

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

**Tuesday, February 12, 2013 at 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 6:07 PM.**

**a Roll call**

**Mr. Araujo-here; Ms. Bonollo-here; Ms. Cano-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 and Instruction Assessment; Ms. Patti DiCenso, Secondary School Performance Officer; Ms. Kathleen Suriani, Elementary School Performance Officer; Mr. Thomas Conlon, Business Administrator; Mr. Patrick Murray, Jr., President and CEO, Bristol County Savings Bank; Michele Roberts, Executive Vice President and Community Relations Officer, Bristol County Savings Bank; Dennis Kelly, retired President and CEO, Bristol County Savings Bank and legal counsel for the Pawtucket School Committee, Mr. Stephen M. Robinson and Ms. Vicki Bejma.**

**Mr. Coughlin was not present this evening.**

**b Pledge of Allegiance**

**The Chairman, Mr. Tenreiro, led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.**

**II Special Reports of Student Representatives**

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

**The students are taking advantage of the after school flex period. They are working on their student portfolios and getting help from the teachers.**

**The winter sports are going well.**

**The students are preparing for the NECAPS.**

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

**No report this month.**

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

**No report this month.**

## **III Celebration/Recognition**

**President and CEO of Bristol County Savings Bank, Mr. Patrick Murray, Jr. along with his colleagues, Executive Vice President and Community Relations Office, Ms. Michele Roberts and retired President and CEO, Dennis Kelly presented Superintendent, Mrs. Cylke, with a check in the amount of \$20,000 as part of their charitable foundation grant program to continue in their support in restoring music in Pawtucket schools. Mrs. Cylke commented that it was one year ago that she was presented with a check in the amount of \$22,000 and thanked them for their continued support.**

**Mr. Murray commented that he has been the President for eleven months and that the bank has done a lot of outreach in the City of Pawtucket through this grant program. Mr. Murray further commented that the Armistice Boulevard Branch has been in operation in the City for twelve years and has provided \$350M in loans in this community. As part of the outreach program, Mr. Murray**

**has met with all the local superintendents.**

**Ms. Roberts commented that Mrs. Cylke had told them about the band program and about the real meaning of it and the extra curricula activity and that statistics show that more kids go on with higher education with arts than with sports or physical education.**

**Mrs. Cylke once again thanked Bristol Community Savings Bank very much. Mrs. Cylke further commented that with the previous donations made we were able to restore the band program at Goff and Slater. The goal right now is to focus on the middle schools and it won't be long to have it restored at the high schools. Our kids are capable with your generosity and we look forward to performing for you soon.**

**Ms. Nordquist commented that she is a cheerleading coach for the Darlington Braves Organization and wouldn't it be great if Pawtucket could help the cheerleaders with new uniforms. It's an expensive sport and they spend a lot of their time fundraising and competing.**

**Ms. Roberts commented that they are looking to form a long term project.**

#### **IV Public Participation**

**Public participation was moved to after item V Executive Session.**

#### **V Executive Session**

**The Chairman, Mr. Tenreiro, commented that the Committee would recess to executive session in accordance with provisions under Title 42, Chapter 46, subsection 5(a) (2) (legal advice and litigation/collective bargaining) of the General Laws of the State of R.**

