

**CRANSTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
SEPTEMBER 19, 2016
WESTERN HILLS MIDDLE SCHOOL
400 PHENIX AVENUE, CRANSTON, RI 02920
EXECUTIVE SESSION –6:00 P.M.
IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING - PUBLIC SESSION**

MINUTES

The School Committee meeting was held on the evening of the above date at Western Hills Middle School with the following members present: Chairperson Ruggieri, 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 6:04 p.m. **It was moved by Mr. Gale; seconded by Mrs. Culhane 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. Discussion of Non-Certified Employee A

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

- a. Custodians

PL 42-46-5(3)

- a. District Safety Plan

Adjourn Executive Session

Call to Order - Public Session at 6:27 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. All were in favor.**

Adjourn Executive Session

A motion was made to approve the Minutes of Previous Meetings - August 15, 2016 (Regular Meeting) and August 19, 2016 by Mrs. Culhane; seconded by Gale. The roll was called; all were in favor.

Public Acknowledgements/Communications - None

Chairperson's Communications

Chairperson Ruggieri stated – I had hoped that there would be more people here tonight. I did want to thank some people tonight. Too often there are things that go on behind the scenes that people have no idea about. This District worked really hard over the summer and continue to work hard. There are a lot of things that started before this school year started. The construction that was done in some of our schools, various projects that were done on time and on budget. Even though it made it difficult for some teachers to get in their classrooms to get set up in a timely fashion, it was done and read our kids to come back to school. We continue to make improvements and be on schedule for those projects on the bond that was passed by voters. It is a 5 year plan and it is nice to see progress and it is nice to see things getting done. I wanted to thank our Facilities Director and all the hardworking staff for getting those buildings ready and for the work that was done.

Additionally, I am sure that some of you know we lost our Transportation Director at a crucial time. Without skipping a beat, every member of Central Office stepped in and spent weeks trying to get everything done, from schedules to drivers to get things done for the start of school. There were countless hours spent doing a job that is not assigned to them and not a job that we are paying them to do. Other things got put to the side in the process. It is a thankless job, but I wanted to take a moment to thank everyone that stepped in to do that. I wanted to include Marie in the Transportation office because her job is probably the most thankless. She stepped up as well to try and get this done. Vin McAteer stepped into what we described as a category 5 hurricane in that department. We are hopeful that he stays until it is a light dribble. We do recognize and sympathize with the families who struggled with bus issues this year. No one is happy with this or with the way it worked out. We are continuing to work on this. Central Office and the administrators are working on this. We are advertising and trying to fill these spots. We are working on it and looking to improve. We appreciate the patience of our families. We appreciate our Principals who are trying to get their schools open. When I went to the open houses, the only complaint I heard was about transportation, which is a great thing. We knew it was a problem and we are working on it. I did want to thank all members of our administration, especially the Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent, Ray Votto, Jim Dillion and everyone who just stepped up. If there are others I am missing, please know that I am thanking you. This was a touch thing and we are working on it. I think a lot of times we are so quick to complain without knowing the facts and we point fingers. It is frustrating as a parent and I know that we are also feeling that and we are trying to fix the problem.

Superintendent's Communications

Superintendent Nota-Masse stated – The last few weeks have been very trying for all of us. When crisis hits, you realize who steps up and who steps away. The folks that work in Briggs worked late nights and on weekends, in addition to trying to get done what we are supposed to be doing, which is get 23 schools ready to open. It was a trying month. It came with a lot of stress. The fact that most of us have hair on our heads is a miracle. Everyone worked very hard and it is testament to people in this district that you roll up your sleeves and you do what needs to be done to get the schools open. If you took transportation out of the equation, we had one of the best openings in years. The schools were ready, they were cleaned, the construction went well, the 6th grade move, all day kindergarten, etc. It was amazing. The teachers were happy. Everyone seems enthusiastic and excited about the 6th graders being in the middle schools. It is unfortunate that transportation was a black cloud for us because we were so involved in it that it took me a couple of weeks to see that that we did an amazing job over the summer with two huge initiatives and the transportation issue. I appreciate your recognition of that. You are right, we hang on to the complaints because we want to make it better. We want Cranston to service its teachers, students, families, and staff to the best of our ability and when we think it might not be going well, we take it hard. I think once you step back and reflect we had a tremendous opening considering all the moving parts we had. Thank you very much for the

recognition. Again, the staff that sits in front of me, including Liz and her folks, Central Office, all of the administrators....they were great. Without them, all of this would have been a colossal mess. It was not and that is a good thing.

