

**MINUTES
PROVIDENCE SCHOOL BOARD
MONDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2007**

The Providence School Board meeting was called to order by Board President Mary McClure at 5:30 pm

Upon the roll being called, the following **Board members** were present:

Bob Wise
Jill Holloway
Kathy McKenzie
Mary McClure
Ronnie Young
Rosanna Castro
Umberto Crenca (left meeting at 8:30 PM)
Maila Touray (left meeting at 8:00 PM)

Convene Meeting

1. Call to Order at 5:30 PM

2. 5:30 PM Executive Session per RIGL 42-46-5 (a)(1)Personnel; (a)(2) Collective Baragining; (a)(9) Grievances

The School Board must vote on the stated purposes in public to enter executive session.

RECOMMENDATION: Seek to Convene in Executive Session pursuant to RIGL 42-46-5(a)(1) Personnel superintendent's evaluation and appointments. Convene in Executive Session RIGL 42-46-5(a)(2) Collective Bargaining; RIGL 42-46-5(a)(9) Grievances

ORIGINAL - Motion

Member **Holloway** Moved, Member **Castro** seconded to approve the **ORIGINAL** Motion Approved 'Seek to Convene in Executive Session pursuant to RIGL 42-46-5(a)(1) Personnel superintendents evaluation and appointments. Convene in Executive Session RIGL 42-46-5(a)(2) Collective Bargaining; RIGL 42-46-5(a)(9) Grievances'. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: **Yes: (8) No: (0). Motion Approved**

Re-Convene Meeting

Ms McClure reconvened the meeting in open session at 6:45 PM

3. 6:30PM Open Session and Pledge of Allegiance

Report Executive Session Vote

4. Report on Executive Session Vote

REPORT ON EXECUTIVE SESSION VOTES

ORIGINAL MOTIONS

- Motion to enter into discussions with the Superintendent to extend, renew, or offer new three-year contract.
- **MSV** Touray, Holloway 8 – 0
- Motion to uphold the superintendent's decision to deny grievance: B8112
- **MSV** Holloway, Wise 6 – 2 (McKenzie, Castro)
- Motion to uphold the superintendent's decision to deny grievance:B8142
- **MSV** Wise, Young 8 – 0

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APPROVE AGENDA

5. Approve School Board Agenda

RECOMMENDATION: Recommend approval of meeting agenda as presented.

ORIGINAL - Motion

Member (**Maila Touray**) Moved, Member (**Kathy McKenzie**) seconded to approve the **ORIGINAL** Motion Approved 'Recommend approval of meeting agenda as presented.'. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Yes: **8** No: **0**. **Motion Approved.**

RECOGNITIONS

6. Christopher Lopardo -- 2007 RI Association of Health, Physical Education, Recreation & Dance Teacher of the Year Award

POLICY & PLANNING

7. School Board Policies based on Reform Governance in Action Agenda

The Board policies are submitted for a first reading to meet the requirements specified in the Center for the Reform of School Systems Reform Governance in Action agenda.

RECOMMENDATION: Policy First Readings

- School Board Core Beliefs & Commitments
- School Board Meetings & Committees Policy
- School Board Constituent Services Policy

8. 2007-08 Budget Update

Mark Dunham, CFO, provided an update on current budget projections indicating a \$75,000 surplus at the end of this fiscal year. Significant unknowns include collective bargaining outcomes, weather related expenses, and City Council budget passage. The 2008 – 2009 budget forecast assumes level state finding and \$1MM reduction to Medicaid line with total budget projected at \$340.4MM.

BOARD QUESTIONS:

- Does the lack of the local budget approval due to organizational control by city council interfere with implementation of Federal positions?
- Is it legal for city council to hold up action plans – can the school district be out of compliance with federal mandates?
- How does the lack of budget approval by the City Council delay implementation of corrective action plans?
- How do we handle excess federal funds – do we have to go back to state for exception?
- Why has City Council not yet passed the school department budget – what are the outstanding questions regarding PPSD organization?
- Is state law being adhered to by City Council?

The Board directed the school department attorney, Sarah Potter, to research the legal issues raised by the Board.

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9. Career and Technical School

Representatives from Studio JAED will be presenting schematic designs (architectural floor plans and elevations) for the proposed Building Trades Career and Technical School that will be located on Fricker St. The presentation will include an overview and layout of the Educational Programs planned for the facility. Questions from Board Members are anticipated and welcome.

