

PAWTUCKET SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

Tuesday, February 9, 2016 at 6:30 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. Charbonneau, called the meeting to order at 6:32 PM.

a. Roll call

**Ms. Bonollo-here; Ms. Dube-here; Ms. Grant-here; Mr. Knight-here;
Ms. McQuade-here; Mr. Charbonneau-here**

Also in attendance were Mrs. Patricia DiCenso, Superintendent of Schools; Ms. Lee Rabbitt, Assistant Superintendent; Ms. Melissa Devine, Chief Financial Officer; Mr. Dennis Rebelo, Facilities Director; Mr. John Cote, Assistant Facilities Director; Ms. Mary Parella, COZ Director; Dr. Linda Gifford, Principal-Pawtucket Learning Academy and Mr. Jon Legal, Legal Counsel.

b. Pledge of Allegiance

The Chairman, Mr. Charbonneau, led the audience in the Pledge of

Allegiance.

II. Celebration/Recognition

The Superintendent, Mrs. DiCenso, called Ms. Rabbitt to the podium to announce the Verizon Grant Award.

Ms. Rabbitt: Good evening. I am thrilled to talk about this award. The Pawtucket Learning Academy (PLA) has moved to a personalized learning model. I realized we needed to expand the Learning Academy in technology, robotics and stem. We'll have a three dimensional printer. This will help make the students' career and college ready.

Ms. Parella: Good evening. We were one of five (5) schools to receive this award. It's a \$20,000 Verizon award. I saw Dr. Gifford who said she wanted to get involved in robotics. An opportunity came up to get involved in an ultimate learning site. The big component is to get robotic equipment and to participate in challenges. This year of competition is winding down. I'm excited about "make a space" where community artists help create models with laser technology collaboratively working together. It's a unique and new concept. Newport has a fab lab attached to the Boys & Girls Club. We're hoping to open it up to parents, as well in school and after school with funding. It's a small piece and also for small kids after school.

The School Committee and Superintendent congratulated Ms. Parella.

Mrs. DiCenso: Linda nagged her to get her what other schools have. She advocated for her kids. This is a very dedicated staff who took a big leap to platform for their kids. This is for our students in grades seven through twelve. I appreciate this support to get our students' college and career ready.

III. Special Reports of Student Representatives

- **Charles E. Shea High School**

None

- **William E. Tolman High School**

Student Representative: I hope you had a few good snow days. February 22 and 26 financial aid night for help for college. Counselors will be there to help. February 26 is the Tolman Blood Drive. February 26 is a dance hosted by the juniors and tickets are \$7.00. Senior privileges for those who completed their portfolios can report to the cafeteria.

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

Student Representative: Mid-terms finalized. Dance and theater

majors saw ballet. I will be competing in the Shakespeare competition in Rhode Island. It's African History Month and the junior class will be doing presentations with a focus on African interests in the arts. The Winter Ball was last week. Today is my birthday. The Travel Club is leaving in February for Italy.

IV. 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.

Mr. Aruajo arrived at 6:42 PM.

V.

Executive Session

The Chairman, Mr. Charbonneau, commented that the Committee would recess to executive session in accordance with provisions under Rhode Island General Laws, Title 42, Chapter 46, Subsection 5(a) (2) collective bargaining and litigation for the purpose of discussing and/or acting upon:

- 1. Certified Retirees' Life Insurance**
- 2. Botelho vs. Pawtucket School Department**
- 3. Seal Executive Session Minutes**

Mr. Knight moved to recess to executive session. Ms. Bonollo seconded.

Voice vote carries unanimously.

The Committee recessed to executive session at 6:50 PM to 7:08 PM.

VI. Reconvene to open session

The Chairman, Mr. Charbonneau, reconvened the open session at 7:13 PM.

a. Roll call

Mr. Araujo-here; Ms. Bonollo-here; Ms. Dube-here; Ms. Grant-here; Mr. Knight-here; Ms. McQuade-here; Mr. Charbonneau-here

VII. Report out vote(s) of 2/9/16 executive session

The clerk reported that the Committee voted unanimously to allow the Chief Financial Officer, Melissa Devine, in the executive session, to seal the executive session minutes and to adjourn the executive

session.

VIII. Approval of previous meeting minutes

Mr. Araujo moved to approve the previous meeting minutes of 1/26/16. Ms. Bonollo seconded.

Roll call

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

Motion carries unanimously.

IX. New Business Discussion/Action Items

a. Certified Appointment

Mrs. DiCenso: We have one appointment we request approval for, Leo Choiniere, Jr. Physical Education/Health Teacher at Tolman (one year position).

Ms. Grant moved to approve the certified appointment, Leo Choiniere, Jr. Physical Education/Health Teacher at Tolman (one year position). Ms. McQuade and Mr. Knight seconded.

Roll call

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

Motion carries unanimously.

b. Director of Consolidated Human Resources, Mr. Don Zimmerman

Mrs. DiCenso: I would like you to approve the appointment of Mr. Don Zimmerman to the Consolidated Human Resources Director position. He is a man of experience and expertise and has experience working in a similar position in the Providence School System. He has a great demeanor and ability to support our employees. We did not put this forward sooner because the two people previously appointed had backed out. We have so many splintered processes. He will interview our staff to come up with a consolidated plan. This will take time. We did not reach out to Mr. Zimmerman to come here tonight because of the storm.

Mr. Araujo moved to appoint Mr. Don Zimmerman, Director of Consolidated Human Resources. Ms. McQuade, Ms. Grant and Mr. Knight seconded.

Mr. Knight: I ask that this be put in executive session also. Thank god we finally have someone. Are we hiring a human resource

person?

Mrs. DiCenso: That is something we can discuss.

