

**CRANSTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
AUGUST 17, 2015
HOPE HIGHLANDS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
300 HOPE ROAD, CRANSTON, RI 02921
EXECUTIVE SESSION – 6:00 P.M.
IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWED BY PUBLIC MEETING**

MINUTES

The School Committee meeting was held on the evening of the above date at Hope Highlands Elementary 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 6:04 p.m. **It was moved by Mr. Gale; seconded by Mr. Colford 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. Discuss Certified Recalls

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

- a. Potential Litigation Food Service Contract

PL 42-46-5(3)

- b. District Safety Plan

Call to Order at 6:45 p.m. - Public Session

The roll was called; a Quorum was present

Executive Session Minutes were sealed – Mrs. Ruggieri stated that no votes were taken in Executive Session and anyone listed under Personnel were duly notified. **A motion was made to seal the minutes of the executive session. Moved by Mr. Gale; seconded by Mr. Colford. The roll was called; Mr. Colford – Yes; Mrs. Culhane – Yes; Mr. Fusco – Yes; Mr. Gale – Yes; Mrs. Ruggieri – Yes; Mr. Traficante – Yes; Mr. Wall – Yes**

Minutes of Previous Meetings Approved – June 16, 2015 (Hearing/Appeal of Permit Student H), July 8, 2015 (Work Session), July 13, 2015 (Regular Meeting), July 16, 2015 (Hearing/Appeal of Permit Student A), July 16, 2015 (Hearing/Appeal of Permit Student B), July 16, 2015 (Hearing/Appeal of Permit Student C), July 16, 2015 (Hearing/Appeal of Permit Student D), July 16, 2015 (Hearing/Appeal of Permit Student E), August 4, 2015 (Hearing/Appeal of Permit Student A), August 4, 2015 (Hearing/Appeal of Permit Student B), August 4, 2015 (Hearing/Appeal of Permit Student C), August 4, 2015 (Hearing/Appeal of Permit of Student D). A Motion was made by Mr. Colford; seconded by Mr. Gale. The roll was called; all were in favor.

Public Acknowledgements/Communications – None

Chairperson's Communications - None

Superintendent's Communications

Mrs. Nota-Masse stated – I have a few things this evening that I would like to acknowledge. First, and I hate to start on a sad note, but I would like to acknowledge and have a moment of silence. This past week many of you attended a wake and a funeral for one of our most beloved ELSA teachers. Wanda DeRouin was a teacher at both Park View and Bain for many years. Attending the services for her was so moving and truly showed that teachers do make a difference. Wanda was a very bright light in Cranston Public Schools and I would like to just take a moment and remember her and the legacy that she left behind for thousands of students.

On a positive and more upbeat note, welcome back festivities begin next week and I would encourage all of you to attend with your children and families. All of the information can be found on our school website and our District website, as well as our new Facebook page. I would like parents to pay attention that there is a new Elementary schedule. It went out in informational packets that went out from each of the schools. Your children will now be arriving to school 5 minutes earlier and stay 5 minutes later. We have new bussing software which is helping us route efficiently within our District. I ask all parents to please be patient. Mr. Reali assures me that within the next couple of weeks we will have more information on bussing.

Regarding All Day K, we had a lottery for the open spots. We now have all our kindergarteners that are ready to start in September.

The Pagano Foundation continues to support Cranston Public Schools and is pairing with us for another exciting opportunity. I can't provide you with too many details, but the theme this year will be theaters and cultural arts.

I would like to commend two separate sports group that consist of our students. The Cranston National Budlong All-stars Girls' Softball Team, which is coached by Mike Crudale, who is the Principal of Park View, played in the Eastern Regional 9-10 Girls' Softball Championship game in Pittston Pennsylvania last Friday. In order to get to the final game, they had to beat out teams from Maine, Vermont and Massachusetts on their way to the title game, which was against Delaware. Sadly, they lost, however they came very far and we commend them for their excellent sportsmanship.

Also, as many of you have seen on the news the Cranston-Western 11-12 All-stars Little League Boys' Baseball have played in Bristol Connecticut this past week. They played 4 games in 4 days and were successful in their bid to become the New England Regional Champs to represent the New England region in the Little League World Series in Williamsport, which has not been done in Cranston since 1997. Keep good thoughts for those boys as they move along as well as their families who have been on the road for a week and they have not seen their boys. We wish them luck and we are very proud of them.

School Committee Member Communications

Mr. Wall stated – I have two items I would like to discuss this evening. Yesterday, I had the good fortune to attend the fall sports kick off meeting. It was a great presentation and motivational for the students and well attended.

The second item I would like to mention has to do with the HPV vaccination. This evening at the Cumberland Public Library, the Department of Health is holding an informational session to answer questions and concerns regarding the mandated HPV vaccination. I mention this because I have received some calls and have spoken to some parents who have concerns regarding this act of the Department of Health. For those of you who have been following this story in the news, I think it is safe to say as time goes by this mandated vaccination is met with considerable opposition. Although I realize that my being on the Cranston School Committee, I have little influence on Health policy in this state, I also recognize that this mandate affects parents and students in this community. I must express my disagreement with the Department of Health mandating this vaccination. Please understand that my opposition does not stem from any judgment on the quality, safety and effectiveness of this vaccination. It is not to say that I do not have concerns. As a parent of a 7th grade student I do have concerns regarding this particular vaccination, but at this time I choose to keep those to myself. I am choosing to stick to the policy and the policy of mandating this particular vaccination. I will share with you a few of my reasons. I do not believe that in this particular situation it is necessary or proper to threaten to withhold a child's right to a public education. I also have a concern with the fact that the HPV virus is spread through sexual contact and not causal contact so there is very little chance that a student will contract this disease while they are at school. I also believe that it is the parents right to make important medical decisions like this for their children and their family. I believe this requirement steps on those rights. Finally, I believe that the Department of Health should have held more extensive public sessions allowing for questions, more debate and perhaps deliberation prior to taking any action. This action has caused a great deal of stress to the parents of Cranston and other parts of this state. It is my opinion that this mandate should be rescinded so the public can have further discussion and this matter can be fully vetted.

