mr. Traficante stated – Superintendent, when will we see the Capital Budget proposal?**

**Dr. Lundsten stated - At the March meeting. Mr. Collins (Ed) has been working on it diligently. We have reviewed it earlier today and made some recommendations for him because this is his first attempt at it. We will be presenting it in March.**

**Mrs. Culhane stated – This may be a question more for Mr. Balducci and I can direct it to him if it can't be answered by anyone else. With the original creation of the Special Education account that started at**

**\$980,000 six years ago, was it my understanding that the plan for that money originally was supposed to be for what would have been considered an enterprise fund so that money would not have been used towards our budget or towards the City's general budget, that we know that in years since then it has been defunded and defunded and that is all good and well. Wasn't that the original intention of what that money was? Wasn't that money supposed to be held in abeyance and not used towards reconciliation of anything for us or the City? Am I correct in remembering that or was that never solidified?**

**Mrs. Ruggieri stated – I don't think that was solidified because that was our interpretation of what happened and what was stated at the meetings. Since then, every year there seems to be a dispute regarding those particular funds and where they are supposed to be held and what they are supposed to be used for. Because the last piece of information on this fund was a vote taken by the City Council to move that money into a reserve fund, specifically for middle school sports and music, that is the latest piece and that is what they determined was going to happen with that money.**

**Mrs. Culhane stated – It was that any residual funds, that is how the resolution reads, and they were opening an account supposedly with \$100,000.....originally they were allocating that \$100,000 so is that \$100,000 above the \$435,000 or would that include the \$435,000?**

**Mrs. Ruggieri stated – I believe that is inclusive. The first amount was for 2013-2014 and it was \$109,813.**

**Mrs. Culhane stated – We will wait for an answer.**

**Mr. Traficante stated – Superintendent you gave us a handout with all personnel, some were required some were contractual and some were new programs. I am not talking about new programs, but under contractual on the second page, you have Art 1.0, Music 1.0 and Library 1.0. Please explain that. Why are those contractual?**

**Dr. Lundsten stated - When we did our contract negotiations we agreed that at the elementary level we wanted to embed common planning time and working in collaboration with the CTA, we agreed that we would provide common planning time for our elementary teachers. In order to do that, we need to make sure that we have enough itinerants so that we can excuse teachers, like the two 3rd grade teachers, so one would have art and one would have music. Their children are being taught while they are doing their common planning time. In doing that we have also looked at redoing the itinerants schedule to be the most efficient way as possible across the city and the CTA's have worked carefully with Joe for us to have a district wide plan for all our special subjects and for our itinerants. You will also notice 2 PE teachers on there that we found that we were a few minutes short at the elementary level. We wanted to make sure that we were meeting the basic requirements for physical**

**education. That is why we had to add the extra ones.**

**Mr. Traficante stated – On the first page you also have a special education required as well. Is that the same reason....common planning time?**

**Dr. Lundsten stated – No. That is based on the needs of our children.**

**Mr. Traficante stated - Thank you. That clarifies that for me.**

**Mrs. Ruggieri asked if there were any other questions regarding the budget.**

**Mr. Traficante made a motion to approve the operating budget as recommended by the Superintendent and amended; seconded by Mr. Fusco. The roll was called; all were in favor.**

## **PURCHASED AND PURCHASED SERVICES**

**Resolution No. 15-02-17 RESOLVED, that the following purchases be approved:**

**Park View Stage Curtains in the amount of \$7,880 (Funding provided by private foundation grants)**

**Number of bids issued 6**

**Number of bids received 2**

## **POLICY AND PROGRAM**

**Resolution No. 15-02-18 RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent the following field trip(s) of long duration/conference(s) be authorized:**

**1. Michele Simpson, Executive Director of Pupil Personnel, Lisa Abbott, Special Education Administrator and Julie Driscoll, Director of Early Childhood, to travel to Denver Colorado from April 26, 2015 through April 29, 2015 to attend the 36th Annual LRP's National Institute on Legal Issues of Educating Individuals with Disabilities Conference, at no cost to the school department. Expenses to be funded through the IDEA Grant.**

**Mr. Traficante made a motion to approve; Mrs. Culhane seconded. The roll was called; all were in favor.**

**Mr. Traficante asked if he could ask a question after the fact.**

**Mrs. Ruggieri stated – Yes.**

**Mr. Traficante stated – Just for clarification, and I should have asked this question many moons ago. When we send people to conferences and symposiums and workshops and when they return,**

