

**PROVIDENCE SCHOOL BOARD MINUTES**  
**September 13, 2004**  
**NO. 582**

A regularly scheduled meeting was held in the Providence School Board Room at 797 Westminster Street, Providence, RI.

Ms. McClure called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM with a motion to convene to Executive Session pursuant to RIGL (a)(1),(a)(2):

- I move, under R.I. Gen. Laws 42-46-5(a)(1), that this public body convene in executive session to discuss the job performance of certain employees. These persons have been notified in writing that the public body intends to convene in executive session to discuss his or her job performance and he/she declined to have this discussion take place in open session.
- I further move, under R.I. Gen. Laws 42-46-5(a)(2), that this public body convene in executive session to discuss certain matters that are the subject of collective bargaining and litigation, and to conduct work sessions pertaining to collective bargaining and litigation.

<b>MSV</b>	Oredola, Wise	6 – 0		
	Hamolsky	Yes	McClure	Yes
	Touray	Yes	Wise	Yes
	Inoa	Yes	Oredola	Yes

Motion to reconvene to open session and seal the minutes of Executive Session.

**MSV** Touray, Oredola 7 – 0

The open session was called to order by Ms. McClure 6:35 PM.

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:** Dr. Milton Hamolsky, Vice-President; Ms. Mary McClure, President; Ms. Adeola Oredola, Secretary; Mr. Bob Wise, Ms. Grace Gonzalez, Mr. Maila Touray, Ms. Diania Inoa, Dr. Gene Burns, Emeritus. Mr. Leonard Lopes arrived at 7:25 PM

Report on Vote taken in Executive Session: No votes reported

Recognition: No recognition

**Planning & Policy**

Reform Governance: PSB Broad fellows proposed policy and process changes to enhance school board leadership for student achievement:

- Proposed Policy Changes -
  - Access to Board packets 7 days in advance of meeting
  - Conduct of meetings
  - Schedule of meetings to include
    - 1 business meeting per month (2<sup>nd</sup> Monday)
    - 1 in-depth topical meeting per month (4<sup>th</sup> Monday)
- Quarterly review meetings -
  - District Performance-Based Organizational Plan
  - Superintendent's Evaluation
  - Board Self-Evaluation
- In-Depth Topics might include -
  - Specific Programs
  - Budget – how we bring resources into the district
  - Human Resource Systems
  - Etc
- Other Issues
  - Insuring that routine business can be accommodated within meeting structures
  - Inviting community experts/civic leaders to participate in topical discussions

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- Logistics
  - Topic schematic for year
  - Timeline
  - Lead time for staff planning

Student Achievement: State Assessment Results: Mike Sorum, Director of Research, Assessment, and Evaluation presented the 2004 district student achievement gains.

Board Questions:

- What does the district do to align professional development with assessment results
- How are interventions responsive to data patterns
- Is it possible to track individual students as they advance from grade to grade
- Can we aggregate scores to determine growth
- How do we measure time and growth of students in ESL
- What is the potential impact of cuts to the science program on upcoming 2007 science assessments
- Why are writing scores high while reading comprehension scores are notably lower
- What explains differences between middle school and high school writing conventions
- What can we attribute to high scores in 4<sup>th</sup> grade with a downward trend in the 8<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grade

Staff Responses:

The school department focus is on taking care of every single child. The student identifier number allows principals and teachers to track individual students within the school; student information is available to parents also.

Professional development is aligned with assessment results; e.g. the PALS assessment training targets early literacy training to diagnose and identify at-risk children in K-3 and provide appropriate instructional interventions. Operation SMART is an example of strategic district tactics in response to data patterns. Thirty-five of 52 schools did not meet all 21 targets. The school department, through grant funding, is working with the East Bay Collaborative to provide quality science program: Foss Kits are being implemented in middle schools starting and working down to elementary grades.

There are no correlation studies at present to indicate relationship between writing and reading comprehension. State assessments do not provide an item analysis to better inform student deficiencies. At present, state assessment requirements do not match state accountability requirements.