Public Hearing

Students (Agenda/Non-Agenda Matters) - None

Members of the Public (Agenda Matters Only)

1. Jackie Kirkconnell, 300 Lawnacre Drive – Spoke on Sodexo Food Program
2. Phil Bornstein, Director of Development and Mike Gray, Regional Vice President of Sodexo Foods – Spoke on Sodexo Food Programs.
3. Ronald Cascione, Attorney for the Cranston School Committee – Spoke on the Food Service issue

Action Calendar/Action Agenda

The following resolutions were unanimously adopted under the Consent Agenda:

15-08-01, 15-08-03, 15-08-04, 15-08-05, 15-08-06, 15-08-07, 15-08-09, 15-08-10, 15-08-11

(w/addendum); 15-08-12, 15-08-13, 15-08-14, 15-08-15, 15-08-16, 15-08-17

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

RESOLUTIONS

PERSONNEL

Resolution No. 15-08-01 **RESOLVED**, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, said certified personnel be recalled from layoff, and;

Be it further **RESOLVED** that the Superintendent notify these individuals of the committee's actions.

Resolution No. 15-08-02 **RESOLVED**, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent the following certified personnel be appointed for the 2015-2016 school year:

Marisa Soch, Step 7 + Masters + 30
Education...Clark University, BA, BU, MSW
Experience...Blackstone Valley Mayoral Academy
Certification....Social Worker K-12
Assignment...Sanders Academy 1.0 FTE
Effective date...September 1, 2015
Authorization...Replacement
Fiscal Note... 13817030 51110

Thomas Pritchard, Step 4
Education...URI, BA
Experience...Lynn Public Schools
Certification....Music Pk-12
Assignment...Itinerant 1.0 FTE
Effective date...September 1, 2015
Authorization...Replacement
Fiscal Note... 10312410 51110

James Grammas, Step 5 + 36
Education...Bryant University, BS
Experience...Providence School Department
Certification....Social Studies
Assignment...Cranston East 1.0 FTE
Effective date...September 1, 2015
Authorization...Replacement
Fiscal Note... 11312020 51110

Michael Giblin, Step 7
Education...RIC, BA
Experience...Cranston Substitute
Certification....Emergency Technology Ed K-12
Assignment...Cranston West .6 FTE
Effective date...September 1, 2015
Authorization...Replacement
Fiscal Note... 12612360 51110

Dino Bachini, Step 12 + MA+30
Education...RIC, BA, Masters
Experience...North Providence School Department
Certification....Secondary English\ELL
Assignment...Cranston East 1.0 FTE
Effective date...September 1, 2015
Authorization...Replacement
Fiscal Note... 11312340 51110

Vanesa Sclama, Step 12+ Masters
Education...RIC, BA, MAT
Experience...Pawtucket School Department
Certification....Special Education Elementary\Middle
Assignment...Horton 1.0 FTE
Effective date...September 1, 2015
Authorization...New
Fiscal Note... 50896133 51110

Jessica Aspeel, Step 1
Education...RIC, BA
Experience...Cranston Student Teacher
Certification....Secondary English
Assignment...Cranston East .6 FTE
Effective date...September 1, 2015
Authorization...Replacement
Fiscal Note... 111312340 51110

Michelle Collette , Step 12 + Masters
Education...RIC, BSW, MSW
Experience...Cranston Substitute
Certification...School Social Worker
Assignment...Itinerant 1.0 FTE
Effective date...September 1, 2015
Authorization...Replacement
Fiscal Note... 11017030\11717030 51110

Sarah Rochon, Step 4 + Masters
Education...URI. BS, MS
Experience...Alphabet Soup
Certification...Speech & Language Pathologist
Assignment...Itinerant 1.0 FTE
Effective date...September 1, 2015
Authorization...Replacement
Fiscal Note...10317010 51110

Shana Girouard, Step 2
Education...RIC, BS
Experience...Cranston Substitute
Certification...Special Ed Elementary\Middle
Assignment...Gladstone 1.0 FTE
Effective date...September 1, 2015
Authorization...Replacement
Fiscal Note... 11913260 51110

Please add the following to Resolution No. 15-08-02

Laura Briggs, Step 1
Education...URI, BS
Experience...Student Teacher
Certification...Middle\Secondary Social Studies
Assignment...Park View .6 FTE
Effective date...September 1, 2015
Authorization...Replacement
Fiscal Note... 12311630 51110

Sara Zanfagna, Step 1
Education...RIC, BS
Experience...Cranston Substitute
Certification...Special Education Elementary\Middle
Assignment...Oak Lawn 1.0 FTE
Effective date...September 1, 2015
Authorization...Replacement
Fiscal Note... 10313260 51110

Melissa Ruggieri, Step 1
Education...RIC, BS
Experience...Cranston Substitute
Certification...Elementary 1-6
Assignment...Arlington 1.0 FTE
Effective date...September 1, 2015
Authorization...Replacement
Fiscal Note...12512050 51110

Jenna Caprarelli, Step 1

Education...URI, BA
Experience...Cranston Substitute
Certification....Elementary 1-6
Assignment... CSR .5 FTE
Effective date...September 1, 2015
Authorization...Replacement
Fiscal Note...57116129 51110