School Committee Member Communications

Mr. Traficante stated – I think we should also mention Ray Votto. Tonight he surprised us by telling us that we have over 140 new employees. He had to process those people and has several more to go. Congratulations Ray!

Mrs. Culhane stated – I chaired the work session last week and I forgot something very important and want to do that on the record now. That is to wish our fearless leader and Superintendent a happy birthday. Also, our Chairperson, Janice Ruggieri whose birthday is coming up as well. Happy Birthday.

Mr. Fusco stated – The past few weeks I have gone to a couple of open houses and the one thing I have asked to look at are the new kindergarten rooms. I just want to say thank you and congratulations to Michele Simpson. She did an awesome job stocking those rooms, getting them ready, etc. Thank you for everything you did to get this up and running.

Public Hearing

- a. Students (Agenda/Non-Agenda Matters) - None
- b. Members of the Public (Agenda Matters Only) – None

Consent Calendar/Consent Agenda

The following resolutions were unanimously adopted under the Consent Agenda:

16-09-03 (w/addendum); 16-09-04; 16-09-05; 16-09-06; 16-09-07; 16-09-08 (w/addendum); 16-09-09 (w/addendum); 16-09-10; 16-09-11; 16-09-12.

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

Action Calendar/Action Agenda

RESOLUTIONS

PERSONNEL

Resolution No. 16-09-02 RESOLVED, that the Cranston School Committee accept or reject the the Superintendent's recommendation to terminate non-certified Employee A.

A motion was made to accept the Superintendent's recommendation by Mr. Traficante; seconded by Mrs. Culhane. The roll was called; all were in favor.

Resolution No. 16-09-03 RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent the following certified personnel be appointed for the 2016-2017 school year:

Sharleen Christina, Step 12 + Masters
Education...URI, BA, M.Ed
Experience...Cumberland School Department
Certification....Reading K-12
Assignment... Hope Highlands .5 FTE
Effective date...September 19, 2016
Authorization...New
Fiscal Note... 113413200 51110

Leah Abbate, Step 6 + Masters
Education...RIC, BA, Wheelock College, MS
Experience...South Kingstown School Department
Certification...Reading K-12
Assignment...Bain .5 FTE
Effective Date...September 19, 2016
Authorization...New
Fiscal Note...11513200 51110

Cynthia Durkin, Step 6 + Masters
Education...RIC, BA, JWU, M.Ed.
Experience...St. Joseph School
Certification....Middle School Math
Assignment...Western Hills .4 FTE
Effective date...September 20, 2016
Authorization...Replacement
Fiscal Note... 12911810 51110

Heather Murgida, Step 2 + Masters
Education...PC, BA, MA
Experience...Coventry School Department
Certification....Secondary/Middle Spanish
Assignment... Hope Highlands .2 FTE
Effective date...September 12, 2016
Authorization...New
Fiscal Note... 13412200 51110

Add the following to Resolution No. 16-09-04:

Jonathan Cox, Step 8
Education...RIC, BS
Experience...New Bedford School Department
Certification....Music Pk-12
Assignment...Itinerant 1.0 FTE
Effective date...September 26, 2016
Authorization...Replacement
Fiscal Note... 12912410 51110

Resolution No. 16-09-04 RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the following certified personnel be appointed as substitutes on a temporary basis as needed:

Christian Young, Middle\Secondary English
Nancy Halpin, Elementary \ESL
Catherine Bugbee, Elementary
Ryan Oakley, Health& Physical Education PK-12
Kristen Almonte, Elementary\ESL
Donna McCarron, Science
Corrine Mang, Music PK-12
Norman Rusin, World Language

