

**MINUTES
PROVIDENCE SCHOOL BOARD
Thursday, January 24, 2008 (7:00 PM)**

The Providence School Board meeting was called to order by board president Mary McClure

ROLL CALL: Board members PRESENT:

- Bob Wise
- Grace Gonzalez
- Jill Holloway
- Kathy McKenzie
- Maila Touray
- Mary McClure
- Philip Gould
- Rosanna Castro
- Ronnie Young (arrived 8:15 PM)

Convene Meeting

1. Call to Order at 7:00 PM Meeting time delayed due to City Council Finance Committee meeting.

Meeting was rescheduled from January 14th due to school closing & weather conditions.

2. Open Session and Pledge of Allegiance

Welcome to the Providence School Board meeting. All items on the agenda tonight have been advertised as required by State Law. The Board is here to set goals, develop policy for the district, listen reports from the Superintendent, and take care of regular business items such as personnel appointments and contract approvals. This means we are here to make governance decisions, not management decisions, which are the responsibility of the superintendent and his administration. This is a meeting held in public, as required by state law. It is not a meeting with the public. We welcome you to observe and to listen. We provide an opportunity for you to address the Board during public comment on items of district policy or business; translation services are available. If you have an individual problem or concern, please speak with one of our administrators here tonight. We ask that you observe some rules of common courtesy. Please refrain from talking while others are speaking. If you wish to have a conversation with another attendee, we ask that you step into the hallway where you can carry on your conversation without disturbing others. We also ask that you turn off the sound on all cell phones and pagers. Thank you for attending our meetings; we appreciate your interest.

3. School Board Organizational Meeting - Election of Officers

School Board Policy BDA: Board Organizational Meeting

Following Mayoral appointment and City Council confirmation of new and/or returning Board members, the Board is required by policy to hold an organizational meeting at the first January meeting. The Board elects from its members a President, Vice-President, and Secretary to serve a one-year term. Election to office requires a majority vote of members present at the meeting. School Board Policies regarding Board Governance and Operations are hosted on the Board policy web page: http://www.providenceschools.org/dept/board/sect_b.html

RECOMMENDATION: The Board attorney will oversee the election process taking nominations from Board members.

NOMINATIONS taken by school department attorney, Sarah Potter

- **President:** Mary McClure
MSV Touray, McKenzie 8 – 0 2008 Board President is Mary McClure
- **Vice-President:** Maila Touray
MSV Holloway, Wise 8 – 0 2008 Board Vice-President is Maila Touray
- **Secretary:** Bob Wise
MSV McClure, Touray 8 – 0 2008 Board Secretary is Bob Wise

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4. Approve School Board Agenda

The School Board may vote to approve any revision, adoption, and/or ordering of the Agenda. The Superintendent may withdraw, note changes or amendments to agenda items at this time.

RECOMMENDATION: Recommend approval of meeting agenda as presented.

ORIGINAL - Motion

Member (**Maila Touray**) Moved, Member (**Kathy McKenzie**) seconded to approve the **ORIGINAL** motion 'Recommend approval of meeting agenda as presented.'

MSV: Aye: **8** Nay: **0**. **MOTION APPROVED. 8 - 0**

5. Public Comment

Osiris Harrell

Support Superintendent's Contract

Blossom Kirschbaum

Superintendent & Board participation at public events

Steve Smith(PTU)

snowstorm

POLICY & PLANNING

6. Central Office Review for Results and Equity (CORRE)

CORRE is a facilitated process of self-review to improve central office practice in ways that provide better support for teaching and learning in the schools. Presenter: Ellen Foley, Associate Director at Annenberg Institute.

RECOMMENDATION: Information.

Board questions/comments:

- PSD seems to be undergoing several self-studies. What is the purpose?
Evans: CORRE goes beyond curriculum audits and program evaluations. CORRE will look at the how to implement curriculum changes: what is our capacity, what do we need to build capacity in the central office, financial and human resources.
- How far does CORRE commitment go after the findings are reported.
Foley: CORRE will maintain commitment during action phase.
- What were issues with districts that have not been successful?
Foley: Districts have been unsuccessful when leadership commitment is weak.
- What is the focus of this work?
Evans: Relationships with external partners
- What is CORRE expectation when PSD has limited resources?
Foley: CORRE expands who is providing resources and leverage external partnerships. CORRE provides common ground to build relationships that support building capacity.

