

Special Meeting of the Pawtucket School Committee

Tuesday, May 31, 2011

6:00 PM Media Center

Jenks/JMW Complex for the Performing and Visual Arts

350 Division Street, Pawtucket, RI 02860

I. Meeting will come to order

Roll Call:

Mr. Araujo-here; Ms. Bonollo-here; Mr. Coughlin-here; Mr. Noonan-here; Ms. Nordquist-here; Mr. Tenreiro-here; Mr. Spooner-here

Also in attendance was Mrs. Deborah Cylke, Superintendent of Schools, Ms. Kimberly Mercer, Deputy Superintendent for Curriculum Instruction and Assessment, Mr. Thomas Conlon, Business Administrator, Ms. Maggie Baker, Assistant Business Administrator, Mr. Stephen M. Robinson and Ms. Vicki Bejma, Legal Counsel for the Pawtucket School Committee.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by the Chairperson.

III. Public Participation

None

IV. Celebration/Recognition

a. Student Representatives:

Mrs. Cylke: We would like to recognize the student representatives who were the voices and faces of the many students they represent. It is their agenda item that made us smile. We have enjoyed learning about your travels and experiences. You are wonderful

representatives of the schools you attend and should put this on your resume. You've done an excellent job accentuating the positive. I'm sure you've got big goals and plans.

Charles E. Shea Representatives:

Melitzi: I will be preparing for prom and graduation. We will be introducing you to the next voices of Shea. I will be going to Brown University to study civil engineering.

Luckson: I will be going to URI studying communication with a minor in political science.

William E. Tolman Representative:

Allyssa: We have honors night tomorrow evening and a car wash on Saturday. Graduation is on June 15th. I will be going to Brown University to study bio chemical engineering.

Jacqueline M. Walsh for Performing and Visual Arts Representative:

Noelle: We had the senior recital at the Rhode Island Philharmonic. We get out on Wednesday and graduate on the 14th and it is all uphill from here. I will be going to the University of Vermont to study to become an educator.

Ms. Nordquist: I just wanted to say congratulations on the valedictorians, Melitzi at Shea, Noelle at JMW and Alyssa at Tolman. Good luck in the future.

Mrs. Cylke: We have two students who were selected as the Rhode Island Civics Students of the Year. They are Shea High School students. There is no doubt in my mind that there would not have been this award had there not been the academy at Shea High School in which these students could pursue civics and government and

there is one person behind all of that and that is Mr. Mike Connelly.

Something very special happened in Pawtucket last week, Mike Connelly who has been a long time dedicated employee of the Pawtucket School Department was honored as the National Secretary of State 2010 Medallion winner. He was honored publically by Ralph Mollis for launching a statewide mock election initiative. He was also recognized for his time and dedication to the Shea High School government and public education academy. Mike spends countless hours making sure kids experience an internship in their desired field. There is a strong interest making sure kids understand the process of public office and what you do as School Committee members and other public officials and I'm sure I can speak for the staff when I say that Mike, you're a joy to work with. He's so positive. He identifies a problem but ends with these are all doable. On behalf of the School Committee and your colleagues we recognize you for excellence.

Mr. Connelly: The two young people from Shea who couldn't be here this evening. One just had a horrific family emergency and the other is sick and has been for the last few days.

I want to tell you of the giant step forward that the students in Pawtucket have made with these academies. The Public Administration Academy has been the focus the last few days in the newspaper. They have been recognized by the Association of Administration as the only high school charter organization in the United States. The president from the organization came from Missouri to recognize the students. We have seven young ladies

from the Tolman academy who have been accepted into the prestigious summer program at Brown University for the first time. We have four students from our program who have just been licensed to work as care attendants for the disabled. The engineering program and construction competition statewide—we brought in two teams and one finished first and one third in bridge building. The marketing program has won twelve different medals. The career clusters in the U. S. Department of Education is using some of our programs as models for other schools. I'm very proud of the work the students here do. We made it happen here in this City. The kids are marvelous and do tremendous work. This is more their award than it is mine and I'm very humbled by all of this. Thank you very much.

Ms. Nordquist: Seven years ago when I first started on this committee I remember going to honors night and how excited you got the kids about civics. I am graduating from Rhode Island College to be a secondary education history teacher and I had the opportunity to teach a civics class in another district for three weeks. You really have been an inspiration and I truly believe in the same thing. I want you to know that I truly appreciate everything you've done. You've made me want to become a history teacher, not only civics and social studies, but to get the kids involved in the process. From the bottom of my heart I appreciate everything you've done and I hope we are able to continue this program for the kids. Thank you.