Resolution No. 16-09-05 RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the resignation(s) of the following certified personnel be accepted:

Matthew Brady, Music
Itinerant
Effective...August 30, 2016

Resolution No. 16-09-06 RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the following individuals be appointed as volunteer coaches:

Cranston High School East

Jason Salvatore	Football
Jacob Leander	Boys' Soccer
Matthew Grenier	Boys' Soccer
Dennis Callaghan	Boys' Soccer

Cranston High School West

Gabrielle Turner	Girls' Soccer
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Resolution No. 16-09-07 RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the resignation of the following coach (es) be accepted:

Timothy Almonte, Head Coach Boys' Wrestling
Cranston West
Effective date...September 6, 2016

Jamie Leigh-Ferretti, Head Coach Swimming
Cranston West
Effective date...September 13, 2016

Keith Croft, Head Coach Girls' Indoor Track
Cranston West
Effective date...September 19, 2016

Dina Cesana, Assistant Coach Girls' Indoor & Outdoor Track
Cranston West
Effective date...September 19, 2016

Resolution No. 16-09-08 RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the following non-certified employee(s) be appointed:

Michele Verduchi, Part Time Secretary
Orchard Farms
Effective date...September 1, 2016
New
Fiscal Note... 13643210 51110

Barbara Valletta, .5 FTE Teacher Assistant
Arlington
Effective date...September 1, 2016
Replacement
Fiscal Note...125460010 51110

Lori Cipolla, .5 FTE K Teacher Assistant
Edgewood
Effective date...September 1, 2016
Replacement
Fiscal Note...13046010 51110

Anne Mantia, School Based Coordinator
CACTC
Effective Date...September 1, 2016
Replacement
Fiscal Note...51974114 5110

Amanda Brannigan, Instructor
AEP
Effective date...September 1, 2016
Replacement
Fiscal Note...16213120 51110

Donna Bianchi, Teacher Assistant
Cranston West
Effective date...September 20, 2016
Replacement
Fiscal Note... 12646020 51110

Britney Joyal, Behavior Technician
Orchard Farms
Effective date...September 20, 2016
New
Fiscal Note...13646110 51110

Jodi Traghella, .5 K Teacher Assistant
Gladstone
Effective date...September 12, 2016
New
Fiscal Note...11946010 51110

Kathleen Conley, .5 FTE K Teacher Assistant
Barrows
Effective date...September 1, 2016
New
Fiscal Note... 11246010 51110

Meghan Mania, Instructor
AEP
Effective date...September 19, 2016
New
Fiscal Note... 11246010 51110

Linda Dugan, Bus Monitor
Transportation
Effective Date...September 12, 2016
Fiscal Note... 12545090 51110

Michael Simonelli, Bus Driver
Transportation
Effective date...September 1, 2016
Replacement
Fiscal Note...112645190 51110

Keri Cyr, Bus Monitor
Transportation
Effective date...September 12, 2016
Replacement
Fiscal Note...12545090 51110

Jennifer Sousa, Part Time Secretary
Gladstone
Effective date...September 1, 2016
Replacement
Fiscal Note... 11943210 51110

Amanda Celeste, Bus Monitor
Transportation
Effective date...September 19, 2016
Replacement
Fiscal Note... 12545090 51110

Monica Pezza, Bus Monitor
Transportation
Effective date...September 19, 2016
Replacement
Fiscal Note... 12545090 51110

Add the following to Resolution No. 16-09-08

Erica Simonian, .5 FTE Teacher Assistant (PCA)
Garden City
Effective date...September 21, 2016

Replacement
Fiscal Note... 12246020 51110

Alexandra Trutza, .5 FTE K (ESL) Teacher Assistant
Dutemple
Effective date...October 3, 2016
New
Fiscal Note... 11646010 51110

Cynthia Allen, .5 FTE (K) Teacher Assistant
Orchard Farms
Effective Date...October 3, 2016
New
Fiscal Note...1346010-51110