**I. for the purpose of discussing and/or acting upon:**

**1 Legal Advice—Commissioner’s January 30, 2013 Memorandum, BEP Compliance**

**2 Negotiations—Local 1352**

**3 Legal Advice—Consolidation**

**4 Legal Advice—Negotiation Subcommittee**

**5 Seal Executive Session Minutes**

**Mr. Spooner moved to recess to executive session. Mr. Araujo seconded.**

**Roll call**

**Mr. Araujo-yes; Ms. Bonollo-yes; Ms. Cano-yes; Ms. Nordquist-yes;**

**Mr. Spooner-yes; Mr. Tenreiro-yes**

**Motion carried unanimously.**

**The Committee recessed to executive session at 6:25 PM to 7:12 PM.**

**VI Reconvene to open session**

**a Roll call**

**Mr. Araujo-here; Ms. Bonollo-here; Ms. Cano-here; Ms.**

**Nordquist-here; Mr. Spooner-here; Mr. Tenreiro-here**

**VII Report out vote(s) of executive session 2/12/13**

**The Chairman asked the Clerk if there were any votes to report out of executive session.**

**The Clerk reported that the Committee made a motion regarding the**

**Local 1352 negotiations which was approved five to one, Ms.**

**Nordquist in the opposition.**

**The Committee unanimously voted to seal the executive session**

**minutes and adjourn the executive session.**

**VIII Acceptance of previous meeting’s minutes, 1/15/13**

**The Chairman stated that this item would be brought back for approval at the next regular meeting.**

#### **IV Public Participation**

**Mr. Ron Beaupre, President, Pawtucket Teachers Alliance: Thank you, Mr. Chair, Mrs. Cylke, Deputy Superintendent, Ms. Mercer, Members of the Committee.**

**Mr. Beaupre commented that he was here this evening to speak about the Resolution on Student Learning Objectives. The Race to the Top grant, he commented, within that grant application and part of the Rhode Island General Laws measures of student learning are now weighed much greater by student and teacher evaluation. This resolution does not ask the Rhode Island Department of Education (RIDE) to eliminate student evaluations or change mind on evaluations or effectiveness on student learning, but to slow down and measure student learning and effectiveness.**

**Now is the time for us to be problem solvers. We can agree about student measurement. I'm not saying adopt a resolution for RIDE to do a couple of things that's determined and research it and that we are doing appropriate thing to measure growth. Let's be sure we are working collaboratively. We met with the Superintendent and the Superintendent in Providence working with Superintendent Dr. Sue Lucci in Providence. "Ron, this is a no brainer." High stakes evaluation being evaluated on a formula of sixteen possibilities only six make them effective, only 87% make them student effectiveness.**

**I'm asking this Committee to adopt a resolution that multiple measures of student learning be part of a teacher's evaluation, but**

**work on it at the table and are we using the right measures?**

**Let's get it right before an educator get's fired. Let's adopt this to get it right for kids and teachers.**

## **IX Action Items**

### **1 Resolution on Student Learning Objectives**

**Ms. Nordquist moved to adopt the Student Assessment and the use of Assessment Data in Determining Educator Effectiveness. Mr. Spooner seconded.**

**Ms. Nordquist urged her colleagues to support this resolution. It brings a different perspective to the table and will not be used in determining educator effectiveness.**

**Mr. Spooner: Ron, I believe in you. Deb, you have a lot of great teachers. If you take Pawtucket, we have spent \$1B on our public education and that's a bounty. We don't have plows. If this were a business, would we still be in business based on our return? I think not. We have to figure out a way to get this right. I always thought we had good people in Administration. I understand it's not the same Pawtucket I grew up in, but there has to be a way to get this right.**

**Ms. Cano: I have a question. I want your professional opinion on this subject. What position do you think the Rhode Island Department of Education (RIDE) will take on this?**

**Ms. Cylke: It's important and complex. Our employees SLO's will not be used this year on making decisions. I did put in my recommendation. We talked about this and I agree with the points that Ron has made. I don't fully agree with the tools RIDE has made.**

**We will give you a little more information at the next meeting.**

**Ms. Cano: Thank you for the information. Student data is important. What is the measurement for reporting student data?**

**Ms. Bonollo moved to table the motion until more information could be provided. No one seconded.**

**Mr. Tenreiro: I believe there should be more information. It does call for the elimination of student information process. I'm satisfied there is a slowdown that it is not going to be used this spring. I think it will be better for the Committee to see more information and how the matrix fits.**

