

**SPECIAL MEETING OF THE PAWTUCKET SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

**Monday, June 30, 2014, 6:00 PM**

**School Administration Building, 2nd Floor Conference Room**

**286 Main Street, Pawtucket, RI 02860**

**Minutes**

**I. Meeting will come to order**

**The Chairman, Mr. Araujo, called the special meeting to order at 6:06 PM.**

**a. Roll Call**

**Ms. Bonollo-here; Ms. Cano-here; Ms. Nordquist-here; Mr. Spooner-here; Mr. Tenreiro-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, Ms. Solange Morrissette, General Manager, Sodexo School Food Service, Mr. Michael Letendre and Mr. Eric Pimental, Chartwells and Mr. Stephen Robinson, Legal Counsel for the Pawtucket School Committee.**

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

**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.**

**The Chairman, Mr. Araujo, commented that due to the number of people who signed up for public participation, each person would be limited to three minutes.**

**Carolyn DeOliveira, Sodexo: I'm here tonight to speak on behalf of Sodexo. I have been here for twenty years when the lunch program started with one hot lunch and a sandwich. There are now four choices and a salad bar every day. Sodexo does a lot for the Backpack program. Sodexo provides lunches for the summer program that kicked off at Slater Park. We do the Future Chef competition and help out with the COZ summer program. Sodexo has a dress down day on Friday. It's a great program and I'd hate to see the salad bar go away. To serve breakfast in the classroom standing up will cause more problems. 2**

**Wanda Simeone, School Lunch: I have been with Sodexo for fourteen years and they are a great company to work for. They serve the best food for children. I hope you keep us in mind, if not the kids will move out. We're a strong company but it's not about us, it's about the children.**

**Joanne Barbeiro, School Lunch: Hello. I have been working for Sodexo for nine years. If you compare the website of both Sodexo and Chartwells, you will see one major difference. Sodexo has a lot more faces of employees to help feed the children. On the Chartwells website there is nothing but generic photos of a few employees. Sodexo is a family with community. School lunch is not about profit and our presence tonight shows high spirit.**

**Arnold Barbeiro, Jr., School Lunch: I am presently a student at Brandeis University. Esteemed Committee Members, I stand before you as a former student and have eaten lunches served by Sodexo and now work for them at Brandeis. Sodexo unlike the food provider we had last year has better food and listens to the students. They have been adjusting and if it doesn't work, they will adjust again. I hope you help keep them in the Pawtucket Schools.**

**Casandra King, School Lunch: I have worked for Sodexo for one year and I am also the parent of three children; one at Jenks, Little and Winters. I have never seen a company who does so much for kids. At the end of the week, we have the backpacks that we send home each week. If we took this away, they don't have food to eat. When the kids see us they thank us. I understand if you want to go with someone with a lower bid. They're saying they are going to raise the prices. We're here for the kids.**

**Lynn Roy, School Lunch: I've been with Sodexo for twenty years and I have been a City resident for thirty years. The main goal is to provide nutritional lunches to students. Standing with me is an eighty one year old who served in the Korean War. The most important thing**

**to be is happy and we're dedicated to children.**

**Mariana Wilson, School Lunch: I'm going to ask that you don't try to fix something that's not broke. There are a lot of people with many years; me, I have ten and one half years. I have kids come in looking for roasted brussel sprouts and garbanzos. Please don't fix what's not broke.**

**Solange Morrissette, General Manager, School Services, Pawtucket, Sodexo: Good evening. I do not think that I need to introduce myself to any of you, but just in case I will. I am Solange Morrissette, your Sodexo Pawtucket General Manager for your school lunch program. I sat at the opening of the food service proposals and I heard the competitors throw out some big numbers. What you can't put a number on is the intrinsic value of the relationship Sodexo had brought to Pawtucket and its students. How can you put a dollar value on Sodexo's commitment to the well-being of our students? From the free and reduced application drive winning national attention and awards to Pawtucket having 10 of the first 1000 Healthier US school challenge winner in the country. That took our school community to the White House. Mr. Smith may have gone to Washington, but Pawtucket went to the White House. What is the value of the lessons learned by our students in the Future chefs competition, our own Giana Casto being one of the top 35 finalists in the country, which is making other kids want to create healthier recipes. You did not see money in your bank account from the hundreds of hours that Sodexo staff has given to the Backpacker program from food drives to the weekly packing of bags. You do see**

**a partnership. These are not programs someone else thought up. These are Sodexo developed. They bring unspeakable value to our students. Sodexo's relationship with the RI community Food Bank has enabled us to get thousands of pounds of free food for the Backpackers program just by working together to overcome barriers.**

