

**PROVIDENCE SCHOOL BOARD MINUTES**  
**December 11, 2006**  
**NO. 657**

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 5:45 PM

**MOTION TO CONVENE TO EXECUTIVE SESSION PURSUANT TO RIGL (a)(1),(a)(2),(a)(9):**

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.

I further move, under R.I. Gen. Laws 42-46-5(a)(9), that this public body convene in executive session to conduct hearings and hear grievances filed pursuant to a collective bargaining agreement.

|                      |                        |     |            |
|----------------------|------------------------|-----|------------|
| MSV Holloway, Crenca | <u>Roll Call Vote:</u> |     |            |
| McKenzie Yes         | Holloway               | Yes |            |
| McClure Yes          | Crenca                 | Yes | Castro Yes |

Ms. McClure re-convened the meeting at 6:30 PM

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:** Ms. McClure, Ms. Castro, Ms. McKenzie, Mr. Crenca, Ms. Holloway

**MOTION TO SEAL THE MINUTES OF EXECUTIVE SESSION.**

MSV McKenzie, Crenca 5 – 0

**REPORT EXECUTIVE SESSION VOTES**

Motion to deny guidance counselor grievance claiming unfair and inequitable treatment.

MSV McClure, Holloway 3 – 2 (Castro, Holloway)

Motion to deny grievance claiming unreasonable denial of sabbatical leave.

MSV McClure, Holloway 5 – 0

Motion to deny grievance claiming unreasonable denial of sabbatical leave.

MSV McClure, Holloway 5 – 0

**RECOGNITIONS:**

- Hope High School Boys Soccer Team Division I State Champions – Head Coach: Alfonso DiGregorio Assistant Coach: Edilton Martins; Assistants: Pedro Correia & Lenworth Davidson
- Classical High School Girls Tennis Team Division II State Champions -- Coach Steve Cohen
- Ms. Joann Doyle, Human Resources Secretary

The Board moved public comment to be heard before policy and planning.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

| NAME                 | ISSUES                       |
|----------------------|------------------------------|
| Blossom Kirschembaum | Accountability               |
| Tom Schmelling       | Nathan Bishop                |
| Sam Zurier           | Nathan Bishop                |
| Steve Smith          | CRM Special Education Report |

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The Board moved the meeting to the Professional Development Room located in the basement of the Administration Building.

**POLICY & PLANNING**

TOPIC: Response to Nathan Bishop Task Force Report

Presenter: Dr. Evans, Superintendent

The superintendent reported two options for the future of Nathan Bishop in consideration of building options: substantial renovation or new building. A pod structure is recommended to best accommodate a program design based on the needs of the students. This reflects current best practice for middle schools.

Board Issues:

- Are there substantial differences between N. Bishop programs and other middle schools in the district?
- How would we use the current Nathan Bishop building if not used for a middle school?
- What are demographics of the neighborhood? Will we defeat diversity objectives if there is not a representative population mix that includes minority students?

TOPIC: CRM Evaluation Report on Special Education

Presenter: Dr. Evans, Superintendent

The report raises challenges that must be addressed to improve student outcomes. The issue of special education processes and procedures will be subject to a separate review.

Board Issues:

- How can the student population be a resource in resolving special education issues?
- How can we provide ongoing assessment of our special program so that it doesn't take an extensive program audit?
- Have special classes presented special problems that exacerbate the issues for student learning?
- How will regular education be trained to do a better job teaching reading to our students?
- What are certification issues for special education and regular education teacher?
- What are options for co-teaching?
- How do children exit special education?
- Do we have data to demonstrate a decrease in referrals to special education in elementary grades?
- Why are referral rates higher in Rhode Island?

TOPIC: Policy CBC Superintendent's Powers & Duties 1st Reading

Presenter: Ms. McClure, Board President

This policy replaces and updates three former Davies-Brickell policies. These policies were recommended for update at the June 5, 2005, board meeting, as part of an ongoing effort to review and revise policies in the former "Davies-Brickell" policy manual, most of which were last updated in 1991. The policy complies with recommendations in the updated NSBA/NEPN policy classification system.

Board Issues: Add language to acknowledge the superintendent's responsibility for children.

