

**CRANSTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING  
BUDGET ADOPTION  
FEBRUARY 11, 2016  
WESTERN HILLS MIDDLE SCHOOL  
400 PHENIX AVENUE, CRANSTON, RI 02920  
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 Western Hills Middle School with the following members present: Chairperson Ruggieri, Mrs. Culhane; Mr. Colford; Mr. Gale, Mr. Traficante and Mr. Wall. Attorney Cascione was present during Executive Session.

It is noted that Mr. Fusco is absent with cause.

The meeting was called to order at 6:08 p.m. **It was moved by Mr. Colford; seconded by Mr. Gale 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 – Absent; Mr. Gale – Yes; Mrs. Ruggieri – Yes; Mr. Traficante – Yes; Mr. Wall – Yes:**

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

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

a. Bus Driver, Mechanics & Tradespeople Negotiations

PL 42-46-5(3)

b. District Safety Plan

Call to Order - Public Session at 6:45 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. **A motion was made to seal the minutes of the executive session by Mr. Traficante; seconded by Gale. The roll was called; Mr. Colford – Yes; Mrs. Culhane – Yes; Mr. Fusco – Absent; Mr. Gale – Yes; Mrs. Ruggieri – Yes; Mr. Traficante – Yes; Mr. Wall – Yes. All were in favor.**

**A motion was made to approve the Minutes of Previous Meetings of January 14, 2016, January 19, 2016, January 25, 2016 and January 28, 2016 by Mr. Traficante; seconded by Mr. Gale. The roll was called; all were in favor.**

**Public Acknowledgements/Communications - None**

**Communications - None**

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

## **School Committee Member Communications**

Mr. Traficante stated – I just wanted to inform the Committee and the Administration that during the school vacation, the security company will be at the Charter School installing a security system with a buzz in/out system and swipe card system. The money will be coming from the Laborers' Union.

## **Public Hearing**

Students (Agenda/Non-Agenda Matters) - None

Members of the Public (Agenda Matters Only) - None

## **Consent Calendar/Consent Agenda**

The following resolutions were unanimously adopted under the Consent Agenda:

16-02-01; 16-02-03; 16-02-03; 16-02-04; 16-02-05; 16-02-06; 16-02-07 (w/addendum); 16-02-08; 16-02-09; 16-02-11; 16-02-12; 16-02-14; 16-02-15; 16-02-16; 16-02-17

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

## **Action Calendar/Action Agenda**

## **RESOLUTIONS**

## **PERSONNEL**

**Resolution No. 16-02-01**            **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. 16-02-02**            **RESOLVED**, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the following certified personnel be appointed as substitutes on a temporary basis as needed:

**Brianna Resto**, Middle\Secondary English

**Jenifer Goes**, Elementary 1-6

**Resolution No. 16-02-03**            **RESOLVED**, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the following individual(s) be appointed as an athletic coach:

**Frank Notarianni**, Head Coach Boys' Track

Cranston West

Class-B  
Step-3  
Playing Competition-High School  
Experience- Warwick High School Coach  
Certification-RI Coaches Certification; CPR\AED\First Aid

**Evan Lancia**, Head Coach Middle School Track  
Western Hills  
Class-E  
Step-1  
Playing Competition-High School  
Experience-Cranston Coach  
Certification-RI Coaches Certification; CPR\AED\First Aid

**John Macera**, Head Coach Track  
Park View  
Class-E  
Step-3  
Playing Competition-High School  
Experience-Cranston Coach  
Certification-RI Coaches Certification; CPR\AED\First Aid

**Steven Faccenda**, Head Coach Track  
Bain  
Class-E  
Step-3  
Playing Competition-High School  
Experience-Cranston Coach  
Certification-RI Coaches Certification; CPR\AED\First Aid

**Dina Cesana**, Assistant Coach Girls' Track  
Cranston West  
Class-D  
Step-3  
Playing Competition-High School  
Experience-Cranston Coach  
Certification-RI Coaches Certification; CPR\AED\First Aid

**Rebecca DelNigro**, Assistant Coach Boys' Track  
Cranston West  
Class-D  
Step-2  
Playing Competition-High School  
Experience-Providence Coach  
Certification-RI Coaches Certification; CPR\AED\First Aid

**Resolution No. 16-02-04**            **RESOLVED**, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the following non-certified employee(s) be appointed:

**Sheri Bagalia**, Teacher Assistant  
Eden Park  
Effective Date...February 8, 2016  
New  
Fiscal Note... 11846020 51110

**Resolution No. 16-02-05**            **RESOLVED**, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the retirement of the following certified personnel be accepted:

**Jacqueline Forrest**, Teacher  
Peters  
Effective Date...June 30, 2016

**Resolution No. 16-02-06**            **RESOLVED**, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the following non-certified personnel be appointed as substitutes on a temporary basis as needed:

**David Goewey**, Custodian  
**Robert Imbriglio**, Custodian  
**Earl Babalato**, Custodian

**Resolution No. 16-02-07**            **RESOLVED**, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the retirement(s) of the following non-certified personnel be accepted:

**Rosemary Hallas**, Teacher Assistant  
Cranston East  
Effective Date...June 30, 2016

**Add the following to Resolution No. 16-02-07:**

**Graciela Palumbo**, Teacher Assistant  
Gladstone  
Effective Date...June 30, 2016

**Resolution No. 16-02-08**            **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:

**Ann Benetti**, Teacher Assistant  
Hope Highlands  
Effective Date...January 26, 2016 to August 31, 2016

**Resolution No. 16-02-09**                    **RESOLVED**, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the resignation(s) of the following non-certified personnel be accepted:

**Samantha Mattera**, Bus Driver  
Transportation  
Effective Date...January 29, 2016

## **BUSINESS**

**Resolution No. 16-02-10**                    **RESOLVED**, that the 2016-2017 Operating Budget as recommended by the Superintendent, be approved.

**A motion was made to approve Resolution 16-02-10 by Mr. Traficante; seconded by Mr. Wall. Discussion followed.**

Chairperson Ruggieri stated – For this discussion, I have several proposed amendments for the Budget. Mrs. Culhane, if you would please assume the chair. We will start with some of the adjustments that are being made. Currently, there are no funds set aside in the Governor’s Budget for all-day Kindergarten. We do have to reduce that line item by \$600,000. There are proposals in the Governor’s proposal that does add money. One line item is for \$249,476 for High Cost Special Education. Another amount is \$59,195 for English Language Learners. In addition, based on the Governor’s proposed Budget, we reduced the Charter School tuition by \$90,525. Her proposal did allow us to reduce the cost per student by \$355 per student. Again, there is a reduction in State aid for \$291,329 based on the Governor’s proposed budget. We were also able to come to an agreement with our healthcare provider to reduce the \$1.6 million dollars that was originally proposed in the budget. That can be taken out. There is a credit going back in for \$73,270 for dental coverage. That was part of that agreement.

Superintendent Nota-Masse stated – Just to clarify a few things. According to the Governor’s proposed budget, all-day Kindergarten is not being funded to the municipalities that are instituting all-day Kindergarten. In our original budget proposal we had put in \$600,000 in our line item to fund all-day Kindergarten. Because of what we are hearing that it will not be funded, we took that \$600,000 away from the revenue side. With the additions of the proposals of the Governor’s Budget, we are losing a net of \$291,329. So our whole State Aid Revenue line item will be reduced by \$291,329. I do not want you to think it is \$600,000 plus \$291,329. The \$600,000 is part of it and then when you add back in the things that we are getting (High Cost Special Education and the English Language Learners and Charter School tuition), pieces that are coming back to us, our net loss is \$291,329. I just want to make that clear.

Mr. Traficante stated – This is ridiculous. They give us a mandate to install and develop an all-day Kindergarten program and now they are not giving us a penny for that particular mandate. This is the same game they have been playing year after year with unfunded mandates. Are we going to speak to anyone about this? It is the General Assembly that is controlling this.

Superintendent Nota-Masse stated – I have expressed my concern to anyone who will listen to me on the legislative side. We were under the impression that the least we would get would be \$600,000 and that was from preliminary discussions back in the late fall, around the holidays from the

Department of Education. Again, we know that when we are told this, nothing was carved in stone until the Governor's Budget is approved. We understand that swing. We talked about that when the proposal came out, but by putting \$600,000 in, we understood that to be the low end of what the possibility is for funding. It was indicated to Joe (Balducci) that we would receive anywhere from \$600,000 to \$1.1 million. We made those efforts to get all our registrations done, etc. only to be told that at this point you are not getting anything. That \$600,000 was a conservative amount for us to put in as revenue. I do agree with Mr. Traficante that it is a mandate and we are under State law to implement the program and they are not funding us. I said at the beginning of the process it is good program for our youngest learners. However, it is costly. In a district of this size when we have to expand the programming as significantly as we have, that is a huge hit to our budget.