V. New Business

a. Recall of Teachers:

Mrs. Cylke: I want to acknowledge our Deputy Superintendent, Kim

Mercer, her assistant, Tereza Pereira. This is a very complicated task and Kim has a system that is quite impressive. I also want to thank and recognize Mr. Beaupre who gets all the phone calls who reviews this list and helps us make sure this list is accurate. We wish we could recall more teachers this evening. Tolman High School is still finalizing its schedules. We anticipate recalling more teachers once that process has been completed which should be in a few days.

Tonight we recognize the following teachers to be recalled:

Wendy Riodan, Reading, Baldwin

Elizabeth Donabedian, Reading, Baldwin

Rachel Abatecola, Reading, Baldwin

Deonna Pace, Kindergarten, Little

Nadine Simmons, Grade 4-ESL, Baldwin

Ingrid Izzi, Kindergarten, Greene

Konstantina Sampalis, Math, Jenks

Julie Seitzinger, Grade 5, Fallon

Lori Pennachhia, Grade 1, Greene

Jessica Cooke, Sp. Ed. Elementary, Varieur

Ruth Donth, Kindergarten, Winters

Jennifer Lemay, Kindergarten, Cunningham

Kendra Melise, ELA, Slater

Marie Arbelaez, Grade 6, Curvin-McCabe

Lisa Wagoner, Grade 6, Little

Carmela Valcourt, Kindergarten-ESL, Fallon

Amber Kimbrell, Science, Goff

George McLaughlin, Guidance, Tolman

Jorge Torres, Math-ESL, Goff

Mrs. Cylke: We are asking that the committee approve these recalls.

Ms. Nordquist moved to approve the recall of teachers as recommended by the Superintendent, Mrs. Cylke. Ms. Bonollo seconded.

Roll call:

Mr. Araujo-yes; Ms. Bonollo-yes; Mr. Coughlin-abstain; Mr. Noonan-abstain; Ms. Nordquist-yes; Mr. Tenreiro-yes; Mr. Spooner-yes

Motion passed five in favor; two absentions.

Ms. Nordquist: Chairman Spooner, could we just go back to the celebration/recognition? Did we skip over one?

Mrs. Cylke: Are the Jenks students here? Could we have them come up with their teacher?

IV. Celebration/Recognition

b. Jenks Art Students

Ms. Elias-Clavet: Taylor P. and Luis S. were selected by the state affiliate of the All Kids Can Create in an exhibition that takes place in Washington DC. They later found out that they were selected as two of only ten students nationwide to be invited to the exhibition all expenses paid for a trip to Washington. They'll attend a congressional reception. They'll meet our state representatives and go to the ribbon cutting ceremony for the exhibition. I'm really proud of them and they've done really wonderful work.

Mrs. Cylke: Thank you for your guidance because without our teachers, principals and parents this would not be possible.

Taylor: The project was about creating a subject and creating a drawing about it. You draw based on that subject and they submit it and it's judged. I'm honored to be going. I never expected to be getting this. I have to say thanks to Ms. Clavet, Luis and all of you and I have to point out my old principal right there in the back, Mr. Haidemenos, thank you too.

Luis: Mine was simple, not that hard—an ocean with waves separating from each other and someone was swimming on it; enjoying their life...simple. The sun shining reflects on the ocean.

Mrs. Cylke: We have some humble students. On behalf of the School Committee, we congratulate you, your teacher and your principal. We hope you have a great time in Washington. We know you will represent us well.

V. New Business

b. Ratify Administrators' Association Contract

Mr. Tenreiro: We're looking to approve the administrator's contract. Concessions were made to meet the budget shortfall and a vote was taken in an executive session and approved. We are looking to approve this in public.

Ms. Nordquist moved to approve the Administrators' Association Contract with concessions to meet FY12 budget shortfall. **Mr. Araujo** seconded.

Roll call:

Mr. Araujo-yes; Ms. Bonollo-yes; Mr. Coughlin-abstain; Mr. Noonan-abstain; Ms. Nordquist-yes; Mr. Tenreiro-yes; Mr. Spooner-yes

Motion passed five in favor; two abstentions.

c. FY12 Budget Update

Mrs. Cylke: At this time Mr. Robinson, Ms. Bejma and I will be giving you a budget update. I'll be providing an update of where we've been and what we've done and where we are at now. Steve will inform us of our options. We have prepared a power point presentation and have copies for the audience.