Katelyn Veyera, Step 1

Education...RIC, BA
Experience...Cranston Substitute
Certification....Elementary 1-6
Assignment...Hope Highlands 1.0 FTE
Effective date...September 1, 2015
Authorization...Replacement
Fiscal Note... 13412050 51110

Stefanie Stall, Step 1

Education...Ball State University
Experience...Cranston Substitute
Certification....Elementary 1-6
Assignment...Arlington 1.0 FTE
Effective date...September 1, 2015
Authorization...Replacement
Fiscal Note... 12512050 51110

Carolyn Conley, Step 1

Education...RIC, BS
Experience...Coventry Substitute
Certification....Severe Intellectual Disability
Assignment...Glen Hills 1.0 FTE
Effective date...September 1, 2015
Authorization...Replacement
Fiscal Note... 12812040 51110

Beverly Smith, Step 12 + Masters

Education...RIC, BS, URI, MSN
Experience...Cranston Substitute
Certification....Nurse-Teacher
Assignment...Itinerant .5 FTE
Effective date...September 1, 2015
Authorization...Replacement
Fiscal Note... 40235194 51110

Jacquelyn Pereira, Step 12 + Masters
Education...URI, BS, RIC, MA
Experience...Cranston Substitute
Certification....Early Childhood PK-2
Assignment...Waterman .5 FTE
Effective date...September 1, 2015
Authorization...Replacement
Fiscal Note... 11012010 51110

Michelle Lamothe, Step 12
Education...RIC, BS
Experience...Pawtucket School Department
Certification....Nurse-Teacher
Assignment...Itinerant1.0 FTE
Effective date...September 1, 2015
Authorization...Replacement
Fiscal Note... 11717120 51110

Mr. Traficante made a motion to approve Resolution No. 15-08-02 with an addendum; seconded by Mr. Wall.

Mrs. Ruggieri stated that she had 2 friendly amendments to Resolution No. 15-08-02. The first one would be for Stephanie Stall for a Step change from a 2 to a 4. The second would be for Jenna Caprorelli for a Step change from a 1 to a 2.

Mr. Traficante made a motion to approve the amendment; seconded by Mr. Wall. The roll was called; all were in favor.

Mrs. Ruggieri extended the Committee's congratulations.

Superintendent Nota-Masse stated – As we appoint new folks this evening, also have employees retiring. Angela Doucette who was located at Peters Elementary School. She has been an employee for 25 years as a secretary. Christine lafrate who was in our Transportation Department for 20 years as a bus aide. Diane Lanzi from Barrows Elementary School. She was employed by us for 25 years as Special Education Teachers Assistant. Rebecca Petronio located at Garden City Elementary who was employed by us for 8 years as Technical Assistant. Anna Sylvestre who will be retiring at end of this year with 28 years as a teacher, most recently at Gladstone. We wish them all well.

Resolution No. 15-08-03 **RESOLVED**, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the following certified personnel be appointed as substitutes on a temporary basis as needed:

Kary Urso, Elementary\ELL
James Oliveira, Health/Physical Education

Resolution No. 15-08-04 **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:

Dena Chamberlain, Teacher
Hope Highlands
Effective Date...August, 2015 to September, 2016

Resolution No. 15-08-05 **RESOLVED**, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the retirement of the following certified personnel be accepted:

Anna Sylvestre, Teacher
Gladstone
Effective Date...June 29, 2016

Resolution No. 15-08-06 **RESOLVED**, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the resignation(s) of the following certified personnel be accepted:

Marissa Brasil, Teacher
Park View
Effective...July 29, 2015

Jaclyn Cady, Teacher
Cranston East
Effective...July 30, 2015

Julie Merolla, Social Worker
Itinerant
Effective...August 1, 2015

Jacqueline Day, Teacher
Orchard Farms
Effective...August 31, 2015

Resolution No. 15-08-07 **RESOLVED**, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the following individual(s) be appointed as an athletic coach:

Dina Cesana, Head Coach Girls' Cross Country
CHSW
Step-3
Class-C
Playing Competition-High School & College
Experience-Cranston East Track Coach
Certification-RI Coaches Certification; CPR/AED/First Aid

Richard Grenier, Jr., Assistant Boys' Soccer Coach
CHSE
Step-3
Class-D
Playing Competition-High School
Experience-Cranston East Volunteer Soccer Coach
Certification-RI Coaches Certification; CPR/AED/First Aid

Corey Capirchio, Assistant Coach Football
CHSE
Step-3
Class-C
Playing Competition-High School & College
Experience-Cranston West Assistant Football Coach
Certification-RI Coaches Certification; CPR/AED/First Aid

Rafael Medina, Head Freshman Football Coach
CHSE
Step-3
Class-E
Playing Competition-High School & College
Experience-Cranston East Volunteer Football Coach
Certification-RI Coaches Certification; CPR/AED/First Aid

Nicholas DeMarco, Head Freshman Football Coach
CHSW
Step-3
Class-E
Playing Competition-High School
Experience-Cranston West Volunteer Football Coach
Certification-RI Coaches Certification; CPR/AED/First Aid

Cristen Rekrut, Head Coach Girls' Soccer
Bain
Step-1
Class-E
Playing Competition-High School
Experience-Coach Bain + 2 Program
Certification-RI Coaches Certification; CPR/AED/First Aid

Michaela Salois, Assistant Coach Field Hockey
Cranston East
Playing Competition-High School
Experience-None
Certification-RI Coaches Certification; CPR/AED/First Aid

Resolution No. 15-08-08 **RESOLVED**, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the following non-certified employee(s) be appointed:

