

Regular Meeting of the Pawtucket School Committee

Tuesday, March 12, 2013

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 6:04 PM.

a. Roll call

Mr. Araujo-here; Ms. Cano-here; Mr. Coughlin-here; Ms. Nordquist-here; Mr. Spooner-here; Mr. Tenreiro-here

Also in attendance were Mrs. Deborah Cylke, Superintendent of Schools; Mr. Thomas Conlon, Business Administrator; Mr. Hersh Cristino, Chief Information and Innovation Specialist; Ms. Christine Spagnoli, Mr. Stephen Robinson and Ms. Vicki Bejma, Legal Counsel for the School Committee and Mr. Scott Beilecki, Legal Counsel for the Pawtucket Teachers Alliance.

Ms. Bonollo was not in attendance.

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

None

William E. Tolman High School

Student Representative: Spring sports have begun. The youth activation committee is working with the Special Olympics.

The Senior Class is organizing fund raising activities. The prom is May 31 and senior week is at the end of the year.

Mr. Murray is organizing a baseball game against the Sandyhook baseball team. The game will be held at McCoy Stadium and the money raised will be donated to Sandyhook.

This year will be the last year for the boys Tolman Hockey Team due to a lack of interest. There are only three juniors left. They made it to the State Championships.

We have been collecting change for lymphoma patients. \$2,500 is our goal.

Tolman has talent will be held on March 22, 2013.

Jacqueline M. Walsh School for the Performing and Visual Arts

None

III Recognition/Celebration

Superintendent, Cylke recognized and acknowledged Ms. Christine Spagnoli for her exceptional service, especially over the past several months without an Assistant Business Administrator. Ms. Spagnoli was asked to work closely with Kim Mercer and Maggie Baker over a year ago. Ms. Spagnoli has worked many long hours and the quality of her work speaks for itself. Ms. Spagnoli manages all of our federal grants and has worked in a dual role in Assistant Business Manager's vacancy and provides extraordinary service in our Business Department.

Mr. Conlon: Chris has become a UCOA guru coordinating with the Rhode Island Department of Education(RIDE). Chris stepped up and worked with our auditors and has taken over the administration of our

403b plan with CPI and works in the Business Office answering questions. Chris could have gone home instead of working. We appreciate it very much.

Ms. Spagnoli: I couldn't have done it alone or without Tom or Dina. I go to them with a lot of questions. Thank you.

IV Public Participation

None

V Executive Session

The Committee will recess to executive session in accordance with provisions under Title 42, Chapter 46, Subsection 5(a) (2) (legal advice and litigation/collective bargaining) (9) (hearings on or a grievance filed pursuant to a collective bargaining agreement) of the General Laws of the State of R. I. for the purpose of discussing and or acting upon:

1 Grievance Hearing

2 Legal Advice—Commissioner's January 30, 2013 Memorandum

3 Legal Advice—Collective Bargaining Pawtucket Teachers Alliance

4 Legal Advice—1352 Non-Teaching

5 Seal Executive Session Minutes

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

Roll call

Mr. Araujo-yes; Ms. Cano-yes; Mr. Coughlin-yes; Ms. Nordquist-yes;

Mr. Spooner-yes; Mr. Tenreiro-yes

Motion carried unanimously.

The Committee recessed to executive session at 6:15 pm to 7:50 PM.

VI Reconvene to open session

The Chairman, Mr. Tenreiro, reconvened to open session at 7:56 PM.

a Roll call

Mr. Araujo-here; Ms. Cano-here; Mr. Coughlin-here; Ms. Nordquist-here; Mr. Spooner-here; Mr. Tenreiro-here

VII Report out vote(s) of executive session

The Chairman asked the Clerk if there were any votes to report out. The Clerk reported that the Committee voted unanimously to approve the grievance procedures; to deny the Pawtucket Teachers Alliance grievance; to approve recommendations of contract negotiation ground rules between the Pawtucket School Committee and the Pawtucket Teachers Alliance; to seal the executive session minutes and to adjourn the executive session.

VIII Acceptance of previous meeting's minutes, 1/15/13 and 2/26/13

Ms. Cano moved to accept and approve the minutes of 1/15/13 with an amendment:

In Special Reports of School Committee Members, Ms. Cano's statement should read, today on "MLK's birthday", not "my 30th birthday."

Mr. Spooner seconded.

Voice vote carried all in favor as amended.

Mr. Coughlin moved to accept and approve the minutes of 2/26/13.

Mr. Spooner seconded.

Voice vote carried all in favor.

IX Action Items

1 Resolution to Change Layoff Notification Date

Mr. Coughlin moved to approve the Resolution to change the layoff notification date. Mr. Araujo seconded.