Mr. Traficante stated – I am strongly suggesting that you, the Chairperson and the Vice Chair meet with Mattiello and on the senate side, meet with Teresa Paiva-Weed. This needs to be addressed immediately. We should not be spending good money on a great program and not have funding. The children are part of our population. We should get the proper funding for that particular program. That is what I am strongly suggesting.

Superintendent Nota-Masse stated – Let's not forget that because of this we have a new middle school. The program is not in isolation. It has caused an effect that is hitting us on another side.

Chairperson Ruggieri stated – When we first heard about the original funding amount we were told about and then back in October and November when Mr. Balducci was given a scale of funding that we were very concerned about, I reached out to the Speaker's office and to other members at that time to ask what was going on and what can we count on. I was kind of given a very lengthy email back that basically said nothing. We kind of had a feeling back in November that we were not going to be getting the full amount. This \$600,000 was the low end and that we could hopefully be counting on that. To find out that we are not getting anything at this point is very disheartening. I am definitely reaching back out.

Mr. Gale stated – Isn't this money for Kindergarten covered by the Education Aid formula? Because we are going from half day to all day, is this \$600,000 in addition to that? Are they following the Education Aid form?

Superintendent Nota-Masse stated – We have to get the bodies in first before we charge.

Chairperson Ruggieri stated - Unlike the Charter School, they get the money up front. We have to wait until we have bodies in the seats.

Mr. Colford stated – As I understand it, if we do not follow this mandate that they put out there, there is some sort of penalty for that?

Superintendent Nota-Masse stated – We would be in violation of State law.

Mr. Colford stated – So the financially penalty is what?

Mr. Balducci stated – I believe you could lose your entire state aide appropriation. You would lose significant dollars.

Mr. Colford stated – I understand. Again, we are looking at situations where they sit there and very casually decide how they are going to spend my money.

Superintendent Nota-Masse stated –Often you hear the term “unfunded mandate” tossed around, but this is a very tangible example of what that is. I do not want to discount the fact that we were given money this year to start the pilot programs, to buy some supplies and we appreciate the work that Senator Gallo, on behalf of the District, but going forward we have had to open 10 additional classrooms and all of those incur costs.

Chairperson Ruggieri stated – Originally, the appropriation from the City that we were requesting was \$1.9 million, which did not include the middle school sports and music funding that we received last year. We were able to revise the City appropriation with some of the changes that we were able to make, most notably the reduction in the health insurance to \$1.6 million. The increase that we are looking for from the City is now down to 1.3% increase in our budget. When you look at the other departments of the City and what they are looking for, a 1.3% increase in a budget for this district is not that large of an increase when you look at we are doing. When you look at the implementation of the full day kindergarten, the 6<sup>th</sup> grade move, opening a new middle school and all these other wonderful things that our district does, the Mayor has seen first-hand this year by coming to a lot of our events and our school things. Our hope is that he has seen the wonderful things that have gone on in our schools and he will agree that a 1.3% increase is not extravagant.

Mr. Traficante stated – What does that equate to money wise?

Chairperson Ruggieri stated - \$1,151,579 and what we have asked for is an adjustment so that middle school sports not be included in a miscellaneous revenue and rather an appropriation for that \$576,000 that we were given. We continue to hope to develop these programs and have them remain in our school department.

Mrs. Culhane stated – My question in regards to the City appropriation, when we met with the Governor last week, she discussed the fact that there was a change in the “Maintenance of Effort” that there was going to be a percentage over. Could you explain that or the Superintendent and how that will affect this appropriation and is that we are asking for or what they will be state mandated to give us.

Superintendent Nota-Masse stated – From what I understand, in the Governor’s budget there is a portion of it that speaks to local contributions and that every year the local appropriation has to reflect the consumer price index. Not only do they have to give you the same amount as they did the year previous, which we refer to as the “Maintenance of Effort”. They can’t just flat line and say they are giving us the same year after year. She is proposing in her Budget that at least the local appropriation has to meet the CPI.

Mrs. Culhane stated – What was that last fiscal year?

Mr. Balducci stated – 1%.