MOTION TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA: RESOLUTIONS 12-1-06 THROUGH 12-7-06 AND RESOLUTION 12-9-06. The Superintendent withdrew Resolution 12-8-06.

- |         |   |
|---------|---|
| 12-1-06 | Approval of Minutes   |
| 12-2-06 | Nomination of Probationary Teacher/New Hire   |
| 12-3-06 | Nomination of Probationary Teacher/Recall   |
| 12-4-06 | Nomination of Probationary Teacher/Change of Status                                     |
| 12-5-06 | Nomination of Long Term Substitute Teachers in Pool/New Hire                            |
| 12-6-06 | Nomination of Athletic Coaches  |
| 12-7-06 | Nomination of COTA (Certified Occupational Therapy Assistant - B.E.S.T. Union Position) |
| 12-9-06 | Home School Candidate   |

MSV Crenca, Castro 5 – 0

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**MOTION TO APPROVE THE SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT ON BUSINESS CONTRACTS:  
RESOLUTIONS 12-10-06 THROUGH RESOLUTION 12-14-06**

12-10-06 Junior Achievement

Amount: \$6,000                      Source of Funds: Perkins

PSD Contact: Dominic Spera, Career/Tech Coordinator & Perkins Funding Coordinator

12-11-06 System Support Corporation

Amount: \$ 199,690.71                      Source of Funds: Title I Non-Public Schools

PSD Contact: Anthony Vescera, Coordinator of Grant Oversight & External Funding

12-12-06 Bryant University- –Chafee Center for International Business

Amount: \$ 40,000                      Source of Funds: Perkins

PSD Contact: Nkoli Onye, Principal, Providence Academy of International Studies

12-13-06 Community College of RI

Amount: \$ 11,200                      Source of Funds: CCRI Articulation Agreement (Diploma Plus)

PSD Contact: W. Torchon, Principal E-Cubed Academy

12-13-06 Center for Resource Management - Phase Two

Amount: \$ 200,000                      Source of Funds: Public Building Authority Bond

PSD Contact: Donnie Evans, Superintendent

MSV Holloway, McKenzie 5 – 0

**ACTION ITEMS**

**MOTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 12-15-06: Educational Philosophy/School District Vision and Mission Policy AD**

MSV McKenzie, Holloway 5 – 0

**MOTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTIONS 12-16-06 through 12-12-19-06**

12-16-06 Policy KD Public Information and Communication Plan

12-17-06 Policy KDCA Use of Students in Public Information Materials

12-18-06 Policy KDD media Relations

12-19-06 Policy KDDA Media Relations, Press Releases & Interviews

MSV McKenzie, Castro 5 – 0

**MOTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 12-20-06 Policy KB Parent Involvement**

MSV McKenzie, Holloway 5 – 0

**MOTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 12-21-06 Policy BEDH Public Comment**

MSV McKenzie, Holloway 5 – 0

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

- The district will develop a corrective action plan to address compliance issues re: access to libraries, music instruction, and access to art as identified in a recent letter by the state department of education.
- Approximately 150 parents participated in the District Parent Conference held Dec 1 & 2, 2006. The Parent Engagement Center will be offering follow-up activities for parents during the course for the school year.
- The Providence School Board hosted a 2-day Reform Governance-Change Leadership Training for school board members and superintendents in districts that received Wallace funds through the State Leadership grant. The training was provided by the Center for the Reform of School Systems from Houston, Texas.

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**FUTURE MEETINGS**

|              |                                 |                               |         |
|--------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------|
| Jan 05, 2007 | School Board Retreat            | School Board Room             | 5:00 PM |
| Jan 06, 2007 | School Board Retreat            | School Board Room             | 8:30 AM |
| Jan 08, 2007 | Special Meeting/Teacher Hearing | School Board Room             | 6:00 PM |
| Jan 22, 2007 | School Board Workshop           | Professional Development Room | 6:00 PM |

**GOVERNANCE**

Board members reported out on their participation at Council of Great City Schools.

**SCHOOL BOARD COMMENTS**

None

**MOTION TO ADJOURN AT 8:30 PM**

MSV Crenca, Castro 5 – 0

Submitted by:

Maureen Cotter Special Assistant to the Superintendent & School Board