

MINUTES  
PROVIDENCE SCHOOL BOARD  
John Hope Settlement House  
7 Thomas P. Whitten Way  
Providence, RI 02903  
MARCH 28, 2011

**CONVENE MEETING**

1. Call to order On the Rise of the Public Hearing – Board President Kathleen Crain called the meeting to order at 8:03PM

**The following Board members were present:** Kathleen Crain, Robert Wise, Brian Lalli, Philip Gould, Maila Touray, Julian Dash and Magaly Sanchez

**Absent Board Member:** Nina Pande

2. Superintendent's Comments – No comments were made at this time

**APPROVE AGENDA**

3. Approve Agenda as Presented

**MSV – Lalli, Gould (7-0) MOTION APPROVED**

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

4. Public Comment began at 8:10PM and ended at 9:00PM
  - Shannon Imerone – A 4<sup>th</sup> grade teacher at Asa Messer who spoke about the accomplishments at the school. She spoke about vertical alignment and also said the school is 3 out of 26 in writing and math.
  - Marie Costa – Certified School Nurse Teacher at Asa Messer for 13 years. She said they are a neighborhood with 75% of the population within walking distance.
  - Michael Udress- Spoke about the West Side Education Coalition. He also said he is the parent of 3 small children. He asked the School Board not to vote on anything until they know all of the facts. He also said there have a lot of contradictory facts from the Mayor.
  - David Holler – Said he lives on the West Side and he is the grandparent of displaced children who attended West Broadway. He said the numbers did not

make sense. He asked how the parents can engage with the School Board when the Board has all of its facts wrong.

- Judy Cansile – Said we are here under absurd circumstances. She said the teachers knew about the closing 5 days prior to the Public Hearing. She also spoke about the West Side Education Coalition and asked the Board not to proceed with the vote.
- Matt Kabor – We were researching the points for which you were looking to close the school. The recommendations made for the Master Plan was the actual enrollment. He asked the Board if they knew what the total enrollment was going to be for the year 2012. He also stated that school closures would hurt us in the future.
- Carrie Len – Spoke about West Beck & WBNA. She said in a school closure guide the time frame for school closures would be 12-18 months for actual relocation of students. She asked the School Board why there was a rush to close the school. She also asked the Board to pause before they vote.
- Osiris Harrell – Said he has heard everyone speak and let their voices be heard. He also stated that the Mayor has already made his mind up when it comes to the closure of the schools. He said the system has a good Superintendent who has tried working with the parents. He said the Mayor has declared war on the children and that's why we need to start keeping our children home for a day, two days or however long it takes.
- Terri Adelman – Director of Inspiring Minds and a community member who provides SES services to the children of Asa Messer Elementary. She stated the teachers are very focused on students. She also stated there was a 53% proficiency in reading. She said they have data and if the children are not kept together and spread all around there will not be data. She asked the Board to please keep the team together.
- Councilman Brian Principe – Thanked everyone for coming out for the Public Hearing. He stated that we needed to look into the future to see what could be done when it came to saving money. He mentioned the Fanning Howie Report that spoke about annual savings. He also mentioned that we pay 3 and a half million dollars on bussing for Parochial and Private Schools. He stated we needed to lobby to end this. He stated each school will only have 1 Public Hearing per school and implored the Board to take a step back and take more time in voting on the closures.
- DeWayne Hackney – Stated these are cold hard facts and if we had the money the school wouldn't be closing down. He said this is straight up financial. He asked the Mayor to stop filling up potholes every 2 days and put that money

towards the children. He said it's all about the budget and that's why we need to start keeping out children home.

