



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

March 17, 2021

CONVENE MEETING

1. Call to Order – Acting Chair, Vice President Pande called the meeting to order at 6:40 p.m.

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

Board Members Nicholas Hemond, Travis Escobar and Muyideen Ibiyemi were not in attendance

2. Superintendent's Comments

Superintendent Harrison Peters highlighted that March is Women's History Month, and he expressed that he is honored and humbled to work with many courageous women who are the trailblazers in making change.

Superintendent Peters introduced Audrey Lucas as the new Director for the External Affairs. He also thanked Laura Hart who will be transition to PPSD Cares Campaign, a direct support for teacher and students.

Earlier last week, a member of his cabinet attended the Council on Elementary and Secondary Education meeting, and updated the council on Providence's turnaround progress. The responses were positive.

The Superintendent is planning to meet with the Board individually to learn about their vision for PPSD.

He also thanked Governor Daniel McKee for prioritizing Covid-19 vaccinations for PPSD teachers.

APPROVE AGENDA

3. Approve Agenda

A motion was made to approve the agenda

MSV – Thomas, Santow (6-0) MOTION APPROVED

PUBLIC COMMENT

4. Public Comment-Right to Be Heard

Cynthia Jones addressed the Board on SMART Clinics, and new Curriculum Leadership Academy.

Peter Quesnel requested that his comments to be read into the record in regards to the library media programs, and called on the Board to bring school libraries back to all Providence schools.

SCHOOL BOARD COMMENTS

5. School Board Comments

Pande echoed the Superintendent and expressed her thanks to Governor McKee and Commissioner Infante-Green for prioritizing Covid-19 vaccination for teachers.

Responding to Superintendent, the School Board retreat has been scheduled and the board is looking forward to work with Superintendent and members of his administration.

She noted that the Finance Committee continues reviewing budget FY 2021, and at future meetings will address the budget process, funding and resources for FY 2022. Pande encouraged board members to reach out to Zack Scott and Chris Petisce for any questions they may have.

CONSENT AGENDA

6. Approval of Minutes – February 24, 2021

A motion was made to approve the consent agenda

MSV - Thomas, Santow (6-0) MOTION APPROVED

REPORT ON CONTRACTS

7. OSHEAN, Inc. - Internet Access 2021-2022
 8. CCS, Inc. - Basic Maintenance 2021-2022
 9. CCS, Inc. - Internal Connections 2021-2022
 10. Encore Fire Protection – Change Order #2
 11. First Student - Bus Transportation Services
 12. TNTP - Teacher and School Leader
 13. Audio Enhancement – Classroom Audio Systems
- A motion was made to approve items 7 to 13 as one vote**

MSV – Thomas, Santow (6-0) MOTION APPROVED

BUDGET REVIEW

14. FY 2020-21 Budget-Proposed Amended Ordinances - Compensation, Classification and Appropriation

After discussion, a motion was made to approve item 14 as presented

MSV – Thomas, Santow (6-0) MOTION APPROVED

EXECUTIVE SESSION

15. Executive Session Pursuant to Rhode Island General Laws §§ 42-46-5 (a)(9) Level B Grievances

A motion was made to enter into Executive Session Pursuant to Rhode Island General Laws §§ 42-46-5 (a)(9) Level B Grievances

MSV – Thomas, Santow- MOTION APPROVED (6-0) on a roll call vote: Pande, Garcia, Goldberg, Santow, Stephens and Thomas

REPORT EXECUTIVE SESSION VOTE

16. Report on Executive Session Votes - There were six (6) votes taken

- 1) **A motion was made to uphold the Superintendent’s recommendation to deny the grievance
MSV –Thomas, Santow - MOTION APPROVED (6-0)**
- 2) **A motion was made to uphold the Superintendent’s recommendation to deny the grievance
MSV –Thomas, Santow - MOTION APPROVED (6-0)**
- 3) **A motion was made to uphold the Superintendent’s recommendation to deny the grievance
MSV –Thomas, Santow - MOTION APPROVED (6-0)**
- 4) **A motion was made to uphold the Superintendent’s recommendation to deny the grievance
MSV –Thomas, Santow - MOTION APPROVED (6-0)**
- 5) **A motion was made to seal the minutes
MSV –Thomas, Santow - MOTION APPROVED (6-0)**
- 6) **A motion was made to come out of Executive Session
MSV –Thomas, Santow - MOTION APPROVED (6-0)**

Due to technical delay, Mr. Stephens did not rejoin the open meeting.

**A motion was made to seal the minutes in public session
MSV –Thomas, Santow - MOTION APPROVED (5-0)**

ADJOURN

17. Adjourn Meeting

**A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 10:27 p.m.
MSV - Thomas, Santow (5-0) MOTION APPROVED**