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**Today we had our summer lunch kickoff event and it struck me while I was at Slater Park at 6:30 AM as John Blais from Parks and Recreation came by to help set up and Joe Morais from DPW brought us trash cans and asked me what else I needed, that they are both true community partners. How much are those relationships that we have developed over the past 20 years' worth? What really hit home today was when Steve Carey from the Rhode Island Department of Education who attended the event said that he would put your Pawtucket Sodexo program up against any other in the country.**

**Let us not forget the upcoming Back to School Celebration another Sodexo inspired program, where we will be partnering with the community to distribute backpacks, school supplies and meals to our students.**

**On a personal note, I am a tri-athlete. Wellness is one of my core values. I swim, bike and run my way to wellness nearly every day. This Sodexo team has put Pawtucket's lunch program on the top of the podium over and over again. If you want a vendor, hire someone else. If you want a partner, continue with the Sodexo family.**

**Your own RFP says and I quote, "it is the intent of the LEA to accept**

**the proposal that will best promote the public interest and is most advantageous to the LEA.” What promotes the best interest of our children? A number on paper or a proven record of creating healthier menus long before it became law. We have improved the lives of our children over the past 20 years. Yes, let me say that again, 20 years; by knowing what is the right thing to do and serving healthy foods. I saw our kids gobble up roasted brussel sprouts, tons of fruits and veggies today that would not have happened if they weren’t used to seeing them. They were so excited to be able to eat them.**

**We have spent 20 years as your partner. I have had the privilege of being here for 15 of those years and working with these amazing members of your community. Again I will say it, 20 years! If you want a vendor, hire someone else, if you want a partner, you have come to the right place.**

**Thank you.**

**Cathy Rocco, School Lunch: I have been with Sodexo during the 20 years. Solange and her team have created a great food program. We understand the program and we know your priorities. We ask you to look at the company that will serve the best interest of the kids.**

**Mike Grey, Sodexo: Good evening. As Solange mentioned, it is the intent of the district to select the proposal that best serves the public interest, but it also says it may choose the vendor most advantageous to the LEA or district; the proposal that benefits the needs of students and the district. After the opening, the differences in meals are considerable. The largest proposal suggests they will serve 2,000 more meals per day and to improve numbers that much**

would have to have requirements. We urge the district to review the proposals and understand the conditions. If you feel it is reasonable and understand what it means; breakfast in the classroom. The largest financial return is not always the best. We didn't propose to do some of those things. Our financial return would be in line with the competitor.

Also is staffing to be realized and length of financial offer? We've never come in below. Providence went through something like this and when it went to the school board, they decided to have another vote and awarded it to Sodexo. 4

We have a long standing partnership for a number of years. This group has worked for this community. They've done a wonderful job and hope to continue to bring a lot more.

The Backpackers is a Sodexo program that we brought here to Pawtucket.

Ashlee Burns, School Lunch: I'm here wearing two hats. My mom is going on 19 years working for Sodexo. From kindergarten to grade 12 I ate Sodexo lunch and have as a family. I was taken in and felt a part of community. The second hat is that I'm a teacher at Slater now. Everything they do is because of the students. My mom works at Slater. One student at the school was not able to afford the trip taken every year so Sodexo took the dress down money and used that for the field trip so the student could go.

Why would you have to take this away from the children? Separate, but the same, I personally saw it while working and as a student.

**Courtney Smith: I work for the Union that represents the workers here this evening. We are not here to take a stand. Whatever company comes on board we want to make sure that they continue to pay the same wages with medical and honor the collective bargaining unit and are able to maintain what they have worked hard for. We want the company to respect the workers and what they've worked so hard for.**

**Mr. Araujo: In light of the large crowd and if there is no opposition from the Committee, we would like to jump ahead to agenda items H and I under new business, action items and the Committee will then go back to the natural order of this agenda.**

#### **h. Approval of Food Service Contract Extension for Summer Lunch Program 2014**

**Mr. Spooner moved to approve the food service contract extension for the 2014 summer lunch program to Sodexo. Ms. Bonollo seconded.**

**Ms. Devine: There is a motion on the floor to extend the food service contract extension for the summer of 2014 only.**

**Roll call**

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

**Motion carries unanimously with six members present.**

#### **I Approval of 2014-2015 Food Service Vendor subject to Negotiated Contract in accordance with RIDE and Federal Regulations**

**Ms. Devine: We are here this evening to recommend a food service vendor subject to negotiated contract in accordance with RIDE and**