Mrs. Culhane stated- That would work out well for us if that was the case. I know there is a lot of pushback on that right now coming from local mayors.

Mr. Balducci stated – It is my understanding that obligation will not kick in until the 2017-2018 year. It will give the municipalities time to plan accordingly.

Superintendent Nota-Masse stated – I just want to put this in context, originally if you included the sports and music and our request, it ran about \$2.4 million from the City. If you are comparing apples to oranges, we are asking from \$2.4 million, which was originally what was in the budget, we are now asking for \$1.1 million. That is a significant decrease in what we are asking for. I know we are talking about millions of dollars here as if it is pocket change, but that is a significant decrease by working with the health care provider to help us with that.

Mr. Colford stated – Just so I am clear, on Miscellaneous Revenue C, we are talking about adjustments to middle school sports and music, so what are we saying we are doing with this?

Chairperson Ruggieri stated – We are putting it into the City appropriation so it is not in Miscellaneous Revenue.

Mr. Colford stated – We are not cutting it out of our budget?

Chairperson Ruggieri stated – We are putting it in appropriations where it belongs.

Mr. Traficante stated – Mr. Balducci, did some miracle occur? Last time we talked about health care I said the average in the state was 5.1%. We were at 15%, what happened.

Mr. Balducci stated – Myself, the Superintendent and Mr. Votto had a conference call with the representative from the Collaborative. He agreed that we do have substantial reserve dollars at the Collaborative and in times like this it is an appropriate use of those funds. We all came to a resolution where we are using the surplus dollars as a great reduction. That is the reason why we brought in the approximate 15% to what is going to be a 5% increase. Even the representative acknowledged the fact that him speaking to Blue Cross and their underwriters, they felt that was an appropriate range going into next year as well.

Mr. Traficante stated – Mr. Balducci, please clarify one more thing. In the spreadsheet under the Fair Funding Formula, please clarify that the state had \$409,289 under Non-Public Transportation offset, the included it as a revenue, which is not really a revenue. Please clarify that to the committee.

Mr. Balducci stated – The spreadsheet that Mr. Traficante has alluded to is one that comes out of the Department of Education where business managers look to see the different buckets of revenue that we are getting from the state. The very end is something referred to as Non-Public Transportation offset or support, it is not dollars that come to the district, but like all the other districts that participate in the Statewide program, a piece of that operations is to transport students to the parochial schools that we are responsible for. As an example, the bus company may in the month of September do that on our behalf and the bill to the district would be for example \$100,000.00, but I have \$400,000 sitting with the Department of Education that they are going to help me pay for those bills. I will get a bill for the month of September saying that Cranston should have been charged \$100,000, but we are going

to offset that \$100,000 with the funds that are available at the Department of Education. Then when those funds dry up and it becomes the Districts responsibility, at that point from the remainder of the fiscal year until the end to pay those monthly bills. What I do when developing the budget, I look to see what we are going to receive in support and then I reduce the expenditure line accordingly. If you look at that one account, right now it may be \$600,000, but in reality I am spending \$1 million, but I am getting assistance around \$400,000 to help me pay for that \$1 million. Mr. Traficante is correct, the State recognizes that as an aid to the District, but I do not count that as money coming to me so I refer to it as cost avoidance and do not look at it as true dollars coming into the District. At the end of the day it is supporting school districts. I depends on how you define it.

**See Handout “A” on file with the Superintendent’s Office for additional information regarding Resolution No. 16-02-10**

**A motion to approve the amendments made to Resolution No. 16-02-10 was made by Mr. Tracicante; seconded by Mr. Wall. The roll was called; all were in favor.**

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

**Resolution No. 16-02-11                   RESOLVED**, that the following purchases be approved:

**Lease for Musical Instruments** in the amount of \$29,275.30 yearly over a 5 year lease.

Number of bids issued	4
Number of bids received	2

**Resolution No. 16-02-12                   RESOLVED**, that the following purchases be approved:

**Early Childhood Supplies and Materials** in the amount of \$4,218.89 (Funding provided by EDC – Bright Stars Pre-K Grant)

Number of bids issued	5
Number of bids received	3

## **POLICY AND PROGRAM**

**Resolution No. 16-02-13                   RESOLVED**, that the Cranston School Committee approve the Superintendent's plan to transport students to and from approved, licensed day care facilities as space permits.

