

# **PAWTUCKET SCHOOL COMMITTEE WORK SESSION**

**Thursday, February 26, 2015 at 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 meeting to order at 6:05 PM.**

#### **a. Roll call**

**Mr. Charbonneau-here; Ms. Dube-here; Ms. Grant-here; Mr. Knight-here; Mr. Araujo-here**

**Also in attendance were Mrs. Patricia DiCenso, Superintendent of Schools; Mrs. Lee Rabbitt, Assistant Superintendent; Ms. Melissa Devine, Chief Financial Officer and Mr. Dennis Rebelo, Director of Maintenance.**

**Ms. Bonollo arrived at 6:09 PM and Ms. McQuade was 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. Persons 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. New Business/Action Item**

### **a. Approval of Non Renewals/Teacher Terminations**

**Mrs. DiCenso: We have four (4) names to be put forward of certified employees whose contract will be non-renewed. We have to notify them by law before March 1st. (Addendum A)**

**Mr. Knight moved to approve the non-renewals of four (4) certified employees as recommended by Superintendent DiCenso. Ms. Dube seconded.**

**Roll call**

**Mr. Charbonneau-yes; Ms. Dube-yes; Ms. Grant-yes; Mr. Knight-yes;  
Mr. Araujo-yes**

**Motion carries with five members present.**

**b. Approval to change Budget Work Session from Thursday, 3/12/15 to Thursday, 3/19/15**

**Mrs. DiCenso: We are requesting to move the budget work session from Thursday, March 12, 2015 to Thursday, March 19, 2015. The Rhode Island Department of Education (RIDE) will be issuing another snap shot of our enrollment in the middle of the week and we will need time to re-calculate the numbers.**

**Mr. Charbonneau moved to change the budget work session from Thursday, March 12, 2015 to Thursday, March 19, 2015. Ms. Dube seconded.**

**Mr. Knight: I was with the finance committee and they are looking at significant changes in state aid. Do we have anyone looking at this?  
Ms. Bonollo arrived at 6:09 PM.**

**Mrs. DiCenso: We have Lee Rabbitt looking at it due to the projected state aid number with the present funding formula. In terms of your questions, Ms. Devine is staying real close. In 2019 we will be losing the state aid funding formula.**

**Mr. Knight: I'm talking about the House Finance Committee.**

**Mrs. DiCenso:** We met with local representatives who took the information with them as they discuss/negotiate the funding shift in public schools.

**Ms. Grant:** Ms. McQuade has been nominated to be in charge of the “Get Healthy Pawtucket” and they have a meeting scheduled on the 19th so there is a conflict with the budget meeting.

**Mr. Araujo:** If it is too tough to change, let us know.

**Mrs. DiCenso:** We tried to get a date as close as possible to lock in.

**Roll call**

**Ms. Bonollo-pass, arrived after discussion began; Mr. Charbonneau-yes; Ms. Dube-yes; Ms. Grant-yes; Mr. Knight-yes; Mr. Araujo-yes**

**Motion carries with five members present.**

**c. Approval to Adopt Policy Subcommittee Vision**

**Ms. Dube:** The Policy Subcommittee met and we voted for a vision and I am bringing it to the full committee for your approval.

**Ms. Dube moved to approve the policy subcommittee vision: The**

**Policy Subcommittee will review, revise, or archive all existing policies in the manual to ensure that all policies are up to date, in compliance with the laws, and in keeping with the educational philosophy of the Pawtucket School Committee and Pawtucket School Department. All updates to the policies will be presented to the School Committee for discussion and approval. The revised manual will be posted online and will be readily available to all. Mr. Charbonneau seconded.**

**Roll call**

**Ms. Bonollo-yes; Mr. Charbonneau-yes; Ms. Dube-yes; Ms. Grant-yes; Mr. Knight-yes; Mr. Araujo-yes**

**Motion carries with six members present.**

**d. Approval to archive and hold newly adopted policies until new policy manual is published. These policies will not be re-reviewed.**

**Ms. Dube: The second unanimous vote we took is to recommend that all policies we adopt we don't re-review.**

**Ms. Bonollo moved to approve newly adopted School Committee Policies will be archived and held until the new policy manual is published and these policies will not be re-reviewed. Ms. Grant seconded.**

