

# **Regular Meeting of the Pawtucket School Committee**

**Wednesday, September 12, 2012, 6:00 PM**

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

**350 Division Street, Pawtucket, RI 02860**

## **Minutes**

**I Meeting will come to order**

**The Chairman, Mr. Tenreiro, called the meeting to order at 6:05 PM.**

**a. Roll call**

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

**Also in attendance were Mrs. Deborah Cylke, Superintendent of Schools, Ms. Kimberly Mercer, Deputy Superintendent for Curriculum Instruction and Assessment and Mr. Thomas Conlon, Business Administrator.**

**Legal Counsel was not in attendance this evening.**

**b. Pledge of Allegiance**

**The Chairman led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.**

**II Celebration/Recognition**

**Mrs. Cylke recognized the teachers who gave up their time unselfishly by taking time out of their summer break to prepare for school. Mrs. Cylke noted the number of cars in the school parking lots before the start of the school year.**

**Mrs. Cylke also recognized Slater Junior High School and how great the ninety eight year old building looked. Mrs. Cylke was so impressed with the cleanliness. Mrs. Cylke wanted to acknowledge**

**the exemplary custodial staff at Slater for their hard work.**

**Dr. Ash, the Principal at Slater introduced her custodial staff; John C., John C., George S., and Bob B. Dr. Ash stated it was because of loyalty, perseverance and cooperation and that Slater is a palace because of them. They are Slater's unsung heroes.**

**Mrs. Cylke further acknowledged that the Slater custodians have a system that we need to replicate. Mrs. Cylke commented it wasn't the only school that looked great, but wanted to recognize it.**

### **III Student Representatives**

#### **a. Charles E. Shea Senior High School**

**Emeirizialina M.: Hi, I'm Emeirizialina and I'll be the new voice of Shea. The last four years have been weird. We had a new schedule every year. This year the schedule has helped due to two dropped classes and only having five. Advisory is a full class and is not going to be a waste of time. We're going for a purpose. Students appreciate that.**

**Seventy percent of the students didn't respect the teachers. We really respect the new leadership. You see more respect with the new leadership.**

**Technology is helpful. Seeing the flat screens with the information is great.**

**Our athletes are off to a great start. Our volleyball team won two games.**

#### **b. William E. Tolman Senior High School**

**No Report**

#### **c. Jacqueline M. Walsh School for the Performance and Visual Arts**

**No Report**

**IV Public Participation**

**None**

**V Acceptance of previous meetings' minutes: 6/12/12; 6/26/12; 7/31/12 and 8/14/12**

**Ms. Bonollo moved to accept and approve the previous meetings' minutes of 6/12/12; 6/26/12; 7/31/12 and 8/14/12. Mr. Coughlin seconded.**

**Voice vote carried all in favor.**

**VI New Business-Action Items**

**a. Recall of Teachers**

**Ms. Mercer: Tonight we are requesting your approval of the remaining two teacher recalls:**

**Ashley Soares, Shea Mathematics**

**Danielle Thurber, Curtis, Grade 6**

**These are the remaining two of the one hundred and twenty three teachers that were non-renewed in February.**

**Ms. Nordquist moved to approve the two teacher recalls as recommended by the Deputy Superintendent, Ms. Mercer. Ms. Bonollo seconded.**