Original projected deficit: \$7,306,599

School Department reduces deficit by \$4,944,762 through contractual concessions and other reductions approved on April 25, 2011. Deficit as of April 25, 2011 is \$2,361,837. The motion at the last meeting of 4/25/11 was to use what medical reserves we had left and anticipated revenue to reduce the deficit.

Our Deputy Superintendent came back from a meeting at RIDE and informed us that we lost our Literacy Set Aside money. A week later Carolyn Dias in a webinar stated the Literacy Set Aside money would be coming to the district and would no longer be restricted. It would be included in the state revenue and the \$1.1 M can now be applied toward our \$2.3 M deficit. That now brings the deficit down to \$1.2 M. Our legal counsel is going to share all of our legal options with you. He is not going to share specific options, just what options are available to us.

Mr. Tenreiro: Just to make a note that the negotiations of the Pawtucket Teachers' Alliance and the Pawtucket Administrators are approved and done. If you could make that change from "in progress" on lines 7 and 8, that would be helpful.

Ms. Nordquist: I know that the Literacy Set Aside monies were restricted, but what did we specifically use that money for?

Mrs. Cylke: Half of Kim's salary and the other half was from the local budget. Any of her work or related to came from that.

Ms. Mercer: A reading specialist and all day kindergarten, anything that was above and beyond.

Ms. Nordquist: So that money couldn't be used toward the reading specialist who hasn't been recalled yet? We couldn't use that money to recall some teachers into that classroom?

Ms. Mercer: You can't supplant it. The Literacy money itself is gone and in the local budget which has a deficit.

Ms. Nordquist: Is it the same amount of money we're going to get next year that we can use for anything?

Ms. Mercer: Anything in the local budget it would be allowable. You can't supplant it.

Ms. Cylke: The reality is it's being applied to the deficit.

Mr. Robinson: As the Committee knows over the last four years we have been making these presentations over the choices the School Committee has to make regarding their deficit. I will say this and give the Administration and Committee credit. This is the earliest any committee has ever dealt with it. You've made huge reductions and in the scheme of doing a Caruolo action \$1.2 M in really a modest amount and I think you're ahead of the curve of other districts.

The option we're first asked is what can we do is to ask the State to take us over which is what Mr. Coughlin had also asked.

The second is what can we do to get more money from the City and

that is a Caruolo action where we sue them for the money.

The third is where the committee as a whole is going to cut our budget by \$1.2 M to bring in into balance.

The fourth would be part of a petition to the Commissioner of Education and it would be that the city appropriation does not equal the Maintenance of Effort and ask for the Commissioner to so rule.

Superintendents in Rhode Island are required not to run in a deficit.

There are a variety of things that have to be done if you run a deficit.

One is that the Committee shall within five working days of its discovery of potential or actual over expenditure or revenue deficiency submit a written statement of the amount of and cause of the over obligation or over expenditure or revenue deficiency to the city or town council president and any other person who by local charter or statute serves as the city or town's executive officer; the statement shall further include a statement of the school committee's plan for corrective actions necessary to met the requirements of subsection (d). That plan shall be approved by the auditor general.

You must have a balanced budget and if you don't a corrective action plan. We have one proposed for you. It is here how we intend to get to that.

Potential consequences for failure to take action:

There are many things that happen if you are looking at a deficit. One is under R. I. G. L. § 16-9-1: the city treasurer can stop paying your bills. They generally don't. When school committees are unwilling to address their deficit I have brought suit on behalf of the city eventually forcing the school committee to address their deficit. Next

is the personal liability for the School Committee members. A school committee that knowingly, willfully runs a personal risk of being sued. Judge Savage in Cranston referred to it and said the school committee in Cranston willfully ran deficits and opined that they might be running a personal risk there. It's not good for superintendents, it's not good for school committees and it's not good for communities to run a deficit.

In the past the City has absorbed the deficit with a deficit reduction plan. Over time we've seen the deficit come down or it may go up over unspecified cuts; retirements or legislative or City action.

Option #1—State takeover: We may ask the state to take us over if there isn't enough taxable property to support the schools and once they are satisfied that the request is warranted and that the best interest of the public schools may be served may resume supervision, control, and management. Central Falls through legislation has been taken over by the State and Central Falls has a higher per pupil cost than Pawtucket. Seeing that Central Falls is smaller than Pawtucket would the State be willing to take over the Pawtucket Schools even if you were so inclined. I would not necessarily assume we would get more money from the State by their takeover. Loss of local control and no guarantee and you would be superseded as the School Committee.