7. Energy Education & Management Program Eight Month Report

Providence Public School District Energy Education & Management Program Eight-Month Report March 2007 through October 2007 Presenters: Education Energy Management Staff

RECOMMENDATION: Information

Board questions/comments:

- To what extent are savings due to change in behavior and those not dependent upon people's behavior?
Response: Most savings are a result of people's behavioral changes.
- Do savings flatten over time?
Response: Three-quarters of savings occur in first year however, there is an expectation for continuous improvement in such practices as controlling heat and making repairs.
- Do we need outside experts to tell us to shut the lights? Can we sustain the energy savings going forward?
Response: Behavioral changes will help to sustain savings over times.

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CONSENT AGENDA

8. Home School Candidates

RECOMMENDATION: The Administration recommends the School Board approve Home School Candidates

9. School Board Minutes

December 10, 2007 Minutes December 17, 2007 Minutes

RECOMMENDATION: Recommend School Board approval of minutes

- Approved 12.10.08 Minutes as amended (remove incomplete sentence under Budget report).

10. Personnel Actions & Assignments

Names, Assignments and Effective Dates of Personnel Actions

- A. Non-Renewal of Teaching Contracts (Coaches)
- B. Non-Renewal of Teaching Contracts (Emergency ONLY)
- C. Non-Renewal of Teaching Contracts (Displaced Long Term Substitute in Pool)
- D. Regular Teachers/Change of Status-No Salary Change
- E. Probationary Teachers/Change of Status-No Salary Change
- F. Probationary Teacher/New Hire
- G. Long Term Substitute Teachers in Pool/New Hire
- H. LTS 1st Semester 68 Days
- I. School Based Coordinators
- J. Probationary Clerical Appointments

RECOMMENDATION: The Superintendent recommends School Board approval.

11. CONSENT AGENDA APPROVAL

All items under the Consent Agenda are adopted by a single motion 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 (**Maila Touray**) 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: 8 No: 0. Motion Approved 8 - 0**

REPORT ON CONTRACTS

12. Pyramid Education Consultation

The Picture Exchange Communication System (PECS) is a language training package that is used to teach communication skills rapidly to those with limited functional speech. PECS promotes communication within a social context, without lengthy pre-requisite training. Participants will learn how to implement the six(6) phases of PECS, including attributes through the presenter demonstrations, video examples and role play opportunities. Participants will leave the workshop with an understanding of how to implement PECS with individuals with Autism, related developmental disabilities and/or limited communication skills.

RECOMMENDATION: Administration Recommends School Board Approval

13. CONTRACT APPROVALS

The 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 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 (**Maila Touray**) seconded to approve the **ORIGINAL** motion 'Administration recommends approval of the contracts as presented.'. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: **9** Nay: **0. MOTION APPROVED. 9 - 0**

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ACTION ITEMS

14. School Board Core Beliefs & Commitments Policy 2nd Reading

School Board Core Beliefs & Commitments

The purpose of this policy is to focus the comprehensive reform and restructuring of the Providence Public Schools on success for all students.

RECOMMENDATION: Recommend School Board adopt the Core Beliefs & Commitments policy as proposed.

Question: How will we communicate the Board's beliefs and commitments?

ORIGINAL - Motion

Member (**Maila Touray**) Moved, Member (**Ronnie Young**) seconded to approve the **ORIGINAL** motion 'Recommend School Board adopt the Core Beliefs & Commitments policy as proposed.'. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: **9** Nay: **0**. **MOTION APPROVED. 9 - 0**

15. Organization of the School Board & Board Meetings Policy - 2nd Reading

The purpose of this policy is to set forth standards and procedures for School Board governance and operations including membership, officers, committees, and meetings.

RECOMMENDATION: Recommend School Board adopt the Organization of the School Board & Board Meetings policy as proposed.

Note: Policy revisions include changes in meeting order of agenda items

ORIGINAL - Motion

Member (**Maila Touray**) Moved, Member (**Jill Holloway**) seconded to approve the **ORIGINAL** motion 'Recommend School Board adopt the Organization of the School Board & Board Meetings policy as proposed.'. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: **9** Nay: **0**. **MOTION APPROVED. 9 - 0**

16. Constituent Services Policy 2nd Reading

Constituent Services Policy

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that constituent complaints or concerns directed to the School Board are resolved in a timely and satisfactory manner.

RECOMMENDATION: Recommend the School Board to adopt Constituent Services policy as proposed.

Note: This policy was revised slightly to tighten up implementation points.

Question: What does the Board want to see in a communication plan?