**Voice vote carried in favor: six yeas; one nay**

**Mr. Araujo-yea; Ms. Bonollo-yea; Mr. Coughlin-nay; Mr. Noonan-yea;**

**Ms. Nordquist-yea; Mr. Spooner-yea; Mr. Tenreiro-yea**

**b. Certified Appointments**

**Mrs. Cylke: This evening we'd like to recommend the following certified appointments for your approval:**

**Lonnie Morris, Assistant Principal/Tolman**

**Brian Kampper, Tolman/Family Consumer Science & Wellness (New)  
Step 7 + Masters**

**Kevin Collard, Tolman/Biology Teacher Step 1 + Masters**

**Roni Bier, Tolman/Special Education Step 1**

**William James, Shea/Biology Teacher Step 1**

**Joseph Palazzo, Shea/Family Consumer Science & Wellness  
(New/Transformation) Step 2**

**Sarah Rockwell, Goff/Science Step 1**

**Mary Arruda, Goff/English Language Arts/Drama Step 1**

**Christen Farias, Slater/JMW ESL Teacher Step 6 + Masters (New)**

**Tanna Alves, Slater/Math Step 1**

**Corey Massey, Special Education Teacher/ALP Step One + Masters**

**Kathleen Maynard, Grade 9 Shea/Team Leader (New/Transformation)**

**Maria Houston, Grade 9 Shea/Team Leader (New/Transformation)**

**Robin Carlone, Grade 9 Team Leader/Tolman (New/Transformation)**

**Christopher Reynolds, Grade 9 Team Leader/Tolman  
(New/Transformation)**

**Jane Renza, Interim Guidance Department Chair-Tolman High School**

**Melinda Stachelek, Special Educator/Fallon Step 2**

**Danielle Barry, Potter/Gr. 1 Step 1 pending verification**

**Kasey Murray, Curvin McCabe/Kindergarten Step 1 pending  
verification**

**Jennifer Lesperance, Greene/Gr. 2 Step 1 pending verification**

**Elizabeth Metfooney, Cunningham/Gr. 1 Step 1 pending verification**

**Kelly Oliveira, Greene/Kindergarten Step 1 pending verification**

**Jenna Barbour, Cunningham/Gr. 4 Sheltered ESL Step 2 pending verification**

**Courtney Cooney, Little/Collaborative ESL Step 2 pending verification**

**Ms. Nordquist moved to approve the certified appointments as recommended by the Superintendent, Mrs. Cylke. Ms. Bonollo seconded.**

**Mr. Noonan inquired about the term “pending verification.”**

**Ms. Mercer: We have to verify that service.**

**Voice vote carried in favor: six yeas; one nay**

**Mr. Araujo-yea; Ms. Bonollo-yea; Mr. Coughlin-nay; Mr. Noonan-yea;**

**Ms. Nordquist-yea; Mr. Spooner-yea; Mr. Tenreiro-yea**

**Mrs. Cylke introduced Mr. Morris, the new Assistant Principal at Tolman High School to the audience.**

**Mr. Morris thanked the search committee, Mrs. Cylke and Ms. DiCenso and looks forward to the great changes that are coming to Tolman.**

### **c. Non Certified Appointment**

**Mrs. Cylke: Tonight we are asking for your approval for the following non certified appointments:**

**William Guise, Teacher Assistant/Greene Year One per Non Certified Contract**

**Brittany Bilodeau, Teacher Assistant/Curtis Year One per Non Certified Contract**

**Jennifer Lantagne, Teacher Assistant/Fallon Year One per Non Certified Contract**

**Ms. Nordquist moved to approve the non certified appointments as**

**recommended by the Superintendent, Mrs. Cylke.**

**Voice vote carried all in favor.**

**d. Coaching Appointments**

**Mrs. Cylke: Tonight we are recommending the committee's approval on the following coaching appointment:**

**Katie Desrosiers, Girls' Cross Country Coach/Shea**

**Ms. Nordquist moved to approve the coaching appointment as recommended by the Superintendent, Mrs. Cylke. Mr. Spooner seconded.**

**Voice vote carried all in favor.**

**e. Award of Bids**

**Health Supplies**

**Mr. Conlon: As we do every year, we went out to bid for health supplies. The following three companies responded and were awarded item by item the lowest bid price. Therefore, we are recommending Moore Medical, Farmington, CT, \$2,937.70; School Health Corp., Hanover Park, IL \$485.07 and United Health Supplies, Las Vegas , NV \$6,419.11 for a total amount of \$9,841.88 which is \$4,557.14 less than budgeted for FY13.**

**We have it here for your perusal.**

**Mr. Noonan moved to recommend the approval of the Health Supplies as recommended by the Business Administrator, Mr. Conlon. Mr. Spooner seconded.**