**Roll call**

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

**Motion passes four in favor; two opposed.**

## **2 Resolution to Support Wellness Backpack Program**

**Mr. Spooner moved to support the Wellness Backpack Program Resolution. Mr. Araujo seconded.**

**Ms. Bonollo presented her PowerPoint presentation on the Pawtucket Backpackers Program.**

**Backpacks to fight hunger provide students with non-perishable foods that can be put discreetly in their own backpacks.**

**Food items will be provided that are nutritious and easy to prepare, including peel top items. We will also try to provide things that do not have to be refrigerated.**

**Examples of some items are soft breakfast bars, macaroni and cheese, canned ravioli, crackers and cheese, cans of fruit, and juice.**

**No peanut butter or peanut items due to possible allergies.**

**Levels of poverty show Cunningham at 93.7% and JMW at 58.2%.**

**Children of poverty are not the only ones being affected. Families who have had their houses foreclosed. The parents have to decide if they are going to pay rent or buy food. We have twenty to forty homeless families each month.**

**We will address Cunningham, Baldwin and Winters first. One hundred and thirty five students come to Cunningham hungry.**

**We looked at the Community Food Bank, but they want \$10.00 per week for their program. We will do our own for \$80.00 per year.**

**Students do better when they are not hungry.**

**Funding will be from personal donations, local community and business donations and grants. Teachers and schools have already donated. No money will come from the Pawtucket School Department or Sodexo.**

**There is an act—The Bill Emerson Good Samaritan Food Donation Act that holds us harmless.**

**Everything has to be labeled. We have also made registration release forms. If the form is not sent back, we will not be able to send food back.**

**Wellness is the hub to bring everything together. Coz is playing an active role. Sodexo will store the food and Solange is a nutritionist.**

**Sue and Martha motivated us with the assistance of Linda Mendonca, the Jenks/JMW School Nurse, Miriam Plitt, Kathy Suriani, Sandra Cano, Kim Mercer and Debbie Cylke.**

**The selection of students is to be done at the schools and we will be**

**given a list of numbers. We will never be given a list of names.**

**Mr. Araujo: When children are chosen and given forms, will they be done confidentially?**

**Ms. Bonollo: Yes. It will be done so there is no stigma attached to it.**

**Mr. Tenreiro: Pawtucket's commitment to wellness is well known. Your leadership and passion has gotten me interested in the collection and disbursement of funds.**

**Ms. Bonollo: Right now donations are going to 286 Main Street. The backpack has to be set up as a 501(c)3. The celebration at McCoy we requested has to be under their 501(c)3. The money will come into our district then sent to one of their accounts. It will be nonprofit accounting.**

**Mr. Tenreiro: 501(c)3 have regulations.**

**Ms. Bejma: We'll be covered by 501(c)3 covered by Sodexo.**

**Mrs. Cylke: After learning about this, Mr. Coughlin voiced his support about this.**

**Ms. Nordquist: Who handles problems with this program?**

**Ms. Bonollo: Liability goes with Sodexo.**

**Ms. Bejma: It's the same as when children go on field trips.**

**Voice vote carried all in favor.**

### **3 Resolution to Change Layoff Notification Date**

**The Committee will wait for Mr. Coughlin to present this item at their next regular meeting.**

### **4 Approval of Coaching Appointment**

**Mrs. Cylke: We are recommending for your approval Competitive Cheerleading Assistant Coach at Tolman High School, Sarah Bolano.**

**Ms. Nordquist moved to approve the Coaching appointment as recommended. Ms. Bonollo seconded.**

**Ms. Cano: It says here there was only one applicant. How is it determined?**

**Mrs. Cylke: Mr. Savastano feels she is qualified. If no one applied, we would go to School Spring. If we still did not have any applicants, we would go to the newspaper but it is very expensive.**

**Ms. Nordquist: If we would, we'd find someone internally.**

**Mr. Tenreiro: In some aspects, it's contractual.**

**Voice vote carried all in favor.**

#### **5 Make-Up of Negotiation Subcommittee for 2013**

**Mr. Tenreiro: I would like to include three members from this Committee—Mr. Spooner, Ms. Nordquist and myself, the Superintendent as a non-voting member, Mr. Robinson as the chief negotiator and invite two City Council members.**