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

Mr. Colford stated – I have a couple of questions. We are talking about the transportation of students to and from approved licensed daycare facilities. We are talking about this going into place for next year, correct and not the rest of the school year?

Chairperson Ruggieri stated – Correct

Mr. Colford stated – This is for the 2016-2017 school year. When we first talked about this, we talked about how many routes were going all over. I thought it was somewhere in the 400 range. Is that correct?

Chairperson Ruggieri stated – We were transporting over 400 students.

Mr. Colford stated –What will the numbers be with this new proposal?

Chairperson Ruggieri stated – There were two separate groupings. One was the groupings that were not going to licensed facilities. They were going to what we will call “other”. The second group were the ones that were going to licensed daycares and pre-schools. Just the students going to licensed daycares and pre-schools were around 200.

Mr. Colford stated – In this proposal, all these licensed daycares were within Cranston, correct?

Chairperson Ruggieri stated – Yes.

Mr. Colford stated – Do we know what the savings are? Can we put up a dollar amount this year with the proposal?

Chairperson Ruggieri stated – Because we were never able to get concrete figures beyond what we got. We know that we were providing extra busses. We know that with this new proposal we have eliminated the use of the smaller busses for these routes. Some of the smaller busses are being used for the pre-school and special education transportation. There is a savings involved; I just do not know what it is quite yet.

Superintendent Nota-Masse stated – I think this year was the first year we truly had numbers attached to the daycare busses. Going forward next year we will be able to compare the two. We have no longitude data to look at that says how many kids we transported. To look at it and anticipate there are too many variables. We do not know how many children will participate this year. In October we will be able to compare how many students we are transporting in October 2016 v. October 2015. I do not know if we would be able to cut down on actual routes. We have done that with the new software. We will cut down the actual price tag attached to that. For example we would not take a child from one end of the city to the other. To attach a price tag on that I think we would have to wait until the fall to actually see the new routes compared to the ones that are going out now. That has been kind of difficult for us to attach a price tag to.

Chairperson Ruggieri stated – The understanding is that the cost attached to each small bus is \$46,000 just for salary, etc. Even if we eliminated a couple of small ones because we are not using them, that is a savings right there.

Mr. Colford stated – I think we will see some savings. I can understand that we have not really been tracking it because we did not know. Just the mere fact that you are taking 200 less students is going to reduce that. In these new routes I understand we were driving closer to facilities. I will be interested to see what those numbers will be.

Chairperson Ruggieri stated – Me too.

Mrs. Culhane stated – Just for the record, could the Superintendent please explain why Waterman is not having transportation provided, just in case someone should look at this and be curious about that.

Superintendent Nota-Masse stated – Yes. This plan affords transportation on large busses. At the Waterman School, the majority of the students are walkers which mean we do not have large busses transporting students from there. If you look at the list, many businesses provide their own transportation for students at Waterman. We are also looking at putting a YMCA program there. Currently, the parents at Waterman have six (6) options of businesses that currently provide their own transportation. We would not be providing an extra-large bus to go to Waterman because we do not have one there. Again, in this plan this is for large bus routes. Because we do not go there now and many businesses already transport, we felt comfortable that parents had six (6) options and then we are hoping to put a YMCA program there.

Mr. Wall stated – I assume the same logic holds true with Garden City? I see you have five (5) daycares that provide transportation?

Superintendent Nota-Masse stated – Mrs. Cole might be able to answer that.

Mrs. Cole stated – The reason that Garden City does not have a daycare attached to it is because there is only one (1) in the area and the big bus cannot get in and out of it. They can't drive in the parking lot.

**See Handout “B” on file with the Superintendent’s Office for additional information regarding Resolution No. 16-02-13**

**Chairperson Ruggieri stated – I am going to make a friendly amendment to this proposal so that it is noted on the proposal that this will begin in September 2016. I just want to make sure that people are clear that this is not for this year, it is the beginning of the next school year.**

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

**Resolution No. 16-02-14                   RESOLVED**, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the following Conference/Field Trips of Long Duration be authorized:

The Cranston West-CACTC DECA Advisor, Richard Abruzzini and Anne Mantia will be taking 16 students to the DECA International Career Development Conference from Friday, April 26, 2016 – Wednesday, April 27, 2016 in Nashville, TN.

