



Full Board Meeting  
July 27, 2022

## SCHOOL BOARD MINUTES

PROVIDENCE SCHOOL DEPARTMENT  
797 WESTMINSTER STREET, PROVIDENCE, RI 02903  
Wednesday, July 27, 2022 (6:30 PM)

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### ROLL CALL

VP Garcia

Kinzel Thomas  
Mark Santow  
Elizabeth Goldberg  
Muyideen A. Ibiyemi  
TyRelle Stephens

### Convene Meeting

#### 1. Call to Order

Call to Order

**Recommendation:** Call the meeting to order

President Thomas called the meeting to order at 6:40 PM.

#### 2. Pledge of Allegiance

#### 3. Roll Call

Roll Call

**Recommendation:** Roll Call

There were three absences: Travis Escobar, Night Jean Muhingabo and Jesus Nunez.

#### 4. Superintendent's Comments

Superintendent's Comments

**Recommendation:** No recommendation required.

Dr. Montanez commented on the progress that has been made in the past school year.



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### Approve Agenda

#### 5. Approval of the Agenda

Approve agenda as presented

**Recommendation:** Approve agenda as presented.

**ORIGINAL - Motion**

Member **(TyRelle Stephens)** Moved, Member **(Mark Santow)** Seconded to approve the **ORIGINAL** motion 'Approve agenda as presented'. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: **6** Nay: **0**. The motion **Carried. 6 - 0**

Kinzel Thomas	Yes
Diagneris Garcia	Yes
Mark Santow	Yes
Elizabeth Goldberg	Yes
Muyideen A. Ibiyemi	Yes
TyRelle Stephens	Yes

### Recognitions

#### 6. Energy Efficiency Award

PPSD Cares Award(s)

**Recommendation:** N/A

Mr. Domings gave the presentation to the PPSD IT team who has gotten awards for the last five years for using energy efficient equipment to Peter Santos.

### Public Comments

#### 7. Public Comment - Right to Be Heard

Public Comment: Members of the community who wish to address the School Board must sign-up by 4 p.m. the day of the School Board meeting. Instructions to sign-up for public comment during virtual meetings are available on the Providence School Board website: <https://www.providenceschools.org/domain/118>. An individual may speak for up to three minutes. Comments may also be submitted in writing. Groups or organizations are encouraged to appoint a spokesperson. PLEASE NOTE: The School Board welcomes comments from the public but does not engage in dialogue with the public during school board meetings.

**Recommendation:** No recommendation required.

# Providence Schools

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Mr. Jake Gogats was the first to speak against changes to the curriculum changes. Leslie Shapiro spoke about the impact of students under the State takeover. Next was Lucia Gill Case who spoke about the change in curriculum. Lynn Smith about the condition of the girl's locker room at one of the middle schools and the locking of doors. Maribeth Calabro spoke about staffing issues within PPSD and a large amount of teacher resignations in the last school year. Danielle Lucini spoke about the condition of her school building at Mount Pleasant. Jeremy Senser spoke about recruiting and retention of teachers in PPSD. Christine DeVertaz spoke about the JSEC and 360 complex and the moving of offices. There were three people who sent in comments. They are here: I am writing this in support of providence public schools adopting Generation Citizen as a curriculum resource for civics courses. I have personally witnessed amazing student-centered projects and student led exhibitions. Our class decided to focus on preventing suicide and child abuse. Students had unforgettable learning experiences that could potentially save lives. After collecting data last year in a civics working group I participated in, 64% of teachers reported needing more professional development with student centered projects. Generation Citizen not only offers amazing learning experiences for students but also teachers. I strongly feel our students and teachers deserve a high-quality action civics curriculum! It is not only important but critical for us to hold ourselves accountable regarding teachers, students and the community's voice taking the lead in these curriculum decisions so we are culturally responsive and sustaining successful district. Thank you for your time, Laura Briggs Good evening, my name is Emily Nuri, and I am a history teacher at Hope High School, I have taught at Hope for 15 years. I am writing to express my concerns over the proposed new history classes, curriculum along with the very secretive process of changing the classes. My main concerns are: 1) why changes are happening 2) no teacher involvement 3) preparation, and 4) most importantly how is this good for students. 1. I am not opposed to changing the curriculum, many of us have spoken about the need for some changes to the curriculum, but these proposed changes are throwing out everything and starting all over. History requirements were: World History, US History and an elective (this was a change from the year before of Modern World instead of elective), to this upcoming year: Law and Government, Civics in America and an elective - NO US or World is required. These are BIG changes and NO ONE HAS EXPLAINED WHY THESE CHANGES ARE NECESSARY! 2. 3. No teacher involvement. The last time Providence created a new curriculum was in 2010 with the Dana Center from Texas, I was part of the group of teachers who had a direct role in writing this curriculum, so we had some ownership over it. Now, a person or small group of people are solely making all decisions and buying a curriculum from a

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textbook company. Teachers were not part of any discussions about the need for changes to the current curriculum, what changes we thought were needed and any recommendations we had. As classroom teachers we have expertise in our content and in teaching in the classroom, the District should be using our expertise! 4. 5.

