

# SCHOOL BOARD MINUTES

PROVIDENCE SCHOOL DEPARTMENT  
797 WESTMINSTER STREET, PROVIDENCE, RI 02903  
Wednesday, March 15, 2023 (6:00 PM)

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## ROLL CALL

Mark Santow  
Travis Escobar  
Muyideen A. Ibiyemi  
Toni Akin  
Erlin Rogel  
Carolina Roberts-Santana

Scott Sutherland, Sandra Stuart, Colene Vanbrunt, Patricia Royal, Janet Pichardo, Delia Rodriguez-Masjoan, Salvador Pellerano, Herman James

## 1.0 Convene Meeting

### 1.1 Call to Order

Call to Order

**Recommendation:** Call the meeting to order

Meeting Called to order by President Erlin Rogel at 6:05 pm

#### **ORIGINAL - Motion**

Member (xxxxx) Moved, Member (xxxxx) Seconded to approve the **ORIGINAL** motion 'Call the meeting to order'. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: (xx) Nay: (xx). The motion . (xx) - (xx)

### 1.2 Pledge of Allegiance

### 1.3 Roll Call

Roll Call

**Recommendation:** Roll Call

There were two absences at roll call Ty'Relle Stephens and Night Jean Muhingabo. Ty'Relle Stephens arrived 6:06pm Night Jean Muhingabo arrived 6:07pm George Matouk was absent. There was a quorum

### 1.4 Superintendent's Comments

Superintendent's Comments

**Recommendation:** No recommendation required.

Superintendent Dr. Montanez spoke for the first time since returning from his leave. He thanked and welcomed all the new board members. He spoke in reference to the Turnaround Action Plan overview, helping to set goals to get the work done. He

referenced as to what Survey Works is and as to where the data information is from the community, teachers and students. He relayed the various ways on how to obtain the links. He mentioned that FACE (Family and Community Engagement) Office where there is supports for families, they will have supports and information will be available at the schools. Recognized the (50) CTE Students that received offers to work at Electric Boat. These students are exiting high school with the potential to pay them up to \$24.00. 42 Students have been accepted looking to grow the program. CTE Students have been featured on channel 12. (Women in Construction) presentation was for young women who are looking to learn various jobs. Project Lunch Bag was this past weekend; Mayor Smiley, Recreation Dept. Director Stephen Grace and the community came out to create hundreds of bags that were to be handed out and into the community that needed it. Recognized all Social Workers in PPSD in observance of Social Workers Appreciation. He wanted to high light some of the good things that are happening within PPSD and wanted to stress that there is work that still needs to be handled.

## 2.0 Approve Agenda

### 2.1 Approval of the Agenda

Approve agenda as presented

**Recommendation:** Approve agenda as presented.

**ORIGINAL - Motion**

Member (**Travis Escobar**) Moved, Member (**TyRelle Stephens**) Seconded to approve the **ORIGINAL** motion 'Approve agenda as presented'. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: **8** Nay: **0**. The motion **Carried. 8 - 0**

Mark Santow	Yes
Travis Escobar	Yes
Muyideen A. Ibiyemi	Yes
TyRelle Stephens	Yes
Night Jean Muhingabo	Yes
Toni Akin	Yes
Erlin Rogel	Yes
Carolina Roberts-Santana	Yes

## 3.0 Presentations

### 3.1 Legal presentation on updates to the Crowley Act post 2022 legislative session

**Recommendation:** Information and Discussion

President Rogel had the City Solicitor go over the updated version of the Crowley Act and Commissioner's Orders. Changes as to the Crowley Act is to meet monthly and discuss the role(s) of the school board as an advisory board. Board Members asked questions on the Crowley Act and what their roles were as a board. Mr. Solicitor explained in detail what the roles and functions were as pertaining to the Reform Crowley Act (Zurier Bill) the board was informed that they are to meeting at least monthly to provide public input of performance and implementation of the Turn around Strategies. Advise on Senior School District Administrators. Advise on district wide

policies Review progress of annual performance measures Power to establish advisory sub committees The board is expected to receive: Commissioner and Superintendent must provide an bi annual written report on regarding the progress being made on the TAP Turn around Action Plan Annual performance evaluation of the Superintendent no later than July 1. Quarterly TAP updates Mr. Stephens asked to have a separate meeting regarding the TAP. it was noted. Dr. Santow expressed to have the meeting(s) in the community and collaboration with the Commissioner and Superintendent.

