

Special Meeting of the Pawtucket School Committee

Tuesday, April 29, 2014 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. Araujo, called the meeting to order at 6:11 PM. The Chairman stated that the Committee was delaying to wait for a representative from Strategic Building Solutions.

a Roll call

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

Also in attendance were Ms. Patricia DiCenso, Interim Superintendent of Schools; Ms. Kathleen Suriani, Elementary School Performance Officer; Ms. Melissa Devine, Chief Financial Officer; Mr. Jon Winikur, Strategic Building Solutions and Mr. David Frieder, SMMA.

Committee Members, Ms. Bonollo; Mr. Coughlin and Mr. Tenreiro

were not present.

b Pledge of Allegiance

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

II Public Participation

Comments from the public are invited at this time. Citizens wishing to speak should sign in with the Committee Chair before speaking. The Committee is precluded from discussing or acting on items raised by Public Comment, which are not already on the agenda. Public comment will be included in the minutes of the meeting.

None

III Old Business/Action Item(s)

1. Approval of Chief Financial Officer Contract Amendment—Medical Benefits

Ms. DiCenso: At the last meeting, we presented a document from legal counsel and the Ms. Devine's ability to negotiate on behalf of the Pawtucket Teachers Alliance contract. At the recommendation

of legal counsel we are asking you to approve the Chief Financial Officer's contract amendment regarding medical benefits.

Mr. Spooner moved to approve the Chief Financial Officer, Ms. Melissa Devine's contract amendment regarding medical benefits. Ms. Cano seconded.

Roll call

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

Motion passes with four members present.

2. Approval of 2nd reading of the Non-Public School Students Textbook Loan Program Policy

Ms. Devine: We were unable to find a policy on file in order for non-public students to attain textbooks in alignment with state policy.

It's more about having a policy in place. At the last meeting you asked about legal counsel and Dianna sent legal an email in which we received a verbal response that the policy was fine as written.

We are asking for your approval of the non-public school students' textbook loan program policy.

Mr. Spooner moved to approve the 2nd reading of the non-public

school students' textbook loan program policy.

Ms. Cano seconded.

Voice vote carried with four members present.

IV Presentation/Action Item(s)

1. Approval of RIDE Stage I and II Application

The Chairman, Mr. Araujo, asked if the members objected moving this item while waiting for a representative who is stuck in traffic. With no objections, the Committee moved to item number two.

2. Approval of Non Certified Contract Amendment—New Job Description, Lead Secretary

Ms. DiCenso: As part of the new Council 94 contract, we have a job as a lead secretary and although it was discussed, no document was attached. I worked closely with Melissa and the union and this is the new description in the contract for middle and high school secretaries only. I met with Mrs. Cylke and said there was a verbal agreement and we may have to re-visit the request to approve. We are seeking your approval of the new job description, lead secretary.

**Ms. Cano moved to approve the new job description, Lead Secretary.
Mr. Spooner seconded.**

Mr. Spooner: Microsoft Office, why didn't we add that in the job description?

Ms. Devine: I found where it is in the description and it states, "operate and utilize pertinent office systems."

Ms. Suriani: That was always done for a pre-employment test.

Mr. Spooner: I think it's easier to have it in the job description.

Ms. DiCenso: In the old job description it had the word typewriters. We tried to utilize Microsoft word/office, however, different offices have more need.

Mr. Spooner: I'm just looking out for Administration.

Roll call

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

Motion passes with four members present.

3. Approval of Pawtucket Waste Reduction Pilot Program at Curvin-McCabe, Jenks/JMW and Agnes Little Schools

Ms. DiCenso: The Honorable Mayor, Donald Grebien; Pawtucket DPW; MTG Disposal and Sodexo are proposing a partnership with the Pawtucket School Department in an effort to create a waste reduction pilot program in three Pawtucket schools; Curvin-McCabe, Jenks/JMW and Agnes Little and we are asking for your approval of this pilot program.

Mr. Spooner moved to approve the Pawtucket Waste Reduction Pilot Program at Curvin-McCabe, Jenks/JMW and Agnes Little Schools.
Ms. Cano seconded.

Ms. Morrissette: It's a great program.

Mr. Beaupre: Solange and Colleen asked about this earlier and my kids are very excited about participating.

Ms. Morrissette: The second grade kids knew what organic waste was at Curvin using the "Charlotte's Web" reference, "Wilbur."

Ms. Cano: I would just like to thank Solange for this program. This is a great program and I hope it goes beyond a pilot program.

Mr. Spooner asked Ms. Morrissette how long she had been working

with the Pawtucket School System and Ms. Morrisette answered, fifteen years.

Mr. Spooner: Whenever I see your name on anything, I know it's going to be good, in fact, great. I mean that sincerely.

Mr. Araujo: I salute Solange for getting this program going. I'm confident it will be successful.

Voice vote carried with four members present.

1. Approval of RIDE Stage I and II Application

Mr. Winikur distributed a recap of the \$32M bond renovations of Phase I of the Master Plan submitted on March 31, 2014. Stage II will be submitted by the end of the month. The Board of Regents approval should be done sometime this summer and funding approval by the Citizens of Pawtucket in November.