**federal regulations.**

**The Pawtucket School Department, as required by law, requested proposals for school food services. The other option is to join the master price agreement at RIDE which is currently with Aramak. The request for proposal (RFP) was written using a boiler plate document provided by RIDE. It was modified to Pawtucket School Department specifications, approved by district legal counsel and approved by RIDE. 5**

**Bids were received and opened in public forum where cost prices were recorded. A review committee was requested to determine a ranking score based on a pre-determined rubric. The RFP requests a contract for one (1) year with four (4) optional renewals.**

**Based on the scoring of the rubric, which was part of the RFP package, the review committee is recommending the Compass Group, known as Chartwells, to provide food services beginning at the opening of the FY 2014-2015 school year.**

**The RFP response includes the following: There is a guaranteed surplus/reimbursement for the first year of the contract in the amount of \$600,243.36. The guarantee is for service operations only and does not include expenses that the district may charge to the program. The district currently charges utilities and custodial services based on the square footage used by the food service department. If approved, Chartwells, will be maintaining the existing non-management staff, with a two percent hourly increase.**

**After district level approval, the district must work with legal counsel**

and vendor legal counsel to develop a contract that must be submitted and approved by RIDE, then submitted to the School Committee for approval.

Mr. Spooner moved to approve the 2014-2015 food service vendor subject to negotiated contract in accordance with RIDE and federal regulations to Chartwells as recommended by the review committee and Ms. Melissa Devine, Chief Financial Officer. Ms. Bonollo seconded.

Mr. Spooner: This is one of those nights that is very difficult. I take this job seriously. I know a lot of these people from Sodexo. I've dealt with them I've been called in the middle of the night and my family was awoken to come help because the workers had a problem with management and they thought I could help quell the situation. The roots go very deep for me with Sodexo. No one will ever tell me that Sodexo is not here for the kids of Pawtucket. If we should feel bad about anything this evening, we should feel bad for Solange Morrissette. I have never seen anyone who has gone above and beyond on her own time because she loves this job here.

A lot of people got up and spoke today but it wasn't really the issue we're here for that they spoke about. It wasn't about the kids and it wasn't about the schools so we have a job to do here and my biggest problem was the differential in the guarantee. That is a huge gap. It is with a heavy heart and Chartwells has big shoes to fill. As Ms. Devine said it is one year with an additional renewal. Chartwells will have to be on their "A" game to gain trust. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Ms. Nordquist: I have some questions. With all due respect, Mr.

**Spooner, we do need to get it. If the discrepancy is so large and it's because breakfast is being served in the classroom, I think it cuts into the instructional time. As a teacher, this is an issue for me and I do not support breakfast in the classroom. Is that a big factor?**

**Ms. Devine: You can ask Chartwells.**

**Mike Letendre, Regional Director and Eric Pimental, Vice President of Chartwells**

**Mr. Letendre: Breakfast in the classrooms was not proposed. Although we did see a big opportunity to bring according to the data provided in the RFP. We proposed bringing in mobile breakfast carts to the entrance of the school, understanding Pawtucket's socio economics based on the number of free and reduced priced lunches you are eligible for the Universal Free Breakfast. So it's not proposing breakfast in the classrooms it's 6**

**proposing breakfast at the entrances. If they are not going to come to the cafeteria then we will bring breakfast to them.**

**Ms. Nordquist: There will be wrappers all over the place. They are eating in the school cafeteria now.**

**Mr. Pimental: It's a give and take of what's better. The kids don't eat anything or you have to pick up a wrapper. What we saw was the biggest opportunity to comparing it to a district of this size is the socio economics to better serve the students in Pawtucket.**

**Ms. Nordquist: Then why is there such a big difference? I don't understand. Can anybody explain it, because we are dealing with a company that has been in this business for twenty years. I also have**

questions about one year because it's more un-nerving that it could be for just one year.

Ms. Devine: The law requires that you can only award for one year and four additional optional renewals each year. Each year you have to take into account all of the expenses to run the program. That's how it's been with Sodexo. It's been a one year renewal each year.

The bid is brought back every year to the school committee and I think the last time this district went out to bid it was possibly unopposed.

Ms. Bonollo: Correct.

Ms. Devine: As far as the purchasing regulations, Dave Clemente, the City Purchasing Director was part of the review committee and rightfully so because he has the history and the particulars in following the letter to the law. We followed the process, the bids were opened in a public forum and the review committee was formed.

Ms. Nordquist: Was it the intent to go with the lowest bidder?

Ms. Devine: There was a rubric given when the vendors picked up the bids as to how they would be ranked. The review committee consisted of six members two from finance, two from the wellness committee, one educator and the purchasing agent. So we based the review on all three vendors and ranked them.