**Ms. Bonollo: I noticed one of the companies is located in Nevada. What does the shipping cost?**

**Mr. Conlon: It's included.**

**Mr. Araujo: Will we be short?**

**Mr. Conlon: We always order if needed. We should be good. This comes from the nurses.**

**Voice vote carried all in favor.**

### **Dental Services**

**Mr. Conlon:**

**As required by the state, the District must provide non-invasive dental screenings to students in Grades K-5 and Grade 7. We had two bidders. Proposals were submitted by St. Joseph's Services of Rhode Island and Dr. Philip Calabro of Pawtucket. Dr. Calabro has provided this service for the last several years, however, St. Joseph's is very good also and we are recommending you award the dental services bid to St. Joseph Health Services of R. I. for the total cost of \$13,526.**

**Ms. Bonollo moved to approve the Dental Services bid to St. Joseph Health Services of R. I. Mr. Araujo seconded.**

**Mr. Araujo: Where are they located?**

**Mr. Conlon: Central Falls.**

**Voice vote carried in favor: six yeas; one abstention.**

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

### **f. Approval of Lease Agreement—St. Paul's Episcopal Church**

**Mrs. Cylke informed the Committee that it was time to update the lease agreement with St. Paul's. It needed updated language and there was some requested language changes. There were numerous meetings with St. Paul's. At the last meeting I asked that you allow**

me to negotiate the agreement, but you would have the final say in it and I'm confident this is a good agreement that St. Paul's is happy with and we're happy with. It has been vetted by our legal counsel and is being recommended for approval by the Committee this evening.

Mr. Araujo moved to approve the lease agreement with St. Paul's Episcopal Church. Mr. Spooner seconded.

Ms. Bonollo: What are we currently paying? What about checking into use of the building next door which has medical facilities, have we looked into that?

Mrs. Cylke: We have a great working relationship with St. Paul's. We don't think there is a need to look there. Their lease requirements according to Mary are very reasonable and the space more than adequate. I don't think there has been a need to look elsewhere. In fact, I'm not aware that it is vacant.

Ms. Bonollo: The rent is going up \$5,000 after the first year. I'd like to look at other options, not that we're not happy with them. But if there is some space available at a reasonable cost in the surrounding area, we could probably use the whole building for the same price.

Mrs. Cylke: Part of the challenge is the hours we need it. If you want to hold this we did ask Mary to be here this evening.

Mr. Conlon: I've spoken to Mary and she is very content with the accommodations at St. Paul's especially the working relationships with their junior wardens.

Mr. Araujo: If we're looking about somewhere else, there would be some significant cost involved for moving furniture and equipment as

**well.**

**Mr. Noonan moved to table the approval of the lease agreement of St. Paul's Episcopal Church. Ms. Bonollo seconded.**

**Roll call**

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

**Motion to table carried six to one.**

**g. Approval of Job Description—Chief Information and Innovation Officer**

**Mrs. Cylke: I was prepared to come here tonight to ask for your approval on this job description for Mike St. Jean's replacement. Instead, after two discussions with the Mayor and in an effort to share collaboratively what he has asked us is changing some of the language and I felt it was too late to do that and inappropriate. In light of the fact that the RIPEC (Rhode Island Public Expenditure Council) study will be delivered to him within two days deliver it to you and make recommendations and bring this back at the next meeting.**

**Hersh is serving as the Interim Director and it is being covered. I did express to the Mayor that I am concerned because he is doing two jobs, his old job and the new job. I also shared a concern that Mr. Beaupre shared that the Interim has been going on for too long and a position that has been vacated by Mr. Cristino has not been filled.**

**Time is of the essence and there is a mutual goal of carefully viewed shared services. I think it is in the best interest to table this item and bring it back at the next meeting.**

**Mr. Araujo moved to table the approval of the job description—Chief Information and Innovation Officer. Ms. Bonollo seconded.**