Mr. Winikur further commented that there is no guarantee that the Rhode Island Department of Education, (RIDE) will fund all of the \$32M funding requested, it is contingent upon legislature.

At Greene and Potter Burns, the project includes replacement of ceilings; replacing mechanical, electrical and plumbing infrastructure; address ADA requirements as required and safety

issues.

Mr. Araujo: What is the general life span of a roof?

Mr. Winikur: Fifteen-twenty years generally depending on wear and tear. Potter is fairly new.

Mr. Winikur commented that if funding allows they will also paint interiors and replace flooring. There is a wait on gymnasiums in this phase.

The total budget is \$25M for these two buildings, Potter Burns and Greene.

The second part came about by RIDE money set aside such as security upgrades, restroom replacements, and evaluate priorities annually for project selection with a total budget of \$4M for district wide repairs.

Technology upgrades include providing a dedicated IT closet in each school for a total budget of \$3M.

The next step is to design documents developed for schematic submission and we seek your approval to move forward to send Stage I and Stage II to RIDE.

Mr. Spooner moved to approve the RIDE Stage I and Stage II application. Ms. Cano seconded.

Ms. Cano: What will happen next?

Mr. Winikur: RIDE requires Stage I and Stage II. I refer as Phase I and II and what components sequentially to pursue in Phase II is up to you.

This is Stage I and II of Phase I.

Ms. Nordquist: The decision not to address the gymnasiums is because of money?

Mr. Araujo: With that \$32M earmarked we had to set aside \$1M or \$1.5M for normal wear and tear. Ms. Bonollo brought up that the gymnasiums need to be replaced, but because of a money issue because of the ceilings and Potter Burns based on financial impact and what other schools need made for a financial impact.

Mr. Frieder: At Greene, we hope to move the cafeteria out of the gymnasium or what is referred to as an “all purpose room.”

Ms. DiCenso: I think the conversation was there was a big price tag on safety and security. The gym at Potter is a good gym. The problem is eating in the gym as an all-purpose space. Depending on

where Greene is in this phase would be given an opportunity for all sixth grades to move to the middle school and use that sixth grade space at Greene as a gym.

Ms. Nordquist: Utilizing St. Leo's would depend on what school is being renovated at the time?

Ms. DiCenso: Yes.

Mr. Araujo: We don't have all the answers on St. Leo's. If we are unable to use St. Leo's we can always go back.

Mr. Winikur: That's why there is an extra year on this plan.

Ms. Nordquist: Hopefully it's something we can go back to; new gyms having designated space.

Ms. DiCenso: At the very least, it's three years out of transition at Greene.

Roll call

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

Motion passes with four members present.

V Interim Superintendent's Report

Ms. DiCenso: I want to let everyone know that the students have returned back from China and we have ten students and two teachers coming from China and they are hoping to speak before you while they are here. It is always a struggle to fund this program and Mike Connolly participated in a housing consolidated grant and received \$10,000 in the Confucius Grant.

Lastly, after a quick turn-around that CBS is going to be across the street at McCoy Stadium. They have been gracious enough to invite all of us. They will also donate a \$500.00 prize to the school with the best sign, i.e. "Little loves CBS." The players and mascot will visit the school and they will be invited to another game and stand on the first and third baseline. We are hoping that Pawsox wins. Be careful what section you sit in, you will have to cheer for that school.

Kathy and I had a walk through at Curvin McCabe. The rugs are not dry and the rooms are still apart. We made all call to the teachers and students and students were personally called and informed that there would be no kindergarten classes held. It does not impact them because they are only required to participate in 180 half days.

We received a \$25,000.00 clean up quote from Providence Restoration and in the summer will replace the rugs. That is the third flood in that

school and there are concerns of cleanliness. There might be another cost and we will update you with that.

VI Special Reports of School Committee Members

Ms. Cano: I just want to let everyone know that Thursday, May 1, 2014 Slater will be part of the clean-up day at Galego Courts.

Good night and thank you for coming.

Ms. Nordquist: Earlier during the School Committee Superintendent Search Subcommittee meeting we have established the make-up of the committee to include the following:

- Three School Committee Members**
- One representative from the Pawtucket Teachers Alliance**
- One representative from the Pawtucket Administrators Association**
- One representative from the Local 1352, Council 94 Non-Certified Union**
- Two parents; one representing the elementary schools and one representing the secondary schools. We will solicit names from the administration.**
- One representative designated by the Honorable Mayor Grebien**

This will be a subcommittee of nine members.

**Hopefully we have representatives soon so that we can meet in May.
I'm looking forward to it.**

Thank you and have a good night.

**Mr. Spooner: Ms. Nordquist was named Chairperson of the
Superintendent Search Subcommittee. See you all soon.**

**Mr. Araujo: I'd just like to remind the members that the Ethics
Commission reports have to be in by May 1, 2014.**

Thank you all for coming out, especially those stuck in traffic.

VII Adjournment

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

Voice vote carried with four members present.

**The Chairman, Mr. Araujo, adjourned the special meeting of the
Pawtucket School Committee on Tuesday, April 29, 2014 at 6:47 PM.**

Respectfully submitted,

Clerk

Approved 6/17/14