Mr. Coughlin: Has any other school district been taken over under this statute?

Mr. Robinson: Not that I'm aware of. I would be very surprised if they would be welcoming us with open arms.

Mr. Coughlin: If we are going take that option and do it under 16-1-10, what is the soonest we would have to take that vote and make that request would be at the June regular meeting? Or else we would have to lose that option for at least another year?

Mr. Robinson: Correct.

Mr. Noonan: The last line in 16-1-10 talks about supervision, management and control. In the conjunctive has anyone ever raised any concern over those three terms?

Mr. Robinson: I'm not aware of anyone every raising one. In Central Falls they went to a State Administrator for a little while, no School Committee, no School Board. They then went to a different format with certain people appointed and they were all appointed by the Board of Regents.

Mr. Robinson: Caruolo Action is where the school department says we cannot meet our contracts, our legal requirements, our regulations with the money we have been given. You can bring a suit over the right set of circumstances against a City or Town. This year I don't think anyone is anxious to do this because of the financial circumstance everyone is in around the State. However, legally you cannot run in a deficit, but are required to provide a lot of services that cost money. I.e. Transportation Services. You cannot stop providing transportation to students. There is a law that requires you to provide these services when the children live so far from their homes that it is impractical for them to get there. You would be depriving them of their education. So you have to sue the City or Town to get the money required to provide these services.

Mr. Tenreiro: Could we go back to the balance budget options. I want to stress the point that out of those four options the best is the forth option. A Caruolo action is spending more money than we already don't have. As far as a State takeover, I don't want to see a State takeover our schools. I think that is so far from our...there is no way I want outsiders running our schools. It doesn't even seem like a viable option. It doesn't seem like it will have the financial remedy that is desired.

Request the City add to our FY12 \$1.3 M. The \$1.3 M is that the amount needed to get to 100 % Maintenance of Effort?

Mrs. Cylke: No, that's the amount to balance.

Mr. Tenreiro: The key here for people in the audience for Maintenance of Effort is this point and the disagreement between the Commissioner and the State Assembly and it is crucial to our argument with the City.

Mr. Robinson: We are now calling this option #3 and it is a petition before the Commissioner on Maintenance of Effort. If you read Commissioner Gist's letter on Maintenance of Effort carefully, because I've seen politicians refer to Maintenance of Effort of 100% and 95%. But that statement says clearly Maintenance of Effort means you have enough money to do the BEP (Basic Education Plan) and that never gets discussed. The BEP may mean 110%. There is some misinformation or misunderstanding of what that law does say. The Commissioner was pretty clear. She talks about the 100% two years prior, but it's more than that. We would have the option of petitioning to the Commissioner that we don't believe that the City

has provided Maintenance of Effort for this year; both in terms of actual dollars on the 100% issue and to provide our BEP. That would be heard before the Commissioner, she would render her decision which would then be held by court order.

Mr. Coughlin: We go to the Commissioner on the MOE theory and she grants the order to the City and you say it's a court enforceable order? You're going to superior court next to get the order. What happens when we get into superior court? Are we liable for being in a sense in a Caruolo action at that stage of the game?

Mr. Robinson: The only place where this has happened is West Warwick. In that case the Commissioner did a Maintenance of Effort hearing and ruled in favor of the School Department, but didn't award a money number. The Commissioner has taken two positions. I believe the Commissioner has taken the law to mean you have to go through a writ of mandamus in the Superior Court to enforce that order or you have to do a Caruolo.

Mr. Noonan: What is the Maintenance of Effort number?

Mr. Conlon: There are a couple of different issues. We know that the amount that the City reduced our appropriation by this year was a total of \$2.9 M. \$1.3 M was actually 5% of the FY09 appropriation. The other \$1.6 M was a reduction based on a reduction of student population in which the reduction actually took place two years prior. The two years leading up to that \$1.6 M reduction our student population went up.

Mr. Tenreiro: In FY11 the true number is something like \$31,109,000?

Mr. Conlon: That's correct.

Mr. Tenreiro: So the Maintenance of Effort is based on that had it not been for the \$2.9 M? The \$31,109,000 would have been the 100% Maintenance of Effort?