- Sheila Willem – Stated that the children and parents are being assaulted by these closures. She said she thought the Mayor would be there to comment so they could hear all of the facts but that wasn't the case. She also stated that 75% of the school population is neighborhood children who walk to school every day.
- Natasha & Anthony Rodriguez – Brother and sister who said they attended Asa Messer Elementary School when they were growing up and now Natasha attends Providence College and her brother attends Classical High School now. They said the school has a warm and caring environment and they know that financial decisions are difficult ones but they hope the Board will hear them out.
- Steve Smith – Spoke about three topics on closings. He said the closings would not be good for teachers as well as the children. He said the Principal at the school has showed great leadership and asked if the school district was prepared for more children. He said Boston and New York are facing financial problems but they didn't decide to terminate every teacher in their system. He also spoke on the teacher's attendance report and said some of the teachers work in very sickly buildings.

#### **SCHOOL BOARD COMMENTS**

##### 5. School Board Comments

- Maila Touray spoke to Councilman Principe's remarks and stated that the Board needed help also. He said we are facing State and Federal Mandates and we are also buying textbooks for Parochial Schools.

#### **ACTION ITEMS**

##### 6. Resolution Authorizing and Approving Various Capital Projects and The Sublease or Subleases relating to such Projects

**MSV – Gould, Lalli (5-2) MOTION APPROVED – Sanchez no, Touray no**

#### **CONSENT AGENDA**

Recommendation: The Superintendent recommends School Board approval of Consent agenda items.

MOTION: To approve the Consent Agenda as presented

7. Minutes 3-14-11
8. Personnel Actions
9. Home School

10. Consent Agenda Approval – Minutes 3-14-11; Personnel Actions; Home School Candidates  
**MSV – Touray, Wise (7-0) MOTION APPROVED**

#### **REPORT ON PERSONNEL**

11. Administrator of Human Resources – Spencer Dickinson –  
**MSV – Dash, Sanchez (3-4) THIS ITEM WAS APPROVED FOR TABLING  
Lalli-No, Dash-No, Sanchez-No and Touray-No**
12. Employee Relations Administrator – Gail Hareld  
**MSV – Dash, Lalli (3-4) THIS ITEM WAS APPROVED FOR TABLING  
Lalli-No, Dash-No, Sanchez-No and Touray-No**
13. Director of Professional Learning – Cynthia Scheller – Effective: 3/29/11; Salary:  
\$104,631.00
14. Executive Director of School Transformation – Dorothy Smith – Effective: 3/29/11;  
Salary: \$110,274.00 (base)  
**MSV – Gould, Wise (6-1) MOTION APPROVED – Touray-No**

#### **REPORT ON CONTRACTS**

15. Material and Service Contracts for 2011-2012 Year
16. Contract Approvals: Material and Service Contracts for 2011-2012 Year  
**MSV – Wise, Touray (7-0) MOTION APPROVED**

#### **POLICY & PLANNING**

17. **Professional Development Annual Report – Postponed to next board meeting  
4/11/11**
18. **Evaluations – Postponed to next board meeting 4/11/11**
19. Teacher Absenteeism by Tomas Ramirez

#### **RETIREMENTS & RESIGNATIONS**

20. Retirements & Resignations

**9:59PM** – A Vote was taken to Convene in Executive Session

**MSV – Dash, Lalli (7-0) MOTION APPROVED**

**Roll Call: Gould Aye, Lalli Aye, Dash Aye, Wise Aye, Crain Aye, Sanchez Aye, Touray  
Aye**

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

21. Vote to Convene in Executive Session Pursuant RIGL 42-46-5(a)(1)Terminations; RIGL 42-46-5(a)(1)Superintendent's Evaluation/Job Performance & School Board Evaluation/Job Performance; 42-46-5(a)(2)Collective Bargaining & Litigation

A Vote was taken to come out of Executive Session, Seal the minutes and adjourn the meeting

**MSV – Lalli, Wise (7-0) MOTION APPROVED**

### **VOTES TAKEN IN EXECUTIVE SESSION**

22. There was a vote taken and the minutes were sealed

### **ADJOURN**

10. The meeting adjourned at 10:20PM