Mr. Araujo: Last year we voted to change the date to May 1st instead of June. I didn't know how the other members would feel about that.

Mr. Spooner: Why can't we find a middle ground? I think by changing it to June, it's kind of late.

Ms. Nordquist: I feel June is way too late.

Mrs. Cylke: It's a proposal from the Rhode Island Association of School Committees (RIASC). We have a March 1st date and we end up laying off a lot of teachers. Evaluations must be done by April 1st and May and/or April 15 deadline to be notified if re-employed stands a better chance of knowing revenue. We supported the change.

Mr. Spooner: Can we amend?

Mr. Coughlin: This is a RIASC resolution, not my personal motion. I would never agree with a June 1st date. I think we should wait to see what the numbers are.

Mr. Spooner moved to amend the date to May 1st. Mr. Araujo seconded.

Voice vote carried all in favor as amended.

2 Approval of Contract: Owner's Project Manager and Commissioning Agent Services

Mr. Conlon commented that a Request for Proposals was issued on February 13th and responses due back on February 26th. Fourteen firms took out specifications and eight submitted proposals.

Symm Maini & McKee Associates (SMMA) carefully reviewed the proposals and recommended the lowest priced firm, Strategic

Building Solutions, in the amount of \$299,000. It comes off the bond fund and is reimbursable. Therefore, we are recommending for your approval tonight the owner's Project manager and commissioning agent services contract be awarded to Strategic Building Solutions in the amount of \$299,000.

Mr. Coughlin moved to approve the owner's project manager and commissioning agent services contract as recommended by Mr. Conlon. Mr. Spooner seconded.

Ms. Cano: What stage is it in now?

Mr. Conlon: Stage III, implementation of Stage II.

Ms. Cano: How much of a fee for Stage III?

Mr. Conlon: We put out a bid already that has already been approved. It was voted and approved on October 9, 2012.

Mrs. Cylke: RIDE looks at it very carefully.

Ms. Cano: SMMA charges a fee of ten percent compared to other agencies and Coventry and central Falls did it at five percent. That other five percent could take care of our bathrooms.

Mr. Conlon: We're talking about the scope of the project. RIDE looked at it. SMMA was the clear choice.

Ms. Cano: Was it the lowest choice?

Mr. Conlon: All such projects that are to be reimbursed have to be approved by RIDE.

Ms. Cano: Are we stuck with the same company for all three stages?

Mr. Conlon: No, Stage I was MGT.

Voice vote carried all in favor.

3 Approval of Paid Lunch Increase Requirement

Mr. Conlon: To make sure that reimbursements are not used to subsidize families who are unable to pay, the USDA implemented the Paid Lunch Equity regulation. School Districts that charge less than \$2.59 per paid lunch must adjust their prices according to a formula provided in a USDA worksheet. Pawtucket's prices are currently at \$1.50 for elementary and \$1.65 for secondary. According to the formula, these prices must be increased to \$1.55 for elementary and \$1.70 for secondary effective for the 2013-2014 school year.

We are recommending the paid lunch increase from \$1.50 to \$1.55 for elementary students and \$1.65 to \$1.70 for secondary students for 2013-2014 school year.

Mr. Spooner moved to approve the paid lunch increase requirement as recommended by Mr. Conlon. Mr. Araujo seconded.

Voice vote carried all in favor.

4 Approval of letter to City Council re: Teacher Negotiations

Mr. Tenreiro commented that there was a letter drafted to the Pawtucket City Council asking to provide two members to sit in teacher negotiations as non-voting members.

Mr. Araujo moved to approve the letter to the City Council. Mr. Spooner seconded.

Mr. Coughlin: Voting against is not appropriate. Title 16 does not allow outsiders to take part nor does the City Charter. It only allows them to approve the contract. I'll be voting no.

Ms. Cano: They'll be there at the table?

Mr. Tenreiro: As non-voting, only to observe.

Ms. Cano: But it is going to the City Council for final approval?

Ms. Nordquist: At the end of the day our word was our word. I personally don't think the Council will accept this offer. That's just my opinion. If they flat out deny the contract, they'll have good enough reason why.

Mrs. Cylke: I attended a RIASC event for this same issue and had a deeper understanding. We may want to check with Coventry to see how they were included.

Ms. Nordquist moved to table the letter to the City Council. **Mr. Spooner** seconded.

Roll call

Mr. Araujo-yes; Ms. Cano-yes; Mr. Coughlin-yes; Ms. Nordquist-yes; Mr. Spooner-yes; Mr. Tenreiro-yes

Motion carried unanimously.