**do they have to report back to you in writing regarding the workshops they attended, etc. or what they took away from that particular symposium or workshop and what benefit it would be to the Cranston School Department. Have they done that in the past?**

**Dr. Lundsten stated – They have come back and have spoken to me about it, but it has not been in writing. I want to be clear about that. I will tell you that this particular LRP, I myself attended when I was sitting in a similar chair as Mr. Rotz’s position and as the Assistant Superintendent, it is frankly one of the best institutes on legal issues that I have ever attended. We certainly would encourage to people when they come back to offer whatever workshops to work with our principals.**

**Mr. Traficante stated – I am going to make a suggestion, in the future that they place it in writing, a copy given to the School Committee and see exactly what we are gaining by them going to these particular conferences. If there are things on there that we would like to incorporate ourselves, then we should do so. Maybe there are things we should eliminate as well.**

**Dr. Lundsten stated – You would like a conference report?**

**Mr. Traficante stated – Exactly.**

**Dr. Lundsten stated – I will come up with some type of format for that.**

**Mrs. Culhane made a motion to adjourn to public work session; Mr. Gale seconded it. The roll was called; all were in favor.**

### **Discussion on Solar Panels – Kenneth Filarski**

**Mr. Traficante stated – About two weeks ago, Mr. Filarski and I both served on the Workforce Investment Council for both Cranston and Providence and we met each other at one of those meetings. He basically said to me that he wanted to discuss a particular issue that would benefit the Cranston School Department in terms of energy savings. I asked him to place it in writing and send me a memo on that, which he did. Once I received the memo, I sent him email and asked him to sit down and discuss this with me more in detail. Before I did that, I did contact the School Committee Chairperson, unfortunately who was ill that particular day and could not attend herself, I asked her if she minded if I attended the meeting on behalf of the Cranston School Committee and she gave me the authority to do so. I met with Mr. Filarski that morning over a cup of coffee and he impressed me a great deal. My opinion is it is a win/win situation for the Cranston School Department in terms of not costing them any money, beneficial in terms of energy savings, and a variety of other things. There is an academic program in the proposal as well. It is a grant that I thought was so important that we get this on the table as quickly as possible because there is a time factor here to submit the grant that I brought Mr. Filarski to the Superintendent's office that**

very day. We met with the Superintendent and Mr. Collins so they could ask him a variety of questions. Mr. Collins brought up some very good points that were important to the project. Mr. Filarski responded and answered those questions immediately. Therefore, he is here tonight to show you what the program is all about and to demonstrate the program. I believe we should be on board as quickly as possible and get the ball moving.

Mr. Filarski stated- Thank you Madam Chairwoman and thank you Mr. Traficante. Just to give you a little background, my name is Kenneth Filarski and I am a resident of Cranston. I live at 39 Perennial Drive. I am the principal and founder of Filarski Architecture and Planning and Research. It has been in business since January 1, 1976. I was hired by the City of Cranston as a Grant Consultant, which is part of my services in that role and as an architect that I am here before you. I have with me Mr. Stuart Flanagan who is a principal at Newport Renewables, who would be a consultant to me in my role as a Grant Consultant to the City. The opportunity that we have before us is twofold. There are two grant opportunities. The program is called Solar for Schools. There are two grants involved. There are approximately up to 50 kilowatt, photovoltaic solar array that can be installed on the school property, preferably a school roof. That is equivalent to generating electricity for approximately 6-8 decent size homes. The awarding of the grant, depending on the installation, would probably be in the \$175,000 to \$225,000 range. There are two grants involved and the funding sources are also twofold. The one

