

**CRANSTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**JUNE 8, 2016**  
**WILLIAM A. BRIGGS BUILDING (REED CONFERENCE ROOM) 845**  
**PARK AVENUE, CRANSTON, RI**  
**EXECUTIVE SESSION – 6:00 P.M.**  
**IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWED BY PUBLIC WORK SESSION**  
**IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWED BY PUBLIC MEETING**

**MINUTES**

The School Committee meeting was held on the evening of the above date at the William A. Briggs Building, with the following members present: Chairperson Ruggieri, Mrs. Culhane; Mr. Colford; Mr. Fusco, Mr. Traficante and Mr. Wall. Attorney Cascione was present during Executive Session.

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

The meeting was called to order at 6:08 p.m. **It was moved by Mrs. Culhane; seconded by Mr. Mr. Traficante to convene to Executive Session pursuant to RI State Laws. The roll was called; all were in favor: Mr. Colford – Yes; Mrs. Culhane – Yes; Mr. Fusco – Yes; Mr. Gale – Absent; Mrs. Ruggieri – Yes; Mr. Traficante – Yes; Mr. Wall –Yes :**

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

- a. Discussion of Certified Administrator A
- b. Discussion of Certified Administrator B
- c. Discussion of Certified Administrator C
- d. Discussion of Certified Administrator D
- e. Discussion of Certified Administrator E
- f. Discussion of Certified Administrator F
- g. Discussion of Certified Administrator G
- h. Discussion of Certified Administrator H
- i. Discussion of Certified Administrator I
- j. Pre-Suspension Hearing for Certified Employee A

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

- a. Bus Drivers
- b. Mechanics
- c. Tradespeople

PL 42-46-5(3)

- a. District Safety Plan

**Adjourn Executive Session**

**Call to Order - Public Session at 7:08 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. Traficante; seconded by Mrs. Culhane. The roll was called; Mr. Colford – Yes; Mrs. Culhane – Yes; Mr. Fusco – Yes; Mr. Gale – Absent; Mrs. Ruggieri – Yes; Mr. Traficante – Yes; Mr. Wall –Yes. All were in favor.**

**A motion to suspend the rules and take the agenda out of order was made by Mrs. Culhane; seconded by Mr. Traficante. The roll was called; all were in favor.**

## **Adjourn to Public Work Session**

### **Day One CDC Survey**

Superintendent Nota-Masse presented to the School Committee a request from Day One, an agency in Rhode Island that deals with issues of sexual violence (**See Handout A on file with the Superintendent's Office for additional information**).

- They are partnering with Brown University and Rhode Island Hospital in a research study to evaluate the effectiveness of a Social Norms Marketing Poster Campaign in 12 middle schools in Rhode Island.
- This survey will begin Fall Semester 2016 at no cost to the school and the project will run for three years (2016-2019).
- Superintendent Nota-Masse is looking for authorizing the implementation of this survey.

It was requested that this item be placed on the June 13, 2016 agenda to be voted on.

### **RIC Partnership Agreement Renewal**

Superintendent Nota-Masse presented to the School Committee the renewal of the partnership agreement with Rhode Island College (**See Handout B on file with the Superintendent's Office for additional information**).

### **RFP for After School Enrichment Programs**

Superintendent Nota-Masse presented to the School Committee potential opportunities for after school enrichment programs.

- Possibly an RFP could be designed to support a successful program.
- The program must have an academic component.
- The program must have a curriculum.
- The School Department/School Committee will set the criteria.
- Superintendent Nota-Masse will work on a policy or additions to the current policy and bring this back to the School Committee for review.

### **Discussion on Policy No. 3541 - Transportation**

Superintendent Nota-Masse brought Policy No. 3541 to the School Committee to be amended and/ or revised (**See attached Policy No. 3541 Transportation for additional information**).

It was requested that Policy No. 3541 – Transportation be placed on the June 13, 2016 agenda to

be voted on.

### **Discussion on Policy No. 6000 - Philosophy of Education and Policy No. 6120 - Objectives of the Instructional Program**

Joe Rotz brought Policy No. 6000 and No. 6120 to the School Committee with the recommendation that they be deleted in that they are repetitive and are covered in other policies (**See attached Policy No. 6000 - Philosophy of Education and Policy and Policy No. 6120 - Objectives of the Instructional Program for additional information**).

It was requested that Policy No. 6000 - Philosophy of Education and Policy No. 6120 - Objectives of the Instructional Program be placed on the June 13, 2016 agenda to be voted on.

