



MINUTES

Providence School Board Regular Meeting

Pursuant to Executive Order 20-25 issued by the Governor of Rhode Island, the Providence School Board held this meeting remotely. A recording is available on the Providence School Board YouTube channel at bit.ly/pvdschoolboard

April 21, 2021

CONVENE MEETING

1. Call to Order – President Hemond called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Roll Call - Board Members Present: Nicholas Hemond, Nina Pande, Travis Escobar, Diagneris Garcia, Elizabeth Goldberg, Mark Santow, Ty'Relle Stephens and Kinzel Thomas.

Board Member Muyideen Ibiyemi was not in attendance.

2. Superintendent's Comments

Superintendent Harrison Peters stated that today is the National Administrative Professionals Day, and he would like to publicly expressed his appreciation to the hard-work of the professionals who contribute to the transformation of the District.

Superintendent Peters shared that today the District has released the Turnaround Plan progress, and highlighted the quarterly report based on the three pillars.

In response to the verdict of Derek Chauvin, Superintendent shared what he wrote to the PPSD community, and requested that teachers and leaders create space in the classroom for students who wish to share their feelings on this historic and painful moment.

Superintendent briefed the Board on TNTP's national, and The Opportunity Myth. On April 28th at 5 p.m., Dr. Barbara Mullen will be facilitating an equity chat on Twitter, and the goal is to ask public for feedback.

In closing, Superintendent paid tribute to Yvonne Graf, Director of Policy and Planning, an exemplary staff member who is leaving PPSD for a new opportunity. He noted that Ms. Graf has always handled the work of the Board and the District with the utmost professionalism, and attention to detail. Her work included supporting many initiatives, issues, policies and projects. Her management skill is exceptionally strong and impeccable. She has also handled herself with poised manner and grace. She will be missed and he wished her the best.

APPROVE AGENDA

3. Approve Agenda
A motion was made to approve the agenda
MSV – Pande, Thomas (8-0) MOTION APPROVED

PUBLIC COMMENT

4. Public Comment-Right to Be Heard
Cynthia Jones, provided feedback on VLA teaching.

Dan Wall, PPSD teacher and member of the Cranston School Committee commented on JSEC's ELA Department consolidation and requested the Board to look into this matter.

Robert Nerney, PPSD English Teacher, addressed the consolidation of the entire ELA Department at JSEC.

SCHOOL BOARD COMMENTS

5. School Board Comments
Stephens requested that JSEC's ELA consolidation be revisited. He has spoken to the community of students and they have challenges to getting involved or knowing when the Board held meetings. He suggested that the School Board should tap into social media outlets so that the community can be informed.

Pande stated that virtual meetings are difficult to engage the community, and she's looking to return to the in person meeting, and possibly at school settings.

Goldberg echoed with Stephens on the social media outlet for the School Board. She too has a Facebook page, which members of the community have been actively engaged with and informed.

Pande agreed with Superintendent that Ms. Graf is one of the best point persons for the School Board. Pande stated that she has become a better board member because of Ms. Graf's diligence and professionalism, especially with the district policies. Ms. Graf made sure that the Board is on track, and that students have policies that best represent them. Her professionalism, diplomacy and calm has made a difference, not only for the School Board, but for the district, students and parents. For the past years, she has transformed the District's policies and has set trends not only for the district, also for other districts who modeled her finely-crafted school policies.

President Nick Hemond left the meeting briefly

CONSENT AGENDA

6. Approval of Minutes – March 17, 2021
7. Home School Candidates
A motion was made to approve the consent agenda
MSV – Santow, Goldberg (7-0) MOTION APPROVED

REPORT ON CONTRACTS

- 8. Nursing Services
- 9. Medify MA-112 Replacement Filters
- 10. Center for Applied Linguistics SIOP Training
- 11. Accelerate Higher Education Engagement
- 12. Teach For America RI

**A motion was made to approve items 8 to 12 as one vote
MSV – Thomas, Santow (7-0) MOTION APPROVED**

President Nick Hemond subsequently re-joined the meeting

PRESENTATIONS

- 13. Presentation and Recommendation: PPSD FY 2021-22 Proposed Summary Budget Plan
A motion was made to recommend moving the proposed summary budget plan out of the School Board process, and return back to the District to continue their conversation and process with the City of Providence, City Council and RIDE Commissioner on the plan, which will return to the Board for final review.

**MSV- Pande, Thomas (7-0)
1 - abstention - Hemond**

Executive Session

- 14. Executive Session Pursuant to Rhode Island General Laws §§42-46-4 and 42-46-5(a)(1) Personnel – Non-Renewals

A motion was made to enter into Executive Session Pursuant to Rhode Island General Laws §§42-46-4 and 42-46-5(a)(1) Personnel – Non-Renewals

MSV – Pande, Thomas- MOTION APPROVED (8-0) on a roll call vote: Hemond, Pande, Garcia, Escobar, Goldberg, Santow, Stephens and Thomas

Report Executive Session Vote

- 15. Report on Executive Session Votes- There were nine (9) votes taken
 - 1) **A motion was made to uphold the Superintendent’s recommendation for non-renewal
MSV – Escobar, Santow -MOTION APPROVED (7-0), 1 recusal**
 - 2) **A motion was made to amend language in the non-renewal notification letter
MSV – Pande, Santow - MOTION APPROVED (8-0)**
 - 3) **A motion was made to uphold the Superintendent’s recommendation for non-renewal and amend the effective date of the non-renewal to April 30, 2021
MSV – Pande, Santow - MOTION APPROVED (8-0)**
 - 4) **A motion was made to uphold the Superintendent’s recommendation for non-renewal
MSV – Pande, Thomas - MOTION APPROVED (8-0)**
 - 5) **A motion was made to uphold the Superintendent’s recommendation for non-renewal and amend the effective date of the non-renewal to April 30, 2021
MSV – Pande, Escobar - MOTION APPROVED (8-0)**

- 6) **A motion was made to amend language in the non-renewal notification letter
MSV – Pande, Escobar - MOTION APPROVED (8-0)**
- 7) **A motion was made to uphold the Superintendent's recommendation for non-renewal
MSV – Pande, Thomas - MOTION APPROVED (8-0)**
- 8) **A motion was made to seal the minutes
MSV –Pande, Thomas - MOTION APPROVED (8-0)**
- 9) **A motion was made to come out of Executive Session
MSV –Pande, Thomas - MOTION APPROVED (8-0)**

**A motion was made to seal the minutes in public session
MSV –Pande, Thomas - MOTION APPROVED (8-0).**

ADJOURN

16. Adjourn Meeting

**A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 8:50 p.m.
MSV – Pande, Thomas (8-0) MOTION APPROVED**