**Mr. Knight: I'd like that language inserted that all newly adopted policies from this date forward.**

**Ms. Bonollo moved to amend the original motion to include "newly adopted from this day forward." Ms. Grant seconded.**

**Roll call on amendment**

**Ms. Bonollo-yes; Mr. Charbonneau-yes; Ms. Dube-yes; Ms. Grant-yes; Mr. Knight-yes; Mr. Araujo-yes**

**Motion to amend carries with six members present.**

**Mr. Knight: We are going to make an exception to School Committee Government Policies? We currently follow the City Charter and Rhode Island State policy for purchasing.**

**Mr. Araujo: I think they would vet it and bring to the full committee.**

**Ms. Dube: this is for the current policies in place. We're not going to re-visit reviewing them. We will be implementing, but not put online.**

**Mrs. DiCenso: I think the intent is so it's filed electronically so it doesn't get lost.**

## **Roll call**

**Ms. Bonollo-yes; Mr. Charbonneau-yes; Ms. Dube-yes; Ms. Grant-yes;  
Mr. Knight-yes; Mr. Araujo-yes**

**Motion carries with six members present.**

## **IV. Discussion/Presentation Items**

**Mr. Knight moved to put discussion/presentation item c. Chinese Studies Courses first. Ms. Dube seconded.**

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

### **c. Chinese Studies Courses**

**Mrs. DiCenso: I appreciate you doing that seeing that we have esteemed members of the University of Rhode Island (URI) here. They work very closely with Slater and Shea. This is a relationship that has been around for many years. There is the dual language study at Shea and we will be expanding an introductory program in the junior high level at Goff and Slater. The Director of Chinese Study Flagship program and Erin are here and I'm glad they are here to discuss this program.**

**Erin, URI: We are excited to be here to discuss this program. The**

**Chinese Flagship program at URI is a general study course and it's a huge load on their schedules. We have been working with Shea and Slater with the Confucius Program. We have a Chinese Education Program so we'll have teachers coming out of our program.**

**Dr. Yee, URI: We have Chinese Learning Flagship Program funded by a federal grant. It's not an easy language to learn. The goal is to have students have a professional level of language. The students go to China a few times during their course of study. We help at Shea and Mike helps to fund the program. We brought items to donate to Shea to show our strong support of Shea.**

**Zachery and Eric both URI students participating in the Chinese Flagship Program demonstrated their Chinese language skills.**

**As a flagship student, you have to sacrifice your summers but you get to go to China to study in a fully immersive language program at a Chinese college. The teacher certificate program is the most essential part. You are able to do student teaching in school in Rhode Island or nearby states.**

**Mrs. DiCenso: I'm hoping in five years to be inviting Pawtucket students back.**

**Dr. Yee: I think it's great to offer this opportunity to students if they start from high school. They will learn much faster.**

**Mrs. DiCenso: It is not offered at Jenks/JMW because of the Arts schedule. There is not enough time.**

**Erin, URI: The materials recommended for year one are the same. We collaborate with instructors.**

**Mrs. DiCenso: They have teachers ready that will deliver fluency. We are already sharing cultures.**

**Erin, URI: you can jump in at seventh grade and go through high school.**

**Mr. Charbonneau: Do we have set students who will be able to participate?**

**Mrs. DiCenso: We looked at and have around sixty students at Shea who are interested. We would share one teacher between two schools. We would use feeder school to push students up. It's very conservative to start off. Because we are involved in the Confucius classroom, we have a bit of a jump. The goal is to look at it as a visionary. The feeder program is at the ninth grade level. A student taking Spanish would have the opportunity to take Chinese.**

**We will be re-purposing a Portuguese teacher for this. Portuguese I will not be offered next year because of the number of students who**

currently speak the language. There will be a cost of \$5,000 for books and they will be supplying everything else.

**a. PARCC Presentation—Superintendent’s Office**

Mrs. DiCenso and Mrs. Rabbit provided the Committee and the audience with a PowerPoint presentation on PARCC.

Mrs. Rabbitt: The list is used to measure if students are college ready. It is a computer based test aligned with the Common Core.

Students in grades three through grade eight take grade specific tests.

There is ability to provide accommodations and accessibility. i.e. side walk cut outs are intended for students in wheelchairs but is a universal accommodation that helps parents with strollers.

Accessibility example is text to speech to math.

Accommodations are provided for IEP, 504 and ELL. A writing tool is provided for all students. There is a website provided to take practice tests and it is a public website.