10. Proposed 2008 Legislative Agenda

The proposed PSD 2008 Legislative Agenda includes: Continue to advocate to the General Assembly and its Joint Committee to Establish a Permanent Education Foundation Aid Formula for Rhode Island for the creation of an education funding system that predictably and adequately addresses and incorporates the costs of meeting the educational needs of the students of the Providence School Department.

RECOMMENDATION: Information

11. Student Assignment Plan

Policy amendment proposal

This policy amendment proposes one revision that would retain sibling priority but within neighborhood and non-neighborhood categories. The policy that has been in place for 8 years gives siblings priority whether or not they are neighborhood students. In some cases the result is that non-neighborhood applicants get more seats than neighborhood applicants. Most schools in fact have a neighborhood/non-neighborhood ratio far different from the 80/20 ratio, leading to continued concerns about the district's commitment to neighborhood schools. This revision is proposed to take care of an immediate need that can be implemented for the upcoming registration period. See the related resolution under Action Items calling for a thorough review of the student assignment plan for next year.

RECOMMENDATION: First Reading

PUBLIC COMMENT

12. Public Comment

NAME	ISSUE
Steve Smith	Student Attendance
Cecillia Flores	Flynn School
Dawn Dion	Flynn School
Osiris Hareld	parent Communications
Blossom Kirschembaum	High School
Kim Green	Student Assignment Plan
Kathlenn Crain	Student Assignment Plan
Louise Tillinghast	Student Assignment Plan

CONSENT AGENDA

13. Consent Agenda

All items under the Consent Agenda are adopted by a single Motion Approved unless a member of the School Board or the Superintendent requests that an item be removed and voted on separately. Consent items are considered routine and do not require discussion prior to the vote.

RECOMMENDATION: The Superintendent recommends School Board approval of consent agenda items.

ORIGINAL - Motion

Member **(Ronnie Young)** Moved, Member **(Rosanna Castro)** seconded to approve the **ORIGINAL** Motion Approved 'The Superintendent recommends School Board approval of consent agenda items.'. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: **Yes: 6 No: 0. Motion Approved . 6 - 0**

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14. November 13, 2007 Minutes

RECOMMENDATION: Recommend School Board approval of minutes

15. Personnel Actions

Personnel Actions and Assignments

- A. Nomination of Regular Teachers/Change of Status
- B. Nomination of Probationary Teachers/Change of Status
- C. Nomination of Probationary Teachers/New Hire
- D. Nomination of Student Registration & Placement Officer
- E. Nomination of 10 Month B.E.S.T. Employees
- F. Nomination of Athletic Coaches
- G. Nomination of School Based Coordinators

RECOMMENDATION: The Superintendent recommends School Board approval

16. Home School Candidates

RECOMMENDATION: The administration recommends the School Board approve Home School Candidates.

REPORT ON PERSONNEL

17. Principal-Mt. Pleasant High School

Michael J. Sollitto Principal-Mt. Pleasant High School Effective 8-29-07 Salary: \$108,660 (base)

RECOMMENDATION: The Superintendent recommends School Board approval.

ORIGINAL - Motion

Member **(Jill Holloway)** Moved, Member **(Rosanna Castro)** seconded to approve the **ORIGINAL** Motion Approved 'The Superintendent recommends School Board approval.'. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Yes: **6** No: **0**. **Motion Approved . 6 - 0**

18. Acting Supervisor of Literacy and the Humanities Initiatives

Kimberly Luca Acting Supervisor of Literacy & Humanities Initiatives Effective: 1-2-08 Salary: \$82,253

RECOMMENDATION: The Superintendent recommends School Board approval

ORIGINAL - Motion

Member **(Jill Holloway)** Moved, Member **(Ronnie Young)** seconded to approve the **ORIGINAL** Motion Approved 'The Superintendent recommends School Board approval'. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Yes: **6** No: **0**. **Motion Approved . 6 - 0**

REPORT ON CONTRACTS

19. Contract Approvals

The following contracts are presented by Superintendent Donnie W. Evans for School Board consent and approval, authorizing the Superintendent to seek bids (if applicable) and award contracts through the Board of Contract and Supply. All contracts will be adopted by a single Motion Approved unless a member of the School Board or the Superintendent requests that a contract be removed and voted on separately.

RECOMMENDATION: Administration recommends approval of the contracts as presented.

