

Regular Meeting of the Pawtucket School Committee

Tuesday, February 14, 2012, 6:00 PM

Jenks/JMW Complex for the Performing and Visual Arts Media Center

350 Division Street, Pawtucket, RI 02860

I Meeting will come to order

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

a. Roll call

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

Also in attendance were Ms. Kimberly Mercer, Deputy Superintendent for Curriculum Instruction and Assessment; Ms. Patti DiCenso, School Performance Officer- Secondary; Mr. Thomas J. Conlon, Business Administrator; Ms. Maggie Baker, Assistant Business Administrator and Ms. Vicki Bejma, Legal Counsel for the Pawtucket School Committee.

b. Pledge of Allegiance

The Chairman led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

II Recognition/Celebration

None

III Student Representatives

a. Charles E. Shea

Anton: Good evening. Liana is not able to be here this evening. We'll start off with the Key Club and they made Valentine's Day cards for the kids in Hasbro Children's Hospital. Senior night is this Friday night for our basketball team and we have five seniors on our

basketball team. We will be playing Tolman. We have been selling tickets for the last month and we've seen a great turn out but we haven't seen you guys there yet. We talk about this all the time. We hope to see you guys at this game. This Monday of vacation at 5:00 AM the kids will be going to New York until Friday. They are all really excited. They have been fund raising all year for this trip.

On May 10th we have a fashion show. I'm going to be hosting that. The Cinderella play was a great turn out. The book club is doing the "Kiss of Life" vampire series. We had a sweetheart dance. It's the second dance in a row that we were able to hold because ticket sales were big enough. In my first my three years here we didn't really have any because no one was interested. The freshmen and sophomores coming in are interested in school pride and want to come to the dances. We haven't been very successful in selling enough tickets. Have a great one. Happy Valentine's Day.

William E. Tolman

Jerilynn: The physical education and law education academy under the guidance of Candace Turner are working on lifeguard certification in collaboration with the YMCA. In some elective courses under the guidance of Lindsey Shultz the students are learning their CPR certifications. In health/physical education course, the students have been visiting the elementary schools and have been working with Pawtucket's younger students. The aquatics course under the guidance of Theo Murray, a planned canoe trip will be rowing in the spring. Also in the physical education department, youth activation in collaboration with Rhode Island Special Olympics is preparing a

weeklong event highlighting themes relating to special needs students. Some events will include having a basketball tournament or a dodge ball tournament. It's nice to see others volunteer and helping and playing with them. For business in DECA the school business organization are run by Rob D'Arezzo and they are heading to another statewide competition. This competition will be held March 2nd at Johnson & Wales University. Students who take first place and second place will move on to the Nationals. The marketing and management academy just finished working on a brochure of a fictional American home in collaboration with graduate students from Roger Williams. Students in this academy are also working to earn their National Retail Federation Customer Service accreditation. As for social studies, the close up project under the guidance of Chris Souza is fund raising for their trip in the spring to Washington DC. Students are involved in the "We the People" under the guidance of Kevin Dunphy which was on Saturday, September 11th. The law and public academy students have been attending their internships on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons. These internships are both interesting and unique. As for the family and consumer sciences, students in our early childhood academy under the guidance of Jane Chabot and Chrissie LaScola are working hard on their final presentation for the Rhode Island Early Childhood Standard Certificate. This certificate is usually handed out to older people, but its good satisfaction that students are actually doing it and working hard to get it. They had to do 15 hours of training and field work to get their certification. For art we are having collaboration with the

sounds and words of imagery and sounds of Morris Nathanson. On Monday we actually had an assembly and it was bringing together music and poems and illustrations and as they explained to us a different way of thinking how everything is connected. The English Department is doing that also. There is a memory project under the guidance of Christine Tavares. She works with students from a county Sierra Leone. She works with the students on photo collages and photos of how they are now and they will have memories of how they age. The Chemistry club under the guidance of Shane Anderson has been meeting weekly after school. The club has three leaders who have decided over the following week if students will provide their own materials under the supervision of Shane to conduct experiments. Thank you.

c. Jacqueline M. Walsh

None, Destiny is home ill.

IV Public Participation

Mrs. de Jesus: Good evening. I'm here to speak again about the lack of supervision especially in the morning at many of the elementary schools and provide an update from my point of view. Kathy Suriani met with the parent focus group at Nathanael Greene yesterday and nine parents, three teachers and the principal showed up. Last month it was only four parents, one teacher and the principal. I started getting around a petition at Greene to parents who may not want to come forward or speak at a focus group but they want to let their voice be heard. So far, I have 52 signatures on the petition; 51 from Nathanael Greene and one from Curtis. We were

informed yesterday that Kathleen Suriani and the Superintendent, Mrs. Cylke, will be presenting their report to the School Committee in March. I would like to see that a final decision be made at next month's meeting and that corrective action be taken before the April meeting.