### **2016-2017 Budget Reconciliation**

Joseph Balducci presented the 2016-2017 Budget Reconciliation to the School Committee (**See Handout C on file with the Superintendent's Office for additional information**).

It was requested that approval of the 2016-2017 Budget Reconciliation to be placed on the June 13, 2016 agenda to be voted on.

### **Life Insurance**

Joseph Balducci presented to the School Committee potential life insurance options available to Cranston Public Schools employees

- \$20,000 per employee
- Inter-local Trust Risk Management
- Our contract expires on June 30<sup>th</sup>
- It went out to bid because there was a 41% increase due to claims/usage.

It was requested that this item be placed on the June 13, 2016 agenda to be voted on.

### **Status/Update on Policies in Review**

No update provided

### **Discussion on All Day Kindergarten**

Michele Simpson provided the School Committee with an update/status on implementation of All Day Kindergarten.

- Hiring new kindergarten teachers on Monday nights agenda.
- Teachers' Assistant Jamboree coming up.
- Furniture is ordered and processed.

### **Discussion on Moving the 6<sup>th</sup> Grade**

Superintendent Nota-Masse provided the School Committee with an update on moving the 6<sup>th</sup> grade.

- We received the green light on capital improvements
- Interviews going on for unfilled positions.

- Moving along nicely.

## **Public Hearing**

Students (Agenda/Non-Agenda Matters) - None  
Members of the Public (Agenda Matters Only) - None

## **Action Calendar/Action Agenda**

**Resolution No. 16-06-01 RESOLVED**, that the Cranston School Committee accept or reject the recommendation of the Superintendent to suspend certified employee "A".

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

## **Adjournment**

**A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Traficante; seconded by Mrs. Culhane. All were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 7:59 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,

Stephanie A. G. Culhane  
Vice Chairperson

## Non-Instructional Operation

### Transportation

The school district may provide transportation for pupils to and from school. The bus policy of  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile for elementary grades,  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles for junior high grades, and 2 miles for senior high grades, as proposed by the school committee and studied by LKB Associates, be implemented with the following exceptions based upon hazards and other considerations of the Cranston School Committee.

- a) ~~Elementary children be transported across Reservoir Avenue to the school they attend.~~
- b) ~~Those elementary children attending Sanders School living west of Elmwood Avenue be provided transportation.~~
- c) ~~Children living south of the cloverleaf on Pontiac Avenue who would be walking to Pettaconsett School to receive busing.~~
- d) ~~Children living west of Natick Roach attending Oaklawn School, and living in the vicinity of Wilbur and Conley Avenues, to receive busing.~~

~~This policy supersedes all previous policies passed by the Cranston School Committee for exceptions under the jurisdiction of the Superintendent of Schools.~~

New- Cranston Public Schools will provide transportation in accordance with State Law Title 16-21.1-4. The distance policy will be  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile for elementary grades,  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles for middle school and 2 miles for high school students.

Exceptions to this policy may be determined by the superintendent or designee.

**Policy Adopted 3/20/72**  
Amended:

**CRANSTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
**CRANSTON, RHODE ISLAND**

## **Philosophy of Education**

The central purpose of public education is to strengthen, improve and unite the American Democratic ways of life, through the complete development and participation of each individual.

Instruction will be regarded as the most important function of the Cranston Public Schools. The philosophy guiding this instruction will be founded on the belief in the dignity and worth of each individual.

The program will aim to extend to every child, the opportunity to develop, each according to his/her own ability, to his/her full intellectual, moral, emotional, physical, and social stature. Thus, in the education of the child, individual differences as well as common tendencies will be taken into account. By creating an atmosphere that is conducive to the development of these high standards, the Cranston Public Schools will enable our children and youth to develop into honest, responsible and productive citizens.

## **Vision Statement**

### **The Student we want to Graduate**

The student successfully completing an educational program in the Cranston Public Schools is an inquisitive, literate, culturally aware, life-long learner with positive self-esteem, who is able to think creatively and to critically analyze information. The student is a resourceful, technologically proficient worker, who contributes to a team effort. As a responsible citizen, the student is an ethical, self-reliant and socially responsive member of the global community.

### **Beliefs and Values**

A vision for the future of education in the Cranston Public Schools is based on these underlying beliefs and values.