Mr. Araujo: If it is based on this rubric am I correct in saying the highest percentage point being a loss is basically how it reads? The criterion must be the primary factor to award this decision. Is that accurate to say?

Ms. Devine: Correct, when the rubric is designed and was then vetted

by Mr. Robinson's firm and that rubric is actually set up by the RIDE in use with the USDA guidelines and we are told right inside the directions that the highest weight has to be on price.

Ms. Nordquist: I've been on this committee for ten years and Sodexo has been supportive of every event and followed every school wellness initiative and when we had the awards at Fallon, there is dedication. We have not always gone with the low bidder because of relationships with the company or other various reasons. I'm a Pawtucket person and there are a lot of Pawtucket people here tonight and I will always stand by those relationships here for Pawtucket students. I will not be on the committee for next year. I don't like hearing about some of these things like breakfast in the classrooms. I would need more information. I wonder how 7

long this has been in place and I wonder why we had so many people at this meeting because they seemed to be aware of something before we were.

Ms. Cano: I'm concerned about the impact on students. Do you plan to raise the lunch prices?

Mr. Pimental: No, we do not plan on any price increases and you folks are the governing body that has the power to do that.

Ms. Cano: And you can still guarantee a profit of \$600,243.36 without the breakfast included?

Mr. Pimental: No, breakfast is already a paid service.

Ms. Bonollo: You're pricing is estimated on meals served and that number is 9,000. If you don't meet the 9,000 meals, that would affect

**your profit substantially and put you in line with the other bidders. So what I'm asking is there a guarantee of \$600,000.00, no matter what happens? If you don't meet the benchmark of the 9,000 meals, how much does that decrease?**

**Mr. Pimental: The district ranked based on a very fair process. We are anticipating the same program for the district and eliminating breakfast all together would be a consideration, but we respect the opportunity to be here. We understand for the employees it is very emotionally. I was in a meeting last week with East Providence and had the similar situation. We were on the other end of the shoe that night. We've made a commitment to the employees and we've made a commitment to the children. We put our best foot forward including possibly doing a few things differently and the motive is to increase the number of meals served to kids daily. We committed to having management structure that not only has a food service director on sight, but also an assistant direct and experienced culinary expert. If by chance we made an error in the calculation, that's why it comes down to this open bid process. We put our best foot forward. I can't speak to the differential but if it was an open bid, there is just a summary given. You haven't had a chance to look at Sodexo's bid or ours.**

**Ms. Bonollo: I can say that Aramark is estimated at 1,600 meals served, Sodexo is estimated at 1,630 and you (Chartwells) estimated at 1,947; because of the huge increase, that would bring your profits up higher. So what I'm asking you and you haven't answered is if you don't meet the 1,947,000,00 meals served over the course of the year,**

**are you going to decrease your profits by meals served?**

**Mr. Pimental: We will fulfill that obligation. It's not the guarantee so much as it's the value of the guarantee. Even beyond our collected fee if we were to miss by \$1M, we would have to write a check for \$1M plus \$600,000.00.**

**The answer is yes.**

**Ms. Cano: In order to staff the program, you are going to raise the salary by 2%. How about the medical benefits?**

**Mr. Pimental: We understood what the current situation was the employees and we work with the Local 217 in other districts. We have to acknowledge the union and we will negotiate in good faith. Two percent (2%) was the benchmark we put in. There is not guarantee though that it could end up being more. Our labor relations will be at the same level if not better. 8**

**Ms. Cano: How about health benefits?**

**Mr. Pimental: Our labor relations will be at the same level if not better. That's a commitment. I've been working in Rhode Island since 1989 and if the committee checks our references they will know how committed we are to our proposals.**

**Mr. Araujo: This 2% increase you feel is the minimum that they would get?**

**Mr. Letendre: With the vehicle provided in the RFP and the wage information that was provided we added an additional two percent (2%).**

**Mr. Araujo: So these folks can anticipate that kind of increase?**

**Mr. Letendre: Yes.**

**Ms. Cano: You mentioned that you were going to do some changes with what you are proposing, what are the changes for the meals? What are our children going to see as far as menus, meals and choices when they don't see the same food choices?**

**Mr. Letendre: As part of the process there was a pre-bid tour. We toured several of your schools and saw a variety of grades and ages. We saw an opportunity to bring in more flash cooked food which uses fresh ingredients versus processed. We will have an executive chef on staff who is salaried and full time to bring culinary consistency and presentation to all schools as well as training to all current employees. A lot of times kids eat with their eyes, but we can make the food more appealing presenting things that taste better and bring a variety of options.**

**Mr. Pimental: Chartwells added \$250,000.00 in equity that will include exhibition cooking and the role of the new manager will be to go from school to school and bring that food excitement to the students.**

**Ms. Cano: So with this proposal you have to be in compliance with the state laws on healthy foods and wellness why did we see pop tarts on one of the menus?**

**Ms. Bonollo: A sample menu says processed chicken, pop tarts. It was in your bid. Pop tarts, rice crispy treats this is in your bid.**

**Mr. Pimental: That was asked and we provided that information it was an a la carte menu that did include those items but I'm not sure if it was Rhode Island. Rhode Island has very stringent rules regulating what products we bring in. I don't know why that information was in**

there.