We started preparing for PARCC at the beginning of the year. We provided Chrome books for all our schools. We did a test last year

**and found it the best device for student education. There is a minimum of two to three carts at the elementary schools.**

**We have been training teachers at different schools and have been doing infrastructure.**

**Test administrators are teachers who can look at the dashboard while the student is taking the test.**

**We were fortunate to receive a \$20M bond for infrastructure. The Chrome books have a battery life for all day. The same device can be used in the classroom structure. The elementary schools are using Chrome books and the middle and high schools will be using computers and Chrome books.**

**Ms. Dube: One of the programs is it didn't inform what happened in the classroom coming from a teacher's perspective.**

**Is there a plan in place for next year which will direct me in teaching?**

**Mrs. Rabbitt: Pearson is providing it. This year is a test year and we anticipate getting results in two to three weeks after the first year. It's currently housed in a warehouse.**

**Teachers will be able to look at students as a class and make the necessary adjustments as a teacher.**

**Mrs. DiCenso:** One thing evolving is our teachers will be able to focus on student progress instead of just student achievement especially at the elementary level that shows growth. We have been able to implement a model on getting feedback. If they see something the student got wrong, it may be the way the teacher taught it and we can take a closer look at that.

The goal is to keep going and keep momentum. We hope to scale down to the kindergarten students. The PARCC testing is the first time and principals and teachers are anxious. Students like using the computers.

**Mrs. Rabbitt:** The first year we are using adaptive assessment so it shows where the student really is and if we have to push them harder.

**Mrs. DiCenso:** We pushed the principals to share the information with the parents.

**Ms. Bonollo:** With NECAP everyone had to be tested and the special needs population brought the district average down.

**Mrs. DiCenso:** The accommodations are aligned to the student disability not the test.

**Mrs. Rabbitt:** The advantage to PARCC is the accommodations are

done on a national level. We've always had accommodations. The rules haven't changed. Not all students take part in an alternate assessment

**Mrs. DiCenso:** They will have accommodations with disabilities.

**Ms. Dube:** I think its great providing tests linking to common planning time.

**Ms. Grant:** What would make a child eligible for alternative assessment?

**Mrs. Rabbitt:** An individualized education plan (IEP).

**Mr. Knight:** Are we going to have high stakes testing?

**Mrs. Rabbitt:** Not until 2020.

**Mr. Araujo:** This is thought based testing different from NECAP. What are the challenges in our district because of the ELL population?

**Mrs. Rabbitt:** No, because of accommodations the math test is given in Spanish. Our ELL population follows the same curriculum with accommodations.

**Mrs. DiCenso: If new coming, you don't have to take the test.**

**Mrs. Rabbitt: ELL has their own access learning test. We are the biggest consortium.**

**The Chairman commented without any objection the Committee would move to discussion/presentation item d, snow removal report.**

### **Snow Removal**

**Mr. Rebelo: This has been the most challenging year. We moved \$52,000 for all snow removal but we had to remove the snow from the schools roofs. This was done at a total cost of \$33,000; \$20,000 less than the original quote. We had to hire subcontractors because the City was so tied up. We rented a back hoe and a large dump truck for \$12,000. We have our own sander. It cost \$50,000 total to date for all snow removal without \$8,000 still outstanding.**

**Mrs. DiCenso: How much for the FEMA reimbursement?**

**Mr. Rebelo: All of it. We have to apply first within 42 hours. They pay for overtime and we have to give information on our vehicles.**

**Mr. Araujo: For the first storm for the state of emergency?**

**Mr. Rebelo: Yes, but we are able to get roofs under FEMA.**

**Ms. Bonollo: What are the conditions of the lots at the schools?**

**Mr. Rebelo: Pretty good.**

**Ms. Bonollo: Do you have plans to remove the mounds?**

**Mr. Rebelo: No because of the cost to move it. It is \$300.00 per hour, \$2,400.00 per building.**

**Ms. Bonollo: Have you talked to the City about using their equipment seeing that they use our lots for parking?**

**Mr. Rebelo: They did help us especially at Shea.**

**Ms. Grant: I would like to thank you and your staff. You all work very hard. I think with the employee falling through the roof shows how dangerous it is. Thank you.**