Each student will be responsible for the financing of his/her trip. The cost for each student is \$1195.00, cost for each chaperone is \$1970.00 and the cost for teacher/chaperone fee is grant funded.

**Resolution No. 16-02-15**                    **RESOLVED**, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the following Conferences/Field Trip(s) of Long Duration be authorized:

Michele Simpson, Executive Director for Pupil Personnel Services, to travel New Orleans, LA from April 24, 2016 – April 27, 2016 to attend *the 37<sup>th</sup> LRP National Institute*. Travel and accommodation expenses to be grant funded by IDEA.

**Resolution No. 16-02-16**                    **RESOLVED** that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the following Conferences/Field Trips of Long Duration be authorized:

Julie Driscoll, Director of Early Childhood Center, to travel New Orleans, LA from April 24, 2016 – April 27, 2016 to attend *the 37<sup>th</sup> LRP National Institute*. Travel and accommodation expenses to be grant funded by IDEA.

**Resolution No. 16-02-17**                    **RESOLVED**, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the following Conferences/Field Trips of Long Duration be authorized:

Anne Bouchard, Special Education Administrator, to travel New Orleans, LA from April 24, 2016 – April 27, 2016 to attend *the 37<sup>th</sup> LRP National Institute*. Travel and accommodation expenses to be grant funded by IDEA.

**TABLED RESOLUTION(s)**

**Resolution No. 16-01-15** **RESOLVED**, that at the recommendation of the School Committee, the following policies be reviewed for amendment and/or deletion (**See attached**).

1121	Availability of Records on Web Site	Amend
1140	Use of Students	Delete
1210	School-Community Associations	Delete
1221(a)(b)	Citizens' Advisory Committees for the School Committee	Review
1223	By-Laws of the Cranston Rhode Island Special Education Advisory Committee	Review
1310	Relations Between Public & School Personnel	Review
1312	Complaints Concerning School Personnel	Review
1314	Soliciting Funds from School Personnel	Review
1324	Soliciting Funds from and by Students	Amend
1325	Advertising and Promotion by Students	Delete
1331	Smoke Free Environment	Delete
1441	Police Department	Review

**A motion to remove Resolution No. 16-01-15 from the Table by Mr. Gale; seconded by Mr. Traficante. The roll was called; all were in favor.**

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

Superintendent Nota-Masse stated – I have passed out to each of you the policies that are listed. Many of these had not been amended or reviewed since 1972 so it is about time we looked at them to make sure they are appropriate for our District's needs. Each of you has a copy of the original language and proposed new language if necessary or suggestions to delete each policy. Very quickly I will run through these.

**Superintendent Nota-Masse outlined the suggested deletions and/or amendments to Resolution No. 16-01-15**

Superintendent Nota-Masse spoke on Policy 1121 - Availability of Records on Web Site. This addresses the availability of records on the website. The School Committee has changed that to having the minutes of the previous month's School Committee meetings on the Rhode Island Secretary of State's website, except for those held in Executive Session. The new language, which is the second page of what I gave you, just reflects that change. It also states that the Superintendent's proposed budget and the current budget adopted by the School Committee shall be available on the Cranston Public Schools website, which also reflects the Governor's desires to make sure that each district has the school budgets available online. We already do that, but memorialized in this policy. The new language reflects those two changes. **See Handout "C" on file with the Superintendent's Office for further information.**

Chairperson Ruggieri stated - We will go through these and vote on them together.

Superintendent Nota-Masse spoke on Policy 1140 - Use of Students. This is addressed multiple times when you start looking at all of the polices. We felt as though it was redundant. This policy can be deleted. **See Handout "D" on file with the Superintendent's Office for further information.**

Superintendent Nota-Masse spoke on Policy 1210 - School-Community Associations. This policy was just asking all of us to be cooperative and amicable. I do not know if we need a policy on that. **See Handout "E" on file with the Superintendent's Office for further information.**

Superintendent Nota-Masse spoke on Policy 1221(a) – Citizens Advisory Committees for the School Committee. After I read this it is very contradictory even within the policy. It talks about ad hoc advisory committees being appointed primarily to advise the School Committee. It is not clear. I would recommend deleting it and if you feel the need to put in that the Superintendent is able to develop a committee, have the committee do its job and dissolve the committee. If you need a policy for that, that is up to you. I just think this is part of the Superintendent's job. I am recommending deletion. **See Handout "F" on file with the Superintendent's Office for further information.**

