

Providence School Department
797 Westminster Street, Providence, RI 02903

Regular School Board Meeting

Wednesday, June 21, 2023

1.0 Convene Meeting

1.1 **Call to Order-** Meeting Called to Order by President Erlin Rogel at 6:03 pm

In Attendance: Zachary Scott, Molly Hannon, Janet Pichardo, Delia Rodriguez, Carina Pinto

1.2 **Pledge of the Allegiance:** Recited

1.3 **Roll Call:** Mark Santow, Travis Escobar, Ty'Relle Stephens, Night Jean Muhingabo, Toni Akin, Erlin Rogel, George Matouk, Absent: Carolina Roberts-Santana, Muyideen Ibiyemi

1.4 Superintendent's Comments:

Superintendent Montanez reported that there were nine high school graduations, with over a thousand students crossing the stage receiving high school diplomas. Summer Reading initiatives where 90,000 age appropriate books was distributed to all pre-K-fifth grade students, Clifford the Big Red Dog celebrated at Asa Messa Elementary School.

CTE students signed contracts with local industry partners at CTE Signing Night 14 companies from around the state representatives and over 80 students signed contracts to start working right after graduation. Acknowledged two individuals for their commitment and dedication to the district and students from the Parent Advisory Council Elaine Faber Budish and Tomoko Shibusawa. Patricia Royal is leaving PPSD to become the Superintendent of Pawtucket Public Schools, she worked her way up through the ranks, in 2019 she worked as an Elementary Transformation Officer, Assistant Superintendent of Elementary Education and worked to help develop policies, regulations, lead teams of great principals and assistant principals, process for coaching leaders and implementing changes to improving instruction and student outcome. Several of members, who have left to become Superintendents in surrounding districts, which is a testament of the work that is going on here. Shaping the district in the future. Continuing to meet the goals of the community (TAP), developing 21st century learning spaces and making sure that teachers and students deserve. Ribbon cutting ceremony at Hope High School Auditorium. (20 million dollars invested at Hope) Opening of three new or like new schools D'Abate Elementary School, Spaziano Elementary School and Narducci Learning Center. Each investment is part of a more than half a billion-facility plan, which will increase the percentage of students learning in high quality spaces from five percent to fifty percent that's another big accomplishment. In

alignment with the efficient system tap pillars we have also been working towards performance based contracts, for far too long we have not be hold individuals accountable for the work we are doing so we're holding partners, parents, students, teachers and ourselves to higher standards. Making sure, we are doing the work that our district and students deserve. Our standards and expectations have gotten higher; we will stand by the highest standards for all our students because they deserve it. No one should be okay with our kids learning in classrooms they have not received the update that they deserve, school maintenance concerns have well documented for decades as students, parents, teachers voices have been heard and I have been here in Providence well over 25 years and have always heard some kind of complaint about cleanliness. We are going to continue to work on high standards and what we will be expecting from all of us. We can not afford to keep kicking the can down the road from 20 years from now with the same problems that we've had for 30 years in 20 years from now which is the cleanliness, safety, building themselves so we need to make sure that we are holding each other accountable for the work that we are doing and making sure students get what they deserve. In collaboration with the Superintendent, we have decided to continue 9.3 presentation Acceleration/Breakthrough Results Motion to continue the presentation on Acceleration/Breakthoug Results. Per the request of Chairman Ibiyemi pull contracts out of the Consent Agenda for group or individual consideration. one item that is pulled out of group; motion to pull 8.19 Facilities Contract out of that report on contracts Motion to have 8.19 Facilities Contract to stand alone item

2.0 Approve Agenda

2.1 Approval of the Agenda

Recommendation to approve agenda as presented

Moved Travis Escobar, Seconded by Ty'Relle Stephens (7-0) Motion Approved

3.0 Consent Agenda

3.1 Approval of Minutes – May 17, 2023

Recommendation to approve minutes as presented

Moved Travis Escobar, Seconded by Night Jean Muhingabo, (7-0) Motion approved

4.0 Public Comment

4.1 Right to be heard

Melissa Hughes (Parent, Parent Advisory Council Leadership Board, Parent Representative School Building Committee, Parents Leading for Education Equity(PLEA) She spoke in regards to celebrating the accomplishments of all parent leaders in the district, partnership with the Parent Advisory Council

leadership team and PPSD hoping to work collaboratively as possible the district to raise issues of concern and actually work on problem solving and brainstorming solutions whenever possible. Very happy with the FACE office team for the effects they put into helping to convene them in the space and help elevate the concerns that they have to Superintendent Montanez and his team that meets with them regularly. Followed up with the comments that Superintendent Montanez said about the incredible progress finally in our district, finally making progress and changes to give students and teachers the buildings they deserve to learn and work in. MaryEllen Raposa (Central High School Teacher) She spoke in regards to the unsafe conditions at Central, In November the principal was stabbed by another student that was assaulted by four other students during that time a lockdown did not happen, faculty was told that a lockdown was not necessary. Administrative team held assemblies for all students that included mixed messages such as they could no longer wear ski masks to school; they had to attend at least four out of six classes daily and were told to smoke marijuana outside; although they didn't want to address the students they were trying to appease the students. Staff filed a safety grievance in December; another stabbing occurred with students. Reports to Herman James, Human Resources Chief Talent Officer teachers read statements about lack of safety and level of disorder at the school. Other concerns included 10 external doors with no alarms that are opened by students throughout the day anyone can enter the building at all times at which they could not be identified on camera footage. Drug usage is running rampant, marijuana and vaping being done in plain view without any consequences. A response from Mr. James in regards to a prior grievance as we understood it be we do not prioritize school safety. A follow up to Mr. James has yet to get a response as of yet. No improvement in 6 months at all. Part of Mr. James' resolution would be additional staff members including Behavior Interventionists. Nicholas Hemond (Former School Board Member) Remarked on serving on the board with fellow member Dr. Mark Santow who is stepping down as a board member as of July 1. He remarked on his honorable, distinguished and dedicated service is something that should be recognized accordingly. To build upon what Ms. Raposa said about why the school board is there, they are there because they care and serving with Dr. Santow for at least seven of the eight years that he was on the board everyday worked together, he was appreciated the level of professionalism, open mindedness of a time when so many people are fixed in the way that they see the world, Mark didn't always agree on everything but were always able to collaborate come together for what was right and what we believed was right for the students of Providence. Dr. Santow brought a sense of normalcy to the board. Keith Oliveira (Former School Board Member) Congratulated Dr. Mark Santow and remarked on how he has always been the voice of reasoning. Tom Martin (ABM Facilities Contract) Senior Vice President