Miliarka Capaldi, Secretary
Hope Highlands Elementary
Effective Date...August 31, 2015
Replacement
Fiscal Note...13443210 51110

Alayna Christiansen, Teacher Assistant
Bain Middle School
Effective Date...September 2, 2015
Replacement
Fiscal Note...11546020 51110
(see Motion to remove following resolution)

Linda Cannata, Secretary
Horton
Effective Date...August 11, 2015
Replacement
Fiscal Note....18643150 51110

Maryjo Greig, Teacher Assistant
Orchard Farms
Effective Date...September 2, 2015
Replacement
Fiscal Note...13646020 51110

Elizabeth Lombardo, Teacher Assistant
Barrows
Effective Date...September 2, 2015
Replacement
Fiscal Note...146020 51110

Sarah Testoni, Program Manager
SkillsUSA of Rhode Island
Effective Date...August 18, 2015
New
Fiscal Note...56274133 51110

Please add the following to Resolution No. 15-08-09:

Jacqueline Venticinque, Teacher Assistant
Hope Highlands
Effective Date...September 2, 2015
Replacement
Fiscal Note...13446010 51110

Elena Manzi, Teacher Assistant
Barrows
Effective Date...September 2, 2015
Replacement
Fiscal Note...11246010 51110

Renee Miller, Teacher Assistant
Gladstone
Effective Date...September 2, 2015
Replacement
Fiscal Note...11946020 51110

Ruth Rodriguez, Bus Monitor
Transportation
Effective Date...September 2, 2015
Replacement
Fiscal Note...11845090 51110

Daysi Gomez, Bus Monitor
Transportation
Effective Date...September 2, 2015
Replacement
Fiscal Note...13445090 51110

Rochelene Merced, Bus Monitor
Transportation
Effective Date...September 2, 2015
Replacement
Fiscal Note...12245090 51110

Michael McKenna, Bus Driver
Transportation
Effective Date...September 2, 2015
Replacement
Fiscal Note...10345220 51110

A Motion was made for Resolution No. 15-08-08 with an addendum by Mr. Fusco; seconded by Mr. Traficante.

A Motion was made to make an amendment to Resolution No. 15-08-08 to withdraw Alayna Christiansen's name from the agenda by Mr. Wall; seconded by Mr. Traficante. The roll was called; all were in favor.

Resolution No. 15-08-09 **RESOLVED**, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the following non-certified personnel be appointed as substitutes on a temporary basis as needed:

Paige Miranda, Bus Driver
Josephine Howell, Secretary

Resolution No. 15-08-10 **RESOLVED**, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the retirement(s) of the following non-certified personnel be accepted:

Diane Lanzi, Teacher Assistant
Barrows
Effective Date...July 31, 2015

Rebecca Petronio, Teacher Assistant
Garden City
Effective Date...August 10, 2015

Christine lafrate, Bus Aide
Transportation
Effective Date...August 11, 2015

Angela Doucette, Secretary
Peters
Effective Date...September 11, 2015

Resolution No. 15-08-11 **RESOLVED**, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the resignation(s) of the following non-certified personnel be accepted:

Tara Zuena, Teacher Assistant
Bain
Effective Date...July 16, 2015

Stephanie Caruso, Bus Monitor
Transportation
Effective Date...July 29, 2015

Anthony Venticinque, Custodian
Plant Operations
Effective Date...August 6, 2015

Please add the following to Resolution No. 15-08-11

Patricia DiNola, Bus Monitor
Transportation
Effective Date...September 2, 2015

BUSINESS

DISCUSSION/ACTION - Food Service Contract

A motion to rescind the original contract award was made by Mr. Colford; seconded by Mr. Fusco. Discussion

Mr. Traficante stated – Madam Chair, I know that many of Sodexo’s employees are here tonight and let me assure you that we feel for the situation. We thought we made the right decision earlier. In our process we voted to retain the services of Sodexo for the next five (5) years, however we were informed just recently, the information that our attorney presented to you, which left us with little to no choice but to go with Aramark at this time. If there is some positive news out of this, they have guaranteed the retention of the present employees with the exception of the Administration. There is some job security here.

Mr. Gale stated – I just wanted to go on record and say that I can’t support this particular motion. I can’t support this because of the support the workers give Sodexo and their track record of working within the community. I just can’t support this motion.

Mrs. Culhane stated – I, unwillingly will support the motion because the District cannot afford to be in this position to lose millions of dollars from the Federal government. I believe it is important to go on record of saying that Sodexo has been an amazing community partner, not only for our students but other community organizations as well. Sodexo has reached out throughout the City, and has been a great employer to their employees. While this is a very difficult decision because it is not exactly what we wanted this to play out, the risk of a lawsuit or the risk of losing millions of dollars from the government is not something that were are in the position to loose. We have come too far and made to many great strides to go backwards. I just think it should go on record that Sodexo has been an amazing partner to our District.

Mr. Fusco stated – I just want to go on record that I will be reluctantly supporting this. Once again, if RIDE starts to mandate things then they should step up and provide food service for the state instead of passing the buck to other cities and districts that get stuck in situations like this.

Chairperson Ruggieri stated – I also am reluctantly supporting this. We are caught in this and this was not done well. RIDE did not handle this well for our District, for the employees, for Sodexo. Aramark has a lot to live up to. As much as I was against this whole food service thing in the beginning, Sodexo proved me wrong time and time again. I am very unhappy to support this. We are really stuck between a rock and a hard place. We cannot risk any further legal action. We are finally at a point where we can start investing in ourselves. We have a high expectation for the food service contractor coming in here. I will be watching. I will be taking notes and I expect answers to questions that I could not get the first time around.