Preparation. School starts in a month, teachers go back in less than a month and I do not know the content or materials I am going to be teaching! I need time to prepare, to know what I am going to teach and that is not happening, a few days of PD the week before school starts is not acceptable and unprofessional. 6. 7. Most importantly, how is this good for students, why do our students in Providence not need to learn actual history? So knowing about the Holocaust, the Civil Rights Movement, WWII, Japanese Internment, the Progressive Era, the Harlem Renaissance, these topics are no longer important and will not be taught - again how is this good for our students? How are we preparing them for anything? I understand some of these changes are coming from the lawsuit that Providence Student Union filed about learning Civics and that the State of Rhode Island responding with passing a law making it mandatory. The State is creating a Civics curriculum this upcoming year, so why are we not waiting for that? Providence is spending \$500,000 knowing that they may not be able to use some of this material next year, that seems like a waste of money. This was done very quickly and quietly, students, parents, the community and teachers were not part of this decision, the people who these rushed decisions most directly effects. Thank you. Emily Nuri Over the decades Providence has struggled with a lack of a homeschool policy. As one of the districts with the most homeschoolers annually this has been a cause of confusion for both the homeschool families and the administration. Every year families would wait to see what PPSD would send to them and how would it differ from the previous year and the one before that. ENRICHri and RIGHT are non-profits that support homeschoolers in Rhode Island. As such we are very happy to see that now homeschoolers and administration in Providence will know what to expect year to year. We have attended Policy Committee meetings and have been received very graciously by the committee members. At the board meeting in May homeschool families spoke during public comment about what homeschooling looks like for their families. They felt heard. We, as homeschool advocates, have also felt heard. What started out as a confusing draft policy has become something that can be easily understood by both families and future administration staff. One of the best things that has been put into the policy is an optional Ed Plan for those families that want some additional direction from the district, some additional support. Most homeschoolers do not want or need support from the district that they have opted out of in order to homeschool but for those that do want or need support, it is available via the policy's



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Ed Plan. Additionally we are grateful to see that homeschoolers are welcome in this district to participate in various public school activities such as sports. Thank you to all those we have been speaking with about this new policy, it's been a long road which began in 2021 but ENRICHri and RIGHT feel that it was worth the time and effort to have this clear policy in place. Melissa Robb ENRICHri Member Advocate

### School Board Member Comments

#### 8. School Board Comments

School Board Comments

**Recommendation:** No recommendation required

President Thomas spoke about Dr. Goldberg's final Board meeting and her leadership to the District and professionalism representing the Board. President Thomas presented a Citizens Citation from Mayor Elorza to the Doctor. The President acknowledged the difficulty of resolving staffing issues and vowed to work hard to overcome the problems of staffing. DR. Santow spoke about the offices at JSEC and to ensure that counselors have sufficient space throughout the schools. Dr. Goldberg thanked the teachers who came forward and spoke tonight. She also made a plea to parents to have a connection with the school board and share their skills. Mr. Stephens mentioned that Dr. Goldberg will be missed and thanked her for her work here at PPSPD. He also thanked the PTU for coming and speaking tonight.

### School Board Committee Updates

#### 9. Policy Committee

Policy Committee updates and highlights.

**Recommendation:** No recommendation required.

Dr. Santow have three policies that will be brought tonight for the first read.

#### 10. Finance Committee

Finance Committee updates and highlights.

**Recommendation:** No recommendation required.

Mr. Ibiyemi mentioned that the last Finance Committee went through a large number of contracts to bring up tonight.

#### 11. Health & Wellness Committee

Health & Wellness Committee updates and highlights.

**Recommendation:** No recommendation required.



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V.P. Garcia mentioned that Health and Wellness did not meet in July and remarked that Dr. Goldberg will be missed.

### Consent Agenda

#### 12. Approval of the Consent Agenda

Items listed under Consent Agenda are considered routine and will be approved by a single motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items; however, any item may be removed from the Consent Agenda upon the request of any member of the Board and action upon separately.

