

CRANSTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

MONDAY, MAY 15, 2006

WESTERN HILLS MIDDLE SCHOOL

400 PHENIX AVENUE

EXECUTIVE SESSION: 6:00 P.M.

PUBLIC SESSION: 7:00 P.M.

AGENDA

I. Call to Order

II. Executive Session – Personnel pursuant to RI State Law 42-46-5(a)(1); Contract and Litigation pursuant to RI State Law 42-46-5(a)(2); and student disciplinary hearing pursuant to RI State Law 42-46-5(a)(8)

III. Call to Order – Open Session

IV. Roll Call / Quorum

V. Executive Session Minutes Sealed – May 15, 2006

VI. Minutes of Previous Meetings – April 5, 2006 and April 10, 2006

VII. Public Acknowledgements / Communications

VIII. Chairperson Communications

IX. Superintendent Communications

X. School Committee Member Communications

XI. Public Hearing

a. Students (Agenda/Non-agenda Items)

b. Members of the Public (Agenda Matters Only)

XII. Consent Calendar / Consent Agenda

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SPONSORED BY THE COMMITTEE

NO. 06-5-1 – Whereas, Hugh B. Bain Middle School has had a winning Science Olympiad Team for the past five years, and

Whereas, in 2002 the team placed 5th in the State; in 2003 placed 2nd; and in 2004 and 2005 the team placed 1st in the State and went on to compete in the National Science Olympiads in both Pennsylvania and Illinois, and

Whereas, this year the Hugh B. Bain team placed 2nd competing with nearly twenty other middle schools in Rhode Island in twenty-two events from Disease Detectives to Water Quality, and the team medaled in more than half of those events,

Be it RESOLVED, that the following students and their teachers, Mrs. Mary Colannino and Mrs. Lorraine Wright, be congratulated by the Cranston School Committee for bringing honor to themselves and to Cranston Public Schools,

Caitlin Cannon Quan Ma Brianna Pearson

Leslie Aldana Kelsey Heim Marie Jimenez

Sophie Kanno Renee LaFond Alessandra Portukalian

Alyssa DeQuattro Katie Phung Amy Sammartino

Benjamin Cohen Gabriella Corvese Sarah Peshka

Jing Wang

Be it further RESOLVED that these students receive a copy of this Resolution signed by the members of the Cranston School Committee.

NO. 06-5-2 - Whereas, Shawn Giblin did an outstanding job as a member of the Cranston High School West wrestling team during the 2005-2006 winter sports season, and

Whereas, helping guide his team to an undefeated (15-0) dual meet season and in the process captured the Division I-B Championship, the 2nd Annual Haig Varadian Dual Meet State Championship as well as the Rhode Island Interscholastic League State Championship, and

Whereas, through his continued hard work, endless preparation and dedication throughout the entire wrestling season, edged veteran Dan Cormier of LaSalle 2-1 for the 112 lb. State Championship while compiling a 28-5 overall record during his freshman season enabling him to finish fourth at the New England Championships, and

Whereas, because of his outstanding personal accomplishments throughout the entire wrestling season, has been recognized as a 2005-2006 Providence Journal First Team All-State Wrestler in the 112 lb. class,

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Be it RESOLVED that Shawn Giblin be congratulated by the Cranston School Committee for his hard work and dedication to the sport of wrestling, and

Be it further RESOLVED that he be presented with a copy of this Resolution signed by the members of the Cranston School Committee.

NO. 06-5-3 - Whereas, Anthony Ferrer did an outstanding job as a member of the Cranston High School West wrestling team during the 2005-2006 winter sports season, and

Whereas, helping guide his team to an undefeated (15-0) dual meet season and in the process captured the Division I-B Championship, the 2nd Annual Haig Varadian Dual Meet State Championship as well as the Rhode Island Interscholastic League State Championship, and

Whereas, through his continued hard work, endless preparation, and dedication throughout the entire wrestling season, earned a hard-fought 5-3 state championship victory over Warwick's Tim Cinq-Mars completing his senior season with a perfect 33-0 record, an 83-10 mark over four years while also winning the Lancer Tournament in Connecticut, and

Whereas, because of his outstanding personal accomplishments throughout the entire wrestling season has been recognized as a 2005-2006 Providence Journal First Team All-State Wrestler in the 215 lb. class,

Be it RESOLVED that Anthony Ferrer be congratulated by the

Cranston School Committee for his hard work and dedication to the sport of wrestling, and

Be it further RESOLVED that he be presented with a copy of this Resolution signed by the members of the Cranston School Committee.