V Acceptance of previous meeting's minutes: 1/10/12

Mr. Spooner moved to approve the minutes from January 10, 2012.

Ms. Bonollo seconded.

Voice vote carried all in favor.

VI Presentation(s) Discussion Items

a. High School Transformation Planning Update

Mrs. DiCenso: I'm going to give you an overview of what has been happening here. The Superintendent has given specific information about the transformation model and we had to give specific information why that particular model was better. We had to wait for her to respond.

We have begun meeting Thursday evenings and what is required from Commissioner Gist.

Teacher and School Leader Effectiveness:

Because of our relationship with the teachers' union, we are well beyond the rubrics for this category.

Model for Professional Development:

What we have to do is tweak the model that Pawtucket has so that Pawtucket is ongoing.

One of the big components is using data to identify and implement research based vertically aligned state academic standards. We have

to move it before the students reach grade 11 and not while they are in grade 11.

Protocol for Intervention:

We have to show we need to expand time for learning—access for all students. One of the sub committees consists of the Chairman, Mr. Beaupre, Christina DiPrete and the Superintendent.

Family and Community Engagement—we are actually using community rooms in some of the housing to talk about college night. Some of the community housing can bring Shea and Tolman on the road.

Operational Flexibility and Sustained Support:

Keep schools open until 4:00 PM without a cost factor. Instead of 8:00 AM – 2:00 PM let's try 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM. It's just an idea on paper right now. We can get more creative and bring as many options to the table.

Ensure ongoing, intensive technical support by State and SEA.

Sub-Committees:

-School Schedule and Staffing

-Access and Opportunity

sustainable from teachers

-Instructional Leadership

-Data Committee

-School Climate

Includes classes on de-escalation; some students are here to be college/career ready

-Community and Parent Outreach

-Budget (very small committee—Debbie, Kim and myself)

My concern as a former building leader is you can have a great plan. If others in the building don't own it, it's not going to work. We decided to have a Committee Chair. It will be very transparent.

Access and Opportunity:

Sub-committees include students, the school committee chair, administrators, teachers, specialists, parents and community leaders.

Notes will be going out to the entire staff and students and they can weigh in and when they approve they can't say they didn't know about that.

I think they're excited. This is important and they can be part of something great in Pawtucket.

Important Dates:

RIDE is modifying my performance point of the plan to be submitted appropriately. Tomorrow my progress report is due.

First week in March the presentation of the Shea/Tolman Transformation Plan to the Pawtucket School Committee and the plan is due to RIDE.

March 25th, The Commissioner approves the plans and awards the funds.

March 30th – September 30th, pre-implementation plan which includes hiring principals and proceed.

Mr. Coughlin: You've been meeting with RIDE, March 16th, they know what's coming?

Mrs. DiCenso: Yes. When you have looked at an extended day, they know on Wednesday it's an early release. On Wednesday it's to put

those minutes back in, but it's a cost factor we were hoping it would be adequate, but it was not. It was a good start.

One of the things they've been helpful with is Ms. Mercer has, she's redone numbers for one of her grants and hope RIDE is able to regroup and submit, but one person at RIDE is not well and hasn't responded.

Ms. Bonollo: Can we be on your list to see changes as they happen?

Mrs. DiCenso: Right now they are very big and broad, but we certainly can and can get them easily from Alan.

Mr. Noonan: Can they really shoot you down? You're not expected to be shot down?

Mrs. DiCenso: No. They call it hand holding. They're aware of the money issue as well. They're very problematic. We've never been in this process. It's going to be collaborative and transparent.

Mr. Tenreiro: The rollover data—I'm very interested and we have to fully examine the impact of teen pregnancy rate. What do you see the teen roll over data as we progress?

Mrs. DiCenso: We need to get data in the hands of the teachers as we watch them grow. We know RIDE is coming out with a warehouse of data of teachers with what they have and how they grow. It's no longer the old way of teaching. The other piece is where are these kids? Why are they not finishing? Why the high birth rate? Kids Count—why are they not participating in this?

The parents—how do they feel about Shea and Tolman? We are working with Mike St. Jean and Lynn Cristino and how they are able to access information for your schools. How can we get a survey

done in housing areas?

Mr. Araujo: Is that where you're looking at focusing parent and community outreach?