that is due March 10, 2015 is from the Commerce Department, which is funded by the Renewable Energy Fund or the REF Fund. That is funded by a surcharge on our energy bills that we all get. That will fund about 30% of the cost of the photovoltaic solar panel. The other 70% will come from the State Office of Energy Resources, which is funded by the RGGI Fund (Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative). There are a number of states in the northeast that put their carbon credits up for auction and various people who want the tax credits purchase them. Through Rhode Island's share of that this year going into this Solar for Schools program is \$1.3 Million. What will happen is the Office of Energy Resources and the Commerce Corporation are coordinating these two funds. The Office of Energy Resources application deadline is April 17, 2015. The proposal is that the City of Cranston, as the owner of the school buildings, would submit the proposal. I would write the proposal in conjunction with Newport Renewables. In the proposal there is a design, financial analysis and also the cost of the photovoltaic array. The only cost, which I believe will be born on the City side is approximately \$1,500 to hire a structural engineer to analyze the roof and the structural capacity of that roof to hold the photovoltaic system. It is a turnkey proposal and that is the requirements that were set up by the State, which means that once the proposal goes into the State and it is duly funded 70/30 by the two state agencies, there is a hard and fast cost, which is guaranteed by the installer, Newport Renewables, and that is it. The benefits to the City are that on a conservative basis it would save \$8,000-\$10,000 a year in electrical energy costs. The system is

projected to last 25 years. I will turn this over to Mr. Flanagan so he can explain some of the intricacies that Newport Renewables does, including a very detailed financial analysis.

### **Stuart Flanagan, Newport Renewables**

Mr. Flanagan stated – I am a resident of Newport, RI. My business is based there. We have been in Newport for 3 years. As Ken (Filarski) has already outlined the grant program pretty well, the other main component of this program is an educational component that will be instituted or performed by Newport Renewables, where we come in and tie in an educational component. For instance, we just completed a project at Rocky Hill School in August which was funded by the same grant opportunity last year, which was the first year of it in Rhode Island. We completed a solar array on their building. Public and private schools are both eligible to compete for this funding and now we are implementing an educational component across grade levels at Rocky Hill School. We are going in and touching on the technology and teaching kids about energy, the environment and how renewables are good for us moving forward into the future. Basically, as Ken (Filarski) had pointed out, it is a turnkey project and that is a requirement of the grant applications. We would perform the whole project from start to finish, including the educational component and there would be no outside costs in addition to that structural analysis. With that being said, if there were any increases in cost, it would be absorbed by Newport Renewables. There were 5 projects that

**were awarded last year. We applied for and were awarded one of those projects, which was Rocky Hill. The other four projects have not been completed due to not enough due diligence being performed ahead of time. Those projects have still yet to be completed and have passed the deadline in which they were supposed to be done last year. We have shown the State that we can get these projects done and implement the educational component within the timeframe they have requested.**

**Mr. Traficante stated – Can Mr. Collins (Ed Collins, Director of Plant Operations) come up to speak. He was part of that meeting and perhaps he could add something about that discussion.**

**Mr. Filarski stated – While we are waiting for Mr. Collins, I would like to say that there has been no municipal school system that has adopted this program. It truly would be a feather in a cap to the City of Cranston, the Cranston School Committee and the Cranston School System if you were to move forward on this.**

**Mr. Colford stated – You said it is about a 25 year lifespan on this. If there are any repairs needed along the way, you are going to pick up the cost?**

**Mr. Flanagan stated – No that is not correct. Most of the equipment is covered under manufacturer warranty, the solar panels, inverters and the racking system, which are the main components of the system.**

**The system would be covered by a five year workmanship warranty by my company. Any required maintenance after that point or failure of equipment would be the expense of the school or the city/town, but it would be our hope that the city/town would put aside that money that would have been spent on electricity bills, put it into some type of fund to cover any unexpected maintenance or repairs that would arise during the lifetime of the system. As Ken (Filarski) stated, it is about an \$8,000-\$10,000 a year in savings in year one. As we all know, electricity prices escalate.**

**Mr. Colford stated – Do you have any savings at Rocky Hill?**

**Mr. Flanagan stated – Yes. We installed it on their Flynn building and they instantly saved 20% on their electricity costs. That was a 33 kilowatt solar array.**

**Mrs. Ruggieri stated – I am going to let Mr. Collins speak and then I have questions I want to ask.**

**Mr. Collins stated – He (Mr. Flanagan) mentioned some of the warranty components, such as the inverters, workmanship, power production for 25 years so they are going to guaranty the savings that we should have. Then there is a warranty on the panels and the racking system. Those things are all important to us. The other thing that was important, is how they are tying it into the system. They are going to come in through the meter and we will get credits**

on the electricity bill. As he (Mr. Flanagan) stated, we are looking at probably 10-15% of our bill in savings. Just remember that while the electricity price will change, the panels will also start dropping a little bit on their efficiency and there is a guaranty after 25 years for them to still be at 80% efficiency. The other thing to look at is when we engage in projects like this, is buy back. What is the buyback period? For us, it is instantaneously because we are not producing any money up front. Next, we are looking at Cranston West to put it on. We will show them 2-3 different roofs and then go around and make a decision from there.