**Ms. Cano: So you follow the rules?**

**Mr. Pimental: Yes.**

**Ms. Barbara Cohen, Chartwells: Pop tarts are not in the menu. 9**

**Ms. Bonollo: This is an extremely difficult choice and the only reason is because of amount of money and I'm sad about that and that is Rhode Island Law. It's true, I've worked with Sodexo. I've been on the committee for eight years. I've also worked with Solange and Mike, the management team and I am also the Chair of the Wellness Committee. Any time that I have said I want, they have given. I wanted the Backpackers Program and they actually picked women every week who pack 250 bags every week for us. I usually shop at BJ's and occasionally Solange will go out to the store and get things and there is no charge for that and there is a lot of man hours every week. It doesn't come down to dollars and cents on the bid. But they can change things like lunch with the parents or breakfast with the parents. They do the Backpackers which is extremely huge and when I say huge, I mean huge. I received an email on a Friday night after everyone had left work and it was a parent who said "I didn't get my money and I have nothing to feed my son." I sent the email to Solange and she went and brought food to that family. So this is really, really difficult choice and you have to understand why because the law says one thing and what we know and what we've seen is huge.**

**You have processed chicken. We don't do processed chicken. We**

**don't do mystery meats. We do roasted potatoes. We do fresh fruit. Solange has gone out for every grant that is available and puts food for snacks for during the day. So you have to understand this is huge.**

**Ms. Bonollo moved to table the approval of the 2014-2015 Food Service Vendor until a public presentation held with both Sodexo and Chartwells and all the information if fully understood that is contained in the bid.**

**No one seconded.**

**Ms. Cano: What is our deadline?**

**Ms. Devine: I reached out to the Department of Education and got permission for a 60 day extension allowable to the district. We have to have a decision within the sixty days and should there be a change in vendors, we have to allow a reasonable amount of time to make change. I did ask last month and it was extended for sixty days. We have until August 31, 2014. The contract ended on June 30, 2014 so you have sixty days from then and you can utilize the full sixty days.**

**Ms. Nordquist: I'd just like to say it would have been nice to have had that before this. We didn't know they had someone gunning for this bid.**

**Mr. Tenreiro: I am very much against tabling once a motion has been made.**

**Mr. Araujo: To my knowledge we have not had a second to tabling.**

**Mr. Tenreiro: The account functions as what is called an enterprise account so this decision or this vote does not affect the bottom line of the taxpayer. It doesn't impact the local budget.**

**Have we ever had to put in each year a ton of money to that enterprise account from the local budget?**

**Ms. Devine: To my knowledge, we have not. 10**

**Mr. Tenreiro: So the guarantee which the company makes in the first year, I understand goes into that enterprise account and is really for use in the food service program and does not impact our local budget in anyway as simply as attached to that food service account which is a dedicated account that is simply for use for food service. I think that is important to understand. I think Aramark, Sodexo and Chartwells all do a great job with some of the same things. They probably call it something different, but it's the same thing, but I'm sure they all do wonderfully. When I came to the Pawtucket School Department, I have to say that I am so happy with the food service department. I am completely satisfied with the food service department. I think the staff we have has done a really great job. They have done what it is they are supposed to do. They have this guarantee here based on assumptions, associations and what if's. I think the thing that we have is knowledge of a relationship right now that is the food service company. There is a tremendous amount of loyalty. A tremendous amount of student centered decision making. A focus on health and nutrition that has been award winning like they said. I think we have a tremendously responsible company and I think you cannot, you cannot dismiss and Ray you said it, we have a tremendous food service director that we know all that stuff right now will continue. There are no "ifs" or "possibilities." I'm not running again folks,**

there's a lot of people here tonight. It's not a re-election speech, but you have a rubric here and you're absolutely right, teachers have rubrics, juries have rubrics so many people have rubrics and you take the rubric but we have to look at the preponderance of evidence as a school committee and make that document what is the reasonable way to go here that fits the students the best. RFP's come in all the time and we go with the middle or high bidder. It's all dependent on so many different factors. It's not just straight out points based on some rubric. It's important and weighs significantly and heavily with me as I make this decision. Thank you.