**Mr. Spooner moved to approve the 2013 Negotiation Subcommittee to include Nicole Nordquist, Raymond Spooner, Alan Tenreiro, Superintendent, Deborah Cylke—non-voting member, Stephen M. Robinson—Chief Negotiator and invite two members of the City Council and the final collective bargaining agreement to go to the City Council for final decision.**

**Ms. Nordquist: I strongly hope we see members of the Council there with the Charter change than have to go back and forth.**

**Mr. Araujo: I'd like to re-iterate what Ms. Nordquist said and reinstitute this "bargain in good faith."**

**Voice vote carried all in favor.**

## **6 Approval of Natural Gas Contract**

**Mr. Conlon:** Direct Energy was able to offer us a price a third less \$6.47 as opposed to what we are currently paying. The price today is up .10. I spoke to Tim Duffy and the price is with Direct Energy under the Rhode Island Association of School Committees (RIASC) and the trend is volatile. If we go with this contract we will save approximately \$150,000 in the next three fiscal years.

**Mr. Spooner** moved to approve the Natural Gas Contract as recommended. **Ms. Bonollo** seconded.

**Ms. Bonollo:** We lock in at \$7.03 per year starting on November 1st?

**Mr. Tenreiro:** It's important to clarify that it's a purchasing contract and because we are part of RIASC, we are able to enter into this.

They recommended a three year contract?

**Mr. Conlon:** Yes.

Voice vote carried all in favor.

## **7 Approval of Business Administrator and Assistant Business Administrator Job Descriptions**

This item was passed for discussion this evening.

## **8 Memorandum of Understanding for Consolidated IT Services – City and Pawtucket School Department**

**Mrs. Cylke** introduced the members of the Consolidation Committee that were in the audience, **Mr. Dylan Zelazo**—Policy Analyst, Rhode Island Public Expenditure Council; **Mr. David Clemente**—City of Pawtucket, Purchasing Agent; **Mr. Hersh Cristino**—Chief Information and Innovation Officer, Pawtucket School Department; **Mr. Araujo** and **Mr. Spooner**, Pawtucket School Committee Members.

**Mrs. Cylke recommended for approval the Memorandum of Understanding for Consolidated IT Services between the City of Pawtucket and the Pawtucket School Committee.**

**Mr. Spooner moved to approve the Memorandum of Understanding for Consolidated IT Services between the City of Pawtucket and the Pawtucket School Committee. Mr. Araujo seconded.**

**Mr. Araujo: This has been a rewarding committee to be on. We're under the same umbrella and we have others to look at. This is going to put more foot soldiers with us and the City.**

**Voice vote carried all in favor.**

**X Informational/Discussion Items**

**1 Progress Plans/Interventions—High School Graduation Requirements**

**Ms. DiCenso presented a PowerPoint presentation  
This presentation is based on mandates from RIDE.**

**Shea students scored significantly low in Reading  
Reading Scores**

**JMW 0 proficient below in reading**

**Shea 5 proficient below in reading**

**Tolman 4 proficient below in reading**

**Math Scores**

**JMW 36% below**

**Shea 70% below**

**Tolman 68% below**

**80 of 512 students below in Reading and 306 out of 512 are below in Math.**

**We have math intervention in both high schools that is a web based program called “Think Through Math.” We are looking at tenth grade scores and targeting those.**

**Ms. Nordquist: Was there any resentment from students or parent backlash for putting students in READ 180?**

**Ms. DiCenso: Students have not been moved yet. Students can do it in advisory or at home.**

**First, the plan is to notify the parents by letter.**

**Ms. Cano: Will it be bi-lingual?**

**Ms. DiCenso: Yes. Counselors will meet one-on-one. Progress plans will be planned and provided with the parents.**

**Mr. Tenreiro: How many students are already in these interventions?**

**Ms. DiCenso: In eleventh grade, the math interventions are not for them right now. We have some students in READ 180 now. It will be a different READ 180 for them. They may test right out of them.**

