

**CRANSTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING  
NOVEMBER 9, 2015  
WESTERN HILLS MIDDLE SCHOOL  
400 PHENIX AVENUE, CRANSTON, RI 02920  
EXECUTIVE SESSION – 5:00 P.M.  
IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWED BY PUBLIC MEETING**

**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, Mrs. Culhane; Mr. Fusco, Mr. Gale, Mr. Traficante and Mr. Wall. Attorney Cascione was present during Executive Session.

It is noted that Mr. Colford was absent with cause.

The meeting was called to order at 5:05 p.m. **It was moved by Mr. Gale; seconded by Mr. Traficante to convene to Executive Session pursuant to RI State Laws. The roll was called; all were in favor: Mr. Colford – Absent; 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. Termination Hearing of non-certified employee A
- b. Discussion of Administrator A
- c. Discussion of Administrator B
- d. Discussion of Administrator C

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

PL 42-46-5(3)

- a. District Safety Plan

Call to Order - Public Session at 6:34 p.m.

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 that all personnel listed above were notified. **A motion was made to seal the minutes of the executive session by Mr. Wall; seconded by Mr. Traficante. The roll was called; Mr. Colford – Absent; Mrs. Culhane – Yes; Mr. Fusco – Yes; Mr. Gale – Yes; Mrs. Ruggieri – Yes; Mr. Traficante – Yes; Mr. Wall – Yes**

**A motion was made to approve the Minutes of Previous Meetings Approved – October 14, 2015 (Work Session), October 19, 2015 (Regular Meeting), November 2, 2015 (Work Session), November 4, 2015 (Work Session), November 5, 2015 (Work Session) by Mr. Traficante; seconded by Mrs. Culhane. The roll was called; all were in favor.**

## **Public Acknowledgements/Communications - None**

### **Chairperson's Communications**

Chairperson Ruggieri stated that she would like to address two items that are on the agenda tonight regarding the 6<sup>th</sup> grade move and the All Day Kindergarten mandate. It is the duty and responsibility of the School Committee, one of our many, to provide direction to the administration with matters that they bring before us. These resolutions tonight allows them to move forward in the direction to allow for the implementation of all-day kindergarten and the 6<sup>th</sup> grade move to occur. It does not bind us or lock us into a specific path. It allows the administration to move forward and that is what we are looking to do.

### **Superintendent's Communications - None**

### **School Committee Member Communications**

Mr. Gale stated that he wanted to put a plug in for the Wounded Warrior 5K at Park View this week that I will also be a part of.

Mr. Fusco discussed the Cranston East Thunderbolts.

### **Public Hearing**

Students (Agenda/Non-Agenda Matters) - None

Members of the Public (Agenda Matters Only)

1. Barbara Tremaine - 169 Lippitt Avenue – Spoke in support of the teachers at Hope Highlands and Orchard Farms
2. Sharron Ferriera - 9 Roselyn Avenue – Spoke on the 6<sup>th</sup> grade transition
3. Jennifer Manzi - 179 Calaman Road – Spoke on the 6<sup>th</sup> grade transition
4. Scott McNeil - no address given - Spoke on the 6<sup>th</sup> grade transition
5. Jessica McNeil – no address given – Spoke on the 6<sup>th</sup> grade transition

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

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

15-11-02; 15-11-03; 15-11-05; 15-11-06; 15-11-07; 15-11-08; 15-11-09; 15-11-10 (w/addendum); 15-11-11; 15-11-12; 15-11-15; 15-11-20

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

## **RESOLUTIONS**

### **PERSONNEL**

**Resolution No. 15-11-01 RESOLVED**, that the Cranston School Committee accept or reject the recommendation of the Superintendent to terminate non-certified employee "A".

