

Regular Meeting of the Pawtucket School Committee

Tuesday, December 11, 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 Deputy Chairperson, Ms. Nordquist called the meeting to order at 6:04 PM.

a. Roll call

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

Also in attendance were Mrs. Deborah Cylke, Superintendent of Schools and Mr. Thomas Conlon, Business Administrator.

The Chairperson, Mr. Alan Tenreiro; the Deputy Superintendent for Curriculum Instruction and Assessment, Ms. Kimberly Mercer and Mr. Stephen M. Robinson, Legal Counsel for the School Committer were not in attendance.

b. Pledge of Allegiance

The Deputy Chairperson led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

III Student Representatives

Charles E. Shea High School

Emeirizialina: This year's events included "Shea's Got Talent." Seth performed a poem and there was a guitarist and singer named Emmanuel. There was the Shea Seniors versus the Shea Faculty football game and it's embarrassing to say that the teachers did win.

We had a pep rally and for the first year all of the students

participated instead of just the juniors and seniors and it was our best pep rally because everyone was involved.

On an academic level, we had the college planning center come to help the seniors help to apply to at least one college. That was a good experience because it was for the kids who at first they thought were not even going to college. Our college advisor and crusade advisor have been a big help to us. Whenever we need them, they are there to give us a helping hand and help us through the stuff we wouldn't be able to do on our own.

Seth: We recently had the conclusion of the fall sports and to end the year the girls' volleyball team won the State Championship for Division III.

We also had a strong showing by our football team even though they lead by five to six this year we had a heartfelt year and we had three first team all state players on our team. We also had two second team all state soccer players.

To begin the winter sports season we had a strong indoor track team that features a strong 200 meter team. To finish out we had a strong start to the boys' and girls' basketball season. The girls are one and one and the boys won last night to St. Ray's.

Mr. Spooner inquired about the Thanksgiving Day football game between Shea and Tolman. Tolman (Mr. Spooner's alma mater) defeated Shea this year, however, Mr. Spooner stated that if Shea were to win next year and the Shea representatives presented him with something from Shea, he would wear it proudly.

William E. Tolman

Marie, Gr. 12 and Georgia, Gr. 11 both representatives of the Tolman Robotics Team, Marie is head of public relations and Georgia is the head of funding. They thanked the Superintendent for her support in allowing their fundraising efforts to take flight. They thanked their teachers, Mr. Silva and Mr. Cavaco and advisors for their amazing dedication and because of their dedication they wouldn't be able to do half of what they do.

They recently had a fundraiser at Julian's Restaurant in Providence and raised \$1,600 for their team and most of the teachers from their school contributed.

They currently meet twice a week after school in Mr. Silva's room and go to the warehouse about three times a week and practice on robots taking them apart and practice how to build them. Our kickoff event to get the parts takes place in January in New Hampshire. Our first competition is in March. The robotics team was established in 2004 and lasted until 2007. The group was originally 11 to 20 people, but when it ended in 2007, it stayed dormant for six years. It was just started this year by student request. When we held our first meeting, there were 90 students that signed up. It's a women dominated group with a diverse group of students who joined. Students in every grade level from every academic group and we hope it stays that way.

I am a freshman mentor and I wanted to express how proud we are of our freshmen because just before Thanksgiving the freshman academy organized a food drive and by the time it was over there was enough food to fill 21 baskets to go to local families. We're really proud of that.

We had a pep rally this year at Thanksgiving that was really successful. It went really smoothly and we won the Thanksgiving football game!

There have been a lot of changes in our school this year, but everyone has been adapting really well. It's been a really good improvement in our school overall.

Jacqueline M. Walsh School for the Performing and Visual Arts

Cassandra: The JMW cabaret was a success and we made over \$6,000 and that will help to defray the costs of students traveling to Europe next year in our travel club. The friends of Jenks and JMW PTO are selling 2013 calendars featuring artwork of Jenks and JMW students. They are \$10.00 each and I've brought some with me in case anyone is interested.