Roll call

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

Motion carries unanimously.

c. Budget Transfer(s)

Mrs. DiCenso: I'd like to have Melissa Devine review the four transfers before you this evening.

Ms. Devine: The first one is from facilities for \$15,099.00 from purchased property to plumbing and heating supplies. Dennis submitted this request.

Mr. Rebelo: We've spent double on plumbing with the new staff.

Ms. Devine: The next two are from Special Education. Transfer \$126,493.40 from tuition and move to specific line services, vision, physical therapy, speech therapy and mobility. \$56,500.00 from social worker services to physical therapy. The last one is for

\$10,000.00 from the Business Office to more specific professional education.

Mr. Knight moved to approve the budget transfers \$15,099.00 from purchased property to plumbing and heating supplies; transfer \$126,493.40 from tuition and move to specific line services, vision, physical therapy, speech therapy and mobility; \$56,500.00 from social worker services to physical therapy and \$10,000.00 from the Business Office to more specific professional education. Ms. Dube and Ms. Bonollo seconded.

Ms. Rabbitt: The last one is a collaboration between Blackstone Valley and PLA matched by the Rhode Island Department of Education (RIDE) to offer more diverse courses to PLA students.

Mr. Knight: These are new students?

Ms. Devine: We have to get them in the correct object code.

Roll call

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

Motion carries unanimously.

d. Out of State Field Trips

- **Shea High School to Longmeadow, MA on February 23, 2016; 6 students, 1 chaperone**
- **Tolman High School to Boston, MA on May 13, 2016; 40 students, 2 chaperones**
- **Tolman High School to Boston, MA on March 25, 2016; 25 students, 1 chaperone**
- **Tolman High School to Nashville, TN April 22, through April 27, 2016; 10 students, 1 chaperone**
- **Tolman High School to Philadelphia, PA March 18 through March 20, 2016 10-12 cadets, 2 chaperones**

Mr. Araujo moved to approve all out of state field trips in one motion; Shea to Longmeadow, MA on 2/23/16; Tolman to Boston, MA on 3/25/16 and 5/13/16; Tolman to Nashville, TN 4/22/16 through 4/27/16 and Tolman to Philadelphia, PA 3/18/16 through 3/20/16. Ms. Grant seconded.

Roll call

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

Motion carries unanimously.

X. Discussion Items

- a. City Expense Report**
- b. Monthly Vendor Report**
- c. Budget Transfer Report**
- d. Monthly Employee Overtime Report**
- e. Maintenance Work Orders**

Mrs. DiCenso commented that the monthly reports are all attached and asked the Committee Members if they had any questions.

Monthly vendor report-no.

Budget Transfer report-no.

Mr. Knight: I'm going to let this technical issue go.

Mr. Rebelo commented on the work order report. There are 71 new orders that have been received; 90 were completed; 169 are still open 12 that will take a week with the children out of school. A lot of emergency calls that have been handled are not in here.

Mr. Charbonneau: The vendors who will be ongoing, can we get a bond to date total?

Ms. Devine: Sure.

XI. Superintendent's Report

Mrs. DiCenso: I'd like to go to the bathroom transfer. I met with Dennis and we're focusing on the secondary schools and middle schools. They are more crucial. John, Dennis and I will ensure they are working at each school floor by floor. It's a major focus for our two plumbers. Thank you Dennis for getting the plan ready.

We were really close to cancelling school which is usually based on the parking ban. Dylan kept sending us updates on the weather forecast, we saw on Sunday we were done. Monday was different. We were talking about how it was not looking good. At midnight no one was closing. Cranston was the only district that called a two hour delay, so we thought about that. Dennis was not convinced we could do this—get the cars out of the parking lots. Dennis and I were communicating all night. The City pulled those cars out. We ran out of time. Not having three days of school is not good. We're going to have to talk to the City. It was a big overtime cost to the City. I want to thank your team the City and Police Department who helped get the cars out. Thank you.

Mr. Knight: Max Read Field, is that our parking lot?

Mr. Rebelo: No. The City forgot to plow it. They got over there right away when we called them.

XII. Special Reports of School Committee Members

Mr. Araujo: I went to a RIASC meeting and Ms. Grant, Ms. Dube and Mr. Charbonneau were there. It was a good work session. RIASC is having a legislative session on the 12th and it's at the Marriott. They are asking us the Superintendent and one Principal to go to have a dialogue. It will be an intriguing thing to be at. We approved a trip to Longmeadow, MA. We have a former student who goes there. Thank you for your hard work, Patti on the snow days. Thank you for coming. Have a good night.

Ms. Bonollo: Tell Mary thank I said thank you. She is the prime grant winner and brought a lot of things for our schools. Good night.

Ms. Dube: I attended the "No Bully Workshops" and have to give the schools a lot of credit. It has an expo feel. The slide show poetry was extremely well attended. I spoke with students who said it's working super well at Slater.

Ms. Grant: I want to thank Dennis, John and the Superintendent and staff for the wonderful job over the last couple of days. Thank you very much. Good night, everyone.

Mr. Knight: Good night, everyone.

Ms. McQuade: Thank you everyone for pulling through this past

weekend. This Committee is a lot of work and it's wonderful to be a part of it.

Mr. Charbonneau: I echo everyone else. Dennis and Patti, great job everyone is doing. Thank you and good night.

XIII. Adjournment

Ms. Bonollo moved to adjourn. Ms. Grant and Ms. McQuade seconded.

Voice vote carries unanimously.

The Chairman, Mr. Charbonneau, adjourned the regular meeting of the Pawtucket School Committee on Tuesday, February 9, 2016 at 7:36 PM.

Respectfully submitted

Clerk

Approved 2/23/16