**A motion was made to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent by Mr. Gale; seconded by Mr. Traficante. The roll was called; all were in favor.**

**Resolution No. 15-11-02 RESOLVED** that at the recommendation of the Superintendent the following certified personnel be appointed for the 2015-2016 school year:

**Michelle DeFeo**, Step 1 + Masters  
Education...RIC, BA, MAT  
Experience...Warwick Substitute  
Certification...Middle School Science  
Assignment...Western Hills 1.0 FTE  
Effective date...November 2, 2015  
Authorization...Replacement  
Fiscal Note... 12911610 51110

**Julie Gendron**, Step 2 + Masters  
Education...URI, BA, MLIS  
Experience... Cranston Public Schools  
Certification...Library Media  
Assignment...Itinerant .6 FTE  
Effective Date...November 9, 2015  
Authorization...Replacement  
Fiscal Note....1271603051110

**Jodi Brindamour**, Step 1  
Education...RIC, BA  
Experience...Cranston Substitute  
Certification...Secondary Social Studies  
Assignment...Cranston East 1.0 FTE  
Effective date...November 10, 2015  
Authorization...Replacement  
Fiscal Note... 11312020 51110

**Resolution No. 15-11-03 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.3 of the Master Agreement between the Cranston School Committee and the Cranston Teachers' Alliance:

**Thomas Caduto**, Teacher  
Cranston East  
Effective Date...October 29, 2015 to September, 2016

**Resolution No. 15-11-04 RESOLVED**, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the retirement of the following certified personnel be accepted:

**Natalie Migneault**, Teacher  
Gladstone  
Effective Date...June 30, 2015

**A motion was made to approve by Mr. Traficante; seconded by Mr. Fusco. Discussion followed.**

**Mr. Fusco stated that he would like to make an amendment to Resolution 15-11-04 changing the date from June 30, 2015 to June 30, 2016.**

**A motion was made to approve Resolution No. 15-11-04 as amended by Mr. Traficante; seconded by Mr. Gale. The roll was called; all were in favor.**

Superintendent Nota-Masse stated – I wanted to congratulate Ms. Migneault. Recently, she has been at Gladstone and in the district for over 26 years. She is currently an ESL Kindergarten teacher. We wish her well in her retirement and thank her for her service.

**Resolution No. 15-11-05 RESOLVED**, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the following certified personnel be appointed as substitutes on a temporary basis as needed:

**Elizabeth Bitgood**, Secondary Social Studies

**Resolution No. 15-11-06 RESOLVED**, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the following individual(s) be appointed as an athletic coach:

**Mark Pechak**, Assistant Coach Coed Swim  
Cranston East  
Class-E  
Step-3  
Playing Competition-High School & College  
Experience- Coach USS Swim Club  
Certification-RI Coaches Certification; CPR/AED/First Aid

**Derek Mott**, Head Coach Wrestling  
Park View  
Class-E  
Step-1  
Playing Competition-High School  
Experience- East Volunteer Football Coach  
Certification-RI Coaches Certification; CPR\AED\First Aid

**Daniel Burns**, Head Coach Wrestling  
Western Hills  
Class-E  
Step-3  
Playing Competition-High School  
Experience- Park View Wrestling Coach  
Certification-RI Coaches Certification; CPR\AED\First Aid

**Xavier Ferland**, Assistant Coach Coed Swimming  
Cranston West  
Class-E  
Step-3  
Playing Competition-High School  
Experience- None  
Certification-RI Coaches Certification; CPR\AED\First Aid

**Frank Notarianni**, Assistant Coach Boys' Indoor Track  
Cranston West  
Class-C  
Step-3  
Playing Competition-High School  
Experience- Warwick Coach Cross Country  
Certification-RI Coaches Certification; CPR\AED\First Aid

**Brianna Thomas**, Assistant Coach Girls' Basketball  
Cranston West  
Class-C  
Step-2  
Playing Competition-High School  
Experience- AAU Basketball Coach  
Certification-RI Coaches Certification; CPR\AED\First Aid

**Steven Stoehr**, Head Coach Boys' Indoor Track  
Cranston West  
Class-B  
Step-3  
Playing Competition-High School  
Experience- Cranston West Football & Track  
Certification-RI Coaches Certification; CPR\AED\First Aid