All members of the Cranston Public Schools will:

- Share a common vision of education as a lifelong process and view change as an opportunity for growth and renewal.
- Accept the responsibility for making a positive contribution to both local and global communities.
- Recognize and appreciate social, intellectual, and cultural diversities in themselves and others.
- Treat one another with respect so that all individuals develop positive self-esteem and confidence in their abilities.
- Benefit from cooperative and collaborative methods of learning and working.
- Have the opportunity to share in decision making.
- Learn and attain high standards of performance as learning styles are accommodated and appropriate learning opportunities are provided.
- Appreciate that all areas of study are equally important to the development of individuals.
- Acquire and use knowledge to make decisions, solve problems, and communicate effectively.

- Develop skills and abilities for success in a changing technological work environment.

## **Educational Environment**

Based upon its beliefs and values, the Cranston Public Schools is committed to the creation of a caring and nurturing environment which encourages each student to become “the student we want to graduate.”

This commitment is supported by an educational environment that will:

- Reflect clearly articulated learning outcomes.
- Assess student learning using a variety of approaches that are outcome based.
- Utilize assessment data to improve instruction.
- Accommodate variations among learners so that all students can meet high standards.
- Promote an understanding of and respect for cultural, racial, religious, gender, and age differences.
- Reflect continuous professional growth in content area knowledge, and effective instructional practices.
- Support a multi-disciplinary approach to the curricula.
- Engage students in problem-solving experiences based on real world issues.
- Motivate students to accept responsibility for their own learning.
- Foster collaboration among teachers, cooperation of all learners, and parental/community involvement.

## **Mission Statement**

The Cranston Public Schools provides an educational environment which encourages all students to achieve their potential.

## **Elementary and Secondary (cont.)**

In relating itself to the instructional program of the elementary and secondary schools, the Cranston School Committee feels that it can make its most significant contributions to the improvement of the quality of the educational system.

It is in this area where the transfer of knowledge takes place that justifies the existence and clarifies the goals toward which the committee continually strives.

In all its actions in relation to instruction, the committee wishes to emphasize quality as the guiding principle to be observed.

Legal Reference: General Laws of Rhode Island, 1956 – Title 16 Educ.  
 16-2-16 Rules and regulations – Curriculum  
 16-22-1 Study of curricula – Vocational Guidance  
 16-22-2 Courses in history and government  
 16-22-3 Instruction in physiology and hygiene  
 16-22-4 Instruction in health and physical education  
 16-22-5 Course in fire prevention prescribed  
 16-22-6 Duty of school official to arrange for fire prevention course

16-22-7 Time devoted to fire prevention  
16-22-8 Italian language courses  
16-22-9 Uniform testing

**Policy Adopted: 3/23/72**

**CRANSTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
CRANSTON, RHODE ISLAND**

### **Objectives of the Instructional Program**

Instruction shall be regarded as the most important function of the Cranston School Department. The philosophy guiding this instruction shall be founded on a belief in the dignity and worth of each individual. Instruction shall be concerned with the development of each child; his scholastic achievement; his mental emotional, physical and social growth. Thus, in the education of the child, individual differences as well as common tendencies shall be taken into account.

Primary objectives of instruction shall be intellectual and personal development leading towards excellence in the skills of learning, an inquiring mind, an appreciation of the great cultures and responsible citizenship in our democracy. To these ends, opportunities shall be provided regularly for active participation in a broad range of educational experiences by all students.

All such educational experiences shall be organized into a purposeful curriculum, based on the ideals stated above and with due regard to individual abilities. It shall be subject to continuous study and evaluation and revised as improvement is indicated.

### **Amendments: Objectives of the Instructional Program**

Instruction shall be regarded as the most important function of the Cranston School Department. The philosophy guiding this instruction shall be founded on a belief in the dignity and worth of each individual. Instruction shall be concerned with the development of each child; his/**her** scholastic achievement; **his/her** mental emotional, physical and social growth. Thus, in the education of the child, individual differences as well as common tendencies shall be taken into account.

Primary objectives of instruction shall be intellectual and personal development leading towards excellence in the skills of learning, an inquiring mind, an appreciation of the great cultures and responsible citizenship in our democracy. To these ends, opportunities shall be provided regularly for active participation in a broad range of educational experiences by all students; **both traditional and-traditional times during the calendar year (i.e. afterschool or summer programming).**

All such educational experiences shall be organized into a purposeful curriculum, based on the ideals stated above and with due regard to individual abilities. It shall be subject to continuous study and evaluation and revised as improvement is indicated.

**Policy Adopted: 3/23/72**

**CRANSTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
CRANSTON, RHODE ISLAND**