5 Approval of Assistant Business Administrator Job Description

Mrs. Cylke: We are seeking your approval of the Assistant Business Administrator's Job Description. This position has been vacant since September and the Committee voted to approve the job description of the Chief Financial Officer at its last meeting.

Ms. Nordquist moved to approve the Assistant Business Administrator's Job Description as recommended. **Mr. Araujo** seconded.

Voice vote carried all in favor.

6 Approval of Operations Officer Job Description

Mrs. Cylke commented that she is going to recommend the Committee table this item. Last February the Committee approved the Facilities Director position which has remained vacant. **Mr.**

Rebello has been acting in that capacity in addition to his own position. Superintendent Cylke further commented that she received a telephone call from the Mayor who asked that she pull this item from tonight's agenda so that it can be discussed with the RIPEC consolidation committee and welcomes your input.

Mr. Araujo moved to table the Operations Officer Job Description.

Ms. Cano seconded.

Roll call

Mr. Araujo-yes; Ms. Cano-yes; Mr. Coughlin-no; Ms. Nordquist-yes;

Mr. Spooner-yes; Mr. Tenreiro-yes

Motion tabled five in favor; one opposed.

X Informational/Discussion Items

1 Academic Key Initiatives

Mrs. Cylke presented a PowerPoint presentation:

In 2009 the graduation rate was 59%. In 2012 the graduation rate is at 67%.

Pawtucket fifth graders surpassed the state in writing. The state is 59%, Pawtucket is 60%.

Pawtucket sixth grade reading scores are at 71%.

Freshmen failures decreased by 60%.

Our Focus is:

- Reading**
- Writing**
- Mathematics**
- Support & Strengthen Professional**
- Learning Communities**

Focus four critical questions:

Reading is writing on the tip of a pen.

Support for teachers with common core state standards.

- **Assessment literacy training**

- **Improve intervention supports technology will be a part of that**

Continue to work transformation plan. Desperately need Science Coordinator K-8.

2 Teacher Evaluation Model Presentation

Ms. Cristino presented a PowerPoint presentation:

You want to peak student interest and engage you.

Some history;

Rhode Island Innovation Consortium

RIDE has to approve

Coventry has its own model

We did a gradual implementation last year. Our goal is students who are career and college ready.

Teacher evaluation and teachers growth:

You need tools to promote growth. We all agree student learning is important. Professional practice is important to evaluation rating.

Student learning objective is not being used this year in terminating teachers.

Mrs. Cylke: if you have good instruction, kids will grow. Mrs. Cylke referenced National expert, Charlotte Danielson.

Ms. Cristino: We look at preponderance of evidence.

Example: Tube of toothpaste. Looks good, works good, you would want to buy it, right?

However, there are no rubrics. If given rubrics, you are better able to rate the toothpaste based on evidence. Evidence adapted from Charlotte Danielson framework.

- Self-reflection-where they are
- Goals- writing goals
- Professional growth-goals
- Student learning objectives rated at the end of the year.
- Observations= 5 day training take for oral observation.
- Conferences
- Rated on every section 1-4

It all comes together for a final rating at the end of the year.

- Professional Development
- Where are we?

We're in good shape.

3 Monthly Report to City

Mr. Conlon: There is no change to report

The Committee acknowledged the monthly report to the City.

XI Superintendent's Report

Mrs. Cylke: We received a letter from the Curtis PTA for blinds for safety during lockdowns and are looking for funding. Since Sandyhook teachers who come in early would come in doors that are now locked. We're looking into a magnetic card but trying to get pricing. Big piece of facilities is planning for and pricing it out.

What keeps me up at night right now is our capacity issues. Our projections for next fall are assuming art and music teachers don't have a classroom. Any solution is expensive. I believe in keeping

kids in their neighborhood. Once we have a plan it's 90 to 100 days to make changes. That's a big concern to me.

One of the first things I did when I arrived here was to react to the Cotton & Company audit. Their audit said to close two schools. Dr. Schiller said you are going to have to expand.

XII Special Report of School Committee Members

Mr. Araujo: I want to wish the Tolman Hockey Team much success.

Ms. Cano: Thank you and have a good night.

Mr. Coughlin: Good night.

Ms. Nordquist: Good night.

Mr. Spooner: Good night.

Mr. Tenreiro: I'd just like to say that perhaps there is a school out there that could co-op those three Tolman juniors so they can continue to play in their senior year. Can we look into that?

XIII Adjournment

Mr. Araujo moved to adjourn. Mr. Coughlin seconded.

Voice vote carried all in favor.

The Chairman, Mr. Tenreiro, adjourned the regular meeting of the Pawtucket School Committee on Tuesday, March 12, 2013 at 8:51 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Clerk

Approved 5/14/13