**Nick Antoniou**, Assistant Coach Wrestling  
Cranston East  
Class-C  
Step-2  
Playing Competition-High School  
Experience- Volunteer High School Wrestling Coach  
Certification-RI Coaches Certification; CPR/AED/First Aid

**Resolution No. 15-11-07 RESOLVED**, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the following individual(s) be reappointed as an athletic coach:

**Cranston High School East**

John Smith- Head Boys' Basketball Coach  
Corey Bouchard- Assistant Boys' Basketball Coach  
Lloyd Bochner-Head Girls' Basketball Coach  
Robert Bouchard- Head Boys' Swimming Coach  
Robert LaBanca- Head Girls' Indoor Track Coach  
Carl Bishop, Head Boys' Indoor Track Coach  
Jen Koscho-Competition Cheerleading  
Michelle Giardina-Assistant Girls' Basketball Coach  
Glen Castiglia, Head Wrestling Coach

**Cranston High School West**

John Macera- Head Boys' Basketball Coach  
Isaiah McDaniel-Assistant Boys' Basketball Coach  
Russell Ferri-Head Girls' Basketball Coach  
Tim Almonte- Head Wrestling Coach  
Keith Croft- Head Girls' Indoor Track Coach  
Dina Cesana- Assistant Girls' Indoor Track

**Cranston East\West**

Michael Boyajian-Head Boys' Hockey Coach  
Matthew Brannon-Assistant Boys' Hockey Coach  
Paul Bessette-Head Girls' Hockey Coach  
Matt Davis-Assistant Girls' Hockey Coach

**Resolution No. 15-11-08 RESOLVED**, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the resignation of the following coach (es) be accepted:

**Jared Zimmer**, Head Coach Boys' Soccer  
Cranston West  
Effective date...November 9, 2015

**Resolution No. 15-11-09 RESOLVED**, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the following non-certified employee(s) be appointed:

**Sylvia Lopes**, Bus Monitor  
Transportation  
Effective Date...October 16, 2015  
Replacement  
Fiscal Note...12045090 51110

**Luz Urena**, Bus Monitor  
Transportation  
Effective Date...November 2, 2015  
Replacement  
Fiscal Note...11245090 51110

**Charice Cruz**, Part Time Custodian  
Adult Ed\ECC  
Effective Date...November 2, 2015  
Replacement  
Fiscal Note...20247050 51110

**Judegar Bucasas**, Part Time Custodian  
Cranston West  
Effective Date...November 2, 2015  
Replacement  
Fiscal Note...12647050 51110

**Julie Smorol**, Title I Math Intervention Coordinators  
Barrows  
Effective Date...November 3, 2015  
New  
Fiscal Note...50912011 51110

**Colleen Mollicone**, Title I Math Intervention Coordinators  
Gladstone  
Effective Date...November 2, 2015  
Replacement  
Fiscal Note...50919011 51110

**Resolution No. 15-11-10 RESOLVED**, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the following non-certified personnel be appointed as substitutes on a temporary basis as needed:

**Tara Alviano**, Teacher Assistant

**Add the following to Resolution No, 15-11-10**

**Amanda Stevens**, Teacher Assistant

**Resolution No. 15-11-11 RESOLVED**, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the following non-certified staff member be granted a leave of absence without compensation as provided in Article X, Section C of the Master Agreement between the Cranston School Committee and the Cranston Teachers' Alliance:

**Jo Nicholls**, Teacher Assistant  
Park View  
Effective Date...November 2, 2015 to August 31, 2016

**Resolution No. 15-11-12 RESOLVED**, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the resignation(s) of the following non-certified personnel be accepted:

**Brian Ferri**, Custodian  
Plant  
Effective Date...October 22, 2015

**Dawn Vadeboncoeur**, Teacher Assistant  
Stone Hill  
Effective Date...October 30, 2015

**Jacqueline Venticinqu**e, Bus Monitor  
Transportation  
Effective Date....November 6, 2015

**Lesly Larosiliere**, Bus Driver  
Transportation  
Effective Date...November 6, 2015

## **BUSINESS**

**Resolution No. 15-11-13 RESOLVED**, approval of the revised 2015-2016 budget as recommended by the Superintendent.

**A motion was made to approve by Mr. Gale; seconded by Mr. Fusco. Discussion followed.**

Mr. Gale stated that he would like to ask Mr. Balducci some questions. Mr. Balducci, on the expenditure side you talked above teacher movement, but when I was going through this (**See Handout A - Cranston Public Schools Budget Revision 1 2015/2016 on file in the Superintendent's Office for additional information**) I noticed some rather large swings in teachers' salaries. For example, Cranston East Special Education teacher salaries were decreased by \$191,000 and ELL that was decreased by \$161,000. Can you talk about that?

Mr. Balducci stated - In those particular categories, you have to look at the number of teachers that are there. When you are looking at teacher movements or retirements the dollar figure is not that expensive. I do not have anything specific. Again, there are 145 some odd teachers. I can get back to you with specifics.

Mr. Gale stated – If you could, I would appreciate that.

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

**Resolution No. 15-11-14 RESOLVED, Wireless Classroom Initiative Phase 2** to be completed by RIDE approved vendor Custom Computer Specialists in the projected amount of \$272,012.70 (Funding provided through WCI Grant)

**A motion was made to approve by Mr. Gale; seconded by Mr. Wall. The roll was called; all were in favor.**

**Resolution No. 15-11-15 RESOLVED**, the following purchase be approved:

**Reconditioning of Football Equipment** be awarded as follows:

Helmet	\$22.00	Riddell -
Shoulder Pad	\$ 8.15	Riddell
Rib Pad	\$ 1.99	Riddell
Game Jersey	\$ 1.50	Riddell
Game Pant	\$ 1.75	Riddell

Number of bids issued	2
Number of bids received	2

**Resolution No. 15-11-16 RESOLVED**, the following purchase be approved:

**Snow Removal Equipment** in the amount of no more than \$69,047.52 if financed over a 4 year period.

Number of bids issued	5
Number of bids received	1

**A motion was made to approve by Mr. Wall; seconded by Mr. Traficante. Discussion followed.**

Mr. Fusco stated - Mr. Balducci, can you tell us exactly what is being purchased.

Mr. Balducci stated - This is a combination type of equipment. It is backhoe and a tractor that will be used by our Plant Maintenance Division. Last year we had difficulty clearing snow. This piece of equipment has a 48 inch snowplow which will be used to plow larger areas around our schools. It also has a broom that can be used for sweeping in the spring. It has a forklift that can be used for projects that come up. It has a backhoe that can be used for projects. It is one piece of equipment that has several purposes.

Mr. Fusco stated – Is this brand new or used?

Mr. Balducci stated - The way we did this was we requested our vendors to supply us with one that had less than a 100 hours on it.

Mr. Fusco stated – This will be available throughout the district?

Mr. Balducci stated – Yes. It will be housed at Park View, but as the need arises it will be brought to the locations as needed.

Chairperson Ruggieri stated – Mr. Collins believes that this equipment will be offset by the savings that are made up for man hours.

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

**Resolution No. 15-11-17 RESOLVED**, the following purchase be approved:

**Lumber** in the amount of \$5,696.77

Number of bids issued	5
Number of bids received	3

**A motion was made to approve by Mrs. Culhane; seconded by Mr. Gale. Discussion followed.**

Mrs. Culhane stated - Mr. Balducci, what is the lumbar being used for?

Mr. Balducci stated - At the Career and Tech school.

Mrs. Culhane stated – Is this just for projects?

Mr. Balducci stated – As they come up.

Mrs. Culhane stated – If I could ask the Superintendent if we could get a clearer understanding of what the projects would be and what the students would be working on.

Superintendent Nota-Masse stated – I am guessing it the Career and Tech school, but I will follow up tomorrow.