**Mr. Tenreiro: We’re talking about getting 5-7% correct before the end of this year?**

**Mr. Davenport: The Superintendent identified the problem last year and asked me to look at last year. In October of this year, coaches went to the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics Conference. We took data and found four things.**

**Mrs. Cylke: We’re looking for software with specific features that knows what you do and don’t know and gives you specific challenges so it has to be adoptive. It also has to report to students and teachers. That technology is now here.**

**Mr. Davenport: One of the four is Apex Learning and that was not**

going to meet our needs. Think Through Math is an online tutorial we thought was the best program. Renaissance Learning requires a teacher to be there.

Ms. Cano: For the online program, the student does it alone and continues it at home?

Mr. Davenport: Yes, an online tutor to get at home does not allow a teacher to be there all the time.

Ms. DiCenso: We understand there's no computer that can take the place of a teacher. Students working through this program we felt this program was tried and true and as an urban district, we put it in the transformation plan by looking at the Brockton plan.

Ms. Nordquist: Do you think having a web based block is better than having a teacher?

Mr. Davenport: Having this is having a one teacher working with a block of twenty eight different students with twenty eight different needs.

Mrs. Cylke: Technology works with the teacher in this ease. Adaptive technology works in this place even though the software is stuck. We liked that you can access it at home. It reports when you logged in and if the student doesn't understand. It makes twenty five individual plans for students.

Ms. Nordquist: I've seen plans like this for students. You can log on for twenty five minutes but still don't know what they're doing. How about a discussion about whether it's the difficulty of this test?

Mrs. Cylke: It's the consortium of the test. Rhode Island is last. All the other states are doing better. Massachusetts is four in the nation.

**I would have to say it's not the test. This is a systems issue, a resource issue.**

**Ms. Cano: In looking at the program, do we have partnerships with Rhode Island College (RIC) with students who are going to become teachers come in?**

**Ms. DiCenso: We do with the Crusade, the Boys' Club and the YMCA. We don't want to put twenty eight students in a room and log on at 9:00 PM. We want to monitor these students and growth. We want to get them to graduate with their peers in their co-hort. The bigger issue is she began to look at curriculum and gaps in math when the students get in the eleventh grade. It's easy to put an intervention block and students need to be stronger.**

**Ms. Nordquist: If you're talking about accountability, are you talking about where is the blame going to be put?**

**Mr. Tenreiro: I think you have 4,800 students in this state you're going to have some from urban districts. You need to put intervention into place.**

**Ms. Nordquist: Who is going to be at blame?**

**Ms. DiCenso: My goal and the goal of the Pawtucket School District teachers and principals is to get our schools to graduate.**

**Ms. Cano: Out of these 308, how many are ESL students?**

**Ms. DiCenso: There is a higher number at Shea than at Tolman. I will let you know our ELL students are well supported. We have an ELL department chair and have had a meeting with Mr. Miller and the ELL department chair.**

**Mr. Tenreiro: We're assuming that the kids are all set with their**

portfolios.

**Ms. Bonollo:** How are your numbers impacted by transiency?

**Ms. DiCenso:** These scores are exactly what RIDE has reported. We know 10-12 at Shea and 8 at Tolman that have already left.

**Ms. Bonollo:** What do we have coming in?

**Ms. DiCenso:** I'm sure we have some coming in. The transiency rate is not as bad as in other districts. It's about 20%. We will be provided supports in reading and math. We have a plan in the summer.

All students who have scored significantly below proficient can still graduate with their cohort if they can show growth in the next eighteen months.