Mr. Conlon: It would have been the Maintenance of Effort plus the amount of money we get relating to Maintenance of Effort that relate to prior years' deficit reduction plans.

Mr. Tenreiro: What is the percentage that we were funded at last year?

Mr. Conlon: It was just below 90%. 90% would have been \$2.6 M.

Mr. Tenreiro: Is that the issue when it says that City's must provide at least 95% of Maintenance of Effort?

Mr. Robinson: When you're putting debt back into a school department's budget to pay back these deals that is not money to support these schools. That is money in my opinion to support a municipal debt.

Mr. Tenreiro: What is the answer to Mr. Noonan's question? What is that figure?

Mr. Conlon: Do we include that figure to include the student population or not? It depends whether Maintenance of Effort includes or excludes the Maintenance of Effort that resulted from prior years' deficit reduction plans.

Mr. Tenreiro: The thing that really stands out is the enrollment reduction and that should really be returned.

Mr. Conlon: By not returning that it creates a structural deficit and goes on and on and on.

Mr. Spooner: We met with the Commissioner and there were a few of

us there. You've got the Commissioner saying it's 100%, the Senate President saying it's 95% and you ask for a decision and here in Rhode Island you get "it depends." I'm trying to find out if Rhode Island General Law supersedes what comes out of the legislature. Well that depends. Why can't someone make a decision so that we can move on to the things that we need to take care of around here?

Mr. Tenreiro: Let's take that \$2.9 M figure and the Commissioner says you're owed that. Paiva-Weed's letter says you're owed that at least \$1.4 M assuming that there was only 95% reduction. I think both of those people would agree that the enrollment figure is due this school committee period.

Mrs. Cylke: What are we asking for and Mr. Tenreiro's remarks would have been my concluding remarks. We have a \$100 M budget. We now have a \$1.2 M deficit. It's now down to 1%. We're not going to have a State takeover over 1%. It's ridiculous to pursue legal action over 1% knowing that may change by \$500,000. We have a \$1.2 M deficit and by law we have to have a balanced budget and the logical way to find ways to take the \$1.2 M off are to identify further cuts or to find the additional revenue. The real challenge we have is to get a clear definition on Maintenance of Effort. Who has the right definition—The Commissioner or Paiva-Weed? Once that's settled we need to bring to the Mayor the issue of the reduction because of numbers. We need to say you owe us \$900,000 or \$1.2 M and here are the legal reasons why. If they are unable to then we need to sit down and discuss this. I'm very proud of what the staff has done to bring this deficit down from \$7.3 M to \$1.2 M. Why it was my

recommendation tonight not to take any action is because we have that unknown and we have asked Steve to work on that and Mr. Conlon has asked Mr. Abbott to work on that. Until that is resolved it's difficult to work on that number. Mr. Tenreiro made a good point and we haven't lost sight of that and that is that we were cut due to enrollment numbers when in fact our enrollment went up. That number was \$1.5 M and I believe we have a good legal argument for that.

Mr. Araujo: Do we have the numbers of how much enrollment has increased now?

Mrs. Cylke: The numbers did come down in Pawtucket from about 10,000 to about 8,500 but they are starting to climb back up.

Mr. Araujo: With that climb, does that only represent a percentage of that \$1,573,000?

Mr. Tenreiro: With that climb, we had to add \$470,000. The thing I don't necessarily understand is that the communication to the City Council asked for a joint meeting and they responded inviting us to a budget workshop as a department and also requesting a copy of the teacher's contract.

Mr. Robinson: You can't go back. Budgets are done on a one year cycle. They obviously went back ten years and took 1,200 less kids. That is not what its intent was. It also has in their non reoccurring expenses. It addresses Newport. One year they lost the Navy, so they lost 40 kids.

Mrs. Cylke: I believe what happened is the City had its budget cut by \$9 M because the State legislature decided to maintain the

automobile excise tax money. The school department uses 1/3 of their budget (the City's) 1/3 of 9 is \$3 M. There has to be an adjustment somewhere. The adjustment just as I came on board was we have to cut your budget by \$2.9 M. They said the State is allowing us to do 95% Maintenance of Effort. That is \$1.4 M and we are going to reduce your revenue because your enrollment is down. We questioned that from the beginning because that was a onetime thing and our numbers are going up and it is not an acceptable reason for reducing our numbers. I think if the City had the money this would not be an argument.