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

### **POLICY AND PROGRAM**

**Resolution No. 15-11-18** Whereas, during the 2015-2016 school year, the Cranston School Department is piloting all day kindergarten in three of its elementary schools, and

Be it resolved, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the School Committee approve the implementation of all day kindergarten in all the elementary schools beginning in the 2016-2017 school year.

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

**followed.**

Mrs. Culhane stated – I began working on All Day K about 6 years ago. We had what was called a Redistricting Sub-Committee. We looked at the possibility of re-districting with knowing that at some point all-day kindergarten was coming. Some people have implied that this is something that just popped up and we are trying to keep the public out of the loop. This is my 8<sup>th</sup> year and we have been looking at this for a long time. We knew that all-day kindergarten was going to happen, we just were not in the financial position to do it any sooner than when the state came down with the mandate. Ideally, we would have liked more time, but a lot of thought and energy for many years have been put into this transition. Some people are talking about wanting to opt out of all day kindergarten. The Common Core standards are based on all-day kindergarten and I do not know why a parent would not want their child to have the opportunity to have all day kindergarten. I would like to thank the General Assembly for making this happen because it is the right thing to do.

Chairperson Ruggieri stated – I have been working on all day kindergarten for a long time. We really looked at a lot of options. When the presentation was made, not every option was discussed because that would not have made sense for us to do that. We talked about a lot of different things, like kindergarten hub schools, but that was cost prohibitive. There were no buildings at that time. Again, there was moratorium on any new construction coming down through the state. We looked at lot of different options to house all day kindergarten. To say that this just came up or a done deal, it was not. We are never going to make everyone happy, but we will try and do our best that we can for everyone. I believe that is what we have done with this plan. We are hopeful we can move forward as a district and change and grow. I support all day Kindergarten and am grateful to Hannah Gallo for championing this cause.

Mr. Traficante stated – I think the people should be reminded that even though we have talked about it and wanted to implement this several years ago, we were faced with an 8 million dollar deficit. You all know that the City mandated that we pay this money back over a period of 6 years. We did that. We did our homework and eliminated that deficit. This is the first year we have had to see the light and start doing things in a positive manner, such as reinstating the athletic program, music, etc. It has been in the works for many years and we finally have the opportunity to implement that.

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

**Resolution No. 15-11-19** Whereas, the Rhode Island General Assembly approved legislation that mandated school districts implement all day kindergarten, and

Whereas, the school district does not have the physical capacity to accommodate the all day kindergarten, and

Whereas, that in the past the sixth grade was part of the district's middle schools, and

Be it resolved that the Cranston School Committee approve the recommendation of the Superintendent to move the sixth grade back into the middle schools, thus changing the model to sixth through eighth grade, and to convert the Hope Highlands Elementary School to a middle

school and renaming it Hope Highlands Middle School.

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

Mrs. Culhane stated – I will start by saying that I am a mom of 3 Cranston Public School students. One, who is currently a 3<sup>rd</sup> grader. This move does affect me. Maybe not as much as some. Change is never easy. It is a lot harder for adults than some kids and a lot harder for us to meet them where they are at.

Mr. Gale stated – I am in favor of this motion. I was not on the committee, but I commend everyone for their work because it gave me as a school committee member the ability to look at many options. I believe that creating Hope Highlands as a middle school is the best option. I certainly understand the apprehension around change that there might be for the students, but if you look at all the options, like portables. I am opposed to them just because they are outside. For a student to have to use the restroom means in the wintertime they have to go outside without a jacket. I just do not think that is good for learning. Another option was building an addition onto Western Hills. Certainly that may be a good point, but I do not think it is credible. In the long run it will be more expensive and the approval process would not be easy. I was on the Buildings Committee and the approval process to get things approved by the State is enormous. I support making Hope Highlands a middle school because the middle school model works. It has been proven to work and I am excited that we get to do it for all our students.