Mrs. DiCenso: I want to say the parents and students as well as Roberta King at Shea have done a really good job. It will start by going out into the community to find out where they are. The magic is in grades 5, 6, 7 and 8.

b. Human Resources Study Report

Mr. Tenreiro: Attached is the "Examination of the Potential Sharing of Human Resources between the Pawtucket School Department and the city of Pawtucket Final Report" recently completed by Dr. Robert Schiller. Both the Mayor and I endorsed this study as we wish to look at potential cost savings and efficiencies of sharing of services. The report is for your review. I have met with the Mayor and Tony Pires to discuss the recommendations and options presented in the report. I am not recommending we take action at this time for two reasons: 1) We are in a budget development process, and funding, for such a position, shared or not, is questionable at this time; and 2) the Mayor advised me that the City will soon have RIPEC conduct an organizational and efficiencies audit of City services and contracts. Both the Mayor and I feel it is prudent to see what recommendations may emerge from the RIPEC study, which should be completed by May 1, prior to making any decisions on HR services.

This is informational only at this time.

Mr. Noonan: It says confidential. How confidential is it?

Mr. Tenreiro: At this point it is a public record.

VII Old Business-Action Item

a. Contract Continuation Resolution

Mr. Coughlin: This has been put forth by Tim Duffy and the Executive Board asking all School Committees to adopt the resolution and oppose 2012 H 7250 that would mandate that expired teacher contracts shall continue under the same terms and conditions and also oppose any other legislation that should come forth like it.

Mr. Noonan moved to approve the Resolution 2012 H 7250- Contract Continuation. **Mr. Coughlin** seconded.

Mr. Spooner: I would just ask if you are going to send something through that you include a copy of the bill with it.

Mr. Coughlin: It's attached. It's the 3rd page.

Mr. Spooner: Thank you.

Ms. Nordquist: I will be voting on this resolution. I don't think it's a good idea. What happened in East Providence was atrocious. What is it they want to see happen should a contract expire and the School Committee be forced to uphold their contract? It would be to the Committee's advantage. What's this talk at RIASC as to why this is such a good idea?

Mr. Coughlin: I haven't heard anything. Tim Duffy sent it forward.

Ms. Nordquist: We don't even have the power to vote on this anymore. So we have to vote on this when we can't even negotiate for our teacher the ones that educate our students. I'm voting no.

Mr. Araujo: We don't have the power to vote our contract anymore.

Mr. Tenreiro: I have a question. The final resolution. You want a copy of the resolution to be forwarded to every school committee and

legislature in the state, including the Governor? How is that done? Is a copy actually mailed to everyone on that list? If that is the case, that is quite costly. Is it sent by email?

Mr. Coughlin: Dianna sends it to Judy at RIASC and it is forwarded from there. That is how it was done the last time.

Mr. Spooner: Is there still a bill going through for the binding arbitration?

Mr. Tenreiro: I don't think there is a bill at this time.

Mr. Beaupre: It was passed by the Senate but held in the House for further study. At this time, there is no binding arbitration on the floor.

Mr. Spooner: My question is if we pass this, can it hold up since we no longer have the final authority to pass any contract?

Mr. Tenreiro: This would be a resolution that we oppose that bill and send it to all parties.

Mr. Coughlin: Time Duffy takes all of these resolutions he garners and takes them to the House when he testifies and says RIASC opposes this and says I've got all these School Committees who oppose it. It has nothing to do with an individual contract.

Roll call

Mr. Araujo-yes; Ms. Bonollo-yes; Mr. Coughlin-yes; Mr. Noonan-yes; Ms. Nordquist-no; Mr. Spooner-yes; Mr. Tenreiro-yes

Motion carried six in favor; one opposed.

VIII New Business-Action Items

a. Appointments

Ms. Mercer: We are recommending your approval on the following appointments:

Certified:

Ashley Soares, Math/Slater Jr. High

Danielle Thurber, Math/Goff Jr. High, Effective 2/27/12

Non Certified:

Elaine Cintron, Teacher Assistant/Building Assistant-Greene

Coaching:

Kayla Fleming, Assistant Coach Girls' Basketball/Tolman

Ms. Nordquist moved to approve the appointments of Ashley Soares, Math/Slater Jr. High

Danielle Thurber, Math/Goff Jr. High, Effective 2/27/12, Elaine Cintron, Teacher Assistant/Building Assistant-Greene and Kayla Fleming, Assistant Coach Girls' Basketball/Tolman. Ms. Bonollo seconded.

Mr. Noonan: What step are the certified?

Ms. Mercer: One is step one.

Mr. Tenreiro: One is a former student.

Voice vote carried all in favor.

b. Non Renewals/Teacher Terminations

Ms. Mercer: According to Rhode Island Law, teachers must be notified my March 1st when their contract is not going to be renewed. One hundred and twenty three teachers (123) have been identified on the list provided to you this evening. We are requesting the list of 123 teacher non renewals/terminations be approved as presented.

Mr. Spooner moved to adopt the Superintendent's recommendation to terminations/non renewals or otherwise in accordance with the written notification and the list of 123 names provided to the committee. Ms. Bonollo seconded. (List - Attachment A)

Ms. Nordquist: Every year this is different that this is state law that this has to be done by March 1st. There is a lot of time that goes into this. I want to acknowledge Kim for this and hopefully see recalls sooner than later.