Mr. Traficante stated – I just wanted to add one more thing. We were hoping that our attorney was going to come forward this evening and tell us that we could go out for a rebid and go through the process all over again. Unfortunately, we did not get that answer we were looking for. We all, very reluctantly have to support this Motion tonight.

Superintendent Nota-Masse stated – I know that Mr. Cascione eluded to Aramark’s promise that they would retain our staff. However, there was something else in there where it talked about the management staff that has worked with us from Sodexo. While I have been at Briggs for the last six years, I work mostly with the management staff and they are an immense asset staff to Sodexo and the District. We also receive timely, appropriate and high quality service. While I stand here with Mrs. Ruggieri and the School Committee, we cannot risk losing 2.5 million dollars to a budget. We are not happy about it. We are doing it reluctantly because we are between a rock and a hard place. I strongly urge the people that are here from Aramark to look at the management staff as they are outstanding and phenomenal people. We would love to have them with us, but I do understand the business of it. There are not any more accolades that we could give to them and their service to Cranston Public Schools.

The roll was called; Mr. Colford – Yes; Mrs. Culhane – Yes; Mr. Fusco – Yes; Mr. Gale – No; Mrs. Ruggieri – Yes; Mr. Traficante – Yes; Mr. Wall – Yes.

A motion was made Mr. Fusco to award a one-year contract to Aramark, subject to the parties entering into a mutually satisfactory contract and approval by RIDE and the USDA based on the prior RFP; seconded by Mr. Traficante. The roll was called; Mr. Colford – Yes; Mrs. Culhane – Yes; Mr. Fusco – Yes; Mr. Gale – No; Mrs. Ruggieri – Yes; Mr. Traficante – Yes; Mr. Wall – Yes.

Resolution No. 15-08-12 RESOLVED, that the following purchase be approved:

Photocopier Maintenance for the period from September 1, 2015 to August 31, 2016 in the amount of \$53,450.60

Number of bids issued	3
Number of bids received	3

Resolution No. 15-08-13 RESOLVED, that the following purchase be approved:

Medicaid Billing Services be extended to PCG (Public Consulting Group Inc) at the direct billing percentage fee structure of 4% for the second and final optional year 2015-2016 as stated in the original bid (approved by the School Committee in resolution 11-6-79)

Resolution No. 15-08-14 **RESOLVED**, that the following purchase be approved:

Medicaid Administrative Billing Services at a fee structure rate of 2.8% to manage the billing for Cranston Public Schools for 2015-2018 to UMASS

Number of bids issued 2
Number of bids received 2

Resolution No. 15-08-15 **RESOLVED**, that the following purchase be approved:

Master Equipment Lease/Purchase Agreement (15 Small Busses) between Cranston Public Schools and Webster Bank for a five (5) period at an annual principal/interest payment of \$140,106.66.

Resolution No. 15-08-16 **RESOLVED**, that the following purchase be approved:

Contracted Transportation Services through First Student for athletic events resulting from the re-instating of Middle School sports as well as occasional Varsity games at a rate of \$74.00 per hour to include driver, fuel, insurance and maintenance as procured through the state MPA.

POLICY AND PROGRAM

Resolution No. 15-08-17 **RESOLVED**, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the 2015-2016 School Committee Calendar be amended (**See attached**)

Resolution No. 15-08-18 **RESOLVED**, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the 2015-2016 Cranston Public Schools Calendar be amended (**See attached**)

A motion was made by Mrs. Culhane to approve Resolution No. 15-08-18; seconded by Mr. Gale; Discussion.

Chairperson Ruggieri stated – There were some typographical errors in Cranston Public School’s calendar for 2015-2016.

The roll was called; all were in favor.

Resolution No. 15-08-19 **RESOLVED**, that the following policy be amended (**See attached policy**)

Policy #3323 (Soliciting Prices - Bids and Quotations) Amended

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

Mr. Traficante stated – We have a policy No. 3323 referred to as “bid” in quotations, which said policy is attached to the agenda. I would like to amend it to add the following language at the end of the policy:

“Furthermore, notwithstanding the above, the School Committee reserves the right to reject any and all bids or any part thereof or to accept such part or parts deemed as the best interests of the Cranston School Department.”

A Motion was made by Mr. Wall to accept the amendment; seconded by Mr. Gale. The roll was called; all were in favor.

A Motion was made by Mrs. Culhane to approve Resolution No. 15-08-19 as amended; seconded by Mr. Fusco. The roll was called; all were in favor.

Resolution No. 15-08-20 RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the School Committee, the following policy be approved **(See policy on file with the Superintendent’s Office)**

Policy No. 6125 Comprehensive Assessment System

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

Mr. Wall stated – When this policy was originally brought up at the March meeting, at that time I proposed an amendment, which I will propose the same amendment tonight. Since the PARCC has been administered the number of states that have given the PARCC has only gone down. Initially the PARCC consisted of 26 states and the District of Columbia. Currently it sits at 7 states. Over 3,000 students opted out of the PARCC across the state. In some districts, as high as 27% of the students who were eligible to take the exam, opted out. In a recent study done by RI College, revealed that students did not value the time spent preparing or taking it. The teachers did not value the time spent preparing or taking it. They had to significantly alter their curriculum to prepare for it. It deteriorated the atmosphere and the school climate. I bring this up because I do not think it is beyond the realm of possibilities that we should question the validity of this assessment, that we should question the value of it and maybe we should take a hard look at our testing procedures. It is being done at our own state house, the Senate and the House in Washington. For that reason, under III that reads

“Districts adoption of the Comprehensive Assessment System, the Cranston School Committee hereby adopts a Comprehensive Assessment System, including but not limited to State Assessments. Students are hereby required to participate in all such required or designated assessments.”