Mr. Letendre: The Committee seems to be focused on the return money. It's great that Sodexo has been here for twenty years, but you only know what you know. A big portion of the proposal was also focused on innovation, menu and bringing other things going well beyond the \$600,000.00 guarantee. We do some very good things at the twelve districts we serve in Rhode Island another thirty we have in Massachusetts and more than twenty five we have in Connecticut. I invite anyone on this committee to tour whether it is East Providence or another district to go beyond financials to see what we do because you only know what you know.

Thank you for your time.

Mr. Araujo: I understand going through the bid process, it was heavily weighed on the financial. All three companies know this?

Ms. Devine: Yes. The rubric is including in the bid packet that they picked up.

Roll call:

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

**Motion fails; four opposed-Ms. Bonollo; Ms. Cano; Ms. Nordquist and Mr. Tenreiro; two in favor.**

**Mr. Tenreiro moved to approve Sodexo as the 2014-2015 Food Service Vendor subject to negotiated Contract in accordance with Rhode Island Department of Education (RIDE) and Federal Regulations. Ms. Nordquist seconded. 11**

**Roll call**

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

**Motion passes four in favor; two opposed-Mr. Spooner and Mr. Araujo.**

**The Chairman, Mr. Araujo, commented that he would allow five minutes to allow those who wished to leave to do so.**

### **III. Executive Session**

**The Chairman, Mr. Araujo, commented that the committee would recess to executive session in accordance with provisions under Title 42, Chapter 46, Subsection 5(a) (1) (job performance, physical and mental health) (2) legal advice and litigation/collective bargaining of the General Laws of the State of Rhode Island for the purpose of acting on and/or discussing:**

**a. Legal Advice—Superintendent Tentative Agreement**

**b. Superintendent Interview**

### **c. Seal Executive Session Minutes**

**Ms. Nordquist moved to recess to executive session. Ms. Bonollo seconded.**

**Roll call**

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

**Motion carries unanimously with six members present.**

**The Committee recessed to executive session at 7:22 PM to 7:55 PM.**

### **IV. Reconvene to open session**

**The Chairman, Mr. Araujo, reconvened to open session at 7:58 PM.**

**a. Roll call**

**Ms. Bonollo-here; Ms. Cano-here; Ms. Nordquist-here; Mr. Spooner-here; Mr. Tenreiro-here; Mr. Araujo-here**

### **V. Report out vote(s) of executive session of 6/30/14, if applicable**

**The Clerk reported that the committee unanimously voted to seal the executive session minutes and adjourn the executive session with six members present. 12**

### **VI. Old Business**

**a. Approval of Council 94, Local 1352 Lead Secretary, Elementary, Middle and High School MOU**

**Ms. DiCenso: We are recommending for your approval the Council 94, Local 1352 Lead Secretary, Elementary, Middle and High School MOU.**

**Mr. Spooner moved to approve the Council 94, Local 1352 Lead Secretary, Elementary, Middle and High School MOU. Ms. Cano seconded.**

**Voice vote carries with six members present.**

**b. Approval of Lead Secretary; Elementary, Middle and High School Job Description**

**Ms. DiCenso: We are recommending for your approval the Lead Secretary; elementary, middle and high school job description.**

**Ms. Bonollo moved to approve the elementary, middle and high school lead secretary job description. Mr. Spooner seconded.**

**Voice vote carries with six members present.**

**VII. New Business –Action Items**

**a. Approval and Appointment of Superintendent of Schools with Tentative Agreement**

**Ms. Nordquist: I had the honor to chair the superintendent search subcommittee and want to acknowledge the members: fellow colleagues of the school committee, Ms. Cano and Mr. Spooner; Mr. Ron Beaupre, President of the Pawtucket Teachers Alliance; Dr. Jackie Ash, President, Pawtucket Administrators Association; Ms. Debra Findlay, President, Local 1352, Non-Certified Union; from the**

**Mayor's Office, Mr. Dylan Zelazo and two parent representatives, Mrs. Kim Grant who has a student at Varieur and Mr. Don Grossi who has a student at Slater.**

**Collectively the nine members on the committee knew it was an important task to do in a short amount of time. The nine people were very dedicated to find the best person to lead our schools from all different backgrounds.**

**Ms. Nordquist moved to appoint Mrs. Patricia DiCenso as Superintendent of Schools with a tentative agreement beginning July 1, 2014 until the committee brings forward a fully negotiated three (3) year contract. Ms. Cano seconded.**