ORIGINAL - Motion

Member **(Ronnie Young)** Moved, Member **(Kathy McKenzie)** seconded to approve the **ORIGINAL** Motion Approved 'Administration recommends approval of the contracts as presented.'. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Yes: **6** No: **0**. **Motion Approved. 6 - 0**

20. Johnson & Wales University

The Providence Public Schools, in keeping with the Rhode Island Department of Education goals of 1) integrating programs, 2) collaboration with post-secondary institutions and 3) increasing family and community engagement, proposes to establish a partnership with Johnson and Wales University to plan and implement a comprehensive program to achieve these lofty expectations. Additionally, graduate interns in concert with Johnson and Wales faculty and Providence Public Schools faculty will intensify and expand articulation of programs and curriculum

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with post-secondary schools and the community. Graduate interns will assist in career orientation programs and family events to enhance Providence Public Schools efforts.

RECOMMENDATION: Administrator recommends School Board Approval

21. Perkins Grant Independent Evaluator RFP

As required by Federal and state law, an independent evaluation of the entire Perkins grant must be conducted yearly. This has been done every year. The desired outcomes include commendations and recommendations for each of our grants in the 07-08 school year under this Perkins Grant. The report is due to our office as well as RIDE no later than September 1, 2008

RECOMMENDATION: Administrator recommends School Board Approval

22. Contract for East Bay Educational Collaborative Jerry Kowalczyk, Executive Director

East Bay Educational Collaborative Jerry Kowalczyk, Executive Director

The contract secures EBEC consultants to provide to the district a review of the status, for each of up to ten high schools, of the development of site-based content teacher teams' "common tasks" for RI State PBGR requirements.

RECOMMENDATION: Administration Recommends School Board Approval

23. Contract for RI Network for Educational Technology Steven Foehr, Contact Person

RI Network for Educational Technology Steven Foehr, Contact Person

The RI Dept. of Education regulations regarding Proficiency-Based Graduation Requirements mandate an infrastructure to support the collection, exhibition, and assessment of student work completed during high school. The Providence Schools, serving more than 7,500 high school students, face a distinct challenge in maintaining such an infrastructure, and a high-quality, efficient, and reliable electronic portfolio system, which this contract will secure, is a key component to the success of our PBGR initiative as a whole.

RECOMMENDATION: Administration Recommends School Board Approval

24. My Learning Plan

MyLearningPlan.com will provide Providence School District with a web-based Professional Development Management System (MyLearningPlan.com). The management system will facilitate the maintenance and tracking of professional development compliance participation by empowering employees to manage their personal development via an online learning plan. MyLearningPlan.com is comprised of a web server and a database server.

RECOMMENDATION: Administrator recommends School Board approval

25. Supplemental Service Providers

No Child Left Behind requires the district to reserve 20% of the Title I allocation to pay state-approved entities for supplementary tutoring services for eligible students. The Rhode Island Department of Education approves external tutoring providers and established a per pupil tutoring amount of \$1,915.86 for every student served. Approval is being sought for a bundle of contracts: one for each state approved provider seeking to serve students enrolled in SES during the 2007-2008 academic year. The total bundled amount for supplemental services is \$3,863,950.

RECOMMENDATION: The administration recommends board approval.

26. Phi Delta Kappa International Professional Development on Curriculum Assessment Design and Delivery

This three and one-half day training program is designed to prepare staff to examine and evaluate deep curriculum alignment issues in order to improve student achievement. Topics to be covered: 1. Determining scope of written curriculum ensuring curriculum articulation specifying components of curriculum guides and developing curriculum management plan designing for program cohesion 2. Establishing use of technology 3. Determining scope of assessment specifying purposes and components and interpreting and using test data 4. Establishing program evaluation design 5. Distinguishing between equality and equity 6. Identifying district equality issues 7. Specifying district expectations using walk throughs 8. Using teacher appraisals

RECOMMENDATION: Administration recommends School Board approval

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27. Phi Delta Kappa International: A Curriculum Audit

Phi Delta Kappa International will conduct an audit of the quality of the system's curriculum management processes. Included in the audit is a review and analysis of the (1) scope and extent of coverage of the school district's curriculum, programs, and services, (2) documentation of curriculum expectations to guide teachers in content selection, (3) nature and appropriateness of curriculum expectations for learners, (4) how the system assesses performance results and success in its educational programs, (5) scope and quality of board policies and planning for effective governance of the system, (6) connections and relationships among organizational components for consistency and equity of programs and services, and (7) use of resources for maximal productivity. The audit will include: 1. One-Day Pre-Audit Visit 2. Two-Day Post-Audit Visit 3. Five-Day Post Audit assistance in creating five year plan and board policy documents Proposed budget: Curriculum Audit \$75,675; \$20,000 Expenses for travel, food and lodging; \$1,600 Pre-Audit Visit plus travel expenses; \$3,200 Post-Audit Visit plus travel expenses; \$8,000 Assistance in creating five-year plan plus travel expenses.

