

**Providence School Department
797 Westminster Street
Providence, RI 02903**

REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MINUTES

11/20/2024

1.0 Convene Meeting

1.1 Call to Order at 6: 00 PM

Due to President Rogel's absence Vice-President Travis Escobar called the meeting to order at 6:03 PM

1.2 Pledge of Allegiance

1.3 Roll Call

Board Members in Attendance: Travis Escobar, Melissa Hughes, Toni Akin, George Matouk, Ty'Relle Stephens, Michael Nina, Anjel Newmann

Absent Board Members: Erlin Rogel and Night Jean Muhingabo

1.4 Superintendent's Comments

Dr. Javier Montañez –

Good evening President Rogel, Members of the School Board and the PPSD community that have come out tonight.

Thank you for being here today and for your unwavering commitment to the students and families of Providence Public Schools. We have several important updates to cover, including finances, academic performance, attendance and our continued work to improve outcomes for all students.

As Superintendent, I have been advocating loudly for our students and school district, because our schools deserve to have proper funding and resources from the City.

Today, we reached a settlement agreement with the city and last week, a Superior Court Judge found that the City was violating the law by not increasing financial support to the schools and said PPSD is entitled to adequate funding from the City.

We will be sharing with families and staff the details of the settlement agreement when it is finalized Friday.

This is not about balancing the budget; it's about ensuring our students receive the education and support services that they deserve. We are committed to working with the City to advocate for the critical investments that will strengthen our schools, attract families to the District and build a brighter future for Providence.

On a positive note, I am proud to share the continued academic progress in our District. Providence Schools saw steady progress in math, English Language Arts and Science across our assessments – RICAS, NGSA and SATs. The assessments highlight significant growth across multiple schools and grade levels. For example: Asa Messer Elementary saw an increase of 23.4 percentage points in English Language Arts and 8.9 points in math. Juanita Sanchez Educational Complex improved by 17.8 points in English Language arts and 8.9 points in math. Providence Career and Technical Academy showed an increase of 8.3 points in English Language Arts and 11.5 in math.

These results reflect the hard work our educators and students reinforce that we are moving in the right direction. We still have more work to do, but these gains are a testament to the District's commitment to continuous improvement.

This month we celebrated a major milestone with the groundbreaking of the Fogarty Pre-k – 8 School, which will provide a state of the art learning environment for our students.

I am pleased to share an important update on our work with the Department of Justice. Providence Public Schools has successfully exited federal monitoring under the 2018 Settlement Agreement. This milestone represents years of investment and hard work to ensure multilingual learners (MLL's) receive the high-quality education they deserve. Monitoring for the District's other nearly 8,000 multilingual learners under the 2018 agreement ends effective last week.

The DOJ has determined that further relief is needed to address identified challenges with PPSD's Newcomer programs which serve about 300 students with limited or interrupted form.

Over the past few years, the District has: Invested in over \$5 million n recurring support for MLL's. Reimbursed nearly 500 teachers for ESOL Certification to expand the number of trained staff. Improved access to advance academic and career programs for Multilingual Learners. Enhanced interpretation and translation services to communicate effectively with MLL families. While we have met compliance in all key areas, we recognize there is still more to do. We remain committed to providing the necessary resources, professional development, and curriculum to help every multilingual learner reach their full potential.

My message to families is clear; Showing up matters. Every day in school is a day spent learning, growing and building the foundation for a successful future. Let's work together to finish the semester strong and set our students up for success as we head into the new year.

Let's finish this semester strong by focusing on attendance, engagement and the exciting opportunities ahead for our students. Thank you for your support and partnership. Let's make this holiday season a time of joy, but also

a time of renewed commitment to learning and growth. Together, we can ensure that our students are in school, engaged and on the path to success, not for just this year, but for their futures.

**This meeting was live streamed on YouTube – Regular School Board Meeting
11-20-2024**

2.0 Approve Agenda

2.1 Approval of Agenda

**At this time a Motion was made to Approve the Agenda as presented
MSV – Stephens, Hughes (7-0) MOTION APPROVED**

3.0 Consent Agenda

3.1 Approval of Minutes – 10-16-2024

**A Motion was made to Approve the Minutes as presented
MSV – Stephens, Akin (7-0) MOTION APPROVED**

3.2 Review of Homeschool Candidates

**A Motion was made to Approve the Home School Candidates
MSV – Stephens, Nina (7-0) MOTION APPROVED**

4.0 Public Comment

4.1 Public Comment – Right to be Heard

There were two public comments

5.0 School Board Comments

5.1 School Board Comments

Comments were made by Toni Akin, Melissa Hughes, Anjel Newmann and Travis Escobar

6.0 School Board Committee Updates

6.1 Policy Committee – Melissa Hughes

6.2 Finance Committee – Toni Akin

6.3 Health & Wellness – Night Jean Muhingabo

6.4 CTE Committee – Travis Escobar

6.5 Schools Building Committee – George Matouk

7.0 Policy & Planning

7.1 School Board Policy Process – 1st Read

A Motion was made to approve and pass this policy on for a 2nd Read
MSV – Nina, Matouk (7-0) Motion Approved

8.0 Report on Contracts

- 8.1 Contract Consideration/Review – Catapult Learning
A Motion was made to Approve this contract
MSV – Akin, Matouk (7-0) MOTION APPROVED

9.0 Presentations

- 9.1 TAP Update “Excellence in Learning”
Presented by Dr. Paula Dillon and Linda Savastano

10.0 Executive Session

- 10.1 Executive Session Pursuant to RIGL 42-46-4 and 42-46-5(a)(1) Teacher
This item was tabled to the December 11, 2024 Full Board Meeting

11.0 Executive Session Votes

- 11.1 Report on Executive Session Votes
No Votes Taken, Executive Session was tabled

12.0 Adjourn

- 12.1 Adjourn Meeting
A Motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 PM
MSV – Stephens, Nina (7-0) MOTION APPROVED