**Roll call**

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

**Motion to table carried unanimously.**

**h. Approval of Pilot for Instructional Use of Electronic Devices**

**Mrs. Cylke: I'm going to ask Mr. Cristino to come before you and tell you about this program that is before you. The keyword here, is pilot.**

**What we want to do is update a policy, but just for a short period of time and get feedback from our teachers and our administrators and come back to you with any adjustment to policy you may feel are appropriate.**

**Mr. Cristino: We have done a lot of professional development with our teachers especially with transformation coming in to place. A lot of the new technologies taken place that are coming into the classroom that the students are able to take advantage of unfortunately, we don't have the one to one devices right now. After some professional development sessions, teachers have said that one of the things in our policy prevents our students from using those devices in our classrooms. This nine week pilot which would be at the high schools would allow teachers, if willing, when doing a research project or a survey, if they have their own device, whether it's a cell phone, laptop, ipad, a kindle fire—they could take out those devices and do a "Google search." If they are in a literature class and have their books downloaded, they could take out their device and**

look at their book online and look up reference material as well as collaborate together on projects.

The policy is well thought out and used in other districts acceptable uses, unacceptable uses and sanctions for going against the policy. It will allow the student to collaborate differently in the classroom with each other as well as with the instructor.

Ms. Nordquist moved to approve the Pilot for Instructional Use of Electronic Devices. Ms. Bonollo seconded.

Mr. Spooner: I think it's a great concept. But couldn't the teachers be able to inform their classes a day before if they wanted to use those the following day?

Mr. Cristino: With this policy, yes, they could. Under the current policy it's prohibiting them from doing it. They have their devices but we are not allowing them to take advantage of that to enhance their education.

Ms. Nordquist: I think having technology is always good for engaging students. It keeps their attention. I'm a little concerned because there is a down side to that to. There are cameras, recordings, the internet—they're smart. There could be incidents. But, I think it's worth a try where it could actually be helpful, especially in the high schools.

Mr. Araujo: One concern I would have is not every child in this district would have a phone or a device capable for looking up things so I would think it would be up to the individual classroom teacher have you to consider that be inclusive when we consider a new policy.

**Mr. Cristino:** The purpose of the pilot and the goal is that if fifty percent of our students have it, there's a fifty percent greater capacity in that room than the way we are doing it right now with zero. That's why it would have to be a collaborative project. Someone has the device and pulls it out and works with another.

**Ms. Bonollo:** If we pilot this program, the teachers in the classroom—my concern is theft. I really want the kids to understand that their devices are their own responsibility and we're not liable. Would they be signing off on a project or being part of a pilot program that they understand that the items they put forth in this policy?

**Mr. Cristino:** I think once everything is done there will be a sign off sheet stating that you are agreeing to this. We have a statement in there that says we are not responsible for theft.

**Ms. Bonollo:** I want them to sign off saying that they know that.

**Mr. Tenreiro:** Some schools register their device with their principal and they let them know that the school doesn't take any liability for theft. What's the wireless capacity at these buildings?

**Mr. Cristino:** I did put in there that it is the responsibility of the student using the device to have a data plan. If they are to use it, we are not responsible for them going over their limit. There is wireless in the schools, but because we didn't get the E-rate funding we would not be able to cover the capacity of that magnitude of the number of students.

**Mr. Coughlin:** 6.2 and 6.3, 24 by 7 versus school time; what does it apply to exactly?

**Mr. Cristino:** That's during school time exactly if they are using the phone inappropriately. I think that policy there is no different if it were a cell phone or a device. It would be under the same restrictions. If a student were to play something on Facebook that were to involve a school.

**Mr. Tenreiro:** It's the same type of policy you find outside of school when you sometimes find that cyber-bullying and things that were done inappropriately but this is just done on school time.

**Mrs. Cylke:** It's like when you used to send a mean note, now you send a mean text. Whether it's a note or you are doing it with your device, it's inappropriate and we're going to deal with it with disciplinary action.

**Mr. Coughlin:** Are we attempting to enforce derogatory obscene language that takes place at 4:30 PM when the students are not in school?