ORIGINAL - Motion

Member (**Ronnie Young**) Moved, Member (**Grace Gonzalez**) seconded to approve the **ORIGINAL** motion 'Recommend the School Board to adopt Constituent Services policy as proposed.'. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: **9** Nay: **0**. **MOTION APPROVED. 9 - 0**

17. Student Assignment Plan - 2nd Reading

This policy amendment proposes one revision that would retain sibling priority but within neighborhood and non-neighborhood categories. **RECOMMENDATION:** School Board Approval

AMENDED - Motion

Member (**Bob Wise**) Moved, Member (**Maila Touray**) seconded to approve the **NEW** motion 'Change (p. 2) from 80% to 90% Category 2 from 20% to 10% '. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: **Motion withdrawn** by Member (Bob Wise)

ORIGINAL - Motion

Member (**Ronnie Young**) Moved, Member (**Grace Gonzalez**) seconded to approve the **ORIGINAL** motion 'School Board Approval'. Upon a roll call vote being taken: Aye: **9** Nay: **0**. **MOTION APPROVED 9 - 0**

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FUTURE POLICY second readings: NOTE CHANGES FROM 1ST READING IN AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

Board discussed considerations for RGA policies communications plan :

- Start w/ CRSS template
- Identify who needs to know
- Identify what media we need to access
- Determine how we will meet language needs
- Identify who are community partners with expertise in communication planning

SUPERINTENDENTS REPORT

Note: Classical high school receives another national award for number of Advance Placement courses offered to students.

18. E-Cubed Academy NEASC Accreditation

Letter of Accreditation

E-Cubed Academy and Cooley awarded NEASC Candidacy for Accreditation through 2010. Both of these schools were created within past 5 years. Schools must be in existence a minimum number of years before offered candidacy for NEASC accreditation.

RECOMMENDATION: Information

19. December 13th Update

Report on December 13th event

RECOMMENDATION: Information

For the Record: Mr. Touray noted his appreciation for staff efforts during the snowstorm.

20. Status Report on School Department Budget

Budget Updates

RECOMMENDATION: Information

The City Council Finance committee approved school department budget. The budget will be up for approval by full council at its first meeting in February.

21. Realizing the Dream Status Report

January 14, 2008 Update on Realizing the Dream Priorities Priority I: Effective Academic Programs Priority II: Cost Effectiveness Priority III: Safe, Caring & Orderly Schools Priority IV: Improving Public Confidence

RECOMMENDATION: Information

22. 2nd Quarterly report of the District Corrective Action Plan

The Providence School District is required to provide RIDE with quarterly reports summarizing the status of all action items included in the district corrective action plan. This is the second of four quarterly reports.

GOVERNANCE

23. 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

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Finance Workshop Planning Committee: Bob Wise, Maila Touray, Ronnie Young, and Kathy McKenzie will work with Mark Dunham help to define goals and structures for Finance workshop

FUTURE MEETINGS

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

Board Meeting Calendar

Jan 30 6:00PM RGA Work Session

~~Feb 04 6:00PM School Board Room Workshop – cancelled~~

Feb 07 6:00PM RGA Work Session

Feb 11 6:00PM School Board Room Special Meeting (Lay-Offs)

Feb 18 6:00PM RGA Work Session

Feb 25 6:30PM School Board Room Regular Meeting

Mar 07 5:30PM School Board Room RGA site visit

Mar 08 8:30AM School Board Room RGA site visit

Mar 18 6:00PM RGA Work Session

Mar 24 6:30PM School Board Room Regular Meeting

RECOMMENDATION: Information

NO School Board comments

EXECUTIVE SESSION

25. 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 and superintendent's evaluation. Convene in Executive Session RIGL 42-46-5(a)(2) Collective Bargaining; RIGL 42-46-5(a)(9) Grievances

ORIGINAL - Motion

Member (**Kathy McKenzie**) Moved, Member (Jill Holloway) seconded to approve the **ORIGINAL** motion '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'. Aye: **9** Nay: **0**. **MOTION APPROVED 9 – 0**

ADJOURN at 11:00 PM

28. Adjourn Meeting

RECOMMENDATION: Recommend motion to adjourn.

ORIGINAL - Motion

Member (Kathy McKenzie) Moved, Member (Jill Holloway) seconded to approve the ORIGINAL motion "Motion to adjourn" Aye: **9** Nay: **0**. **MOTION APPROVED 9 – 0**

RETIREMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

29. Retirements/Resignations

List of names currently received

RECOMMENDATION: For information only.