**Mr. Rebelo: It's not just me, but I have a great crew.**

**Mrs. DiCenso: One way to problem solve the flat roofs is we had to talk to companies to bring it down. I also worry about bothering the City. The City was very helpful when principals called to clear an area for students to be dropped off by the bus to access the sidewalk.**

**Mr. Rebelo: The City helped us an awful lot.**

**Mr. Charbonneau: I just want to echo what has been said. Dennis, you're an asset to this district. The work you put in; as a parent, I appreciate it. You are a credit to this department.**

**Mr. Araujo: The key thing with snow removal on roofs is you did it while the kids were not in school and that was a great plan. I can't thank you enough. We were fortunate we didn't get that rain.**

**Mr. Knight: I also want to congratulate the Superintendent for having the conviction to do it while students were out of school.**

**Mr. Araujo: I echo that Mr. Knight. Even now it's a bit dangerous.**

**Mr. Rebelo: One other thing the City did is last Friday they took four (4) crews out with wide loaders to widen the streets.**

**Mr. Araujo: Front loaders plus a truck is an additional expense to move it elsewhere.**

**Ms. Bonollo: Social media has a lot of complaints but I didn't see a lot in Pawtucket. Great job, Dennis.**

**b. Dual Language Kindergarten Pilot**

**Mrs. DiCenso: I wanted to give you more information about this program. The whole idea began as a partnership with the Rhode Island Foundation, South Kingstown and the International Charter School. I pushed our district in this because we have a large population here. The International Charter School (ICS) staff has been very welcoming to us. The Rhode Island foundation is providing the funding. The model is a dual language model at their school. We decided to explain why it is so important.**

**Fifty percent of the time the core curriculum will be taught in another language. By the time they reach middle school they have to take Spanish. This has been very well researched. We now have pre-K through grade 12 and all day kindergarten. They are multi-cultural schools. The kindergarten we find out that they are already bilingual. Research shows that if I took French in high school you very rarely find a fully an immersed Spanish class.**

**The ICS already vetted and will show how we can be successful. English teachers always teach in English. Spanish teachers always teach in Spanish. Their class sizes are very small. Use of the dual language is critical. \$80,000 is budgeted, that has been asked for in grant monies.**

**If you have a robust SuperKids Program and teach core context in Spanish, they can't be of lesser quality. That's where the Rhode Island Foundation comes in.**

**The Rhode Island Department of Education (RIDE) has a certification process for this and already has teachers in this. They have to pass the praxis test in content area to get certified. I can't put it forward until I have the grant money in my hands. If we have a partnership, we will become a planning team for the state. There will be focused leadership and how we will better benefit in our district. The ICS gets kudos for being leaders and traders of this model. We establish teacher partnerships. The goal is to create a culture that we grow and more teachers will want to participate.**

**The Rhode Island Foundation has chosen to fund this model. It's a win win to have the Charters at the table with the public. They are very kind to us. They've been very supportive of Pawtucket this year. We have this information to build upon. Funding can expand. Businesses might be about to fund us as well. A lot of ifs are based on using data so it doesn't go away.**

**There will be two full time kindergarten teachers at Greene that will share the curriculum. We already met with the Pawtucket Teachers Alliance President. We need to be marketable to families and do it in a way based on research and data.**

**We're not cutting something to make this happen. Supplies and materials will be funded by the Rhode Island Foundation. We have professional development such as trips to Maryland and Arizona.**

**South Kingstown is fighting for it.**

**Mr. Araujo: Is this similar to the emerging lead at the college level?**

**Mrs. DiCenso: Exactly. They are saying children learn better when they are younger.**

**Ms. Dube: I have a child in kindergarten and it's ridiculous how fast the young brain can pick up things.**

**Mrs. DiCenso: We spend an exorbitant amount of money on remedial work. In dual language we're hoping to see less.**

**Research is decades old. You need the support and to make sure classrooms are equitable. It's a great opportunity in Pawtucket. The Principal at Greene was taught in dual language schools in Canada.**

### **c. Chinese Studies Courses**

**This item was moved to the beginning of the discussion items.**

### **d. Snow Removal Report**

**This item was moved ahead of item b. Dual language Kindergarten Pilot.**

### **e. Subcommittee Members and Voting Rights**

**Mr. Araujo:** We came to you for approval of Pawtucket School Committee Members on these committees. Mr. Barber has requested to serve on the Facilities Subcommittee.