**Mrs. Cylke:** No. I think in general that cyber-bullying can happen at any time. For this pilot we are talking about a situation where the rule is you cannot turn on a smart device to you can now turn it on for educational purposes at the direction of your teacher. The inappropriate behavior is outlined in 6.1 and 6.2. So to make vulgar, derogatory, obscene comments while using your devices; those students would face disciplinary action.

**Mr. Coughlin:** 6.2 and 6.3 do not explicitly state during the school day and has legal counsel looked this over? Because it says that school has the right to look over mobile device. I'm not sure what the legality of that is. We are a government entity and now we are talking

about searching a device.

Mr. Noonan: You need a warrant. Under a ruling that came down from the Supreme Court Judge in Rhode Island you do.

Mr. Tenreiro: I wonder if we specifically speak to state assessments and the fact that they shouldn't even be on a day like that because if students take a picture of an exam and gets it out there.

Ms. Nordquist moved to table the Pilot for Instructional Use of Electronic Devices. Mr. Coughlin seconded.

Roll call

Mr. Araujo-yes; Ms. Bonollo-yes; Mr. Coughlin-to table, yes; Mr. Noonan-yes; Ms. Nordquist-yes; Mr. Spooner-yes; Mr. Tenreiro-yes  
Motion to table carried unanimously.

## VII Superintendent's Report

Mrs. Cylke: I want to congratulate the school committee members and Ms. Cano for their re-election yesterday. It's been a pleasure serving with you. We welcome new member, Ms. Cano and likewise I will greatly miss Mr. Noonan who I believe has been an excellent committee member and has served us well and will hopefully continue to serve on our facilities committee. Congratulations and I know we can count on 110% from Mr. Noonan and hope to have him come back and serve as a citizen in January on our facilities committee as we move forward.

In thirty four years in education this fall as we open for school I had the fewest phone calls I've ever had from disgruntled people; parents, teachers or citizens about the parking and traffic. For the most part it

was very smooth. Last year at this time Mr. Beaupre and I had met several times and I had a list of several issues and concerns and that became my bible for this year.

Our enrollment figures are pretty well established and the Deputy has made some changes and we had to hit some hot spots where we had way more students where we anticipated. We tried to address that quickly this week.

I want to thank all of the principals, teachers, custodians, and our central office staff. Again, really the quietest opening of schools. We had the usual we missed the bus or didn't know which bus stop.

My major concern after the opening of school is our schools are at or over capacity. I will be forming a School Capacity Study Team. As you recall Dr. Schiller did a study to refute a report done by Cotton & Company that came out in 2010 that said we should close two schools. We were going to save \$5M by closing two schools. He refuted this recommendation. As we look to the future we really only have four choices. We can lease space. We can add on to our schools, but that can't happen until after 2014. We can purchase mobile classrooms. We can look at multi track year round which would increase the capacity of a school by twenty percent. But that can only happen at air conditioned schools because students are in school during the summertime. There is a sense of urgency because as we look at the data we continue to have more students.

I'd like to recommend that we have a budget work session in October where we can be very focused on the FY12 deficit and looking forward we should have final figures as we are reconciling with the

**City right now.**

**You've probably noticed on Main Street where our main office is some new signage and trash receptacles as part of our commitment on Main Street to address some of the spaces where there used to be trees we can spruce it up to its best. My goal is \$5,000 through donations for our part of Main Street and we are happy to be participants in that project. It looks pretty good and can make look even better.**

**We received a decision; if you recall we had an East Providence student attending JMW School and East Providence had refused to pay the tuition. Their legal stance was that the Commissioner had overstepped her authority saying that they had to and that the Regents 1990 Vocational School Declaration wasn't applicable to JMW. We received a final decision and East Providence will be ordered to pay that. That paves the way for other communities to do so also. That's very good news.**

**I would also like the facilities subcommittee give a presentation as a whole. We have been working with SMMA projecting out a short and long range facilities plan for the Pawtucket School Department. It started with nine potential scenarios and then we narrowed it down some more. I think the big issue is about our high schools. Will we want to move forward with renovations with high schools that are not suited for 21st Century education and not on site so they're adequate? Or do we move toward a Unified Pawtucket High School? I won't come to you for a decision, but I will come to you with the possible scenarios and the possible costs. There is a moratorium on**

renovations and building new schools. By 2014 that moratorium will be lifted and by that time we want to have a plan and have that plan already vetted by RIDE. We want that plan approved so that we can move forward.