Mrs. Ruggieri asked if there were any questions for Mr. Collins.

Mr. Fusco stated – Are we looking at doing this for just one building?

Mr. Collins stated – Right now it is a one building project.

Mrs. Culhane stated – In looking at this, they want newer roofs, which our newest roof is 12 or 13 years old. Do we have roofs that can handle this?

Mr. Collins stated – Presently we do not have any that would fit that right now. As you will see in the next month in our Capital Budget, Cranston West is due for a new roof on the B Wing, which would actually be a perfect location for it. We will show them West, Orchard Farms, Hope Highlands. Cranston West is on the agenda and if that

**was going to be done, that would be the newest roof and the perfect place for this.**

**Mrs. Ruggieri stated – Mrs. Culhane can you assume the Chair.**

**Mrs. Culhane stated – Mrs. Ruggieri do you have some questions?**

**Mrs. Ruggieri stated – The Cranston School Department does not own these buildings, but we do have care and custody of them. We pay the electric bill. The savings that would be generated from this should be going back to the School Department, because we pay the electric bill. I would like to know, and I would like to see it in writing, who is going to benefit from those savings and where is that funding going to go? I would also like to know, and this is something that you probably can't answer but I would need an answer to, is would this type of project and savings eventually come off the bottom line of our budget. I understand that we have five year warranty for everything and I would also like to see in writing after the five years, who is going to be responsible for paying for any maintenance or any repairs outside of that warranty. How long is this grant good for? I do not know what else is tied into this. In addition, the \$1,500, where would that come from?**

**Mr. Filarski stated – Let me start with the last one. Relative to the \$1,500, what I told the City Council was that rather than getting tripped up for a small amount, I would pay for it. I would pay for it out**

**of my own pocket, just because this project is so important. Working backwards, when I talk to Dr. Lundsten and Mr. Traficante, in the end the dollars that are saved are dollars saved for the tax payers regardless. How the School Department and the City Council work out where the savings will go, I would hope that it can be worked out and I know it will, but the bottom line is you are not going to benefit and gain those savings unless that grant is applied for and you receive the funding.**

**Mrs. Ruggieri stated – I understand that, but these are questions that need to be answered and made very clear before anything moved forward. As far as I am concerned, I am not speaking for any other member of this Committee, but these are issues that we have run into before. If there are benefits to the City as a whole, we would just like to have a clearer picture of what those benefits are and where they are going.**

**Mr. Filarski stated – Understood and that is something that you and I can certainly work on.**

**Mr. Collins stated – It is my understanding that we are not really going to see any checks or anything. It is just going to be credited to our electric bill. There is nothing to show other than a reduction in the electric bill. The other thing that I was adamant about and they guaranteed is that someone provides justification of savings. We can do all this and say it is great, but I want someone to come back and**

**justify that the amount of kilowatts that was proposed to be saved, is actually being saved. Justification of the project is extremely important and they will follow through with that. At the end of the year if we can show exactly what was saved, we can attach a number for what we were paying for electricity and we can see the difference.**

**Mr. Filarksi stated – Relative to who is paying the maintenance costs, Stuart (Flanagan) had brought up the fact that it is always best practice to set up a reserve account to pay for deferred maintenance. It is a budgetary item based on the financial analysis that Newport Renewables will provide.**

**Mrs. Ruggieri stated – Who has that reserve account? Who is holding that reserve and who is going to be using that money? We just had a discussion about what we have in a reserve account and what has been happening with that. This would be something that we would need to know. Will it be held by the School Department specifically for future maintenance? Is it held by the City for future maintenance? That would need to be clarified as well.**

**Mrs. Culhane stated – I think it is a great plan. We had approached the City a few years back, when I was first on the Committee about putting solar panels on Cranston East. There was a project presented to us and unfortunately there was a “match” that the School Department could not do and the City was not interested in at the**

time. I can understand that we were in a different financial picture then. I appreciate what you are saying about how it is a savings for the tax payers and yes it is, it is still our bottom line that we have to control. We have gotten into other situations before where things had been presented to us and the savings was not going to be realized by the School Department. What my question is if this is going to be some kind of cost off set or deferment, obviously we are not looking for a check. We want to see that our electric bill will go down. Is that something that we will be penalized for that savings in any way? I know you can't answer this, but is there someone on the Council, a point person who is working on this?