### **3.2 Turnaround Action Plan Update**

#### **Recommendation: District report on Turnaround Action Plan**

Turnaround Action Plan Update (TAP) presented to the board by the Senior Cabinet Scott Sutherland begin the presentation. Overall presented what the goals and purposes would detail. (FACE) Family and Community Engagement Office and Teaching and Learning offices. They spoke on the TAP Pillar: Engaged Communities Janet Pichardo(Executive Director of Family Engagement) She spoke on the various services in which her office provides for the community. (Parent University provided workshops that serviced families on different topics from understanding IEPs to preparing for college. \*Mckinney/Vento supported 74 students facing housing insecurities for housing, finance, and transportation assistance. \*Recruited 27 Parent Ambassadors that support parent engagement activities within the schools who act as liaisons between schools and parents. Delia Rodriguez-Masjoan (interim Executive Director of Community Engagement) spoke on behalf of District Wide Advisory Council (DWAC) works with the community and receives direct feedback from the community. The focus on specific topics \*Created two Community Engagement Student Advisory Council (SAC) Serves 38 students \*12 Parent Advisory Council (PAC) meetings of 30+ members \*Promotes Survey Works, annual feedback from families and district-wide \*Let's Talk Customer Service System platform- received and responded to 3,950 inquiries and integrated and established customer service standards to Human Resources Colene Vanburnt (Executive Director of Teaching and Learning) Presented for the Teaching and Learning component of the TAP Pillar \*Held instructional committees to partner in decision making \*K-8 AR Core Lesson Planning Committees met to build core ELA lessons \*9-12 Study Sync Pathway Committees met to build core ELA \*K-12 Math Work groups revised SY23 Scope and Sequence documents and expansion of resources \*K-12 Social Studies curriculum- Selection Committee \*Civics Counsel Committee (Parents, teachers, students, and community members to advise civics programming) \* Expanded the Summer Learning Program \* Increased number of students participating in 100 hour paid internships for CTE within the community \*Implemented ARC Core Daily lesson plans distributed district wide \*High quality Science Curriculum (K-8) \*High quality curriculum for French, Spanish and Italian (9-12) Awarded K-12 high quality studies curriculum that aligned with RIDE's newly adopted standards \* Implementation of New Assessment Management System Standards aligned Common Assessments Credit audits 2x per year supports students meeting graduation requirements \*Monthly Administrator PD, Teacher PD and Coach/TL PD 1:1 Job Embedded Coaching Patricia Royal (Assistant Superintendent of Elementary) Presented for the TAP Pillar for Elementary and Secondary Schools \*Tutoring sessions, before and afterschool programs including Saturday Academies to prepare students for RICAS/SAT \*100 Days of school celebrations at 21 schools \*Increased number of field trips that are extensions of learning in ELA, Math and

Science \*Cultural Night Celebrations \*RICAS/SAT events all schools facilitated  
RICAS/SAT Ramp Up programs before and after and or during extended school hours  
\*Parent RICAS Nights created to inform and share student work samples in  
preparation of RICAS assessments \*All School celebrate Student of the Month to  
acknowledge improved academics and attendance performance for students \*High  
schools host Career Day Events to support college and career exploration \*Decision  
Day Events for all high schools to emphasize post secondary plans and college  
acceptance Sandra Stuart (Chief Student Support Officer, Teaching and Learning)  
Presented for the TAP Pillar Multilingual Learners and Specialized Instruction &  
Exceptional Student Support Early Childhood Education and Wellness \*Implementation  
of new ESL curricular resource VISTA Connection (Elementary) \*Expanded ESL  
curriculum resource Cengage (Secondary) \*Implementation of Professional Learning  
Communities (PLC) (Elementary, Secondary) \*Provided Professional Development to  
400 teachers \*Expanded the Dual Language program with 260 seats \*Creating an In-  
house ESOL Certification Program \*Facilitated 200+ Sheltered Content Instruction  
(SCI) professional development sessions \*Increased the number of Multilingual  
Learners in Advanced Academics Specialized Instruction & Exceptional Student Support  
\*Reestablished the Special Education Parent Local Advisory Committee \*Purchased  
high quality programs to meet the needs for students with IEPs \*Purchased new  
furniture, supplies, materials, and resources for 109 classrooms /26 schools  
\*Established PPSD Office of Specialized Instruction & Exceptional Student Guidebook  
\*Increased supports for Dually Identified Students \*Created program-centered  
managers positions \*Professional Development Sessions \*Provided professional  
learning communities Early Childhood Education \*Increased number of PPSD Pre-K  
Classrooms \*Improving transition for Pre K to Kindergarten students through  
coordination with community agencies that support children and families \*Professional  
Development \*Increase in the percentage of children screened by Child Outreach  
Screenings Wellness \*Expanded the number of Smart Clinics at George J. West from  
two to three \*Increase in staff to student ratio with additional Social Workers  
\*Supported school based attendance teams, worked on PPSD Attendance Policy and  
created the attendance guidebook \*Utilized Naviance platform to complete required  
individualized Learning Plans (ILP) benchmark \*Assisted with collection of the senior  
exit/graduation survey \*Building Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS) for identifying  
tiers to help schools better respond to student needs Herman James (Chief Talent  
Officer, Human Resources) Presented for the TAP Pillar Recruitment and Hiring,  
Support & Development, Employee Services & Relations \*Launched the districts first  
ad-marketing campaign with KSA resulted in 765 leads in the first 5 weeks \*  
Partnership with JWU, RISPE, WGU, PC, RIC, Latinos for Education, and Generation  
Teach \* Secured 18 "early contracts" in high-need areas \* Hired 50% more new  
teachers hires than in the previous year \*Offered incentives to newly hired staff  
members, launched second loan forgiveness for new educators of color cohort and  
expanded the employee referral bonus program \*Added 25+ career fairs for SY23-24  
hiring including 6 in house contract fairs. \* 528 achieved ESOL Certification through  
reimbursement. Increased 35.5% since the start of the TAP. \* Increase in professional  
development \* 53 Building Ambassadors to support new teachers \*66% of the  
teachers attended the PPSD 9 day Summer New Teacher Academy \*100% of  
employees leaving the district are offered exit interviews. 44 exit interviews and 99  
surveys 28 sessions conducted for principals and assistant principal on employee