Resolution No. 16-09-09 RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the following non-certified personnel be appointed as substitutes on a temporary basis as needed:

Keven Dellefave, Custodian
Jacek Dorota, Teacher Assistant
Paula Guilbault, Bus Driver
Eileen Murphy, Secretary

Add the following to Resolution No. 16-09-09:

Mario Silva, Custodian

Resolution No. 16-09-10 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 XII, Section A.3 of the Agreement between the Cranston School Committee and Local 1322 Bus Drivers\Mechanics Union:

Carrie Resendes, Bus Driver
Transportation
Effective Date...September 1, 2016 to March 31, 2016

Resolution No. 16-09-11 RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the resignation(s) of the following non-certified personnel be accepted:

Brittany Whittemore, Teacher Assistant
Glen Hills
Effective Date...August 25, 2016

Tera Norberg, Teacher Assistant
Dutemple
Effective Date...August 31, 2016

Maryann Papa, Bus Driver
Transportation
Effective Date...September 15, 2016

BUSINESS

Resolution No. 16-09-12 RESOLVED, that the following purchase(s) be approved:

Lumber Supplies in the amount of \$6,575.84.

Number of Bids Issued	4
Number of Bids Received	3

Resolution No. 16-09-13 RESOLVED, that the following purchase(s) be approved:

Snowplowing services to be awarded to Yardworks, Inc. for the period December 1, 2016 – June 30, 2019. Cost will be dependent upon the size of the storm in conjunction with the school site serviced.

Number of Bids Issued	3
Number of Bids Received	2

A motion was made to approve Resolution No. 16-09-13 by Wall; seconded by Fusco. Discussion followed

Mr. Fusco stated – Mr. Balducci, which properties are the School Department responsible for plowing?

Mr. Balducci stated – All of our school buildings. We do get assistance from the City with some of our larger parking lots like Cranston High School West, East and Orchard Farms.

Mr. Fusco stated – Didn't we have another company doing this for us?

Mr. Balducci stated – Yes. We had a company called Salo Construction, which we had for a number of years. When Mr. Collins came on board, he monitored their progress and performance and was not happy. He asked my office to go out to bid. In the meantime, at the end of last winter we put them on notice that their services were no longer necessary. We had that clause in their contract. We cut their contract short and went out to bid. The vendor before you is Yardworks. Mr. Collins reviewed their pricing. He used them once last year and was happy with their performance.

Mr. Fusco stated – My first year when we had all that snow, I received quite a few complaints. The cost dependent on the size of the storm, how does that work?

Mr. Balducci stated – For an example, at Peters Elementary if we have a storm between 2-6 inches we are charged \$350. For Glen Hills, the same size storm we are charged \$490. It depends on the size and location we are asking that vendor to service.

Mr. Fusco stated – What are they responsible for?

Mr. Balducci stated – Just the parking lots. That is at the discretion of the Director. The way the bid specifications reads is that this outside vendor needs to be on notice one hour before. Within an hour he needs to be on site.

Mr. Fusco stated – So he has to be at every school within an hour?

Mr. Balducci stated – Correct.

The roll was called; all were in favor.

TABLED RESOLUTION(S)

Resolution No. 16-08-16 **RESOLVED**, that the following purchase(s) be approve:

Energy Advisor Services be awarded to Silent Sherpa in the amount of \$30,000 (16-17); \$30,900 (17-18); \$31,827 (18-19). Optional years \$33,000 (19-20) and \$34,000 (20-21)

Number of bids issued	4
Number of bids received	1

A motion was made to remove Resolution No. 16-08-16 from the table by Mr. Traficane; seconded by Mr. Gale. The roll was called; all were in favor.

A motion was made to approve No. 16-08-16 by Mr. Traficante; seconded by Wall. The roll was called; all were in favor.

Public Hearing on Non-Agenda Items

Announcement of Future Meeting(s) – October 5, 2016 and October 17, 2016

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Gale; seconded by Mrs. Culhane. All were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephanie A. G. Culhane
Vice Chairperson