**Mr. Knight:** I have a big problem with that. He's running for political office.

**Mr. Araujo:** It will be the Chair on that committee to make that decision. I feel it's important to have members on the subcommittee from the public. Members can vote on that subcommittee. Our legal counsel stated subcommittee members vote as advisory committee vote to bring to the full committee.

**Mr. Knight:** You have a problem with special interests. I want them to pass a BCI and complete ethics document.

**Mr. Araujo:** We have other members.

**On the Finance Subcommittee we are adding Melissa Devine, Steve Frateillo and Patricia DiCenso.**

**Facilities Subcommittee: Mr. Charbonneau, Chair; Ms. Grant; Mr. Araujo; Mr. Rebelo; Mr. Cote; Mr. Barber; Mr. Jon Winikur, SBS; Mrs. DiCenso**

**Ms. Bonollo:** What about Barney Heath?

**Mr. Araujo: We can always call him.**

**Policy Subcommittee: Ms. Dube, Chairperson; Ms. Bonollo; Ms. McQuade; Mrs. DiCenso, Mrs. Rabbitt and Mr. Anderson**

**Ad Hoc: Mr. Araujo; Ms. Bonollo; Mr. Charbonneau; Mrs. DiCenso; Ms. Devine; Mrs. Rabbitt**

**The Strategic Plan Committee is the Superintendent's.**

**I want to make sure we had everything tied in.**

**Ms. Dube: I notice that both you and Mr. Charbonneau serve on the same committees. That may be a conflict and may be worth looking at it.**

**Mr. Knight: If anyone looked at the 195 Commission Report, you have to discuss action item and take a vote. I think the other side is putting meetings up that you're not holding and are misleading the public.**

**Mr. Araujo: This last piece was my work in progress.**

**Ms. Bonollo: I think it would be the question of ethics. It didn't matter when we had a less active committee. It wasn't a legal question.**

**Mr. Araujo: Legal counsel is new since July.**

**Mrs. DiCenso: St. Leo's doesn't have a chair and we can't lead only participate in negotiations.**

**Mr. Araujo: My goal is to have everyone on this committee on a subcommittee they were interested in. I tried hard to give an equal amount.**

**Mrs. DiCenso: Everyone is welcomed to serve on the Strategic Planning Committee.**

**Mr. Araujo: This should be driven by the Superintendent.**

**Ms. Bonollo: I will be at the Facilities meetings. You will have a quorum.**

**Mr. Knight: If you violate a quorum breach, you have to participate in the discussion. We're putting these on a formal website. This is incorrect and has to be stopped. We are misleading the public.**

**Ms. Grant: We're looking at an individual spread sheet.**

**Mr. Araujo: I was trying to be equitable and I don't know why it was put there.**

**Mrs. DiCenso:** When you open in Google docs it doesn't open like an excel spreadsheet. We didn't want to over burden all of you. This was done to balance out. It's not about being a quorum, it's a work session.

**Mr. Knight:** I don't know if the strategic subcommittee has to be a subcommittee of the School Committee.

**Mr. Araujo:** We didn't vote on it.

**Mrs. DiCenso:** We will publish meeting notices.

**Mr. Araujo:** I want to make sure everyone elected is able to do their job they were elected to do.

**Mrs. DiCenso:** I will go in and change the strategic plan committee and add it to the drive.

## **f. Subcommittee Reports**

- **Policy**

**Ms. Dube:** We had a meeting on Monday and reviewed the law and updated accessible in the public library. We looked at manuals from other states. We took legal guidance and were advised to take a vote.

**I spoke to other committees who waited until it was finished. The small goal approach would be easy. We set goals for ourselves and will bring forward policy changes and approvals.**

**We want to start with the philosophy of education. All changes will be brought before legal counsel then to the full Committee for final review. We would like to bring approval on a monthly basis and it should take about a year.**

**Mr. Knight: As you look at the school committee operations they have to be addressed first. We have policies in direct conflict of state law and what we do.**

**Ms. Dube: We will look first at the Philosophy of Education to have a guide.**

**Mr. Knight: How can you approve a Philosophy of Education without having operations approved first? If we're going to look like a disorganized organization that is piece mailing, we have to have a base to go forward.**