RECOMMENDATION: Administration recommends School Board approval

ACTION ITEMS

28. Student Assignment Policy

The current student assignment plan was adopted 8 years ago. Although it has been amended since adoption, the basic plan remains unchanged. During the eight years since its adoption, the district has undergone changes that suggest the need for a major review and likely revision. In addition, the recently adopted Master Facilities Plan commits the district to reviewing and updating the student assignment plan. The School Board requests the Oversight Committee to develop a process for understanding community wishes and concerns around school assignment and the current assignment plan. The School Board requests the Oversight Committee to consider, among other issues it identifies, (1) the definition of neighborhood, (2) the number of choices a student may make, (3) whether high schools other than application schools should be entirely choice, (4) timelines for assignment, (5) clarity of communication about registration.

RECOMMENDATION: The School Board directs the administration to convene the Oversight Committee defined in the policy to undertake a major review of the student assignment plan. The School Board directs the administration to present its recommendations for revisions to the student assignment policy in time to affect registration process for the 2008-2009 school year and not later than June 30, 2008.

ORIGINAL – Motion

Member **(Kathy McKenzie)** Moved, Member **(Mary McClure)** seconded to approve the **ORIGINAL** Motion Approved 'The School Board directs the administration to convene the Oversight Committee defined in the policy to undertake a major review of the student assignment plan.

The School Board directs the administration to present its recommendations for revisions to the student assignment policy in time to affect registration process for the 2008-2009 school year and not later than June 30, 2008.'. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Yes: **6** No: **0**. **Motion Approved . 6 - 0**

SUPERINTENDENTS REPORT

29. Phi Delta Kappa International: A Curriculum Management Audit.

A curriculum audit is designed to reveal the extent to which officials and professional staff of a school district have developed and implemented a sound, valid, and operational system of curriculum management. The audit's scope is centered on curriculum and instruction, and any aspect of operations of a school system that enhances or hinders its design and/or delivery.

RECOMMENDATION: Information

30. CORRE - Central Office Review for Results & Equity

-- **Withdrawn by Superintendent**

The Central Office Review for Results and Equity (CORRE) is designed to help districts develop overarching policies that allow for variation in implementation according to the varying needs of schools, their staff, and their students. CORRE enables a district to examine the impact, effectiveness, and coherence of operations across departments, units, and levels and to help central office staff act in concert with the larger system's overall

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strategies, goals, and outcomes. The CORRE helps school districts engage in a cycle of continuous improvement; ask important questions; and incorporate information, reflection, and feedback into their decisions, policies, and practices.

RECOMMENDATION: Information

31. Direct Instruction Reading Mastery/Corrective Reading Implementation Update

Direct Instruction (DI) is an explicit, teacher-directed model of effective instruction developed by Siegfried ("Zig") Engelmann in the 1960's. DI can be distinguished from other models of explicit instruction (such as direct instruction-di) by its focus on curriculum design and effective instructional delivery.

32. Wellness Committee Recommendations

-- Withdrawn by Superintendent

GOVERNANCE

33. Reform Governance in Action (RGA)

RGA focuses school boards on high leverage activities that improve their governing systems and processes to effectively oversee management and provide service to constituents without crossing the line into management. RGA teaches board members that student achievement is job one and that the board, as a governing body, is responsible for providing leadership to eliminate the achievement gap. RGA coaches boards to operate at a strategic level, governing by vision, policy, and data.

RECOMMENDATION: Information

FUTURE MEETINGS

34. Future School Board Meetings <http://www.providenceschools.org/pesb>

Board Meeting Calendar

- Dec 17 Special Meeting 6:30 PM School Board Room
- Jan 04 Workshop 5:30 PM School Board Room - Reform Governance in Action
- Jan 05 Workshop 8:30 AM School Board Room - Reform Governance in Action
- Jan 14 Regular Meeting 6:30 PM School Board Room - Election of Board Officers

RECOMMENDATION: Information

RETIREMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

35. Retirements and Resignations

Names currently received

List of recently received resignations and/or retirements for informational purposes only.

RECOMMENDATION: Information only. No action required.

ADJOURN

36. Adjourn Meeting at 10:30 PM.

MSV Wise, Castro 6 - 0

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