When you look at all the information it leads you to a preference based on the data. Then there is the reality. The Committee has been meeting regularly and we have it narrowed down to a couple of scenarios.

I have asked a retiree, John Lalli , who was serving as a 90 day interim Assistant Principal at Tolman, to come in twenty hours a week to help Mr. Rebelo. We have not yet replaced the Facilities Director and we could really use the help in that area.

We had our very first professional development day for our school clerks and they have been advised by me that they will no longer be referred to as clerks but as the principal's secretaries. I think what they do is far more beyond a clerk duty. They are our front line dealing with our public and serving our teachers and our students. We had a guest speaker in from Bryant to talk about customer service. Hersh had quite a bit of time to help with computer skills. I look forward to continuing these professional development days. As a principal my most two important hires were my head custodian and my head secretary.

The Champlin Foundation notified me this week that our grant application for \$48,000 for musical instruments made it to round two. They'll be having a site visit in September.

This week I received a number of questions regarding the political

participation of employees, especially during the election period. I looked through our policies as did Dianna Liss and we didn't really see that there was a clear policy. I feel there should be one. I've asked Dr. Ryan who is working on our policy updates to bring a draft policy to your review.

## **VIII Special Reports of School Committee Members**

**Mr. Araujo:** I am honored to be elected to this committee with this group of seven here for the next couple of years. I am equally as honored to have been able to serve with Mr. Noonan who has taught me enough about professional courtesy. Thank you, Mr. Noonan. Thank you, everybody for coming and have a great night.

**Ms. Bonollo:** Thank you all for your support and the support of the people. I am very happy to be able to serve another two years on this committee. I too, will miss Mr. Noonan. He has been my sidekick over here for the last couple of years. Thank you all for coming and good night.

**Mr. Coughlin:** Good night. Thank you.

**Mr. Noonan:** Congratulations to all of the winners. I wish you the best of luck. I want to single out one winner I am really happy for and that is one guy named Ray Spooner who has gone through more stuff in the last year and a half than anyone should ever have to be required to endure, and he did it with such class that I would have voted for him even if he was a Republican.

Secondly, there is someone missing here tonight and that is Maggie Baker. I miss the hell out of her. So I'm thinking of kidnapping her dog to try to get her back, so you can all testify in my dog knapping

**trial.**

**Thank you. Thank you for coming.**

**Ms. Nordquist: I echo the comments of my colleagues and I, too, am humbled to be elected to another term. I will miss you, Ray. I have learned a lot from you and you have always done your research and are always reading and you will be missed. I look forward to serving the next couple of months with you.**

**I wanted to welcome Sandra Cano who is here too and will be joining us in January. Thank you.**

**Mr. Spooner: I don't have much to say, but it does involve Mr. Noonan. Two years ago when I came back to the committee, I didn't know Ray Noonan. I have to say over the last two years, and I don't use this term loosely, I have a lot of acquaintances but I only have a few friends and I consider Mr. Noonan a friend. He's very professional. I think he's always voted his heart. I think he's wonderful for the school system. I hope he gives it a go again in the future. It's been a privilege to serve with you, sir. Good night, everyone.**

**Mr. Tenreiro: Thank you. I'd like to recognize Mr. Mercer who is also in the audience, congratulations. We also need to move our attention to the \$5M Bond Question for the schools and would appreciate the support.**

**IX Adjournment**

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

**Voice vote carried all in favor.**

**The Chairman adjourned the regular meeting of the Pawtucket School**

**Committee on Wednesday, September 12, 2012 at 7:00 PM.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Clerk**

**Approved 10/9/12**