**Ms. Bonollo: I think they had a wonderful chair.**

**Mr. Spooner: I ditto that.**

**Ms. Nordquist: I think you did a wonderful job during the interview process with no additional cost. You give it your all everyday and it's important. 13**

**Mr. Araujo: I couldn't ask for anyone better. We collaborated very well and there were big shoes to fill and you have done so admirably working hard and I look forward to working with you.**

**Ms. Cano: As part of the subcommittee, I was not only impressed, but it was that she wants to make this the best district in Rhode Island and with her leadership I believe she can do that.**

**Ms. Nordquist: I want to thank everyone who served on the subcommittee. We were part of a great thing and made the right decision. This was done with no additional cost to the district; not to**

**be just a great urban, but a great district.**

**Mr. Araujo: Please don't get lost in the tentative name. This is the crust of the contract. Ms. DiCenso is appointed to a three year contract.**

**Roll call**

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

**Motion carries unanimously with six members present.**

**Ms. DiCenso: This is my husband, David and he knows it's always about kids, kids, kids. He spent two whole Sundays putting together filing cabinets for another district I worked in. He has endured many long hours. He gets me and I get him with his music. You have to have a partnership at home.**

**My son, David, has been dragged to my classroom and watched what it means to help others.**

**Between me, my brother, Michael, my sister, Carolyn and my sister in Florida, there are 60 plus years in education. My brother, Thomas, is a business man and entrepanaur. We came from parents who had nothing. Our father quit work to join the Navy who married an affluent woman. My dad could not say enough about education.**

**To Taylor and Tori, don't ever let anyone say "you can't do it."**

**I will give you my all.**

**My godson, John, is here tonight for me.**

**I have to say something about someone here this evening. She is a woman of grace and humility who loves Pawtucket and the kids and never wants one ounce of credit, but I could never have done this**

**without her. Kathy Suriani is a gift to Pawtucket.**

**b. Approval of Teacher Recalls**

**Ms. DiCenso: Tonight we are requesting your approval of the following recalls: 14**

**Ashlee Burns; James Reynolds; Benjamin Masse; Alice Kelly; Michelle Burcacci; Brianne Burbank; Ashlee Whitehead .**

**Mr. Spooner moved to approve the recalls as recommended by Ms. DiCenso. Ms. Nordquist seconded.**

**Voice vote carries all in favor with six members present.**

**Ms. DiCenso: There is one more name that wasn't read on the recall list and that is Elizabeth Dubois.**

**Mr. Tenreiro moved to approve the recall of Elizabeth Dubois. Ms. Bonollo seconded.**

**Voice vote carries all in favor with six members present.**

**c. Approval of Certified Re-Appointments**

**Ms. DiCenso: We are requesting your approval of the following three re-appointments. These are one year positions and were only hired through June, 2014:**

**Renee Beaulieu Rodrigues-Special Education at ALP; Kevin Koehler-Music (1 year) at Goff; Colleen McMichael-Nurse at Tolman**

**Ms. Nordquist moved to approve the re-appointments as recommended by Ms. DiCenso. Ms. Bonollo seconded.**

**Voice vote carries all in favor with six members present.**

**d. Approval of Certified Appointment(s)**

**Ms. DiCenso: We are requesting you approval for the certified appointments of the ROTC Instructors, Sergeant major Scott M. Smith, USMC (Ret.) and Colonel Jeffrey F. Richardson, USMCR (Ret.)**

**Mr. Tenreiro moved to approve the certified appointments of the ROTC Instructors as recommended. Ms. Nordquist seconded.**

**Voice vote carries all in favor with six members present.**

**e. Approval of Non Certified Appointments—Custodians**

**Ms. DiCenso: We are requesting your approval of the following non certified appointments:**

**David Carter, Fallon, 2-10 PM; Jason Bernardo, Slater, 2-10 PM; and Jacob Lenahan, Tolman 2-10 PM**

**These are all custodial positions.**

**Mr. Spooner moved to approve the non certified appointments of the three custodians as recommended by Ms. DiCenso. Ms. Cano seconded.**

**Voice vote carries all in favor with six members present.**

**f. Approval of District Copier Lease and Maintenance Contract**

**15**

**Ms. Devine: The Pawtucket School Department utilizing the RI State Master Price Agreement would like to enter into a 60 month lease for district copiers with Core Business Technologies. In addition to the lease agreement there is the copier maintenance agreement for**

supplies and service on (35) existing and (47) new models within the district. The new copier lease is \$9,766.86 per month or \$117,202.32 annually. The maintenance agreement for both new copiers and existing copiers is \$122,035.00 per year for 23M pages black and white and 83K pages of color copies. The overage cost is .00495 for black and white and .045 for color.