supervision and attendance \*Standard operating procedures (SOPs) developed for various processes including conducting investigations, disciplinary actions and processes, family medical leave act (FMLA) and worker's compensation Salvador Pellerano (Chief of Operations) Presentation on Efficient District Systems \* Developed of Comprehensive Data Warehouse \*Implementation of visualization and analytical system (Elevate) and the district assessment system \* Finance and Operations \*Hired, trained and supporting a cohort of 15 school-based Directors of Operations Facilities \*Continued use of new capital revolving fund for over \$7 million in repair and upgrades \*Strategic facilities plan 3 fully renovated or rebuilt schools set to open 2023 \*Engaged in planning the next phase of building investments from recent bond

## 4.0 Public Comments

### 4.1 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.

First Speaker to speak was Emily Holleman, Music Teacher ASF@ Broad. She spoke in regards to the recent announcement of the school closing. She went on to express the fact that a "Dog Park" in her community got more attention than the closures of the schools here in Providence. Sarah Morenon, Retired School Librarian (N. Greene) She spoke on behalf of the Library at N, Greene where there was a library of 15,000 books that were packed up for a renovation that never happened. She came to 797 to picket and she did not like the response that she received in regards to not having a book cart. Ms. Morenon has been subbing at another HS (E-Cubed) she went on to express that the library was moved in a classroom that has no library being taught; the school is advertising for a tech person not a librarian. She went on to express that several other schools have suffered the same fate of not having working libraries for students. Speaker has provided a hand out with pictures of N. Greene Library. Peter Quesnel, Librarian(JSEC Complex) spoke about some of the positives of having a school libraries. He spoke in regards to reinstating the Librarian jobs back to Hope, E-Cubed and Gilbert Stuart Schools Xavier Blake, Student (E-Cubed Academy) Spoke on not having a library at the school Katelyn Crudale (Parent) Spoke in regards to the closing of ASF@Broad Patrick Shelton, Teacher at ASF Spoke on behalf of keeping the school open Gabriel Mernoff, (Former Student) He spoke on the school closers, community not having any input on the decision to close ASF @Broad Carolyn Kellner, (Art Teacher PCTA) Spoke on the closer of the Art program Student spoke in regards all of the issues brought to school board about nothing being done. Samuel Zurier, (Senator) Spoke in regards to having collaboration with the school board. Jesus Nunez Spoke in regards to the Superintendent not addressing the families and communities on the closings of the schools. Jeremy Sencer, PTU Spoke in regards to closing of ASF@ Broad Maya Chavez-Akin (Teacher) Spoke in regards to closing of ASF@ Broad Letrice