Jenks will be holding their annual holiday band choral concert on Tuesday, December 18th at 6:30 PM. JMW students will be performing at Agnes Little on Wednesday, December 19th which will actually be a rehearsal for their annual winter show to be held on Thursday, December 20th and tickets will be \$5.00.

We are very pleased to announce that our assistance principal, Mrs. Fasterson, is now nominated for the Assistant Principal of the Year Award and one of the top three finalists. Many teachers, students, parents and administrators spoke on behalf of Mrs. Fasterson when the Rhode Island Association of School Principals visited last Monday. They should be announcing the winner shortly.

Ms. Nordquist acknowledged that item number II, celebration/recognition was inadvertently skipped over and would

now be addressed.

II Celebration/Recognition

School Committee Member, Mr. Raymond Noonan was recognized for his two terms of dedicated service to the students, staff and community of the City of Pawtucket. Superintendent Cylke commented on Mr. Noonan's integrity, honesty, intelligence and always being prepared. Superintendent Cylke further commented that Mr. Noonan always wants the students to have what he had when he was in school. Mr. Noonan often visited the Central Administration office and brought treats at the holidays as well as articles of interest.

Mrs. Cylke presented Mr. Noonan with a plaque and commented that she hoped he continued to serve on the Facilities Subcommittee on a citizen's role.

Mr. Spooner commented that two years' ago when he returned to the Committee, he had the pleasure of meeting and getting to know Mr. Noonan. Mr. Spooner echoed Mrs. Cylke's comments and added that Mr. Noonan is a class act who votes his conscience. Mr. Spooner further stated that it has been a privilege to serve with Mr. Noonan on this Committee.

IV Public Participation

None

V Acceptance of Previous meeting minutes: 11/13/12

Mr. Spooner moved to approve and accept the meeting minutes of 11/13/12. Mr. Noonan seconded.

Voice vote carried all in favor.

VI New Business—Action Items

- a. Approval of Certified Appointments**
- b. Approval of Coaching Appointment**
- c. Approval of Non Certified Appointment**

The Superintendent, Mrs. Cylke presented the following recommendations for approval for appointment by the committee:

Certified Appointments:

**Christina Anne Banville, Kindergarten Teacher-Baldwin/Step 3
Pending Verification**

Linda L. Dandrow, Nurse Teacher-Potter Burns

Coaching Appointment:

**Michael Haggerty, Assistant Boys' Basketball Jenks Junior High
School**

Non Certified Appointment:

Geraldine Jackson, Clerk I-S Shea High School

Mr. Spooner moved to approve the certified appointments of Linda L. Dandrow, Nurse Teacher-Potter Burns and Christina Anne Banville, Kindergarten Teacher Baldwin/Step 3 pending verification; the coaching appointment of Michael Haggerty, Assistant Boys' Basketball, Jenks Junior High School and non certified appointment, Geraldine Jackson, Clerk I-S Shea High School. Ms. Bonollo seconded.

Roll call

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

Motion carried unanimously.

VII Informational Items

a. Monthly Report to City

The Superintendent, Mrs. Cylke commented that the monthly report to the City shows the City with a surplus and the School Department balanced at this time. Dina Dutremble has been working and says that the budget should be ready in a few days and we are hoping to have it.

b. Introduction, Literacy Coordinator, Beth Salzillo

The Superintendent, Mrs. Cylke commented that this introduction will be moved to another meeting because Ms. Salzillo is taking a course and was unable to make it this evening.

c. Pledge Campaign

Superintendent Cylke encouraged the members to go to the Pawtucket School Department website where they could view the “Pledge Campaign” that is sponsored by the Rhode Island Foundation.

Jodie Olivio, one of our teachers at Nathanael Greene Elementary school is in the commercial and has made her pledge.

Mrs. Cylke commented that she thinks this campaign reminds everyone that it takes a village to raise a child and it takes everyone in the community to make the children thrive.

Superintendent Cylke encouraged everyone in the community to do that, go to the website and pledge what you can do. Mrs. Cylke even encouraged The Times reporter, Donna Kirwan.