**Mr. Spooner:** In our system, where are we losing these kids?

**Mrs. Cylke:** In 2005 when in the third grade students were 37% proficient. This falls on everybody. We need to strategically focus on this problem. We need clear content resources at a very young age. When these students take the test again they only get five or six more questions correct.

## **2 NECAP Results**

**Mrs. Cylke** presented a PowerPoint presentation.

We have come a long way since 2005. A one to two point change, it's insignificant. We expect all kids to get to grade level. Some kids have learning deficiencies and/or language barriers.

Seventy percent of our kids speak English.

In math since 2005 there has been growth but we don't get beyond 55% proficient.

**Curtis and Winters had significant jumps in Math.**

**Reading and writing have extreme gap in 2011.**

**In 2012 writing went from 49% to 60% in Elementary and 45% to 55 % in Middle School. NECAP writing for grade five were the highest scores ever.**

**NECAP writing scores for individual elementary schools showed significant improvement especially at Curtis, Greene and Winters.**

**NECAP math results for elementary schools showed Winters at 29% proficient, Curtis at 22% proficient, Cunningham at 11%, Potter at 3% and Fallon at 2%.**

**NECAP reading results for elementary schools showed Winters at 11% proficient, Curtis at 10%, Cunnigham at 8%, Fallon and Potter at 5% and Baldwin at 3%.**

**The schools with the highest percent proficient in Reading, Math and writing on the Fall, 2012 NECAP are Math-Curtis at 74%; Reading-Curtis at 74% and Writing-Varieur at 78%.**

**NECAP writing results for the junior highs are Jenks at 18% proficient, Slater at 11% proficient and Goff at 6% proficient.**

**NECAP math and reading results for junior high showed Jenks increased 8% proficient in math and Slater 2% proficient in reading.**

### **3 Academic Key Initiatives**

**This item was passed for discussion and instead requested to be placed on the March meeting agenda.**

### **4 Tidewater Cleanup Project**

**Mr. Tenreiro: the stakeholder group is holding meetings to discuss the land on Taft Avenue. I went to the first meeting regarding the 24**

acre site that will take years to clean up. We have a school and field that kids use daily. I would like to start notifying parents about these meetings.

Mrs. Cylke: The meetings are held at Varieur. The kids are in no danger. In 1880-1960 operations contaminated two feet below ground level. It becomes dangerous when they disrupt top field or moving of the dirt.

Mr. Tenreiro: They would inform the public two hours after it's been breached.

Mr. Araujo: A lot of our students take part in the Raiders.

Mr. Tenreiro: It's a community concern.

## **5 Monthly Report to City**

Mrs. Cylke: A surplus is projected and ours is dedicated to the FY12 deficit.

## **6 FY13 Budget Projection Update**

Mr. Conlon: We are anticipating a \$1.8M surplus unlike last year. This was helped by the accelerated funding formula. Our medical reserves are better than last year. We are at \$1M this year.

## **XI Superintendent's Report**

Mrs. Cylke: At Fallon we had burst pipes and our crews are working diligently. We have six classrooms without heat. The students will be back to school in the morning.

Dennis contracted a roofing company. Rain is predicted which is worse than snow. They cleared passages to all drains. Our crews have done a great job.

In our AlertNow message we very specifically asked children to walk

**on the sidewalk and not in the street.**

## **XII Special Report of School Committee Members**

**Mr. Araujo: Have a good night.**

**Ms. Bonollo: have a good night.**

**Ms. Cano: I had a meeting with Emily Harrison and some very good highlights are those students meet with COZ are doing a good job with our family outreach program. Thank you and have a good night.**

**Ms. Nordquist: Good night.**

**Mr. Spooner: Good night.**

**Mr. Tenreiro: Pass.**

## **XIII Adjournment**

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

**Voice vote carried all in favor.**

**The Chairman, Mr. Tenreiro, adjourned the regular meeting of the Pawtucket School Committee on Tuesday, February 12, 2013 at 9:33 PM.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Clerk**

**Approved 4/9/13**