

MINUTES

Providence School Department
797 Westminster Street
Providence, RI 02903
MARCH 26, 2012

CONVENE MEETING

1. Call to Order – Board President Keith Oliveira called the meeting to order at 6:36PM
Board Members Present: Keith Oliveira, Nicholas Hemond, Nina Pande, Julian Dash, Barbara Wong, Robert Wise, Magaly Sanchez and Natalia Rosa-Sosa

Board Members Absent: Maila Touray

2. Superintendent's Comments – Recognitions for the Central High School Football Team
 - Superintendent Lusi welcomed everyone especially the students of the Central High School Football Team. She also spoke about the Atlanta Journal Constitution who did an article on Standardized Testing and cheating. It also mentioned other districts in the article (Providence, E. Providence, Coventry and Woonsocket) being some. She mentioned that Commissioner Gist had released a statement saying that Providence would join RIDE in reviewing test scores and she assured everyone that no cheating took place. Superintendent Lusi also expressed her disappointment in the article written by the Providence Journal regarding Cambium/NAEP. She stated that Providence had 9 Innovations Schools and 10 more were being identified. Superintendent Lusi also mentioned that Providence did put in a request for qualifications to Cambium and that they do bring dramatic results State Wide.

APPROVE AGENDA

3. Approve 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.
MSV – Pande, Hemond (8-0) MOTION APPROVED

PUBLIC COMMENT

4. Right to be Heard – Began at 6:40PM and ended at 7:04PM
 - Anna Kuperman – I am a teacher at Classical and I am here to show my disapproval of the Cambium/NAEP contract. I want to know, what level of

success are in the test scores? This is a company that is run by a man who was run out of Palm Beach Florida. I am truly angry. Can't you find something better? Parents, teachers and students are the real stakeholders. Where is the transparency? I'm sure Cambium won't make the schools better.

- Alex Lucini – I am a Music Teacher at Roger Williams Middle School and I am here tonight to speak against the Cambium/NAEP Contract. I'm a sports fan and I can tell you Payton Manning makes \$28,000,000.00 and he has an opt-out clause. I have nothing good about Jeffrey Hernandez. Superintendent Lusi speaks positively about Cambium and Mr. Hernandez but nothing I've read echoes that. We are a cash strapped district and we need to be wiser with our money. I ask that you postpone the vote this evening. We have good professionals here in Providence and we do the best we can. Please postpone your vote this evening.
- Dan Wall – I am a teacher at Juanita Sanchez which is not a Transformation School. The price tag of \$5.3 million dollars is insulting to teachers. That is like having a vote of no confidence in our abilities. What happened to the authority over scheduling, working in collaboration with everyone and having discussions with Cambium being on the top? Mr. Hernandez is accused of usurping authority. From what I hear, Mr. Hernandez is not an honest man.
- Nancy Krahe – I have been a teacher for 20 years in this district and I am here to ask you to reject the Cambium/NAEP Contract. I am very surprised and disappointed that this contract is being put before the Board this evening. We need to work together to put this district forward. The sum of \$5.3 million dollars is a lot of money and I think it should be used within the district. Students can't even take home a text book to do homework because they have none. A lot of them don't have computers at home either. Why can't we use this money more wisely? These are difficult times for the district and I ask that you vote against this contract.
- Steve Smith – I think we should all own some Cambium stock. As I stated in previous meetings this is clearly not the time to take this vote. We need more time. As you see there are questions in the article as to the type of individual Jeffrey Hernandez is. Before any contract or MOA is voted on it should be clearly articulated. If you go forward, it should be no more than a year. What does the budget look like? What type of sustainability is there?
- Ana Donkor – I am part of the Youth For Change Organization and I am here to talk about transportation issues. Students not only come to school but they have jobs and appointments after school and they are not able to get there because they have no transportation. There are 7,000 high school students and 40% come from poverty stricken families. That is why more students should be given

bus passes. For the past three years it has been policy that if you don't live more than 3 miles from the school you don't qualify for a bus pass. Parents can't afford bus passes so some of the seniors can't make after school activities.

- Yinka Ajayi – I am also part of Youth for Change and I too would like to speak about transportation issues. A monthly bus pass costs \$52.00 and in a year that adds up to \$620.00. Some of the poorest families spend most of their money on transportation and that puts a strain on their families. RITE Care Policies can change the economic burden that is put on these families. We need to work harder to remove all of the barriers. Students miss school too much because of the lack of transportation. Absenteeism and tardiness are also high.
- Kim Rohm – I am here to request that Martin Luther King get an Assistant Principal. Last week the PTO met with Dr. Lusi regarding an Assistant Principal at the school and she told them the Assistant Principal position was budgeted for 2012-2013 school year. The school has received 120 new students from the 4 schools that were closed in the system. Now they have implemented a new evaluation process and the Principal, Derrick Ciesla is out straight. The Assistant Principal was approved before hand and then was cut during the budget process.

SCHOOL BOARD COMMENTS

5. School Board Comments

- Keith Oliveira – I want to let the students of Youth for Change know that transportation is a priority for the Policy Committee.
- Nicholas Hemond – We had a preliminary meeting with RIPTA today to get the ball rolling in the right direction. Youth for Change met with me last week and I am waiting to hear back from RIPTA.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

6. Minutes 3-12-12

7. Personnel Actions

8. Home School Candidates

9. Consent Agenda Approval: Minutes 3-12-12; Personnel Actions; Home School Candidates

MSV – Pande, Rosa-Sosa (8-0) MOTION APPROVED

REPORT ON PERSONNEL

10. Elementary Principal – Robert L. Bailey, IV Elementary School – Carolina Naranjo-Creel – Effective: 4-16-12; Salary: \$95,998.96

MSV – Pande, Sanchez (8-0) MOTION APPROVED

REPORT ON CONTRACTS

11. X2 Development Corporation Contract Aspen Solution Student Information System – Hosted Service Agreement

MSV – Pande, Hemond (8-0) MOTION APPROVED

12. Cambium/NAEP Lead Partner Multi-Year 2012-2015

MSV – Sanchez, Rosa-Sosa (8-0) MOTION APPROVED

PRESENTATIONS

13. Update on FY 2011-12, Presentation on 2012-2013

RETIREMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

14. Retirements & Resignations

9:44PM - A Motion was made to Convene in Executive Session

MSV – Pande, Hemond (8-0) MOTION APPROVED

Roll Call: Wise Aye, Wong Aye, Rosa-Sosa Aye, Hemond Aye, Oliveira Aye, Sanchez Aye, Pande Aye, Dash Aye

EXECUTIVE SESSION

15. Executive Session Pursuant to RIGL 42-46-5(a)(9) Level B Grievances

REPORT ON EXECUTIVE SESSION VOTES

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

ADJOURN

17. The meeting adjourned at 10:10PM