

**Providence Career & Technical Academy  
41 Fricker Street  
Providence, RI 02903**

**REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MINUTES**

**3/19/2025**

**1.0 Convene Meeting**

1.1 Call to Order at 6: 00 PM

1.2 Pledge of Allegiance

1.3 Roll Call

**Board Members in Attendance: Ty'Relle Stephens, Miche'le Fontes, Mireya Mendoza, Night Jean Muhingabo, Melissa Hughes, Heidi Silverio, Corey Jones, Steven Williamson and Jenny Mercado**

**Absent Board Members: Anjel Newmann**

1.4 Superintendent's Comments

**Superintendent Javier Montanez – Good evening, President Stephens, School Board Members and the many members of the Providence Public Schools community, thank you for being here tonight. I appreciate your time and commitment to supporting our students and schools.**

**I want to encourage all families, students and educators to participate in SurveyWorks, Rhode Island's annual education survey. Your feedback is invaluable, it helps us understand what's working and where we need to improve. The more responses we receive, the better we can address the needs of our community.**

**We've already seen positive changes thanks to this feedback. At West Broadway Middle school, student perceptions of attendance importance increased by 15 percentage points and family perceptions increased by 21 points. This kind of data helps us make real changes that benefit our students.**

**SurveyWorks is open until March 21<sup>st</sup>, so I encourage everyone to take a few minutes to complete it. Your voice matters, and your input helps us build stronger schools.**

**If your child turns five years old on or before September 1, 2025, they are eligible for kindergarten registration. I encourage families to register before May 7, 2025, to secure their spot.**

**The process is simple. Families can register online through skyward or visit our Registration Center.**

While every child will receive a school placement, spots are assigned based on sibling attendance and proximity to neighborhood schools, so early registration is key.

I'm excited to share that we are hosting the Eat, Play, Learn Summer Opportunities Fair on Saturday, April 5, 2025 from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM.

This is a fantastic opportunity for families to explore free and low-cost summer programs that keep kids engaged, learning and active during the break.

Whether your child loves sports, reading or hands-on activities, there will be plenty of options to explore. I encourage all families to attend and learn more about what's available.

We've made incredible progress in reducing chronic absenteeism, bringing it down from 48.4% last year to 36.2% this year, that's a 12 percentage point drop. This is a huge step in the right direction and we're now below pre-pandemic levels.

Attendance is one of the biggest factors in a child's academic success and we remain committed to supporting families with resources and awareness campaigns to ensure students are in school and learning every day.

Through our FACE Office, we continue to offer Parent University Workshops to help families navigate everything from cyber safety to the school choice processes to understanding a student's IEP.

The Rhode Island Attorney General Peter F. Neronha and RIDE Commissioner Angelica Infante-Green issued a press release and shared joint guidance with school officials on safeguarding the rights of Rhode Island students regardless of their identity, gender, and sexuality. This guidance also instructs schools that diversity, equity, inclusion and accessibility programs in Rhode Island schools should not change until the legal effect of recent executive actions is settled. Providence Public Schools in turn put out guidance to all families.

In sports, Congratulations to our 2025 Middle School Playoff Tournament Champions! On the court, DelSesto Middle School took home the Girls Basketball Championship, while Nathan Bishop Middle School secured the Boys Basketball Championship! A huge shout out to all the student athletes, coaches and supporters who made this season success.

Congratulations to the Classical High School Girls Swim Team who won the Division 1 State Swim meet at Roger Williams University. This is an amazing accomplishment going from a program that has been in Division 2 for years and was moved up to D1 this year. Thank you.

This meeting was live streamed on YouTube – Regular School Board Meeting 3-19-2025

## **2.0 Approve Agenda**

### **2.1 Approval of the Agenda**

**A Motion was made to approve the agenda**

**MSV – Muhingabo, Fontes (9-0) MOTION APPROVE**

## **3.0 Recognitions**

### **3.1 Classical High School Swim Team**

## **4.0 Consent Agenda**

### **4.1 Approval of Minutes – 12/16/24, 2/12/25 and 2/26/25**

**A Motion was made to approve the Minutes as presented**

**MSV – Jones, Fontes (9-0) MOTION APPROVED**

### **4.2 Home School Candidates**

**A Motion was made to approved Home School Candidates**

**MSV – Fontes, Muhingabo (9-0) MOTION APPROVED**

## **5.0 Public Comment**

### **5.1 Public Comment – There were 15 people who commented publicly Brandi Tucker, Em Schluter, Lindsay Paiva, Daniel Kittridge, Sam Wallace, Caleigh Rockwal, Anna Kuperman, Emily Grace Le May, Patrick Shelton, Judith Dixon, TJ Beatrice, Farida Alam-Huda, Joseph Buchanan and Jair Ascensao**