After that I would like to add the sentence as an amendment,

“It is the expectation of the Cranston School Committee that all students participate in State Assessments, but the District also recognized a parent’s right to refuse to have their child participate.”

Mr. Traficante stated – For the sake of discussion, I will second that.

Chairperson Ruggieri stated – Any discussion on the amendment as proposed?

Superintendent Nota-Masse stated – I just have a clarifying question. You mentioned that it is the expectation that all students participate, but you are reserving the right for the parents to opt out. Could you clarify whether that is specifically at a certain level or for specific assessments? I just want the language to be tight so that parents do not look at this and say they are able to pick and choose which assessments their children participate in and take.

Mr. Wall stated – Specifically the language I have included is just for the State Assessments. Currently our State Assessment is the PARCC. It differentiates between what is called designated required assessments, specifically the State Assessments.

Mrs. Culhane stated – As a parent of 3 students, I am not comfortable with the amount of assessments we have to do within the District, however, I think that by giving parents the opportunity to opt out of the State Assessment, I think that we are in some ways sending a negative message to our students. I do not want to see teachers teach to the test. I do not want time being spent from education strictly on these assessments. However, if we want our students to do well and we want to impress upon them that these assessments are meaningful, whether we agree with them or not, I do not know what message we are sending by saying that some of you will take them and some of you will not because their parents do not want them to. Quite frankly a lot of the discussion from a lot of people regarding the PARCC were completely uninformed, hysteria and while some people did really have valid reasons, some people were just jumping on the bandwagon of opting out. I do not see how it is fair how my daughter is going to take them all and the person sitting next to her does not because their parents opted him or her out. I am just not comfortable with that kind of language. I do not believe it belongs within this policy. I think a lot of work went into this policy and I feel that it diminishes it and I will not be supporting this amendment.

Chairperson Ruggieri stated –I just wanted to say that as the Districts across the state with some smaller numbers and some had larger, our District had around a 1% opt out rate and this District did not dissuade people from opting out. We certainly were not encouraging them to opt out, but if a parent chose that route for their child that was accepted. However, I do not think that would change, but I do not know that we should be putting something into a policy now especially with so much flux in the State and within the Department of Education itself. I will not be supporting this amendment either.

Mr. Wall stated – Just to make myself clear, it is not to dissuade people from opting out of the PARC exam, I am just saying let's put it in writing and stand by what we say. We did not dissuade people, but people did opt out of the exam. It happened. There was no penalty for those that opted out and I say let's just put it in writing. It is specific to this assessment because it is just not a few people that are concerned. There are 1,000 of people over numerous states. I respect my colleagues on the board that disagree. Everybody has their opinion and this is my opinion. I have no reservations with anything else in the policy. I think we need a policy, but I will not support it unless there is some type of opt out statement.

Mr. Traficante stated - I may be off base here but I would like to request that Ms. Liz Larkin, the President of the Cranston Teachers' Union to come forth and give us her opinion on this. Ms. Larkin you heard the amendment, how do you feel about that?

Liz Larkin stated – I feel that the Chair basically stated that it was not a huge issue in this

District. We had 1% so to me to put it in the policy to protect that 1% of people just to have it in there, we originally had a lot of issues with PARCC and we still have issues. It is not a fair assessment in my personal and professional opinion. We spend far too much time in preparing for it, practicing for it and then blocking out time for it. I feel that an amendment that the School Committee takes a stand and says that anybody who would like to opt out, has the opportunity to opt out. I have not spoken to Mr. Wall about this at all. I just feel that if it is not a huge deal, it is not really going to affect Cranston Public Schools. If it is for the PARCC assessment, because it may then be replaced by another assessment going down the line. It is my professional and personal opinion that it is really not going to affect that many people so to have it in there is just acknowledging the people that want to opt out. Some of the people that did want to opt out, their students really were struggling with possibly being in that type of situation in taking that test. It just gives them clarification that they are supported in that. People are opting out all over the country.

Mr. Fusco stated – I am not a supporter of PARCC but my only question is would this be the right place to do this. I just think this is saying this is what we have to work with and this is what the district says we have to work with. The “opt out” policy is a totally different matter altogether and should be addressed separately. This is what RIDE has dictated what is available for us, correct?

Superintendent Nota-Masse stated – I do believe it should live here because it describes that the Districts belief in how we look at children, how we measure their growth and how we measure instruction. We use a variety of assessments for a variety of reasons. Again, personally I had a 4th grader who was assessed quite a lot from February through June, so I feel for parents who look at this and question what is this for, but I do believe the District needs to take a stand one way or the other. The ambiguity that was present in the spring caused a great deal of confusion for Administrators and while we did not encourage people we did not want to dissuade people, but it put us in a really bad spot. I do not want our administrators and our students and our parents to go through this. Again, one way or the other this is the Committee’s decision, I would say that we stand by having students participate, however, I understand both sides. As a parent, I get it but I think we need to pick a lane and stay in it and choose what we are going to have as our District believe, value and mission.

Mrs. Ruggieri stated – I think it is important with this discussion that as a District, we are looking at all the assessments that we do. An important piece of this policy and as a District is that we are looking at our own students and determining what we are going to be doing for assessments.

Ms. Larkin stated – Just to further address this, RIDE once again through the grenade and did not give any guidance. It is really unfortunate because it leaves you and all other districts with no answers for the parents. It was really chaotic. To me, I feel that opting out is a negative connotation and maybe if we used different language about just the parents right to choose on certain assessments. You would not have to really opt out, but it would be the parents right to choose for their child. I think that PARCC got really negative feedback, especially how the Pearson Company handled the rollout. One way or the other, you are making a stand and it is more guidelines for the District, the parents, the students and the teachers.