NO. 06-5-4 - Whereas, the Cranston High School West varsity wrestling team under the direction of head coach Matt Claeson, assistant coach James Royal, and volunteer assistant coach Rusty Calise had an outstanding season in the winter of 2005-2006, and

Whereas, through their hard work and dedication in the weight room and on the mat, finished the dual meet season with a perfect 15-0 record, and

Whereas, through their continued hard work, outstanding team and individual performances was able to capture the Division I-B League Championship, the 2nd Annual Haig Varadian Dual Meet State Championship and the Rhode Island Interscholastic League Tournament State Championship,

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Be it RESOLVED that the following team members be congratulated by the Cranston School Committee for their hard work and dedication

to the sport of wrestling, and

Be it further RESOLVED that they be presented with a copy of this Resolution signed by the members of the Cranston School Committee.

Emil Sarkis Mike Raposa Jason Cook Luis Collado

Victor Guerrero William Russo Steve Crandall Jesse Alejandro

John Coleman Nick Baccaire Charlie Haskell Anthony Ferrer

Matt Custodio Brandon Nadich Joe Andreozzi Mike Cabral

Richard Jimenez Alex Loewenthal Vince Dellefave Bryan Borrayo

Joel Lake Gilchrest DiPrete Jared Roberti Ryan Bergantino

Shane O'Connell Shawn Giblin Sean Cabral Mike Petrocelli

Matt DeMaria Alex Alaire-Leca Ryan McAssey Greg Gonzales

Steven Duran Joe Paolucci Dan Lovejoy Connor Bruen

Derrick King Dan Larson Nick O'Connell Jared DiBiase

NO. 06-5-5 – Whereas, Ryan Thompson did an outstanding job as a member of the Cranston High School West boys' basketball team during the 2005-2006 winter sports season, and

Whereas, helping guide his team to a 14-4 league record which was good enough to capture the Division I-Central Championship and a team best 23-5 overall record landing them in the most exciting Division I State Championship game played at the Ryan Center against Bishop Hendricken falling 71-69 in the final seconds, and

Whereas, through his continued hard work, endless preparation, and dedication throughout the entire basketball season averaged 12 points, 11 rebounds and 6 blocked shots per game and was widely considered the most dominating defensive force in Rhode Island in quite some time, and

Whereas, because of his outstanding personal accomplishments throughout the entire basketball season has been recognized as a 2005-2006 Providence Journal First Team All State selection,

Be it RESOLVED that Ryan Thompson be congratulated by the Cranston School Committee for his hard work and dedication to the sport of basketball, and

Be it further RESOLVED that he be presented with a copy of this Resolution signed by the members of the Cranston School Committee.

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NO. 06-5-6 – Whereas, Erin Lagasse did an outstanding job as a member of the Cranston High School West girls' indoor track team

during the 2005-2006 winter sports season, and

Whereas, in addition to taking the gold medal at the State Meet in the 3,000 by more than 24 seconds with a time of 10:19.30 to capture her second consecutive 3,000 meter crown, also finished third in the 1,500 at the State Meet in a time of 4:58.80, and

Whereas, through her continued hard work, endless preparation, and dedication throughout the entire indoor track season, she was able to capture the two-mile run at the New England Championships by more than 3 seconds finishing in 11:00.27 and at Nationals finished sixth with a time of 10:55.72, and

Whereas, because of her outstanding personal accomplishments throughout the entire indoor track season has been recognized as a 2005-2006 Providence Journal First Team All-State selection in the 3,000 meter event,

Be it RESOLVED that Erin LaGasse be congratulated by the Cranston School Committee for her hard work and dedication to the sport of indoor track, and

Be it further RESOLVED that she be presented with a copy of this Resolution signed by the members of the Cranston School Committee.