Mr. Tenreiro: Worse case scenario is we are told "no you are not getting it" and no compromise can be reached between the leadership of the City here. We have already brought the budget into appropriation, is it possible that we could seek waivers in June? What's the time line to keep in mind for Caruolo in case it's necessary?

Mr. Robinson: If you start a Caruolo in late October or November, you're in the ballgame.

Mr. Conlon: There's one more wrinkle in this whole Maintenance of Effort issue. Let's say we prevail and the City gives us the \$2.9 M. That may in fact put us over the Paiva-Weed cap. They might not legally be able to do it. That's one of the legal issues Steve and the Department of Education are going to have to iron out. We always adjust the budget to actual conditions in October with the thing that is going on with the pension I don't know but there may be more retirements and what is going on with the State and the Governor's

plan for the sales tax, we don't really know what is going on with the legislature.

Mr. Tenreiro: What is that number for Pawtucket, the pension reform?

Mr. Conlon: \$3 to 4 M.

Mrs. Cylke: All of the new monies that the schools would get under the new funding formula would have to go to funding the pension formula.

Mr. Coughlin: The \$1 M deficit is predicated on the State allocation and the State allocation may be soft at this point?

Mr. Conlon: Up until the last two years, it's always changed. The legislative budget has always been different than the Governor's budget. Right now we are working with the Governor's proposal. The last couple of years they went with the Governor's proposal.

Mr. Coughlin: The appropriation could be less?

Mr. Conlon: Yes, it could be, it could be more it could be exactly the same. Carolyn Dias said be cautious.

Mr. Tenreiro: I think the comment about holding is definitely good right now. I think what the committee has done thus far out in the public has been thoughtful though some of them painful and difficult.

Mrs. Cylke: Mr. Conlon and I did meet with the Mayor last week and explained to him that chain of events with the Literacy Set Aside monies. Thank you, Mr. Robinson and Ms. Bejma.

Mr. Robinson and Ms. Bejma left the meeting at 7:20 PM.

d. Acceptable Use of Network Technology Policy (Revised, May 2011)

e. Pawtucket School Department Social Media and Internet Guidelines

Mr. Spooner left the meeting at 7:22 PM for a short break and turned the meeting over to the Deputy Chairperson, Mr. Tenreiro.

Mr. Noonan left the meeting at 7:22 PM.

Mr. St. Jean: This is a review of the Acceptable Use Policy and Social Media Guideline that was brought up at the last school committee meeting. Mr. Tenreiro mentioned that there were a couple of sections that he thought could use the benefit of revision so I took his suggestions and we eliminated a section that was repetitious and made a few other changes in language that were referred to deans or headmasters. Vicki reviewed these.

This is the second reading of these policies.

Mr. Araujo moved to approve the Acceptable Use of Network Technology Policy (Revised, May 2011) and the Pawtucket School Department Social Media and Internet Guidelines. Ms. Nordquist seconded.

Roll call:

Mr. Araujo-yes; Ms. Bonollo-yes; Mr. Coughlin-abstain; Ms. Nordquist-yes; Mr. Tenreiro-yes

Motion passed four in favor; one abstention.

Mrs. Cylke: One thing I've heard from my regular meetings with our staff is cell phone use and the fact that most cell phones these days have multiple uses and we have to look at that. I want to put together a group and come up with a policy that addresses that, cell phone use in the class room. It's not just kids, its adults too. I've been to meetings where adults are texting while talking so it's very

distracting.

Mr. Spooner returned at 7:25 PM and resumed his duties as Chairperson.

Mr. Noonan returned at 7:25 PM.

f. Award of Bid: School Bus Transportation

Mr. Conlon: There is no school bus transportation bid. We collaborated with six other districts and worked with RIDE and the bids have been opened and they are currently doing all of the analysis and they have not finished yet. So we do not have the results yet. We have to pass on it. There were five companies that bid.

Mr. Noonan: We're not going to have happen what happened in Cumberland last year, are we?

Mr. Conlon: No.

g. Sodexo Contract Renewal

Mr. Conlon: Federal law allows a one year contract with four one year renewals by mutual agreement. We are recommending that we renew for second of those one year renewals with Sodexo. The only changes are a 1.8% increase in fees which they only get paid on meals served. So the total increase to them would be \$2,100. We are increasing our charges to them for custodial and utilities by \$9,000. The renewal has been approved by RIDE as is required by the U. S. D. A.

I ask for your approval to renew this contract for next year.