Mr. Traficante stated – Yes there is a point person. Councilman Santamaria is the point person. As Mr. Collins indicated the savings is going to come through a reduced use of our energy at that particular school.

Mr. Collins stated – I would be careful in using the word savings. It is cost avoidance. There would be a cost avoidance in what we are paying for electricity. What we have to remember is if usage went up that money, you will not really show any savings.

Mr. Colford stated – We all got a cost avoidance in terms of gas when that went down. What did we do with those dollars? Everyone did something different. I believe that this is between us and the City.

**Mr. Filarski stated – I would submit that this is a good problem to have. My sense is that in talking to the Council, and I can't speak for them, is that it is a problem that can be resolved with smiles on everyone's faces.**

**Mr. Traficante stated – When do you have to submit the grant?**

**Mr. Flanagan stated – There are two grant deadlines for the REF. There is one March 10, 2015 and the next is June 2, 2015, if March 10th is not feasible. The most critical deadline is for the Office of Energy Resources Grant, and that is April 17, 2015. It is obviously critical that you need both of these grants to cover 100% of the project costs. One thing I would like to add is that Ken (Filarski) and myself would be doing all the work up front ahead of having these grants to qualify them and put them together to get the money.**

**Mr. Traficante stated – We have to give you an answer prior to April 17, 2015, which is a drop dead date?**

**Mr. Flanagan stated – Yes. We would not be the applicant for the funding, it would be the municipality or the school.**

**Mr. Traficante stated – It is going to be the municipality applying for the grant, correct?**

**Mr. Filarski stated – Yes it would be the municipality because they**

own the building and because I am hired as a consultant to them. That gives me the ability to do the work and then bring on Newport Renewable. I would say that for the work that we need to do, it is about 10 weeks of work so we need to move quickly.

Mrs. Culhane stated – As far as the educational component, can you explain that a little bit and how that would be implemented and by whom?

Mr. Flanagan stated – The RGGI Grant says right in the grant that is not going to be a cost or burden to the school so that is why some of the funding in the grant has to go towards a third party implementing the educational component. We work with licensed educators that will implement that, which is what we are doing at Rocky Hill. The way we have done it there is we meet with their faculty, we tell them we are here and will do as little or as much as you would like. We know that the teachers already have a pretty full schedule and agenda of what they have to teach in a school year. We make ourselves available for as little or as much as they would like us to come in. We are doing it across grade levels.

Mrs. Culhane stated – Is there a curriculum that you are following?

Mr. Flanagan stated – Yes. We have lesson plans that were developed by the Department of Energy and National Renewable Energy Laboratory.

**Mr. Fusco stated – My experience with grants are they are not always guaranteed that you will get them. In your opinion, what are the odds of us getting this grant?**

**Mr. Filarski stated – Without making promises, I would say they are very good. I say that for a couple of reasons. One, no municipality has applied. The State Office of Energy Resources, in particular, is very welcoming of that. Two, the success that Newport Renewables has had. Mr. Flanagan had stated there were five projects that were awarded grants in the 2013 go around. Four of them are not completed. The only one that was completed was the one that Newport Renewables did. That is part of the reason why I contacted Newport Renewables. When I saw this opportunity and brought them in.**

**Mrs. Culhane stated – Has any municipality rejected the idea of doing it or just have not had the opportunity to put the stuff together. Were any school departments of municipalities approached to do it and they said no.**

**Mr. Flanagan stated – We met with Barrington and Bristol. Barrington was interested but struggling with the idea of trying to put out an RFP. The way that both grants were written is that a turnkey project proposal is required to apply for the grant. It is kind of a unique situation where you need to have a turnkey proposal in place before**

**you can get the grant awards. Bristol was another town we approached. Although it seemed like a great opportunity to them, they said they have a five year plan for renewable energy that this did not fit into that plan.**

**Mrs. Culhane stated - So that brings about another question is do we need an RFP process for something like this?**

**Mr. Traficante stated – No.**

**Mr. Filarski stated –I am already on board as a Grant Consultant for the City of Cranston so I can bring in consultants as I need. As I said, if the City does not pay for that \$1,500 for the structural engineer, I will pay for it. This is just so important.**

