



## 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](https://bit.ly/pvdschoolboard)

May 19, 2021

#### CONVENE MEETING

1. Call to Order – President Hemond called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m.

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

2. Superintendent's Comments  
Superintendent Harrison Peters was not in attendance to make comments

#### APPROVE AGENDA

3. Approve Agenda  
**A motion was made to approve the agenda**  
**MSV –Thomas, Escobar (9-0) MOTION APPROVED**

#### PUBLIC COMMENT

4. Public Comment-Right to Be Heard  
**Due to the large crowd signed up for testimony, a motion was made to suspend the rule that**  
**limits the public comment period to 30 minutes.**  
**MSV- Pande, Santow (9-0) Motion Approved**

The following students and adults commented as follows:

- 1) Councilwoman Nirva LaFortune, parent of a PPSD student, commented on Superintendent's job performance

- 2) Colleen Kelly, parent of PPSD student, commented on plan for full school reopening
- 3) Cynthia Jones, PPSD teacher, commented on personnel matter and STEM
- 4) Ivania Sarit, PPSD student, commented on bio medical program
  
- 5) Benjamin Gormley, PPSD employee, commented on the State takeover
- 6) Alexander Lucini, PPSD teacher, commented on Superintendent Harrison Peters' job performance
- 7) Melissa Hughes, parent of a PPSD student commented on parent engagement within the district, specifically as related to the state intervention/Turnaround Action Plan and Superintendent Peters.
- 8) Melissa Babcock, PPSD employee, commented on the termination practices of teachers with high need certifications and positive evaluation scores.
- 9) Erica Lambert, parent of PPSD student, commented on decisions about school leadership
- 10) Enrique Sanchez, PPSD teacher, commented on Education/settings
- 11) Elizabeth Finneran, PPSD teacher, commented on Superintendent Harrison Peters and protecting children.
- 12) Emlyn Addison, parent of PPSD student, commented on keeping performance arts electives in PPSD schools
- 13) Kimberly Cabana, PPSD teacher, commented on reconsideration of resignation / non-renewal
- 14) Modinat Solomon, parent of PPSD student, expressed concerns on current Administrative issues.
- 15) Maya Chavez, PPSD teacher, commented on creating a safe Providence Schools community

The following students and adults sent written comments to be read into the record.

- 1) Aaron Regunberg, PPSD community member, expressed concern that Nathan Bishop's successful drama program is being shut down.
- 2) Amy Punchak, parent of PPSD students, PTO volunteer, PAC member, advocated for Superintendent Harrison Peters to continue his work.
- 3) Jonathan Ryder, PPSD employee, sent his statement to protest the elimination of Library Media Specialists

- 4) Kathi Fisler, parent of PPSD student, Professor of Computer Science at Brown University, expressed a concern on performing arts program at Nathan Bishop.
- 5) Kristen Peterson, PPSD community, commented on Glenn Zienowicz's position at Nathan Bishop Middle School and the dissolution of the drama program.
- 6) Seth Rockman, parent of PPSD student, urged the school board restore the Performing Arts program at Nathan Bishop.
- 7) Samuel D. Zurier, former City Council Member, former School Board Member and a parent of PPSD student, commented on current situation and that the Providence School Board has a unique position to evaluate not only the personnel decisions, but also the State takeover as a whole. Councilman Zurier suggested the Board prepare a public report/assessment of the District's accomplishments and setbacks since the takeover, the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead, and Board's recommendations for improvement.
- 8) Shriram Krishnamurthi, expressed opposition to the proposed move to cut the performing arts program at Nathan Bishop.
- 9) Tomoko Shibusawa, parent of PPSD student, commented in support of the Superintendent Peters, Commissioner Infante-Green, and the State takeover.

#### **SCHOOL BOARD COMMENTS**

5. School Board Comments

Hemond and Stephens commented on Superintendent Peters' hiring process and the handling of matters related to the former secondary network superintendent.

Santow- Echoed those who made comments on the performing arts program at Nathan Bishop. He stated that there will be a resolution introduced in June to pertaining to School Resource Officers in schools.

Pande and Thomas commented on the sense of community in Providence, and how the current administration operated.

#### **CONSENT AGENDA**

6. Approval of Minutes – April 21, 2021

7. Home School Candidates

**A motion was made to approve the consent agenda**

**MSV – Pande, Thomas (9-0) MOTION APPROVED**

#### **REPORT ON CONTRACTS**

8. Sodexo - Food Services Contract Renewal

9. Jacobs Engineering - Owner's Project Manager

10. Generation Teach - Summer 2021

11. Catapult Learning

12. Gothic Arch Greenhouses

13. Naviance 2021-2023
14. Microsoft EES Campus Licensing
15. HPE Foundation Care - Contract Renewal
16. McGraw-Hill Education- Math
17. McGraw-Hill Education - English Language Arts

**A motion was made to approve items 8 to 17 as one vote  
MSV – Thomas, Santow (9-0) MOTION APPROVED**

#### **ACTION ITEMS**

18. Non-Renewal of Teacher Contract - Sara Bilman  
No action taken as the matter has been resolved

#### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

19. Executive Session Pursuant to RIGL 42-46-4 and 42-46-5(a)(1) Personnel – Non-Renewals; RIGL 42-46-5 (a)(9) Level B Grievances; RIGL 42-46-5 (a)(1) Superintendent Job Performance.

Non-Renewals, and Level B Grievances has been resolved, no action is taken.

**A motion was made to enter into Executive Session Pursuant to RIGL 42-46-5 (a)(1) Superintendent Job Performance**

**MSV – Pande, Thomas- MOTION APPROVED (9-0) on a roll call vote: Hemond, Pande, Garcia, Escobar, Goldberg, Ibiyemi, Santow, Stephens and Thomas.**

#### **Report Executive Session Vote**

20. Report on Executive Session Votes- There were two (2) votes taken in Executive Session

- 1) **A motion was made to seal the minutes  
MSV –Pande, Thomas - MOTION APPROVED (9-0)**

- 2) **A motion was made to come out of Executive Session  
MSV –Pande, Thomas - MOTION APPROVED (9-0)**

- 3) **Votes taken in Open Session:**

- 1) **A motion was made to seal the minutes of Executive Session  
MSV – Pande, Thomas - MOTION APPROVED (9-0).**

- 2) **A motion was made to vote no confidence in Superintendent Harrison Porters  
MSV- Stephens, Santow – MOTION APPROVED (9-0)**

#### **ADJOURN**

21. Adjourn Meeting  
**A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 9:35 p.m.  
MSV – Pande, Thomas (9-0) MOTION APPROVED**