Ms. Bonollo moved to approve the one year renewal of the Sodexo contract with the 1.8% fee increase and increase in utilities and

custodial charges by the district of \$9,000. Ms. Nordquist seconded.

Roll call:

Mr. Araujo-yes; Ms. Bonollo-yes; Mr. Coughlin-abstain; Mr. Noonan-abstain; Ms. Nordquist-yes; Mr. Tenreiro-yes; Mr. Spooner-yes

Motion passed five in favor; two abstentions.

h. Approval of New Job Descriptions

Mrs. Cylke: We have two new job descriptions one is for the Chief School Performance Officer Secondary Schools and Chief School Performance Officer at the Elementary Schools. The other job description is for the Administrative Facilitator for School Improvement specifically at Shea and Tolman High School. That job has been presented to you previously by the Deputy and approved, but that was for an elementary school. This is specifically a secondary position.

Ms. Nordquist: I would like the Chief Performance Officers separate from the Administrative Facilitator.

Mr. Tenreiro moved to approve the job description for the Administrative Facilitator for School Improvement and to include the Educators' Code of Professional Responsibilities. Ms. Nordquist seconded.

Ms. Nordquist: Did you just say that we approved this for elementary Mrs. Cylke?

Mrs. Cylke: The position currently held by Michael Gilmore and before that it was held by Gina Grossi.

Ms. Nordquist: That was for the elementary school. This is supposed

to be district wide. That is the same funding?

Mrs. Cylke: Yes. It's called Title I (a) funding and it has to go to those schools that haven't made AYP. And Shea and Tolman have not made AYP and this is one of the resources that we want to allocate and as noted in the job description this position will be focused on transitioning from the eighth grade to ninth grade and in close association with freshmen.

Ms. Nordquist: I noticed that you wanted this person to have been an administrator for five years and I'm curious as to your reasoning behind this because what if there wasn't a high school administrator that wasn't familiar with teaching high school freshmen and maybe I taught for twenty years why wouldn't they be qualified in a position like this in a system like this that transitions into high school.

Mrs. Cylke: This says five years performance as a successful secondary educator.

Ms. Nordquist: But it says Masters Degree in administration or educational leadership. So if they don't have a Masters degree in educational leadership then they don't qualify? I apologize, I was confusing the two. So the one at Fallon will no longer be in place?

Mrs. Cylke: It could be.

Ms. Nordquist: Are these funds guaranteed for just one year or for two years?

Ms. Mercer: Two years.

Mrs. Cylke: Once you make AYP, you have to make it for two years in a row to get off the list.

Ms. Nordquist: This individual will be at Shea or Tolman at all times

or at the Administration Building at all times?

Mrs. Cylke: They'll be two, one a Shea and one at Tolman. Currently Monique Jacobs does a great job and a lot of what is on this job description but we really want to focus on the freshmen and have that person at each school.

Roll call:

Mr. Araujo-yes; Ms. Bonollo-yes; Mr. Coughlin-abstain; Mr. Noonan-abstain; Ms. Nordquist-yes; Mr. Tenreiro-yes; Mr. Spooner-yes

Motion passed five in favor; two abstentions.

Mr. Tenreiro moved to approve the Chief School Performance Officer at the Elementary Schools and the Chief School Performance Officer at the Secondary Schools. Mr. Araujo seconded.

Ms. Nordquist: These two positions are planned to be paid out of Title I funds correct?

Mrs. Cylke: Yes, regular Title I funds.

Ms. Nordquist: So the Reading Specialist that we still have on the layoff list—that money could technically be used to bring some of those teachers back, correct?

Mrs. Cylke: That is correct.

Ms. Nordquist: I have a real problem with hiring two administrators when we have teachers that we could be bringing back into the classrooms. I consider this to be different than the other positions because of the situation we have been in with the high schools.

These positions here, especially the wording, “these are traditionally Assistant Superintendent Positions.” We had an Assistant

Superintendent who retired and we didn't replace due to dire economic restraints and we have teachers that we could come back into the district. I just want to ask my colleagues to think about the message your sending. We have another item where we are asking for more cuts and then we are going to ask for these two positions in the financial situation that we are in? I will be voting no for these two positions.