Board Request for Future Presentations:

- Address how we can do better as a district
- Topic led by direct action for school board
  - E.g. Policy based on results

Student Achievement Highlights: Superintendent Johnson reported that this year's bump in the data may be attributed to personalization emphasis for teaching and learning; transitional grade interventions; ongoing assessments "of learning" and "for learning" with benchmarks for grade level expectations. The district tracks all special populations for attendance, suspension rates, testing results by students and school; high end students who meet or exceed standards are also tracked. Every school will have a data management team to inform school improvement efforts.

RI Association of School Committees (RIASC): Tm Duffy, Executive Director of RIASC reported on organizational mission to provide advocacy, professional development, and entrepreneurial services to school districts throughout Rhode Island.

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**BUSINESS MEETING**

Public Comment

School Social Worker Lay-Offs

Sandra Malone, Sexual Assault & Trauma  
Resource Center of RI  
Rick Harris, Nat'l Association of Social  
Workers

Lima Elementary School

Juan Rosales, Parent

Hope High School

Blossom Kirschenbaum, Community  
Member

Motion to Approve Consent Agenda

- 9-1-04 Approval of Minutes
- 9-2-04 Nomination of Probationary Teachers/Recall (*Amended*)
- 9-3-04 Nomination of Probationary Teachers/Recall/Change of Status
- 9-4-04 Nomination of Probationary Teachers/Change of Status
- 9-5-04 Nomination of Probationary Teachers/New Hires
- 9-6-04 Nomination of Long Term Substitute Teachers in Pool/Recall (*Amended*)
- 9-7-04 Nomination of Long Term Substitute Teachers in Pool/Recall/Change of Status (*Amended*)
- 9-8-04 Nomination of Long Term Substitute Teachers in Pool/New Hire (*Amended*)
- 9-9-04 Coaching Resignations & Retirements removed from Consent Agenda with Courtesy Notation in Retirement/Resignation List
- 9-10-04 Nomination of Clerical Employees to Probationary Appointment
- 9-11-04 Home School Candidates

**MSV** Oredola, Gonzalez 8 – 0

Motion to approve the Superintendent's Report on Contracts

- 9-12-04 Providence Toyota Latino Family Literacy Program w/ Dorcas Place Adult & Family Learning Center
- 9-13-04 Candee Deck, Independent Contractor
- 9-14-04 Latisha Hayes, Independent Contractor
- 9-15-04 Laura Lindeman, Independent Contractor
- 9-16-04 Amy Sofka, Independent Contractor
- 9-17-04 Tender Loving Care
- 9-18-04 International Institute of Rhode Island (IIRI)
- 9-19-04 Lynn Nunn, Individual Consultant

Member Wise inquired regarding cost of Resolution 9-12-04, number of families served, and clarification on source of funds.

**MSV** Oredola, Inoa 8 – 0

Motion to approve Resolution #

- 9-21-04 Approval to Re-Join the RI Association of School Committees

**MSV** Touray, Oredola 8 – 0

Motion to approve Resolution #

- 9-22-04 Approval to Seek Deed to Hanley Career & Technical Center

**MSV** Inoa, Oredola 8 – 0

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:** Dr Johnson reported on a successful opening of schools across the district; parent participation increased across grades K – 9; and thanked staff for their efforts. The superintendent met with Brown representatives, Providence Police Chief, and PSD staff in response to assault that occurred near Hope High School on the evening of 9.10.04. PSD had a team participate in the CVS Downtown 5K: Melody Johnson, Paulajo Mays, Carrie Mauer, Yaviri Grosso, Leo Bonilla, and Maria Tocco.

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Board Member Comments:

- Next Board meeting flip agenda order to begin with Business followed by Policy & Planning.
- Send topics for in-depth work sessions to PSB office for prioritization at 9.26.04 regular meeting
- Member Hamolksy acknowledged Mr. Sorum's presentation and outcomes to date of PSD reform initiatives over past two years especially given pressures of NCLB.
- Several Board members acknowledged hearing favorable reports on the opening of schools
- Member Inoa recognized former Board member and Board President, Olga Noguera
- Member Touray will take the lead and report on planning for Board follow-up visit by Don McAdams

Motion to Adjourn at 8:45 PM

**MSV** Touray, Oredola 8 – 0

Submitted by: Maureen Cotter  
Special Assistant to the Superintendent & School Board