After 13 people had spoken, A Motion was made to extend the Public  
Comment’s 30-minute time limit, to allow the other 2 last people to speak.

**MSV – Fontes, Muhingabo (9-0) Motion Approved**

Written comments were also submitted as well.

## **6.0 School Board Comments**

### **6.1 School Board Comments**

**There were comments made by President Ty’Relle Stephens, Secretary  
Miche’le Fontes, Board Member Night Jean Muhingabo, Board Member Corey  
Jones and Board Member Heidi Silverio**

## **7.0 School Board Committee Updates**

### **7.1 Policy Committee Update – Heidi Silverio**

### **7.2 Finance Committee Update – Steven Williamson**

### **7.3 Health & Wellness Committee Update – Night Jean Muhingabo**

### **7.4 CTE Committee Update – Corey Jones**

### **7.5 Schools Buildings Committee Update – Melissa Hughes**

### **7.6 Collaborative Governance and Stakeholder Engagement Update – Melissa Hughes**

## **8.0 Action Items**

### **8.1 Participation with Council of Great City Schools**

**After a long discussion with Attorney Charles Ruggerio as to where the funds were coming from to continue the work with the Council of Great City Schools, there was also a notarized memorandum introduced by Mr. Krystafer Redden of RIDE. The purpose of the Memorandum was to directly address inquiries related to the method of payment and type of funding being used to support board professional development, as well as, with the process and selection of the provider of the aforementioned board professional development. The Memorandum is included with the minutes.**

**A Motion was made by Muhingabo and seconded by Stephens to table the item for further discussion until all Board Members would be present, the motion failed 2-6-1 (Williamson abstained). The second motion was made by Jones was made to approve ongoing participation with CGCS and seconded by Mercado.**

**MSV – Jones, Mercado (6-1-2) MOTION APPROVED WITH 1 NAY (President Stephens) and 2 ABSTENTIONS (Muhingabo & Williamson)**

### **8.2 Resolution Urging RIDE to Rescind the Superintendent’s Decision and Halt the Non-Renewals of LGBTQ+ Educators in Providence Public Schools – Brought forward by Night Jean Muhingabo.**

**A Motion was made to Approve the Resolution**

**MSV – Muhingabo, Fontes (8-1) MOTION APPROVED WITH 1 ABSTENTION (Hughes)**

## **9.0 Approval of Contracts**

### **9.1 Request for Contract Amendment – Thru Consulting**

### **9.2 Request for Contract Amendment – Maxim Healthcare Services**

### **9.3 Request for Contract Amendment – Amergis Healthcare Services**

**The Contracts were taken in Block Form**

**MSV - Muhingabo, Jones (9-0) MOTION APPROVED**

## **10.0 Presentations**

### **10.1 Human Resources Overview of Non-Renewals Process**

**By Zachary Scott, Herman James and Charles Ruggerio**

## **11.0 Executive Session**

### **11.1 Executive Session Pursuant to Rhode Island General Law 42-46-5(a)(2) – Pending Litigation**

**A Motion was made by Jones to Table the executive session pending litigation, with the request to hold an executive session at the next meeting (April 23, 2025) specifically to discuss the 17 non-renewals, seconded by Muhingabo. MSV – Jones, Muhingabo (7-2) MOTION APPROVED WITH 2 ABSTENTIONS (Hughes & Williamson)**

**12.0 Report on Executive Session**

12.1 Report on Executive Session – Due to the fact that the Executive Session was Tabled to the next meeting, there were no votes taken.

**13.0 Adjourn**

13.1 Adjourn Meeting - 9:48 PM

**A Motion was to adjourn the meeting**

**MSV – Fontes, Jones (9-0) MOTION APPROVED**