Roll call:

**Mr. Araujo-yes; Ms. Bonollo-yes; Mr. Coughlin-abstain; Mr. Noonan-abstain; Ms. Nordquist-no; Mr. Tenreiro-no; Mr. Spooner-yes
Motion failed two opposed; two abstentions; three in favor.**

i. Resolution to Eliminate Healthcare benefits for School Committee Members Effective January 1, 2013

Mr. Tenreiro: The final item is a resolution to eliminate healthcare benefits for School Committee members effective January 1, 2013. This is a resolution in support of the idea of our action would mean nothing. The City Council would pass an ordinance to eliminate healthcare benefits for our members.

Mr. Tenreiro moved to approve his resolution to eliminate healthcare benefits for Pawtucket School Committee Members effective January 1, 2013. Mr. Coughlin seconded.

Mr. Coughlin: Mr. Tenreiro in his opening statements stated that this will have no effect and this will be in the province of the Pawtucket City Council. Why are we being asked to vote on something that is absolutely meaningless and has no effect?

Mr. Tenreiro: I'm putting it forward because it's something that I feel I

agree with. As an elected leader and a member of this School Committee I feel that our healthcare shouldn't be provided by the taxpayers of this City. One of the reasons I put the effective date is I think a lot of what you hear in the City Council right now is making the effective date this July. I think that would pull the rug out from under folks who have their current coverage with the City and some of you might be in a rush to find some health care so I made it for January 1 for the incoming School Committee. It's a measure of support to the Mayor's plan as an elected official.

Mr. Coughlin: The health benefit is strictly within the prevue of the Council guided by the Charter or the Ordinance. The City Council eliminates the benefits on July 1. On what authority does the School Committee are we carrying the benefit forward?

Mr. Tenreiro: To be very honest I changed the date not to oppose the...I am all for the July 1st, 2011 date. I thought by moving that date would give support to the way the resolution is currently written.

Mr. Coughlin: When is it effective?

Mr. Tenreiro: It's a measure of support as an elected official.

Mr. Spooner: If you quote me insurance, I don't think if fair to take it away half way through.

Mr. Coughlin: If the Council takes it away on July 1st, 2011?

Mr. Spooner: Then it's gone.

Mr. Coughlin: So this date is meaningless.

Mr. Spooner: It's trying to save those people who are currently on until their term is up.

Ms. Bonollo: It says in your resolution that it comes out of the School

Department budget and as far as I know it comes out of the City's budget.

Mr. Conlon: It's a chargeback. They charge us for that.

Ms. Bonollo: The other problem I have with it is that you talk about the Caruolo action and the personal obligation I have to this City and personal liability and the budget that this district is and if this district has a deficit and I'm responsible and they can go ahead and take my house, my car and my possessions and you want me to do that on a voluntary basis?

Ms. Nordquist: What I believe she is saying is that you expect her to uphold to those standards and in exchange put herself up for personal liability.

Mr. Tenreiro: It's my belief that we don't run for School Committee for health benefits.

Ms. Bonollo: I don't think that everyone that sits on the Committee should have that right taken away.

Ms. Nordquist: I don't know whether or not a vote is taken will have any effect on what the Council decides, but I do remember when a vote was taken to start paying co-pay with a colleague of mine and the Council chose differently, so that vote was important and just so you know it's not free. I don't think the savings generated will do much for the City, but it does show an effort by leadership. There was not one mention in the Times article about the School Committee members and their benefits. It only mentioned the City Council and how they exhaust their stipend after paying for it, which by the way their stipend is double what ours is. A family plan for a School

Committee member is double and it costs money. It's not a part time job either. There are members who put in a lot of time and take a lot of grief, much more than the City Council. Mr. Coughlin you asked why we have to vote on this, well we voted for your resolution that went to the assembly as a show of support and that's what we are looking for tonight. Should having health benefits make someone decide if they are going to run? Absolutely not. I will support this as a symbol of leadership.

Mr. Araujo: As we ask the City to give back I think it's the true spirit of collaborating that these folks understand a give back. We understand give back on our part will be in good faith. This resolution is something I will approve. I am willing to give back as well.

Roll call:

Mr. Araujo-yes; Ms. Bonollo-abstain; Mr. Coughlin-abstain; Mr. Noonan- since consistency is the gospel of the night, I'll abstain; Ms. Nordquist-yes; Mr. Spooner-yes

Motion passed four in favor; three abstentions.

VI. Adjournment

Ms. Nordquist moved to adjourn. Mr. Coughlin seconded.

Voice vote carried unanimously.

The Chairperson adjourned the special meeting of May 31, 2011 of the Pawtucket School Committee at 7:51 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Clerk

APPROVED 9/27/11