**Ms. Dube: Thank you for your feedback. We can discuss it at the next meeting.**

**Ms. Bonollo: We do have a vision of education. We approved it with the previous committee.**

**Mr. Araujo: We had a work session and we did vote.**

**Mrs. DiCenso: This was brought up by Joanne at the subcommittee. I think we were going to take it to the subcommittee.**

**Ms. Dube: Philosophy of Education.**

**Ms. Bonollo: It is policy but you have a new committee and if they feel change needs to be made.**

**Mr. Knight: Can we get that information?**

**Ms. Dube: We are going to try to be very efficient and it should take over a year.**

**Mr. Araujo: Policy manuals work.**

- **Wellness**

**Ms. Bonollo: We had a very small meeting. It was very informative and it would be nice if we were able to have COZ come in and speak on the PEP Grant and opportunities presented to our students and monitored by the Department of Health. We are working with Aramark to put in a super snacks program. This would beef up what they get as after school snacks. All they have is a little bag of goldfish and balance with a fitness program.**

**School health initiative update is a grant put on by the Department of Health and will beef up after school activities.**

**The COZ Club started a five week cooking demonstration.**

**The Backpackers: we are looking for a new home and looking for some leads in the meantime. Kaydi packs bags and gets them to the students. We discussed Get Healthy Pawtucket. This is an event to give an opportunity to try different ways to get healthy.**

**Mr. Knight: What recommendation to the School Committee?**

**Ms. Bonollo: Those are wellness activities happening in the schools.**

**Mrs. DiCenso: She's reporting out on the COZ program; these come in through COZ. We just signed a multi-language agreement to do an asthma study.**

**Mr. Knight: Ride has some things going on and I would be grateful if they could come in and present on this.**

**Mr. Araujo: The Get Healthy Pawtucket Day is scheduled for May 2nd and the rain date is May 3rd.**

**Mr. Knight: Go back to subcommittees. Negotiations, what**

**happened to that?**

**Mr. Araujo: We haven't put a subcommittee together yet.**

**Mrs. DiCenso: Jon Anderson needs the names of volunteers for a negotiating subcommittee.**

**Mr. Araujo: Anyone who is interested please forward me an email and copy Patti.**

**Mrs. DiCenso: You all have a copy of the contract.**

## **V. Superintendent Report**

**Mrs. DiCenso: We had to replace the water heater at Shea in the amount of \$6,700. A fire panel was replaced at Slater and we had to pay overtime to the custodian and that cost \$1,200. There are leaks at Potter Burns. There was a significant leak in the second floor classroom and we made a decision to close the classroom because it was wet and the teachers requested a mold test. The teachers came through for their colleagues. It was messy. Computers got wet and we are waiting for things to dry out.**

**There was an error in the posting of the RFP that it was not going to be opened in public and I drafted a letter to Ms. Devine that there would be a public opening.**

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

**Ms. Bonollo thanked Melissa for getting the information she requested. Good night.**

**Mr. Charbonneau: I echo what Joanne said it's been a difficult month. Patti, thank you for all you do for all of the kids. Thank you for your leadership, you've done a great job.**

**Ms. Dube: I'm really excited working on the Policy Committee. I know its operation and will be much more transparent. I attended the Goff Science Fair. It was excellent and the kids were very articulate.**

**Ms. Grant: I re-iterate what a lot of people have said. Thank you, Patti and your staff for getting us through February. It was brought to my attention that one of the teacher assistants from Potter will be one of the faces of Ireland, Ms. Alice Tootell. I think it's great that her colleagues supported her. Thank you and good night.**

**Mr. Knight: The only thing I mentioned is purchasing. Our purchasing policy is pretty much not existent. The City Charter says all purchasing is under the City. I think we should push out purchasing to the City. They have the expertise we don't have and bring nothing but good will. I think this Committee should recommend to the City Council to send to the State Legislature for**

**approval where we would still have total control over finance.**

**Mr. Araujo: I echo the sentiments of the work that has been done to help the students and employees to be safe. It was great that it fell in the area of school vacation week. You can't see a thing while clearing the flat roofs. It echoed so much safety. I am so grateful. It was a smart move. I want to thank the City Council for voting seven-zero to authorize the \$32M bonds. I'm very pleased with that.**

## **VII. Adjournment**

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

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

**The Chairman, Mr. Araujo, adjourned the work session of the Pawtucket School Committee on Thursday, February 26, 2015 at 8:52 PM.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Clerk**

**Approved by School Committee April 14, 2015**