**Mr. Flanagan stated - I will add that we have reached out to a lot of municipalities about the program and a lot of private schools. Pretty much every private school jumps all over it. We have four other private schools that we are working with to get this grant. We would love to get a municipality. I am just here to present the opportunity to you. It is essentially no skin off my back if you do not want to do the project, but I would love to personally see a public entity benefit from these grants.**

**Mr. Votto stated – Knowing that the Cranston West facility, if chosen, that roof will not be done until the summer of 2016. If the grant is**

**awarded, is there an expiration date when the grant has to be spent by or construction completed? The other question I have is how are you going to analyze the roof and when does that have to be done? Is it submitted with the grant because the roof will not be repaired until June 2016?**

**Mr. Filarski stated – The project has to be completed within nine months after it is awarded.**

**Mr. Votto stated – When would you project the grant to be awarded and then we will have to back into the 9 months?**

**Mr. Flanagan stated – I would say nine months from this coming June.**

**Mr. Votto stated - So it will be rather tight.**

**Mr. Filarski stated – In discussion with the Council members, there is a possibility of the City borrowing the money and then paying themselves back once the grant is awarded. There is the bond issue that had passed, but the bonds have not been issued and sold. There is the knowledge that will happen.**

**Mrs. Ruggieri stated – That money is not for the roof.**

**Mr. Votto stated – The \$15 Million is part of the Cranston West roof. It**

is approved.

**Mr. Filarksi stated – I think from a strategic and tactical standpoint, I would suggest that we receive the support from the School Committee. I know we have the support from the City Council to move forward because it is at no cost and the opportunity is now. If we do not receive the grant, we don't receive the grant. If we do, then based upon some of the thoughts and concerns that were raised tonight that certainly there needs to be a discussion on how all that gets worked out.**

**Mrs. Ruggieri stated – I think all that needs to happen before. We need to have a discussion with either Councilman Santamaria or several of the members of the City Council to get a clearer picture as to what their thought process is.**

**Mr. Colford stated – I think we should entertain a motion now. Looking at the calendar you have a March 10, 2015 date to make this happen. There does not seem like there are any dollars that will come back on us. They are either able to get the grant to go forward or not.**

**If there are other questions later on, I think we could address those with the City Council. It is a cost avoidance and you have to look at that opportunity window. Ray (Votto) brought up some great points in regards to timelines. If we can't meet the timelines then obviously the project dies at that point anyway. At this point, I would entertain a motion that we go forward with this.**

**Mrs. Ruggieri stated – I think before we go forward, we would have to have a firm commitment from the City Council to say that they would be willing to borrow against themselves for the bond to make sure the roof is repaired in order to do this. If that is not going to happen, then there is no point in making them work for this grant. That is a component to this as far as I am concerned. The roof needs to be replaced in order for them to put the solar panels on this roof to meet the requirements of the grant. That is going to be the newest roof that we have.**

**Mr. Colford stated – If it is not repaired, then we will not be able to go forward with this, that is my understanding.**

**Mr. Gale stated - To Mr. Colford's point, if for some reason we could not get the roof repaired and we can't borrow against the money and it all falls flat, are you willing to move ahead knowing that this is a possibility down the road.**

**Mr. Flanagan stated – I would personally feel more comfortable knowing that the School Department has worked that out with the City Council.**

**Mrs. Ruggieri stated – To me that is a piece that I think we need to get answered.**

**Mr. Flanagan stated – We do not do projects based on any roof that is older than 5 years old. The reason these past four projects have not been completed is because the roofs had to be replaced, they were done so in a sloppy way that now they have to be replaced again.**

**Mr. Traficante stated – When is our next meeting?**

**Mrs. Ruggieri stated – March 11, 2015 is a work session and March 16, 2015 is a meeting.**

**Mr. Traficante stated – Can we get Mr. Santamaria, who is the lead person and I think John Lanni is also to that work session to get that commitment and then we can move forward. They seemed very intent on going forward with this project.**

**Mrs. Ruggieri stated – This is fine, but we need a financial commitment directly from them on a piece of paper that says they will do this.**

**Mrs. Culhane stated – I would want something substantial. I do not want just one council person saying yes that is fine. We need a Memorandum of Understanding or something.**