Mrs. Culhane stated - I would like to go on record as saying I wholeheartedly agree with Ms. Larkin, but I think that while I appreciate the sentiment of the resolution, I do not think this is the place for it. I think I would prefer if we had an actual resolution that delineates what the process would be. Something like this just says you can do it, but does not give our administrators or the District or the parents a road map on how to make that happen. I would suggest or ask that we pass this policy because we need this policy and then Mr. Wall could present another policy that would not only say that parents have this right to choose, but would outline the process in which they would do that. We have to have this policy regardless of whether or not we want to opt out or let parents have this choice. It would be nice to have a separate policy that might address not just the state tests, but any other tests potentially.

Mr. Traficante stated - I concur with my colleague.

Superintendent Nota-Masse stated – I am a parent and like I said before my 4th grader was assessed a lot, but you are opening the door for parents to pick and choose. If we start getting an elevated number of students who are not participating in these tests, I worry about whether it is important or not when we have buildings that are commended schools because of student growth and achievement and proficiency, that is a testament to the hard work of the professionals that are in those buildings every single day and the parents who support those professionals. I worry that schools are going to be unfairly labeled as failing, warning and all of the negative things that come along with that. Philosophically, I as an educator this makes me cringe, but I have to recognize that these are the rules of the game. We are a public school and we fall under Federal and State guidelines. Again, I do not get paid to like them, I get paid to follow policy and enforce them. I really get nervous when people start talking about parents' choice and picking and choosing because it will not stop with just PARCC and a graduation requirement.

Attorney Cascione stated - Part of the discussions in the work session about this opt out are kind of in conjunction with Mrs. Culhane's request to do this separately. I would like to be invited there because there have been a number of correspondences sent out to many Districts across the country from the Department of Education and I would like to put that before you before you make a decision.

Mrs. Culhane stated – Superintendent, I am not in any way saying I would endorse or support such a resolution. I am just saying that would be the better forum for what Mr. Wall intends than to attach it to this. It really is a separate issue and I am not saying I would endorse or support such a resolution, but I think we need to put more thought into having a process if we were to even entertain such a policy.

Mr. Wall stated – I have to disagree with my colleagues. I believe that this is absolutely the right place. We are talking about how we assess our students. We are talking about assessments that we pick for this District and people in Central Office that have picked. We are talking about the PARCC assessment that no one here picked. It was forced on us. I disagree with it. I think this is the place for it, but I agree with Mrs. Culhane that there should be procedures after this policy. This is a statement that we recognize that this is a flawed assessment. We recognized that this is a problem for a lot of the parents around the state and around the country. I would have to respectfully disagree. I think this is the place for it.

Mr. Gale stated – I am going to support this amendment because I do believe that there needs to be some mechanism for parents who are truly opposed to the PARCC to opt out and I would have to say if our rate was 1% the last time, I do not think it would increase to a point where it would affect anything. I am speculating here, but it may go up to 2-3% and I think that is a good thing. I think parents should have the option. Just as Mr. Wall spoke of previously about the HPV vaccine, there is an opt out for that as well and I think we should have the same thing for this policy.

Mr. Fusco stated – The only question that I have is if we were to put in this policy without a policy behind it. That is what keeps going through my mind.

Superintendent Nota-Masse stated – We would come up with a procedure following the policy.

Mr. Fusco stated – I think we need that policy before I can support this amendment. I agree with the intent, it feels like it is out of place for me.

The roll was called; Mr. Colford – Yes; Mrs. Culhane – No; Mr. Fusco – No; Mr. Gale – Yes; Mrs. Ruggieri – No; Mr. Traficante – No; Mr. Wall - Yes.

Chairperson Ruggieri stated – The Amendment did not pass so we will now vote on the policy as it reads.

The roll was called: Mr. Colford – No; Mrs. Culhane - Yes; Mr. Fusco – Yes; Mr. Gale – Yes; Mrs. Ruggieri – Yes; Mr. Traficante – Yes; Mr. Wall – No.

Public Hearing on Non-Agenda Items

Announcement of Future Meeting(s) – September 9, 2015 and September 15, 2015

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Mrs. Culhane; seconded by Mr. Traficante. All were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 7:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephanie A. G. Culhane
Vice Chairperson

Business
Soliciting Prices (Bids and Quotations)

POLICY NO. 3323

Bids appearing on the School Committee Agenda shall include:

1. Number of Bids issued
2. Number of bids received

Any single purchase of \$5,000.00 or more shall be made normally on the basis of sealed bids sent to known suppliers of the materials. Bids should be sent to all vendors placed on the invitational bid list.

Any single purchase of \$4,000.00 or more and less than \$5,000.00 shall be made normally on the basis of three written quotations.

Any single purchase of \$3,000.00 or more and less than \$4,000.00 shall be made normally on the basis of three verbal quotations.

Exceptions to the above practices may be made in the following instances:

1. Purchases of commodities or services, the price of which is fixed by the public authority authorized by law to fix rates on prices.
2. Contracts for personal services.
3. Purchases or contracts where competitive bidding is dispensed with, without stated cause, on the recommendation of the Chief Financial Officer and the approval of an executive school sub-committee for purchasing. The members of this committee will be the School Committee Chairperson, the Superintendent of Schools, and the Chief Financial Officer.
4. Where there is only one known supplier (sole source).
5. When Federal Surplus Property is available to Cranston Public Schools, the Chief Financial Officer is authorized to make purchases in excess of \$5,000.00 with the approval of the Superintendent and the executive school sub-committee for purchasing.