NO. 06-5-7 – Whereas, Nicole Coccozza did an outstanding job as a member of the Cranston High School West girls' indoor track team during the 2005-2006 winter sports season, and

Whereas, being recognized as one of the most dominant distant runners in the State this season captured the 1,000 meter event at the Large School Championships

finishing in 3:13.12 and came in second in the 1,500 at the Morris Division Championships with a time of 4:53.6, and

Whereas, through her continued hard work, endless preparation, and dedication throughout the entire indoor track season, she was able to avenge that loss at the State Meet by winning in 4:51.88 and at the New England Championships was the first Rhode Islander to cross the finish line in the mile placing 13th with a time of 5:19.82, and

Whereas, because of her outstanding personal accomplishments throughout the entire indoor track season has been recognized as a 2005-2006 Providence Journal First Team All-State selection in the 1,500 meter event,

Be it RESOLVED that Nicole Coccozza be congratulated by the Cranston School Committee for her hard work and dedication to the sport of indoor track, and

Be it further RESOLVED that she be presented with a copy of this Resolution signed by the members of the Cranston School Committee.

NO. 06-5-8 – Whereas, Will Hooper did an outstanding job as a member of the Cranston High School East boys' swimming team during the 2005-2006 winter sports season, and

Whereas, as a freshman last season he dominated the 200-yard individual medley at the State Meet by winning the race by nearly 3 seconds in a time of 2:01.78 and also finished second at the same meet in the 100-yard breaststroke, and

Whereas, through his continued hard work, endless preparation, and dedication throughout the entire swim season, he was able to successfully defend his 200 IM title winning at the State Meet by nearly 5 seconds in 1:59.65 and then went on to capture the 100-yard breaststroke in a time of 1:01.69, and

Whereas, because of his outstanding personal accomplishments throughout the entire swim season, has been recognized as a 2005-2006 Providence Journal First Team All-State selection in both the 200 Individual Medley and 100-yard Breaststroke events,

Be it RESOLVED that Will Hooper be congratulated by the Cranston

School Committee for his hard work and dedication to the sport of swimming, and

Be it further RESOLVED that he be presented with a copy of this Resolution signed by the members of the Cranston School Committee.

NO. 06-5-9 - Whereas, Shane DeCristofaro, did an outstanding job as a member of the Cranston High School East wrestling team during the 2005-2006 winter sports season, and

Whereas, in 2003 he finished sixth at the State Meet, fourth in 2004 and third in 2005 compiling a four year record of 121-11, and

Whereas, through his continued hard work, endless preparation, and dedication throughout the entire wrestling season, was able to capture the Cranston East Invitational, the Methuen (Mass) Invitational and defeated Cumberland's Stephen Aissis 7-5 to capture the 2006 Rhode State Championship, and

Whereas, because of his outstanding personal accomplishments throughout the entire wrestling season, has been recognized as a 2005-2006 Providence Journal First Team All State selection in the 103 lb. weight class,

Be it RESOLVED that Shane DeCristofaro, be congratulated by the Cranston School Committee for his hard work and dedication to the sport of wrestling, and

Be it further RESOLVED that he be presented with a copy of this Resolution signed by the members of the Cranston School Committee.

NO. 05-6-10 - Whereas, Matt Forcier, did an outstanding job as a member of the Cranston High School East wrestling team during the 2005-2006 winter sports season, and

Whereas, after capturing the 2005 State Title in the 215 lb. weight class dropped down a class this season to 189 lbs. finishing the season with a 28-4 record and a career record of 92-16, and

Whereas, through his continued hard work, endless preparation, and dedication throughout the entire wrestling season, was able to finish as the 189 lb. runner-up at the Methuen (Mass) Invitational but went on to pin Woonsocket's Russ Miclette in 3:06 of the first period to capture the 2006 Rhode State Championship, and

Whereas, because of his outstanding personal accomplishments

throughout the entire wrestling season has been recognized as a 2005-2006 Providence Journal First Team All-State selection in the 189 lb. weight class,

Be it RESOLVED that Matt Forcier be congratulated by the Cranston School Committee for his hard work and dedication to the sport of wrestling, and

Be it further RESOLVED that he be presented with a copy of this Resolution signed by the members of the Cranston School Committee.

SPONSORED BY MR. STYCOS

NO. 06-5-11 - RESOLVED, that policy No. 3172, Financial Impact Analysis, Collective Bargaining Agreements, as amended, be approved for first reading.