Superintendent Nota-Masse spoke on Policy 1223 – The By-Laws of the Cranston Rhode Island Special Education Advisory Committee. These are relatively new so nothing needs to be done with those there. **See Handout "G" on file with the Superintendent's Office for further information.**

Superintendent Nota-Masse spoke on Policy 1310 - Community Relations Between Public and School Personnel. The language is somewhat antiquated. I would recommend deletion. We have policies in place that if a parent or staff member has a grievance or an issue, we handle it. There are laws that we are bound by. **See Handout “H” on file with the Superintendent’s Office for further information.**

Superintendent Nota-Masse spoke on Policy 1312 – Complaints Concerning School Personnel. The language is still applicable until the 4<sup>th</sup> paragraph where it talks about “generally all parties involved, including School Administration shall be asked to attend a meeting for the purpose of presenting additional facts making further explanations and clarifying issues.” The whole policy talks about if anyone criticizes or has a complaint against any member of the district. It goes on to say that “heresy and rumor shall be discounted as well as emotional feelings.” I have not encountered a heretic in Cranston in while, but the language is bizarre. I believe it should read “Hearsay and rumor.” I would ask that it be amended to say “Hearsay and rumor”. That is the only change on that one. **See Handout “I” on file with the Superintendent’s Office for further information.**

Superintendent Nota-Masse spoke on Policy 1314 – Soliciting Funds from School Personnel. The beginning is antiquated. I am not sure what the United Fund is or was in the district.

Mr. Votto stated – It was the United Way.

Superintendent Nota Masse stated – This has changed over the years. We have different fund raising activities, dress down days that are given to families if necessary, different organizations. Specifically, describing just one is not appropriate. I would suggest that we delete this whole first paragraph. The second paragraph is fine. It speaks to tickets, which I assume would be political tickets. It would not be appropriate for those to be sold in the schools. To just encapsulate our ability to have fundraisers for organizations or families that we deem appropriate. I would suggest that you put the following:

“The establishment and administration of building or district-wide fundraising activities shall be allowed at the discretion of the Superintendent or designee.”

Again, this could be the Sunshine Fund, dress down days, etc.

**See Handout “J” on file with the Superintendent’s Office for further information.**

Superintendent Nota-Masse spoke on Policy 1324 - Soliciting Funds from and by Students. This talks about the Santa Clause Fund, Jr. Red Cross. I request that it be amended to read:

“There shall be no general solicitation from or by Cranston students in any Cranston school for matters which are not related to school business or activities.”

Superintendent Nota-Masse stated – We are not describing any one particular fund.

**See Handout “K” on file with the Superintendent’s Office for further information.**

Superintendent Nota-Masse spoke on Policy 1325 – Advertising and Promotion by Students. I request that you delete this policy. It is redundant and it talks about kids fundraising. **See Handout “L” on file with the Superintendent’s Office for further information.**

Superintendent Nota-Masse spoke on Policy 1331 – Smoke Free Environment. It was rather lengthy. It talked about people visiting the schools so we condensed it. Again, this is based on State law, which is Chapter 23 – Section 20. We just went back into the law and had this reflect that. The Tobacco Free policies that we have are reflected in employee handbooks, the application process as well as student handbooks that state you can’t possess any type of tobacco, chewing tobacco, pipe, cigarettes and all that. We also included e-cigarettes because that is becoming a problem on campus as well with both students and teachers. We included that. The new language is on the first sheet, just an abbreviated version referring to state law. **See Handout “M” on file with the Superintendent’s Office for further information.**

Superintendent Nota-Masse spoke on Policy 1411 – Law Enforcement Agencies. There is a typo in the Agenda. In the Agenda the policy is listed as 1441, but it is actually 1411. It talks about making sure we cooperate with the law enforcement agencies so that we balance the rights of the citizens, who are our students with the school department’s ability to run a safe and lawful environment. **See Handout “N” on file with the Superintendent’s Office for further information.**

These are the amendments and deletions that I offer to you.

**A motion to accept the amendments and deletions proposed by the Superintendent was made by Mr. Traficante; seconded by Mr. Wall. The roll was called; all were in favor.**

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

**Announcement of Future Meeting(s) – March 9, 2016**

**Adjournment**

**A motion to adjourn was made by Mrs. Culhane; seconded by Mr. Traficante. All were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 7:35 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.**