**Mr. Traficante stated – You have to have some trust in the Council President. If he says it will go, then it will go.**

**Mrs. Culhane stated – I am just saying that one representative of the Council is not enough. If it is the Council President, then obviously they will make it happen. I don't feel comfortable moving forward with anything until we have that information.**

**Mr. Traficante stated – I am sure John Lanni and Mr. Santamaria will come. Mr. Santamaria has called me on numerous occasions asking me what the progress is. I told him we were meeting tonight and I would let them know the results. I will inform them that they need to be at the next meeting.**

**Mrs. Ruggier stated – If I can ask Mr. Traficante to contact Councilman Santamaria and Councilman Lanni and just let them know that this is the information that we are looking for, with it ready and we can move forward that night. I think that would be the most expedient way to deal with this. As long as they are coming to the meeting understanding what we are looking for, it can be very quick.**

**Mr. Filarski stated – Your next meeting you will consider this will be when?**

**Mrs. Ruggieri stated – March 11, 2015.**

**Mr. Gale stated – That is after the first deadline date.**

**Mr. Flanagan stated – The first deadline is March 10, 2015 and that**

**will be a problem.**

**Mrs. Ruggieri stated – I thought there was a second deadline in June?**

**Mr. Flanagan stated - There is but just based on my experience, you will have a better shot at getting the grant if you already have one submitted. You can certainly go for the second grant deadline in June.**

**Mrs. Ruggieri stated – The only other option that we could do is February 23, 2015. We have a hearing schedule for 7 p.m. If we could get members of the City Council there and members of the School Committee to agree to all attend, rather than just a quorum for the hearing, then we can meet that night and have the Council prepared to do something that night.**

**Mr. Fusco stated – Isn't that a City Council meeting night?**

**Mrs. Ruggieri stated – Yes it is.**

**Mr. Traficante stated – We could meet earlier. Their meeting is at 7 pm. I would gladly relay the message to Mr. Santamaria as to what took place tonight and the questions asked.**

**Mr. Filarski stated – The good thing here is that you are all going**

**through the budgetary process so this is right in everybody's wheel house right now. It is an appropriate time to consider it. I am hopeful that they will make a very quick decision on this.**

**Mr. Traficante stated – You do understand about the bond money and how critical it is that the Council says yes they will give us that money for the roof repairs. Without that, the project is nullified.**

**Mr. Filarski stated – Correct. It is nice fitting puzzle.**

**Mrs. Ruggieri stated – Thank you for your time.**

### **Public Hearing on Non-Agenda Items**

**1. Bob Bouchard – Physical Education Teacher – Park View Middle School – spoke on the reduction/increases in coaches' salaries**

**Announcement of Future Meeting(s) – March 11, 2015 and March 16, 2015**

### **Adjournment**

**A motion to adjourn this meeting was made by Mr. Traficante;**

**seconded by Mrs. Culhane. All were in favor. The meeting adjourned at 7:59 p.m.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Stephanie A. G. Culhane**

**Vice Chairperson**

**&#8195;**

**CRANSTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT (REVISED)  
SECRETARIES**

**Total Annual**

**Change Thru**

**CATEGORY 2014-2015 2015-2016 2016-2017 FYE 2017**

**RAISE (A) 0 41,145 42,356 83,501**

**STEPS (B) 15,109 16,325 16,025 47,459**

**SALARIES (C) & (D) 45,892 0 0 45,892**

**LONGEVITY (C) (31,175) 0 0 (31,175)**

**HOLIDAY (D) (8,280) 0 0 (8,280)**

**NON-CERTIFIED PENSION 2,426 6,241 6,340 15,007**

**FICA TAX 1,336 3,563 3,620 8,519**

**MEDICARE TAX 312 833 847 1,992**

**Total Annual Impact Thru 2017 25,620 68,108 69,187 162,915**

**Total Cumulative Impact Thru 2017 25,620 93,728 162,915 282,263**

## **FOOTNOTES**

### **(A) - RAISE**

**2014-2015 = 0%**

**2015-2016 = 2%**

**2016-2017 = 2%**

### **(B) - STEP MOVEMENT ALL 3 YEARS**

### **(C) - LONGEVITY PHASED INTO SALARY**

### **(D) - HOLIDAY PHASED INTO SALARY**