SPONSORED BY MRS. GREIFER AND MR. LUPINO

NO. 06-5-12 - Whereas, the Cranston School Committee believes that a formal yearly assessment of the Cranston Public Schools forms an important basis for continued positive communication with the Cranston Public Schools' administration, and

Whereas, under-funding of the Cranston Public Schools' budget has at times forced the district to re-assess the financial and educational needs of the district, along with re-configuration of programs and

building usage,

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Be it RESOLVED that the Cranston Public Schools' administration present to the Cranston School Committee a yearly State of the Cranston Public Schools' Report.

Be it further RESOLVED that the report give as accurate a view of the Cranston Public Schools' system as possible, taking into consideration (but not limited to) the latest population figures and trends, demographics, mandates, proposed requirements from federal and state governing agencies, asset protection, and capital requirements of the district's buildings, along with a sincere effort to address any possible short and/or long-term reconfiguration of programs and/or use of buildings.

Be it also RESOLVED that the report be discussed at the first public work session following the annual population report date (October 1st as prescribed by the Rhode Island Department of Education) and that the report be discussed and accepted on or before the November School Committee meeting, in order to prepare the members of the School Committee and other interested parties, for issues upon which the budget for the next

fiscal year will be based.

SPONSORED BY MR. ARCHETTO

NO. 06-5-13 - RESOLVED, that the Cranston School Committee appropriates \$500 to the Horton Elementary School parent group for an end-of-the-year and school closing event.

ADMINISTRATION

PERSONNEL

NO. 06-5-14 - RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the appointment of Assistant Principal for Academic Affairs, Cranston High School East, be approved.

NO. 06-5-15 - RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the appointment of Assistant Principal for Academic Affairs, Cranston High School West, be approved.

NO. 06-5-16 - RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the appointment of Elementary Principal, be approved.

NO. 06-5-17 RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the appointment of Elementary Principal, be approved.

NO. 06-5-18 RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the

Superintendent, the appointment of Elementary Principal, be approved.

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NO. 06-5-19 - RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the following certified staff member be granted a leave of absence without compensation as provided in Article XIX, Section B of the Master Agreement between the Cranston School Committee and the Cranston Teachers' Alliance:

Jessica Palumbo, Teacher

Cranston High School East

Effective Dates: September 2006 to September 2007

Jennifer Prestage, Teacher

Elementary

Effective Dates: September 2006 to September 2007

NO. 06-5-20 - RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the following certified personnel be appointed as substitutes on a temporary basis as needed:

Jennifer Palumbo Elementary

Brian Allen General Subject Matter

Shelagh McGowan Elementary

Luyi Shao General Subject Matter

Joseph Lapman Physical Education

Ann Marie Clarkson Teacher of the Deaf

NO. 06-5-21- RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the retirement of the following certified personnel be accepted:

Ernest Bonaventure, Assistant Principal

Cranston High School East

Effective Date: June 30, 2006

Carol Campbell, Teacher

Eden Park School

Effective Date: May 1, 2006

NO. 06-5-22 - RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the resignation of the following certified personnel be accepted:

**Donald Frederick, Principal
Cranston High School East
Effective Date: July 1, 2006**

**Lisa Ryan, Teacher
Cranston High School East
Effective Date: May 5, 2006**

NO. 06-5-23 - RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the resignation of the following coaches be accepted:

**Richard Harris, Head Coach, Boys' Basketball and Assistant Coach,
Boys' Soccer
Cranston High School East
Effective Date: April 24, 2006**

**Michael Fitzgerald, Head Freshman Coach, Football
Cranston High School West
Effective Date: May 1, 2006**

NO. 06-5-24 - RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the following non-certified staff member be granted a leave of absence without compensation as provided in Article X, Section D of the Master Agreement (Teacher Assistants) between the Cranston School Committee and the Cranston Teachers' Alliance:

Linda Giusti, Teacher Assistant

Dutemple School

Effective Dates: April 17, 2006 to September 6, 2006

NO. 06-5-25 - RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the following non-certified employee be appointed:

Joseph Burnett, Part-time Custodian

Glen Hills School

Effective Date of Employment: May 15, 2006

Fiscal Note: 12847418 518100

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NO. 06-5-26- RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the following non-certified personnel be appointed as substitutes on a temporary basis as needed:

TEACHER ASSISTANT

Maureen Plunkett

CUSTODIANS

Christopher Martini

Carlos Obando

NO. 06-5-27 – RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the retirement of the following non-certified personnel be accepted:

Joseph E. Fratiello, Instructor

JROTC

Effective Date: September 1, 2006

NO. 06-5-28 - RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the resignation of the following non-certified personnel be accepted:

Valerie Salinas, Program Manager

Bain + 2

Effective Date: June 2, 2006

BUSINESS

NO. 06-5-29- RESOLVED, that the Cranston School Committee accept and approve the recommendations incorporated in the Necessity of

Construction Proposal submitted to the Rhode Island Department of Education for the following projects:

Fire Code Compliance Bond

\$5,150,000

Total Estimated Cost of the Projects (by fiscal year):

2007-2008 Edgewood and Arlington Schools -Windows for \$ 700,000

Rescue

Door Closures – Various Schools \$ 300,000

2008-2009 Waterman and Gladstone Schools – Sprinkler System \$1,200,000

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**2009-2010 Cranston High School West, Western Hills Middle \$2,000,000
School– Sprinkler System**

**2010-2011 Bain Middle School – Sprinkler System \$ 950,000
\$5,150,000**

NO. 06-5-30- RESOLVED, that the Third Budget Revision for the 2005-2006 fiscal year be approved as recommended by the Superintendent.

NO. 06-5-31- RESOLVED, that the following purchases be approved:

Kindergarten Supplies in the amount of \$20,910.83. Purchases pending funding in 2006-2007.

Number of bids issued 43

Number of bids received 19

Music Equipment in the amount of \$3,477.15. Purchases pending funding in 2006-2007.

Number of bids issued 33

Number of bids received 13

Athletic Supplies in the amount of \$22,841.93

Number of bids issued 33

Number of bids received 18

Monthly Extermination Services for the period of 7/1/06 – 6/30/09 in the amount of \$530/month.

Number of bids issued 9

Number of bids received 4

Disposable Vinyl Gloves for the period of 5/1/06 – 6/30/09 in the amount of \$24.00 per case.

Number of bids issued 11

Number of bids received 5

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Maintenance Equipment for the period of 7/1/06 – 6/30/08 on an as needed basis pending funding in the following amounts: High Speed Burnisher \$995; Scrubbing Machine \$772; Wet Dry Vacuum \$585.

Number of bids issued 16

Number of bids received 6

Custodial Uniforms for the period of 7/1/06 - 6/30/09 averaging \$6,439.05 per year.

Number of bids issued 16

Number of bids received 7

Air Filters for the period 7/1/06 - 6/30/09 in the respective amounts of \$6,229.77; \$6,229.77; and \$6,400.10 per year.

Number of bids issued 5

Number of bids received 3

Steam Boiler in the amount of \$10,400 for Bain Middle School.

Number of bids issued 8

Number of bids received 5

Dump Body (2) for two trucks in the amount of \$11,190.

Number of bids issued 8

Number of bids received 5

**NO. 06-5-32 - RESOLVED, that the following purchases be approved
(School Lunch Fund 3):**

Portable Steamer in the amount of \$3,510.

Number of bids issued 11

Number of bids received 7

**NO. 06-5-33 - RESOLVED, that the following purchases be approved
(Grant funding):**

Keyboards in the amount of \$2,125.00. Funding from the Title V

Grant.

Number of bids issued 33

Number of bids received 13

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UV/Vis Spectrophotometer in the amount of \$7,587.00 for Cranston High School East Science Department. Funding from the Champlin Foundation.

Number of bids issued 6

Number of bids received 2

Epson 7800 printer in the amount of \$2,596 for the Print Shop at the Career Technical Center. Funding provided by Perkins Grant.

Number of bids issued 8

Number of bids received 4

Robotic Supplies in the amount of \$10,097.36 for the Cranston Area Career & Technical Center. Funding provided by the Perkins Grant.

Number of bids issued 9

Number of bids received 2

Automotive Lifts (2) in the amount of \$7,400.00 for the Cranston Area Career & Technical Center. Funding provided by the Perkins Grant

Number of bids issued 6

Number of bids received 2

Automotive Tools in the amount of \$3,385.60 for the Cranston Area Career & Technical Center. Funding provided by the Perkins Grant.

Number of bids issued 17

Number of bids received 7

Display Cases in the amount of \$4,103 for the Cranston Area Career & Technical Center. Funding provided by the Perkins Grant.