**Recommendation:** Approve consent agenda as presented.

#### **ORIGINAL - Motion**

Member **(Elizabeth Goldberg)** Moved, Member **(Muyideen A. Ibiyemi)** Seconded to approve the **ORIGINAL** motion 'Approve consent agenda as presented'. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: **6** Nay: **0**. The motion **Carried. 6 - 0**

Kinzel Thomas	Yes
Diagneris Garcia	Yes
Mark Santow	Yes
Elizabeth Goldberg	Yes
Muyideen A. Ibiyemi	Yes
TyRelle Stephens	Yes

#### 13. Approval of Minutes - June 22, 2022

Approval of Minutes - ( ), 2021

**Recommendation:** Approve minutes as presented

#### **ORIGINAL - Motion**

Member **(Elizabeth Goldberg)** Moved, Member **(Muyideen A. Ibiyemi)** Seconded to approve the **ORIGINAL** motion 'Approve minutes as presented'. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: **6** Nay: **0**. The motion **Carried. 6 - 0**

Kinzel Thomas	Yes
Diagneris Garcia	Yes
Mark Santow	Yes
Elizabeth Goldberg	Yes
Muyideen A. Ibiyemi	Yes
TyRelle Stephens	Yes

#### 14. Urban Schools Human Capital Academy (FY23)

**Recommendation:** Urban Schools Human Capital Academy (FY23)



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**15. RAD Sports (FY23)**

**Recommendation:** RAD Sports (FY23)

**16. Action Floor Systems Inc Amendment (FY23)**

**Recommendation:** Action Floor Systems Inc Amendment (FY23)

**17. Renaissance Learning STAR (FY23)**

**Recommendation:** Renaissance Learning STAR (FY23)

**18. Saga Tutoring (FY23)**

**Recommendation:** Saga Tutoring (FY23)

**19. TNTP FY23 (Leadership Development Programming)**

**Recommendation:** TNTP FY23 (Leadership Development Programming)

**20. Discovery Education (FY23)**

**Recommendation:** Discovery Education (FY23)

**21. Cengage Learning (FY23)**

**Recommendation:** Cengage Learning (FY23)

**22. Imagine Learning (FY23)**

**Recommendation:** Imagine Learning (FY23)

**23. Vista Higher Learning (FY23)**

**Recommendation:** Vista Higher Learning (FY23)

**24. American Reading Company (FY23)**

**Recommendation:** American Reading Company (FY23)

**25. McGraw Hill Literacy (FY23)**

McGraw Hill Literacy (FY23)

**Recommendation:** McGraw Hill Literacy (FY23)

**26. McGraw Hill Social Studies (FY23)**

**Recommendation:** McGraw Hill Social Studies (FY23)

**27. McGraw Hill Math (FY23)**

**Recommendation:** McGraw Hill Math (FY23)

**28. Mind Research Institute (FY23)**

**Recommendation:** Mind Research Institute (FY23)

**29. Math for Love (Summer 2022)**

**Recommendation:** Math for Love (Summer 2022)

**30. New Classrooms (Summer 2022)**



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**Recommendation:** New Classrooms (Summer 2022)

### **31. Compensation, Classification and Appropriation Ordinances**

Compensation, Classification and Appropriation Ordinances

**Recommendation:** Compensation, Classification and Appropriation Ordinances

### **32. Bradford Trust**

**Recommendation:** Bradford Trust

## Presentations

### **33. Title IX Policy (First Read)**

**Recommendation:** Title IX Policy (First Read)

Mr. Ruggeirio briefly explained Title IX.

#### **ORIGINAL - Motion**

Member **(Mark Santow)** Moved, Member **(Elizabeth Goldberg)** Seconded to approve the **ORIGINAL** motion 'Title IX Policy (First Read)'. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: **6** Nay: **0**. The motion **Carried. 6 - 0**

Kinzel Thomas	Yes
Diagneris Garcia	Yes
Mark Santow	Yes
Elizabeth Goldberg	Yes
Muyideen A. Ibiyemi	Yes
TyRelle Stephens	Yes

### **34. Pandemic Mitigation Policy (First Read)**

**Recommendation:** Pandemic Mitigation Policy (First Read)

Mr. Ruggeirio spoke on the policy and explained some parts of it.