Mr. Tenreiro: I think it's a good point and it's hard to understand the fiscal reason for doing this. As a committee official I would like to see the date pushed to June 1st. It's a good thing to explain to new teachers.

Roll call

Mr. Araujo-yes; Ms. Bonollo-yes; Mr. Coughlin-no; Mr. Noonan-yes; Ms. Nordquist-yes; Mr. Spooner-yes; Mr. Tenreiro-yes

Motion carried six in favor; one opposed.

c. Facilities Director Job Description

Mr. Tenreiro: The Superintendent reorganization plan for oversight of the Pawtucket Facilities Department requires a new Director position. The successful candidate for this position will require a broad range of knowledge and skill in facilities planning, maintenance, construction and supervision. Last year, the custodial supervisor position was eliminated and duties of that position shifted to the Energy Manager.

The Superintendent is requesting that the Committee approves the job description for the new PSD Director of Facilities position.

Mr. Coughlin moved to approve the job description for the new Pawtucket School Department Director of Facilities position. **Mr. Spooner** seconded.

Voice vote carried all in favor.

d. Award of Bid

Stage II-Necessity of Construction

Mr. Conlon: In order to receive Housing Aid reimbursement from the state, the District must comply with the Necessity of Construction regulations promulgated by the State in 2007. The process consists of three stages. Stage I identified the inadequacies. Stage II consists of two parts. The first part will result in a five year plan that will address the immediate health and safety issues identified in Stage I. Part Two will result in a long-range plan to address all of the other issues not related to health and safety.

Part One Health and Safety will be presented to the Board of Regents and the Legislature, once it's been vetted by RIDE, so it won't be effected by the three year moratorium on Housing Aid reimbursements.

It was recommended that we have a pre-bid meeting. We received five submissions. One firm was ten times more than the rest. We interviewed the four remaining firms. The interview committee consisted of me, Debbie, Kim, Maggie, Mike St. Jean, Ernie Morgan, and Dennis Rebelo. We voted unanimously to recommend State II be awarded to SMMA. They have already successfully completed Stage II in five other districts.

It is our recommendation that the Committee award the bid, Stage II, Necessity of Construction to SMMA in the amount of \$128,000 which is reimbursable at the 74% Housing Rate.

It is \$8,000.00 more than the lowest bidder.

Mr. Noonan moved to approve the award of bid, Stage II, Necessity of

Construction to SMMA, in the amount of \$128,000, which is reimbursable at the 74% Housing Rate. Mr. Coughlin seconded.

Mr. Conlon: RIDE told us are doing everything right.

Ms. Bonollo: Where is this company from?

Mr. Conlon: The main office is in Cambridge. They have an office in Providence. They gave a very professional presentation.

Mr. Araujo: 74% is reimbursable?

Mr. Conlon: Yes of the \$128,000.

Ms. Bonollo: They have the insurance that has to be carried?

Mr. Conlon: It has to be covered.

Mr. Noonan: These aren't the people who did City Hall?

Mr. Conlon: No. Stage I identifies Stage II. Stage III does the actual work.

Mr. Tenreiro: Mrs. de Jesus talked about health and safety. The drop off and pick up zones fall into it.

Voice vote carried all in favor.

IX Superintendents Report

None

X Special Reports of School Committee Members

Mr. Araujo: Have a good evening.

Ms. Bonollo: We will be having a Wellness Meeting on February 28, 2012 in the School Administration Building Conference Room. We are working on a new policy and welcome input of faculty and parents. We'll be looking at a backpack program and would like more input. It's at 6:00 PM and we hope to see some new faces there.

Mr. Coughlin: Ms. Mercer did a very nice job tonight; can we now just

move it along?

Mr. Noonan: Happy Valentine's Day. Thank you for coming.

Ms. Nordquist: I want to tell you about science night at Varieur. It was well attended and it was nice to see all the parents working with the children.

The Tolman Cheerleaders will be hosting an event for the Interscholastic League. Seeing how big the school is and how small the gym is wouldn't it be great if Tolman could be on that list to get a bigger gym? Thank you. Good night.

Mr. Spooner: Good night everyone.

Mr. Tenreiro: I had a chance to walk through Agnes Little and Varieur and saw engaged students. I also walked through Shea and attended a leadership meeting. I wanted to thank them for having me. Thank you.

XI Adjournment

Mr. Coughlin moved to adjourn. **Mr. Noonan** seconded.

Voice vote carried all in favor.

The Chairman, **Mr. Tenreiro**, adjourned the regular meeting of the Pawtucket School Committee on February 14, 2012 at 7:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Clerk

APPROVED March 13, 2012