Awards shall customarily be made to the lowest responsible bidder meeting the specifications. However, the following facts may be considered and influence an award to other than the lowest bidder:

1. The general reputation and reliability of the bidder.
2. Previous or assured future service to the department.
3. The superior quality of the item in the light of the difference in cost.
4. Where bids and quotations involve more than one item, the selection may be made in an item by item basis according to the lowest responsible bidder.

CRANSTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETINGS AND WORK SESSIONS SCHEDULE

2015-2016

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
Wednesday, Sept. 9, 2015	5:00 pm (special time)	Briggs Building
Tuesday, Sept. 15, 2015	5:00 pm*	Western Hills
Wednesday, Oct. 14, 2015	6:00 pm	Briggs Building
Monday, Oct. 19, 2015	7:00 pm*	Western Hills
Wednesday, Nov. 4, 2015	6:00 pm	Briggs Building
Monday, Nov. 9, 2015	7:00 pm	Western Hills
Wednesday, Dec. 9, 2015	6:00 pm	Briggs Building
Monday, Dec. 14, 2015	7:00 pm*	Western Hills

2016

Tuesday, Jan. 19, 2016 (Public Budget Work Session)	7:00 pm	Western Hills
Monday, Jan. 25, 2016 (Public Budget Work Session)	7:00 pm	Western Hills
Thursday, Jan. 28, 2016 (if necessary) (Public Budget Work Session)	7:00 pm	Western Hills
Monday, Feb. 8, 2016 (Budget Adoption)	7:00 pm	Western Hills
Thursday, Feb. 11, 2016 (Budget Adoption II)	7:00 pm	Western Hills
Wednesday, March 9, 2016	6:00 pm	Briggs Building
Monday, March 14, 2016	7:00 pm*	Western Hills
Wednesday, April 13, 2016	6:00 pm	Briggs Building
Monday, April 25, 2016	7:00 pm*	Western Hills
Wednesday, May 11, 2016	6:00 pm	Briggs Building
Monday, May 16, 2016	7:00 pm*	Western Hills
Wednesday, June 8, 2016	6:00 pm	Briggs Building
Monday, June 13, 2016	7:00 pm*	Hope Highlands
Monday, June 20, 2016	7:00 pm*	Hope Highlands
Thursday, June 23, 2016	7:00 pm*	Hope Highlands
Wednesday, July 12, 2016	6:00 pm	Briggs Building
Monday, July 18, 2016	7:00 pm*	Hope Highlands
Wednesday, August 10, 2016	6:00 pm	Briggs Building
Monday, August 15, 2016	7:00 pm*	Hope Highlands

Wednesday meeting dates denote School Committee Work Sessions and Monday meeting dates denote regular School Committee meetings. The schedule has also been adjusted, where it could be, to not conflict with City Council meetings. * = or immediately following Executive Session.



Cranston Public Schools Calendar for 2015 - 2016

Resolution No. 15-08-18 Passed Summer 2015

At the discretion of the Superintendent of Schools, and with the School Committee approval, this calendar may be altered during the scheduled recess periods or at the end of the school year, due to emergencies affecting the health and safety of our students.

August 2015							September 2015							October 2015							November 2015						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa	Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa	Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa	Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
						1			**1	2	3	4	5					1	2	3	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
23	24	25	26	27*	28*	29	27	28	29	30	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	29	30	29	30	29	30	(18)	57		

December 2015							January 2016							February 2016							March 2016									
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa	Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa	Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa	Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa			
		1	2	3	4	5					1	2		1	2	3	4	5	6			1	2	3	4	5				
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	6	7	8	9	10	11	12			
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	13	14	15	16	17	18	19			
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	20	21	22	23	24	25	26			
27	28	29	30	31	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	28	29	27	28	29	30	31	27	28	29	30	31	27	28	29	30	31	(22)	74

April 2016							May 2016							June 2016							July 2016								
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa	Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa	Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa	Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa		
					1	2	1	2	3	4	5	6	7				1	2	3	4						1	2		
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	3	4	5	6	7	8	9		
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	10	11	12	13	14	15	16		
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	17	18	19	20	21	22	23		
24	25	26	27	28	29	30	29	30	31	26	27	28	29	30	26	27	28	29	30	24	25	26	27	28	29	30			
																				31								(12)	49

*New Teacher Orientation

**All Teachers Orientation

First Day of School for Students - ALL GRADES REPORT

August 27 & 28, 2015

**September 1, 2015

Wednesday, September 2, 2015

September 7, 2015

September 14, 2015

September 23, 2015

October 12, 2015

November 11, 2015

November 26 & 27, 2015

December 24, 2015 - January 1, 2016

January 18, 2016

February 15 - 19, 2016

March 25, 2016

April 18 - 22, 2016

May 30, 2016

Schools close June 16, 2016 or the 180th day (June 17 - 19) = make up days for inclement weather)

Labor Day

Rosh Hashanah

Yom Kippur

Columbus Day Observed

Veterans' Day Observed

Thanksgiving Recess

Holiday Recess (includes Christmas Day/Dec 25 & New Year's Day/Jan 1)

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

Mid-Winter Recess (includes Presidents' Day / Feb.15)

Good Friday

Spring Recess

Memorial Day Observed

First quarter	September 2-	-	November 9	inclusive 45 days
Second quarter	November 10	-	January 26	inclusive 45 days
Third quarter	January 27	-	April 6	inclusive 45 days
Fourth term	April 7	-	June 16	inclusive 45 days

Graduation Dates CRANSTON HIGH SCHOOLS EAST & WEST

June 11, 2016

NEL/CPS Construction Career Academy

June 10, 2016

Cranston East, West & NEL/CPS Seniors' last day of instruction

June 3, 2016