#### **ORIGINAL - Motion**

Member **(Mark Santow)** Moved, Member **(Elizabeth Goldberg)** Seconded to approve the **ORIGINAL** motion 'Pandemic Mitigation Policy (First Read)'. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: **6** Nay: **0**. The motion **Carried. 6 - 0**

Kinzel Thomas	Yes
Diagneris Garcia	Yes
Mark Santow	Yes
Elizabeth Goldberg	Yes
Muyideen A. Ibiyemi	Yes
TyRelle Stephens	Yes



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### 35. Homeschool Policy (First Read)

**Recommendation:** Homeschool Policy (First Read)

Mr. Mark Catone spoke on the policy.

#### **ORIGINAL - Motion**

Member **(Mark Santow)** Moved, Member **(Elizabeth Goldberg)** Seconded to approve the **ORIGINAL** motion 'Homeschool Policy (First Read)'. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: **6** Nay: **0**. The motion **Carried. 6 - 0**

Kinzel Thomas	Yes
Diagneris Garcia	Yes
Mark Santow	Yes
Elizabeth Goldberg	Yes
Muyideen A. Ibiyemi	Yes
TyRelle Stephens	Yes

### 36. Compensation, Classification and Appropriation Ordinances

Mr. Zach and Mr. Petisce explained the ordinances and answered questions from the members- VP Garcia and Mr. Stephens.

### 37. Equity Office

**Recommendation:** Administration recommends approval.

Dr. Onye and Ms. Dickerman gave the presentation. President Thomas, Dr. Santow, Mr. Stephens and Mr. Ibiyemi had comments and questions.

### 38. Yondr (FY23)

**Recommendation:** Yondr (FY23)

This item was moved from the Consent Agenda but not brought up for a vote. No decision was made on it.

#### **ORIGINAL - Motion**

Member **(xxxxxx)** Moved, Member **(xxxxxx)** Seconded to approve the **ORIGINAL** motion 'Yondr (FY23)'. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: **(xx)** Nay: **(xx)**. The motion **Failed. (xx) - (xx)**

### 39. Medify Air Purchase (FY23)

**Recommendation:** Medify Air Purchase (FY23)

This item was removed from the consent Agenda but was not brought up again and not vote was taken.

#### **ORIGINAL - Motion**



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Member **(xxxxx)** Moved, Member **(xxxxx)** Seconded to approve the **ORIGINAL** motion 'Medify Air Purchase (FY23)'. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: **(xx)** Nay: **(xx)**. The motion **Failed. (xx) - (xx)**

### 40. Great Minds (FY23)

**Recommendation:** Great Minds (FY23)

This item was also removed from the Consent Agenda but was voted on separately and passed.

#### **ORIGINAL - Motion**

Member **(Elizabeth Goldberg)** Moved, Member **(Mark Santow)** Seconded to approve the **ORIGINAL** motion 'Great Minds (FY23)'. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: **5** Nay: **0**. The motion **Carried. 5 - 0**

Kinzel Thomas	Yes
Mark Santow	Yes
Elizabeth Goldberg	Yes
Muyideen A. Ibiyemi	Yes
TyRelle Stephens	Yes

## Executive Session

### 41. Executive Session Pursuant to Rhode Island General Laws Sec. §§42-46-4 and 42-46-5(a)(1) Teacher Termination

The School Board must vote on the stated purposes in public to enter into Executive Session.

**Recommendation:** Seek to convene in Executive Session R.I. Gen. Laws. Sec. 42-46-5(a)(1) – Personnel Action

It was announced that this item was in the process of being resolved and did not have to be considered tonight.

#### **ORIGINAL - Motion**

Member **(xxxxx)** Moved, Member **(xxxxx)** Seconded to approve the **ORIGINAL** motion 'Seek to convene in Executive Session R.I. Gen. Laws. Sec. 42-46-5(a)(1) – Personnel Action'. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: **(xx)** Nay: **(xx)**. The motion **Failed. (xx) - (xx)**

## Report on Executive Session Votes



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### **42. Report on Executive Session Votes**

Report on Executive Session Votes

**Recommendation:** N/A

There was not an Executive Session so there is no report on votes.

## **Adjourn**

### **43. Adjourn Meeting**

Adjourn Meeting

**Recommendation:** No recommendation required

President Thomas adjourned the meeting at 9:31.

#### **ORIGINAL - Motion**

Member **(Elizabeth Goldberg)** Moved, Member **(TyRelle Stephens)** Seconded to approve the **ORIGINAL** motion 'No recommendation required'. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: **5** Nay: **0**. The motion **Carried. 5 - 0**

Kinzel Thomas	Yes
Mark Santow	Yes
Elizabeth Goldberg	Yes
Muyideen A. Ibiyemi	Yes
TyRelle Stephens	Yes