Number of bids issued 14

Number of bids received 1

Greenhouse Foundation in the amount of \$8,662.00 for the Cranston Area Career & Technical Center. Funding provided by the Perkins Grant.

Number of bids issued 5

Number of bids received 1

Cutlery in the amount of \$6,910.65 for the Cranston Area Career & Technical Center. Funding provided by the Perkins Grant.

Number of bids issued 14

Number of bids received 4

Electronic Supplies in the amount of \$4,738.40 for the Cranston Area Career & Technical Center. Funding provided by the Perkins Grant.

Number of bids issued 5

Number of bids received 3

POLICY AND PROGRAM

NO. 06-5-34 - RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the following Field Trips of Long Duration be authorized:

Chef Martha Sylvestre, supervising teacher; Lynda Wagner, Director/Principal; Elaine Arbor, Child Development teacher; Janis McGuirl, and twelve students from the Cranston Area Career & Technical Center to attend the National Skills USA Conference in

Kansas City, Missouri June 18, 2006 to June 24, 2006.

Amanda Kanaczet and Jennifer Holdridge, Future Problem Solvers Advisors, and four students from Western Hills Middle School to attend the International Problem Solvers Conference at Colorado State University, Fort Collins, Colorado from June 1, 2006 to June 4, 2006.

Christine Luther-Morris, supervising teacher at Cranston High School West, and five students to travel to Colorado State University at Fort Collins, Colorado from May 31, 2006 to June 4, 2006 to attend and participate in the International Competition for Problem Solvers.

NO. 06-5-35 - Whereas, the New England Association of Schools and Colleges, Inc. requires that the Cranston School Committee adopt the School and Community Profile for Cranston High School West,

Be it RESOLVED that the Cranston School Committee adopt the attached School and Community Profile for Cranston High School West.

TABLED RESOLUTION

NO. 06-3-20 – RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the termination of non-certified Employee A be accepted.

XIII. Action Calendar / Action Agenda

XIV. New Business

XV. Public Hearing on Non-agenda Items

XVI. Announcement of Future Meetings

XVII. Adjournment

School Committee members who are unable to attend this meeting are asked to notify the Chairman in advance.

Notice Posted: May 10, 2006

BUSINESS 3172

**FINANCIAL IMPACT ANALYSIS / COLLECTIVE BARGAINING
AGREEMENTS**

Whenever a collective bargaining agreement or other employee wage and benefit agreement is proposed, the Superintendent shall present a financial impact analysis for each fiscal year of the proposed bargaining agreement prior to consideration and vote for ratification. The impact analysis and terms of the agreement must be made public and placed on the school department's website at least 72 hours prior to a vote for ratification.

Policy Adopted: CRANSTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Resolution No.: CRANSTON, RI

Cranston High School West

80 Metropolitan Avenue, Cranston, Rhode Island 02920

School and Community Profile

Incorporated in 1910, Cranston, Rhode Island, a city of approximately 80,000 people, is part of the large metropolitan area of Providence and is located just south of the Capital City, with 3 ½ miles of shoreline on the Providence River where it begins to broaden into Narragansett Bay. It is the third largest municipality in Rhode Island. Cranston is also bounded by the City of Warwick and the Town of

West Warwick on the south, and by the Towns of Scituate and Johnston on the north. Cranston has a geographical area of 28.2 square miles.

Cranston is a diverse community in terms of income, age, education, and ethnic composition. The population grew by 4% during the 1990s, keeping pace with the rest of the state. Most of the overall growth was the result of the doubling of the Hispanic population, which is currently 5%. Caucasians make up 87% of the city's population, African-Americans account for 3%, Asians 3%, and other races make up the remaining 2%.

The median income in Cranston is \$55,241, which is a 1% increase over the last decade. According to the Rhode Island Realtors Association, the median price of an average, single-family housing unit is approximately \$265,000. Almost 25% of the households have incomes of \$75,000 or more, a rate higher than most urban ring communities. The poverty level has risen by 1% in the last ten years from 5% to 6%. There are 1,141 families currently living below the poverty level in Cranston; of those families, 26% are single parent females, another 9% are under the age of 18, and 8% are over the age of 65. Public school students eligible for free and reduced lunch accounted for 20% (2,178) of the total Cranston school population. Currently, 7% of the students at Cranston High School West (CHSW) receive free or reduced lunch.