Mr. Fusco stated – I am in favor of this for the simple reason is it is giving the administration and the 6<sup>th</sup> grade committee a place to start and build their plans from. Up and until this point they have been meeting since July and were charged with coming up with a recommendation. They came to us with that recommendation and now it is our turn to take that recommendation and building on that. There are still a lot of questions that I have to be answered by this committee and I am sure this will be answered in coming months. In order to get those answers, this is where it starts. I have been in favor of moving the 6<sup>th</sup> grade back to the middle school for a long time. I have a son who is in 8<sup>th</sup> grade in Bain and since then he has been flourishing. His last year in Elementary school, while it was great for him, he was bored. I think that the experience of having the 6<sup>th</sup> grade in the Middle School would have been much better in the long run.

Chairperson Ruggieri stated – I also wanted to speak on the budgetary piece because for members of the School Committee, all of our staff, Administration and everyone involved, we have just come out of a long period of debt and no one wants to ever go back to that. Please know that we are going to be looking at the budgetary aspects very closely and at our budget as closely as we always do. We will be looking at areas to see if we can save some money because we are not allowed to get in debt, but we are not willing to put this district in the position that it was put into several years ago. We worked hard as a district to get out of that hole and none of us want to go back there. When we are looking at this, we will be looking at it very closely to make sure the monetary impact will not undue all the work that has been done to move this district forward. Although Mr. Colford was not able to be here tonight, we have been having conversations as far as budget and his budget concerns echo everyone's up here. We will be continuing to ask those questions and looking at that as well.

Mr. Traficante stated – I was on the 6<sup>th</sup> grade committee. I made it my business to be at every single meeting that was held. The Superintendent should be commended because she put together a tremendous group of people made up of parents, administrators, faculty, etc. and they worked diligently and were extremely thorough in their research. You name it; they thought about it and researched it. They came back in a timely fashion to answers those questions. By attending those meetings, they made me feel very comfortable and reassured that this can work. As Chairperson Ruggieri mentioned, money is always a factor here and we will be monitoring that very carefully.

Mr. Gale stated – I just wanted to make one more point and it really is a plea to ask you to come to our meetings during the budget season to see what is going on. Also, go to the City Council meetings and testify there. If you support this plan and support certain aspects of the budget that comes out in January, we need your support. Prior to last year, we have been level funded for 6 years. If you want more support for the schools, the City Council and the mayor need to hear from you. Please come to our budget meetings and to the City Council meetings. We need your help to get support for the schools.

Superintendent Nota-Masse stated – As I have said at all the meetings that this has been an agenda item for the last several months, the contention that I am paying this lip service or rhetoric as it was called at one meeting, is insulting. I have been given a huge task. We assembled a team of people from all walks of this community to be thoughtful and thorough with our work. I do not have all the answers, but I wish I did because it would make my life easier. I wish that every parent, every child and every teacher would be thrilled with everything I do on a daily basis. I knew coming into this job that would never be the case. That is pretty hard for me. Generally you want people to be happy with you, but I gave that up a long time ago. It is not because I do not care. I care very deeply and as I said at the last meeting, my son is involved in this. I understand from child's point of view that this may not be the best plan in his mind. But as adults, it is our responsibility especially here on this stage to take care of 11,000 students and 2,000 employees and make decisions that will benefit the district. I know that is very hard for individuals and groups of folks to accept and understand, but I need to stress to you that everything we do carries great responsibility and great weight and that is not something we take lightly. Every decision we make is discussed and vetted and researched. It is not a plan we slap together in 24 hours and throw out to you. While we understand people's concerns and we have been listening and talking to families and we are asked why we do not have all the details, it is because we are moving along and changing how we work this plan out as we listen to people. Last week, as we listened to some concerns, certain things were brought to light changed what was in the initial plan because we are listening to parents and community members. While I can't stress it anymore to you that we are trying to do our best. We are trying to be responsible finically, pedagogically, socially and emotionally for our students and every teacher in the district. You have to know we are working collaboratively with the CTA. Again, I echo Mr. Gale's plea. We have been talking to members of City Council and they understand the impact of this and there is going to be a budget impact for us and we have to make sure it is responsible and thoughtful going forward. It is not rhetoric. It is the truth. We are being very thoughtful and very, very meticulous in our research to make sure that what we are doing is the right thing for this district.