The Pledge campaign raises consciousness of education.

Ms. Nordquist: Miss Olivio pledges to be “awesome.” Being on both

sides of education, as a school teacher and a committee member, I know how important this campaign is and that Miss Olivio is an awesome teacher.

VIII Superintendent's Report

Mrs. Cylke: You received an email earlier today from Dianna Liss informing you that Slater had been placed in a lockdown mode. It was a perfect drill and the staff is to be commended for being calm and responsive.

A student reported that a non student had a weapon. The police responded quickly. The student identified the non student and the lockdown ended. We had three or four calls from the news media and I tried to respond to all of them before coming to the meeting.

The Champlain Foundation awarded us \$46,000 for musical instruments. We'll have a band again in the junior high schools. Slater, Goff, Jenks and Little received \$9,000. It takes \$8,000 for a beginning band. We'll revive music in Pawtucket.

A student had an instrument at Slater, a large instrument and he was babying it. They pick it up quickly. That's the good news.

We have on loan an employee from the Rhode Island Department of Education (RIDE) J. Rabbit. Because we were slow in uploading reports, i.e. the Office of Civil Rights, Statewide Certified Report, Graduation Report, finding kids and the district dropout rate.

I missed the Robotics dinner that took place recently. Tony Silva is the teacher from Tolman. I'm hoping to have a meeting at that site. Tony asked to help him find money to go the National site.

The Consolidation Subcommittee met last evening and Mr. Araujo

and Mr. Spooner, your representatives, discussed ideas to consolidate Technology Departments with the City. Prior to the meeting last night, a meeting was held in which Mr. Conlon, Mr. Cristino, Ms. Mercer and some folks from the City spent about four hours discussing this. This is ultimately something that the Committee has to approve and will be bringing it back to you but wanted to let you know that we have been meeting and let you know that the discussions have gone well. Next will be human resources and facilities, but ultimately, whatever we do it will be a Committee decision.

Today, Ms. Bonollo and I attended a Wellness Collaborative and by 2013, our wellness committee will be bringing a new policy and if we join the collaborative, we'll have access to some great resources and new software that will help us analyze our own policy—where it's weak and where it's strong. The goal is to ensure students have healthy food at school and have an opportunity to exercise and move. The FY12 budget is two days away. They feel they will have final numbers. Dina is wrapping things up. I did meet with her and asked her if she could continue to work for us a few days a week until Ms. Baker is replaced.

Ms. Fasterson has been nominated as Assistant Principal of the Year. We'll know in two weeks if she is a finalist. We wish her well.

At the next meeting, Ms. DiCenso will have a data presentation highlighting some key highlights regarding high school transformation. Upon initial review the freshmen data looks really good. Tolman's attendance rate was the highest rating ever on

record. All the data shows when you have a great freshman year, you have a graduate.

I want to wish everyone a happy holiday. I hope it doesn't snow a lot during the holiday break.

IX Special Reports of School Committee Members

Mr. Araujo: I want to say thank you, Mr. Noonan for your service for the last couple of years. I've learned a lot from you. You're a good man. It was a pleasure serving with you and I hope you continue on the facilities committee, I'd love to keep working with you. It would be great for you to continue to serve in that role.

Happy Holidays to everyone. I hope you have a happy and a healthy holiday season.

Ms. Bonollo: I too, would like to thank Ray for all the work he has done in the last four years. I have to say I will miss him. He writes me notes if anyone has ever noticed, but it makes the meeting pass a little quicker. I've really enjoyed working with him and he will be missed.

Aside from that, Debbie stole my information for the wellness collaborative. I would like to say that on behalf of Pawtucket, Miriam Plitt from the American Heart Association, her husband, Arthur, Mary Parella from the COZ, Solange Morrissette from Sodexo, the Superintendent, the Deputy Superintendent and I were all there representing this district. I look forward to what will be happening in the future and bringing our wellness policy and definite yeses and no's on what is allowed and is not so we tie into state and federal guidelines.