Suriel(Parent) Spoke on school closings Carol Winter (Teacher) read a statement in the absence of the parent speaking on the closer of ASF@Broad Kristen Dehertough, (JSEC Guidance Counselor) Spoke in regards to school attendance; students being socially promoted Motioned to extend public comment Travis Escobar and Ty'Relle Stephens

## 5.0 School Board Member Comments

### 5.1 School Board Comments

School Board Comments

**Recommendation:** No recommendation required

Night Jean Muhingabo spoke regarding the (TAP) Turnaround Action Plan not working and wanting to end the state takeover. He also spoke in regards to the school district not finishing investigations, allegations of toxic behavior and poor leadership, teachers leaving the school district, school closing, ending the state takeover and lastly removal of the Commissioner. Ty'Relle Stephens spoke in regards to serious allegations pertaining to the Senior Advisor and school board has made recommendations that was public and none taken seriously, he urges to get back to the allegations that were made to be taken seriously in regards to retaliation and multiple administrators have left do to this individual. Public comment to should take place before any presentation. School Libraries and Art program electives should not be taken away from students. School closures Carolina Roberts-Santana spoke on the behalf of misunderstands misrepresentations and language gaps. She thanked the teachers, community leader and parents for attending. She went to express that she understood the many challenges that parent face.

## 6.0 School Board Committee Updates

### 6.1 Policy Committee

Policy Committee updates and highlights.

**Recommendation:** No recommendation required.

Dr. Santow discussed that they will be working on new policies

### 6.2 Finance Committee

Finance Committee updates and highlights.

**Recommendation:** No recommendation required.

Dr. Ibiyemi discussed the contacts before the committee and he asked for additional information regard a contract that was provided.

### 6.3 Health & Wellness Committee

Health & Wellness Committee updates and highlights.

**Recommendation:** No recommendation required.

Night Jean Muhingabo discussed the last committee meeting in January. New board members Ms. Toni Akin and Mrs. Carolina Roberts-Santana was appointed to the committee in February. First meeting to be on March 22, 2023.

## 7.0 Consent Agenda

### 7.1 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 **(Muyideen A. Ibiyemi)** Moved, Member **(TyRelle Stephens)** Seconded to approve the **ORIGINAL** motion 'Approve consent agenda as presented'. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: **8** Nay: **0**. The motion . **8 - 0**

Mark Santow	Yes
Travis Escobar	Yes
Muyideen A. Ibiyemi	Yes
TyRelle Stephens	Yes
Night Jean Muhingabo	Yes
Toni Akin	Yes
Erlin Rogel	Yes
Carolina Roberts-Santana	Yes

**7.2 Approval of Minutes February 15, 2023**

Approval of Minutes February 15, 2023

**Recommendation:** Approve minutes as presented

**ORIGINAL - Motion**

Member **(Muyideen A. Ibiyemi)** Moved, Member **(TyRelle Stephens)** Seconded to approve the **ORIGINAL** motion 'Approve minutes as presented'. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: **8** Nay: **0**. The motion **Carried. 8 - 0**

Mark Santow	Yes
Travis Escobar	Yes
Muyideen A. Ibiyemi	Yes
TyRelle Stephens	Yes
Night Jean Muhingabo	Yes
Toni Akin	Yes
Erlin Rogel	Yes
Carolina Roberts-Santana	Yes

**7.3 Thru Consulting LLC**

**Recommendation:** Approval is recommended

**ORIGINAL - Motion**

Member **(Muyideen A. Ibiyemi)** Moved, Member **(TyRelle Stephens)** Seconded to approve the **ORIGINAL** motion 'Approval is recommended'. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: **8** Nay: **0**. The motion **Carried. 8 - 0**

Mark Santow	Yes
Travis Escobar	Yes
Muyideen A. Ibiyemi	Yes
TyRelle Stephens	Yes
Night Jean Muhingabo	Yes
Toni Akin	Yes
Erlin Rogel	Yes
Carolina Roberts-Santana	Yes

**7.4 AP Summer Institute- St. Johnsbury Academy**

**Recommendation:** Approval is recommended

**ORIGINAL - Motion**

Member (**Muyideen A. Ibiyemi**) Moved, Member (**TyRelle Stephens**) Seconded to approve the **ORIGINAL** motion 'Approval is recommended'. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: **8** Nay: **0**. The motion **Carried. 8 - 0**

Mark Santow	Yes
Travis Escobar	Yes
Muyideen A. Ibiyemi	Yes
TyRelle Stephens	Yes
Night Jean Muhingabo	Yes
Toni Akin	Yes
Erlin Rogel	Yes
Carolina Roberts-Santana	Yes