Numerous financial, manufacturing, retail and service businesses are located in the city of Cranston. According to the 2000 census, 31% (up from 26%) are service industry jobs, 23% (down from 25%) are retail, and 4% (down from 5%) are finance. The largest employer in Cranston is the City of Cranston itself, employing 1,950 people. Other notable employers are Swarovski Jewelry (524), Citizens Bank (500), Taco, Inc. (500), Ross Simon Jewelers (400), Pepsi Co. (230). The unemployment rate, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, was 5.5% in 2004. This rate represents a decrease of -0.6% from the previous record.

The 2000 census statistics reflect a population of 17,098 under the age of 18 in the city of Cranston. Statistics from the Cranston Public Schools for the 2005-06 school year show 10,976 school age children are served by 24 public schools. There are 18 elementary schools, K through 5; three middle schools,

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Cranston High School West School and Community Profile

grades 6 through 8; two high schools, grades 9 through 12; one regional career and technical center and one charter school. Currently there are 762 Cranston students attending non-public schools. Some of these non-public schools located in Cranston are St. Mary's, St. Matthew's, Valley School and CJCR (Cranston-Johnston Catholic Regional). Other non-public schools outside Cranston that Cranston residents attend are LaSalle

Academy, Bishop Hendricken, Moses Brown, St. Mary's Bay View, the Wheeler School and Providence Country Day.

Student attendance, according to Information Works, is at an average of 91.8% for the past two years. This figure is above the state average of 89.8%. The school's dropout rate, according to the same source, was 7.4% in 2004 and 6.6% in 2005. According to the SALT survey, teacher attendance for the school year 2003-2004 was 94%. In the school year 2004-2005, the figure was 95%.

According to the latest SALT survey (2004), Cranston spends \$11,546 per student at CHSW. This expenditure compares to the state cost of \$9,505 per student. Approximately 70% of school spending is derived from local taxes, 29% from state funds, and 1% from the federal government. Fifty-four percent of the tax dollar is spent on local education. During the period 1990-2000, the Cranston Public Schools experienced a 21% increase in student enrollment. This increase was greater than the statewide growth in public schools.

Cranston High School West, one of the city's two high schools, is a four-year comprehensive high school that opened its doors in 1958. An attached Career and Technical Center completes the 25-acre campus nestled in the western part of the City of Cranston. The school is comprised of a five building campus containing a central classroom building, the Cranston Area Career and Technical Center, a gymnasium, an industrial arts building, and an auditorium-music

center. The school grounds also include six tennis courts, baseball field, and track and football fields.

Cranston High School West has 167 professional staff members who work with the student population of approximately 1,800. Of the total school population, .07% come from out of district to attend the Career and Technical Center. The percentage of students taking upper level courses at CHSW is approximately 12.1%. This number includes students who are taking one honors course in ninth grade to those taking one or more Advanced Placement course in the twelfth grade. Caucasians make up 94% of the student population, Hispanic 3%, Asian 2%, and African-American 1%. The curriculum is characterized by flexibility and comprehensiveness. This is accomplished through a number of curriculum designs: Advanced Placement, Honors, College Preparatory and Career and Technical choices. Currently, 21% of CHSW students have IEPs.

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Cranston High School West School and Community Profile

Individual student programs are developed to meet specific student needs. Students also have the opportunity to earn college credits in the following courses: College Composition, Economics, Chemistry, Physics, American Government, Italian, French, and Spanish as a result of early enrollment partnerships with Rhode Island College and the University of Rhode Island. The Program of Studies

encompasses 203 different courses. All courses are geared toward student academic interests. The professional staff consists of teachers, administrators, and various specialists who provide a wide-range of ancillary services. The overall student to teacher classroom ratio is 11 to 1 with an average class size of approximately 24 students. Every year, CHSW has representation in the National Honor Society and the Rhode Island Honor Society.

The total credits needed to graduate from Cranston High School West is 19, and will increase to 20 with the class of 2008. Students are required to be annually enrolled in a minimum of five major courses, and are encouraged to take up to six major subjects. Students are encouraged to pursue as demanding a program as possible to prepare them for the rigors of life after high school. Mandated by the No Child Left Behind Act, a Personal Literacy Plan provides a reading program for ninth and tenth graders with intensive needs. Beginning with the class of 2008, students are also required to collect evidence of demonstrated proficiency in all six of our School-wide Expectations for student learning and store this work in a personal digital proficiency portfolio.