I wish you all Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukah and Happy or Joyous Kwanza. I wish you to be safe, happy and healthy. I'll see you in January.

Mr. Coughlin: I want to take a moment and thank Ray Noonan for the last four years on the School Committee. I had a list of attributes I was going to go through but the Superintendent pretty much hit them and I think he'd hit me if I continued down that list. I would like to say I'm going to miss him but I don't know if that's appropriate, but I wish you the best of luck, Ray and hope that you're back here shortly. Merry Christmas.

Happy Holidays to everyone else.

Mr. Spooner: Let's see, crash Dave's at 10:15 daily. Pass notes to Nicole to get her to behave and a happy and healthy holiday season to everybody.

Mr. Noonan: I know this is the holiday season and I know some of you are still looking for the perfect Christmas gift for that person that's hard to get for, so I'm going to give you a head's up. Tomorrow on EBay, the collector's edition Ray Noonan School Committee card, signed by me so it's authentic. It is the perfect holiday gift. Secondly, I think it's safe to say that I won't be coming to the next bunch of meetings, so Dianna, please hold my calls.

Ms. Nordquist: I just want to say I had a nice time at the School Committee 101. There were five of us there and even though it was Saturday, there was a lot of good information that came out of there and it was good to see Pawtucket well represented.

Mr. Noonan, I will miss you too, you always seem to bring humor

when it's needed. I told you this in September and I'll tell you this again you definitely bring a different perspective—you taught me to look at things I never would have thought about sometimes. Nobody can ever say you do not research an issue; whether it's an article or a book to read or something informative to bring to the table and we will miss you. It was nice to get to know you and Gail over the last two years. We do hope to see you back and hopefully you will stay on the facilities subcommittee.

Ms. Nordquist: now we are going to go back to Item VII b. Introduction, Literacy Coordinator, Beth Salzillo.

VII Introduction, Literacy Coordinator, Beth Salzillo

Mrs. Cylke: We like to introduce our new Central Office employees. Beth Salzillo is coming to us from the East Providence School District which she spent most of her entire career. They have had three or four interim superintendents and during that time Beth has to assume many, many responsibilities beyond curriculum and instruction. I had an opportunity to meet and greet on Friday and in my note I believe I put I'm looking forward to learning from you. She's been in Rhode Island a long time and has a great reputation. During the interviews what impressed me most is the way she gets her work done. She believes in sitting with our teachers in a collaborative manner and getting input and guidance. We want to welcome you. The Common Core State Standards in the English Language Arts is a major project this year. We have the curriculum but if you were to ask the teachers I think they would tell you to be more successful they need this to implement that.

Ms. Salzillo: Good evening and thank you so much for welcoming me to the Pawtucket School Department. My apologies for being late. I had my first lesson in traffic, on 195 during rush hour there was a terrible accident.

As Superintendent Cylke said, I have been a literacy leader for my entire career. I'm very passionate about literacy. I've had the wonderful opportunity for the last year and a half to work the Pawtucket School Department's fine, fine teachers and administrators through the Dana Center Common Core Curriculum. I feel very fortunate to have had the opportunity to get to know the leadership as Superintendent Cylke mentioned. I've been in the district for some time now that has been unsteady. I was looking forward to working in a district that has a vision, great leadership, that had a strong team and in my short time here I have been so impressed with the people that are in place and I look forward to this great opportunity to be able to focus on literacy in Pawtucket to ensure success for all students in Pawtucket Schools. I have a very open door policy. I have my email address and my telephone number so if you have any questions about common core standards or what implementation will look like in the Pawtucket School Department, please feel free to contact me I'm here to answer any question or engage in any conversation.

Thank you very much for this great opportunity. I look forward to working with this wonderful team.

X Adjournment

Mr. Spooner moved to adjourn. Ms. Bonollo seconded.

Voice vote carried all in favor.

The Deputy Chairperson, Ms. Nordquist, adjourned the regular meeting of the Pawtucket School Committee on Tuesday, December 11, 2012 at 6:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Clerk

Approved 1/15/13