**7.5 AP Summer Institute Training St. Joseph College**

**Recommendation:** Approval is recommended

**ORIGINAL - Motion**

Member (**Muyideen A. Ibiyemi**) Moved, Member (**TyRelle Stephens**) Seconded to approve the **ORIGINAL** motion 'Approval is recommended'. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: **8** Nay: **0**. The motion **Carried. 8 - 0**

Mark Santow	Yes
Travis Escobar	Yes
Muyideen A. Ibiyemi	Yes
TyRelle Stephens	Yes
Night Jean Muhingabo	Yes
Toni Akin	Yes
Erlin Rogel	Yes
Carolina Roberts-Santana	Yes

**7.6 LinkedIn Corporation**

**Recommendation:** Approval is recommended

**ORIGINAL - Motion**

Member (**Muyideen A. Ibiyemi**) Moved, Member (**TyRelle Stephens**) Seconded to approve the **ORIGINAL** motion 'Approval is recommended'. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: **8** Nay: **0**. The motion **Carried. 8 - 0**

Mark Santow	Yes
Travis Escobar	Yes
Muyideen A. Ibiyemi	Yes
TyRelle Stephens	Yes
Night Jean Muhingabo	Yes
Toni Akin	Yes
Erlin Rogel	Yes
Carolina Roberts-Santana	Yes

**7.7 Teach for America**

**Recommendation:** Approval is recommended

**ORIGINAL - Motion**

Member (**Muyideen A. Ibiyemi**) Moved, Member (**TyRelle Stephens**) Seconded to approve the **ORIGINAL** motion 'Approval is recommended'. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: **8** Nay: **0**. The motion **Carried. 8 - 0**



Mark Santow	Yes
Travis Escobar	Yes
Muyideen A. Ibiyemi	Yes
TyRelle Stephens	Yes
Night Jean Muhingabo	Yes
Toni Akin	Yes
Erlin Rogel	Yes
Carolina Roberts-Santana	Yes

## 8.0 Action Items

### 8.1 Review of Homeschool Candidates

We'll review complete homeschool application(s) to be approved by the School Board. Accompanying documentation is not available publicly to protect student-identifying information.

**Recommendation:** Administration recommends removal.

**ORIGINAL - Motion**

Member **(Muyideen A. Ibiyemi)** Moved, Member **(Night Jean Muhingabo)** Seconded to approve the **ORIGINAL** motion 'Administration recommends removal'. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: **8** Nay: **0**. The motion . **8 - 0**

Mark Santow	Yes
Travis Escobar	Yes
Muyideen A. Ibiyemi	Yes
TyRelle Stephens	Yes
Night Jean Muhingabo	Yes
Toni Akin	Yes
Erlin Rogel	Yes
Carolina Roberts-Santana	Yes

## 9.0 Items Pulled from Consent Agenda

## 10.0 Executive Session

### 10.1 Executive Session Pursuant to Rhode Island General Laws Sec. §§42-46-4 and 42-46-5(a)(1) Personnel Matters - Teacher Termination; Teacher Suspension; Substitute 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

Vote to go into Executive Session 9:01pm

**ORIGINAL - Motion**

Member **(TyRelle Stephens)** Moved, Member **(Mark Santow)** 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: **7** Nay: **0**. The motion . **7 - 0**

Mark Santow	Yes
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Travis Escobar	Yes
TyRelle Stephens	Yes
Night Jean Muhingabo	Yes
Toni Akin	Yes
Erlin Rogel	Yes
Carolina Roberts-Santana	Yes

## 11.0 Report on Executive Session Votes

### 11.1 Report on Executive Session Votes

Report on Executive Session Votes

**Recommendation:** N/A

Vote to uphold the Superintendent's recommendation Motion by Travis Escobar 2nd by Ty'Relle Stephens Vote 8-0 (George Matouk absent) Vote to uphold the Superintendent's recommendation Motion by Travis Escobar 2nd Night Jean Muhingabo 7-0 (George Matouk and Muyideen Ibiyemi absent)

## 12.0 Adjourn

### 12.1 Adjourn Meeting

Adjourn Meeting

**Recommendation:** No recommendation required

Meeting Adjourned at 10:10 pm

**ORIGINAL - Motion**

Member **(TyRelle Stephens)** Moved, Member **(Carolina Roberts-Santana)** Seconded to approve the **ORIGINAL** motion 'No recommendation required'. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: **(xx)** Nay: **(xx)**. The motion . **(xx)** - **(xx)**