The Cranston West schedule consists of a seven (7) day, six period rotation. The school day consists of six (6) fifty (50) minute classes with a fourteen (14) minute advisory held after the first period every day. Each period meets six (6) times in a seven-day cycle. Students

have a 20-minute lunch period and five (5) minute passing time between periods. At present, common planning time is scheduled for career and technical teachers, the ninth grade teams, and for the literacy team. All disciplines hold monthly department meetings.

A plethora of evaluation and assessment tools are used at CHSW and the Career and Technical Center, including discipline specific writing portfolios, long and short-term alternate assessment projects, and traditional tests and quizzes. Standards-based instruction and rubrics complement Cranston West's involvement in the Pittsburgh Project's Institute for Learning. CHSW is a standards-based school that focuses on Clear Expectations, Academic Rigor and Accountable Talk. The school schedules Learning Walks periodically and invites all members of the faculty to participate. During the last four years, CHSW has expanded its focus and is working to improve literacy skills using the content areas. Members of the staff are being trained by the reading specialist and the

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Institute For Learning to incorporate specific techniques to accomplish this task. These members serve as mentors to other teachers.

Cranston High School West administers the following standardized

tests: the Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test (PSAT), the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT), Advanced Placement exams (AP), the American High School Math Exam, and the Rhode Island State Assessment Program. During the 2004-05 school year, 62% of graduating seniors took the SAT. For 2004-05, the average scores were 510 (verbal) and 517 (math) compared to the state average of 503 (verbal) and 505 (math), and the national average of 508 (verbal) and 520 (math). The Rhode Island State Assessment given to 11th graders in 2004 labeled Cranston High School West as a High Performing/Improving school, according to the state's definition, and in 2005, High Performing with Caution.

Following graduation, students from CHSW follow many paths. Ninety percent of the class of 2005 entered post-secondary institutions, with 53% entering four-year colleges. Thirty-seven percent entered two-year colleges, 1% entered the military, 8% entered the work force, and 1% was undecided.

Cranston High School West is proud of the many academic, athletic, and extra-curricular achievements and awards that its students receive. These various activities ensure that students have the opportunity to have an academic and social balance to their high school experience. Some academic awards include: National Ocean Science Bowl, Math Team, Science Olympiad, Debate and Future Problem Solvers. West students consistently earn medals and keys in the Regional and National Art Competitions. That Falcon Band and

the West Chamber Choir are award-winning performance groups that have performed nationally and internationally. The West Wind school newspaper consistently earns top state honors, and for the past four years, the Career and Technical Center has won the most Skills U.S.A. and DECA medals in the state. In addition, in 2004-05 state championships went to the Girls' Softball Team, Girls' Tennis Team, the Girls' Cross Country Team, and the Falcon Football Team. In the same year, division titles were awarded to the Boys' Basketball Team (co-champs) and the Boys' Tennis Team, and in early 2005 the Wrestling Team became division champions.

In addition, Cranston High School West and the Cranston Area Career and Technical Center enjoy school partnerships with the Community College of Rhode Island, the University of Rhode Island, New England Technical Institute, Johnson & Wales University, and the Career Education Institute. School partnerships with local businesses for field study and internships include the Cornerstone Pre-School, Hope Alzheimer's, Cranston-Johnston Catholic Regional

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School, Cedar Crest Nursing Home, Science Business Placement Program and the Trudeau Center.

The School Improvement Team of Cranston High School West (SIT) is

a committee comprised of approximately 70 members, including faculty, administrators, students, parents, and representatives from the community. The SIT consistently plans and develops programs for school reform and professional development and works cooperatively with administrators, teachers, and students on various committees that oversee these initiatives. The SIT has taken an active role in the development of the school Mission Statement, School Wide Expectations, Digital Portfolio, and School Improvement Plan. Cranston High School West has a Faculty Senate which is comprised of teachers who meet on a monthly bases to discuss any issues or concerns that arise. Faculty members elect the president of the senate each year. He or she meets with the principal each month to discuss senate issues. Since these two important organizations meet monthly, most issues are handled in a proactive manner.