Mr. Spooner moved to approve the copier lease and maintenance contract with Core Business Technologies as recommended by the Chief Financial Officer, Ms. Devine. Mr. Tenreiro seconded.

Voice vote carries all in favor with six members present.

**g. Approval to join Rhode Island Municipal Insurance Cooperation (RIMIC)**

**Ms. Devine: Rhode Island Municipal Insurance Corporation (RIMIC) is a collaborative group of Cities/Towns and School Districts that have joined together to save money on administrative claiming fees for medical insurance. The savings to the district would be approximately \$30,000.00 each year at a minimum. There is an initial fee to join, however, which is based on the pro-rata share of the capital account of current RIMIC members. Pawtucket's fee would be \$5,883.14.**

**The district would have their own contract not associated with the City and get working rates based only on claims of the district.**

**We would be paying our claims directly to our insurance company and the advantage is that we would build our own fund balance and our claims would not be averaged with other Cities or School**

**Districts.**

**There is no penalty to withdraw from RIMIC at the end of the contract.**

**Mr. Spooner moved to approve the Pawtucket School District contract with RIMIC as recommended by Ms. Devine. Mr. Tenreiro seconded.**

**Voice vote carries all in favor with six members present.**

**h. Approval of Food Service Contract Extension for Summer Lunch Program 2014—this item was moved to the beginning of the agenda.**

**i. Approval of 2014-2015 Food Service Vendor subject to Negotiated Contract in accordance with RIDE and Federal Regulations—this item was moved to the beginning of the agenda.**

**j. Approval of School Committee Policy, Community Relations—Freedom of Information; 1st Reading**

**16**

**Ms. DiCenso: We are requesting your approval of the 1st reading of the Freedom of Information Policy. This is an update to a policy that we are in compliance with the law.**

**Mr. Tenreiro moved to approve the 1st reading of the Freedom of Information Policy as recommended. Mr. Spooner seconded.**

**Voice vote carries all in favor with six members present.**

**k. Appointment of Subcommittee for Legal RFP's**

**Chairman Araujo requested volunteers from the School Committee**

**Members for the Legal RFP Review Subcommittee.**

**Ms. Bonollo, Ms. Cano and Mr. Spooner volunteered to sit on this subcommittee.**

**Ms. Nordquist moved to appoint Ms. Bonollo, Ms. Cano and Mr. Spooner to the Legal RFP Review Subcommittee. Ms. Bonollo seconded.**

**Voice vote carries all in favor with six members present.**

### **VIII. Interim Superintendent's Report**

**Ms. DiCenso: The Mayor wrote letters of recommendation for our Principals who made great gains this year in the NECAP testing and JMW is leading again. Both Tolman and Shea showed increases of over 20%. Varieur showed remarkable gains as well. Potter Burns showed major gains this year in reading, writing and math. The gap is closing at Curvin, Curtis and Little also. Greene is showing gains. It's important that the gaps are identified and the rank is rated in a subgroup.**

### **IX. Special Reports of School Committee Members**

**Ms. Bonollo: No news is good news. It was a good year for Backpackers. Enjoy your summer!**

**Ms. Cano: Thank you for coming tonight. Enjoy your summer.**

**Ms. Nordquist: Have a good summer!**

**Mr. Spooner: For those of you who haven't heard, Ms. Nordquist will not be here next year. She did a great job leading the Superintendent Search Subcommittee and it was a great subcommittee to be on.**

**Have a great summer everyone.**

**Mr. Tenreiro: I've worked at the Leukemia and Lymphoma society and last year we did a fundraising event called "Light the Night Walk." This year on September 27, 2014 it will be in Pawtucket at McCoy Stadium and will include a two mile loop around the City and other fun things. I am raising funds for this, but you don't have to, you can just come and walk. I hope some of you can join me this year and participate in this event. It is a prevalent disease in children.**

**Mr. Araujo: I want to thank the members of the Superintendent Search Subcommittee who brought Ms. DiCenso forward. A lot of work was involved. I'd also like to thank from the Mayor's office, Mr. Dylan Zelazo; Mr. Ron Beaupre, President of the Pawtucket Teachers Alliance; Dr. Jackie Ash, President of the Pawtucket 17**

**Administrators Association and the parents who participated on this subcommittee. I so look forward to working with you, Ms. DiCenso.**

**Have a great summer!**

**X. Adjournment**

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

**Voice vote carries all in favor with six members present.**

**The Chairman, Mr. Araujo, adjourned the special meeting of the Pawtucket School Committee on Monday, June 30, 2014 at 8:28 PM.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Clerk**

**Approved by School Committee 8/14/14**