

**RHODE ISLAND MAYORAL ACADEMY<sup>SM</sup>  
BLACKSTONE VALLEY**

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**MINUTES**

**5:00 p.m., May 12, 2011**

**Blackstone Valley Prep**

**291 Broad Street, Cumberland**

Mayor McKee called the meeting to order at 5:08 p.m. Present were:

Mayor Daniel J. McKee (Chair)  
Dr. John Morton  
Angelo Garcia  
Kenneth Vaudreuil

Also present were Daniel C. Waugh, Esquire, Drew Allsopp, Michael Magee, Jeremy Chiappetta, Jen LoPiccolo, and Christine Lopes.

1. Vote to authorize Jeremy Chiappetta, Executive Director, to sign school facility agreements including formal leases.

The Chairman restated the purpose for this special meeting as to discuss and provide authority on the need for space that is required for the 2011-12 school year.

Dr. Morton (seconded by Mr. Vaudreuil) moved the following resolutions:

RESOLVED: That the Corporation be, and it hereby is, authorized to negotiate and enter into a lease or other agreement for housing some or all of the Upper Elementary School students for the 2011-2012 school year. Such agreement may also entitle to the Upper Elementary School to receive or share services ancillary to such occupancy. The cost of such occupancy and services shall not exceed an amount the Executive Director deems will be consistent with the School's budget.

RESOLVED: That the Executive Director be, and he hereby is, authorized to execute and deliver such lease or other agreement and such other instruments and documentation and to take such other acts as may be necessary and convenient to carry out the foregoing resolution.

Discussion

Drew Allsopp was invited to speak to the options that are currently being explored for next year. He noted that putting modular at the current 7 Fatima Drive location is less economically attractive and less attractive in terms of collaboration, yet it is a viable option, particularly because initial conversations with Father Keaton have been positive during which there was an assurance made that the lease at this location could be continued.

Jeremy Chiappetta spoke to the space currently owned by Ann and Hope is a long term option but would be a big undertaking to renovate.

Mike Magee stated that by July 1, RIMA will bring to a long term plans that include further sites that have been determined as possible space for both BV Prep and Cranston.

Angelo Garcia asked about the prospects for the vote by the Cumberland School Committee to approve a shared space agreement with Blackstone Valley Prep for space at B.F. Norton Elementary. Mike Magee stated that the first vote had been 5-2 in favor of the lease.

Mayor McKee reiterated the leadership of the Cumberland School Committee is making a strong effort to support the lease proposal.

Another question was raised by Kenneth Vaudreuil regarding what additional sites have been researched? Jeremy Chiappetta replied with a list of the sites currently being researched. A warehouse; church in North Cumberland; Fair site (retail store); Ann & Hope; Supt. Gallo's Central Falls district buildings; Jeremy also clarified the Fairlawn site is still under lease through June 30, 2012 and that staying within close proximity of the Valley Falls area remains the focus and as far as RIDE building regulations, they are fairly accommodating and spaces that can be renovated to meet these regulations are only being considered seriously.

Kenneth Vaudreuil inquired further about the old St. Leo's school in Pawtucket to which Mr. Magee responded that it may be a possibility long term

Mayor McKee asked how the different facilities might affect Blackstone Valley Prep's housing costs. Mr. Magee reiterated that RIMA's intention is that Blackstone Valley Prep's housing costs would be 5% of school budget revenues regardless of the specific facilities being used and any difference in costs would affect RIMA rather than Blackstone Valley Prep.

Mayor McKee also noted that the goal in presenting said Resolution to the board tonight is to give the Executive Director the authority to negotiate a lease and to have this process work efficiently and not require the board to convene for every element in light of the urgency of the circumstances. A point was made whether there needed to be further checks and balances in place or not and whether the focus for the board should be on "what is good within the school budget"

In response to the discussion regarding oversight noted above, Dr. John Morton offered a friendly amendment to the current resolution voted on earlier in the meeting to insert "after consultation with the Chair" immediately before the word "authorized" in the second resolution. Mr. Vaudreuil accepted the friendly amendment, and no other member objected.

The Chair put the resolution as so amended to a vote. AYE: McKee, Vaudreuil, Morton, Garcia.  
NAY: None.

2. Adjournment motion made by Mr. Vaudreuil (seconded by Dr. Morton). AYE: McKee, Vaudreuil, Morton, Garcia. NAY: None. The Chair declared the meeting adjourned at 5:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer LoPiccolo  
Assistant Secretary