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

**Resolution No. 15-11-20 RESOLVED**, that at the recommendation of the School Committee, the following policy be approved **(See attached policy)**

Policy No. TBD      Dual Enrollment Policy

**Resolution No. 15-11-21 RESOLVED** , that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the following Conference/Field Trip of Long Duration be authorized:

Cranston High School West and Cranston High School East Students will be going to Costa Rica, February 13 – 21, 2016. Twelve students along with the two supervising teachers will depart Saturday, February 13, 2016 and return Friday, February 21, 2016. The cost of the trip will be \$2,204.00 per student/chaperone. Students and chaperones will be responsible for the cost of the trip. The students will be given ample opportunity to raise monies for the trip through a variety of fund raising activities. The tour company offers on-line payment options. The supervising teachers will be Joel Gluck, Science teacher, CHSW and Carolyn Sczerbinski, Program Supervisor, World Languages.

**A motion was made to Table Resolution No. 15-11-21 by Mr. Traficante, seconded by Mrs. Culhane. The roll was called; all were in favor.**

**Public Hearing on Non-Agenda Items - None**

**Announcement of Future Meeting(s) – December 9, 2015 and December 14, 2015**

**Adjournment**

**A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Wall; seconded by Mr. Gale. All were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 7:26 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,

Stephanie A. G. Culhane  
Vice Chairperson

**NOTE: Documentation referenced as “Handouts” are available for viewing at Cranston Public Schools, William A. Briggs Building, 845 PARK AVENUE, CRANSTON, RI during normal business hours (Monday-Friday 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.) or you can send a request to [Shartley@cpsed.net](mailto:Shartley@cpsed.net).**

## Dual Enrollment Policy

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that Cranston Public Schools are in full compliance with the Dual Enrollment Opportunity Act (R.I.G.L. 16-100). It is our intent to give students increased options to take and earn credit in postsecondary coursework, reduce families' college costs, and encourage students to achieve postsecondary success and earn degrees.

This policy is established for the purpose of adopting a district dual enrollment policy that allows students to enroll in public post-secondary education courses both in the student's high school and at the post-secondary institution to satisfy academic coursework requirements in high school and earn credits at a public postsecondary institution. This policy is intended to expand student access to postsecondary coursework and is not intended to preempt existing agreements or to prevent future agreements between Cranston Public Schools and Rhode Island's higher education institutions.

Cranston Public Schools supports existing programs that provide the best opportunity for the most students to fulfill the aims of the policy (e.g. CCRI Operation Running Start, Rhode Island College Early Enrollment Program, Advanced Placement courses). CPS encourages participation of all student populations in this program.

CPS will ensure that students earn both high school and post-secondary credit and these credits are recorded on the student transcript, provided students meet all requirements, including but not limited to those concerning grading, attendance, and conduct.

Dual enrollment courses will count towards a student's high school coursework graduation requirements if the student complies with the postsecondary institution's course policies and successfully completes the course. Students must also meet their high school's requirements, including but not limited to those concerning attendance and conduct.

District assigned staff will work with the assigned staff at the postsecondary institution to oversee the enrollment of students in dual and concurrent enrollment courses.

For any concurrent enrollment course, the district is responsible for providing students with disabilities, the protections, services and accommodations as prescribed by federal and state law. In the event the district has an articulation agreement(s) with higher education institutions outside those covered by state policy, the district will make that information available to students and families.

CPS will continue programs to prepare and train their teaching staff to teach concurrent and advanced placement courses.

Legal Reference: R.I.G.L. 16-2-9 – general Powers and Duties of School Committees; R.I.G.L. 16-100 Dual Enrollment Opportunity Act