of ABM Industries excited to be named one of the Facilities Service Contracts, they work with over 400 K-12 schools and 200 higher education accounts throughout the United States. ABM Industries is committed through excellence in facilities services our team has resources for bringing a wealth of excellence in facilities operations and innovation. It is critical to provide the training and service level and the excellence that the school deserve in the educational learning environment. Scott Flynn (ABM Facilities Contract) Council for ABM signed up for public comment to provide legal counsel if needed.

5.0 School Board Member Comments

5.1 School Board Comments

Dr. Mark Santow thanked former school board members Nicholas Hemond and Keith Oliveira for their kind words. He communicated with fellow colleagues with his intentions on his departure from the school board. He joined the board in February 2015 shortly after Jorge Elorza was elected. He spoke of having a series of push and pull factors for why he is leaving the board; he is leaving the board because he wants to spend more time with his family and time with himself. This work is hard but rewarding, there have been frustrations on his part with the current takeover with lack of transparency that is involved at times our own internal process of support has been a little bit frustrating. The work is intrinsically hard because of racial and economic segregation concentrated, child poverty the way we fund public education running urban public school systems that are equitable and effective is always felt like running up the escalator that seems to have gotten faster or I have gotten slower. He leaves on note of great hope and optimism for several reasons one is that I am incredibly encouraged by the energy and the wisdom, commitment of all the new school board members. Full confidence in the new leadership team that will lead the district forward, school board veterans, with tremendous wisdom passion and commitment. Acknowledged that everyone has different experiences, skills and temperaments that not all will always agree on goals. He feels like there is some unfinished business and is at peace that he is leaving his son's education in the hands of the people in the room that is what matters most of all. He spoke in regards to hopefully the board will pass the Equity Policy that Keith Oliveira had started long ago. That policy implies a complete rewriting of the code of conduct in the direction of restorative justice to break the school to prison pipeline to fundamentally change the culture of this school system. Night Jean Muhingabo thanked Dr. Santow for always supporting students, staff and leadership here on the board. He spoke in reference to two situations. First, school closings closing quietly. He wants the board to come up with a public statement for parents, parent deserve to have answers and transparency in communities. Second, the anonymous letter sent to the school board last year. He asked for the district to do an investigation, he said on record that district was doing investigating. After learning that it was a lie, district never did an investigation on Joan Jackson. He

expressed that he does not feel like teachers will not be safe, or allowed to express themselves freely for fear of retaliation. Ty'relle Stephens acknowledge and spoke on behalf of Dr. Santow of things not always being easy. He expressed that he has a lot of respect, he has a strong personality and he knows that, not once could he say that Dr. Santow disrespected him, he was always able to be civil in a conversation, not take thing personal dealing with the type of that this entails. In regards to the end of the year and graduations and step up ceremonies, that district had. Congratulations to Patricia Royal. Spoke in regards to the tweet that was tweeted between him and Superintendent Montanez, he acknowledged that should not be happening, met with Superintendent and community leaders and settled. He spoke in regards to the John Hopkins report on Administrators of color. He would like to see an increase of Administrators of color. He would like for Dr. Onye who is Chief of Equity and belong to serve on a team and or hiring panel in regards to hiring of Administrators. Question(s) asked regarding Teacher Contracts shared publicly. Travis Escobar speak in regards to the departure of Dr. Santow. President Rogel presented Dr. Santow with a citation from the Mayor and Superintendent had a citation as well thanking him for his years, dedication and hard work with the school board.

6.0 School Board Committee Updates

6.1 Policy Committee

Mark Santow spoke in regards on the Policy Committee passing two very important policies that the committee has worked very hard to pass.

6.2 Finance Committee

Toni Akin spoke on behalf of the Finance committee. They passed 20 contracts that were in line with the TAP goals and ongoing improvement efforts. Presented an informational only review for an upcoming contract for summer school program that will be on the agenda to vote. Presentations (2) presented to the committee on local budget versus actual report; slight variance in the presentation to be riddled down further once the close out of the school year.

6.3 Health & Wellness Committee

Night Jean Muhingabo spoke in regards to the past meeting and presentation on Project Awareness Grants and school-based mental health. Leadership team established Safe and caring, this team is based in sixteen elementary schools and seven middle schools. The teams consist of (1) Psychologist (1) social worker that are assigned to schools, providing coaching, training to teacher assistants, professional development and technical support to all schools throughout the district. Did have a meeting for June due to lack of quorum, scheduled to meet with Sodexo to present the presentation for the end of the year at the next Health & Wellness meeting. Hiring of a Health Learning Coordinator.

6.4 Career and Technical Education Committee (CTE)

Travis Escobar spoke in regards of the very first CTE meeting. Creating an Alumni Association to bring back in former students to help mentor students that are going through CTE programs. There is a growing demand for PCTA, and parents want to send students into these types of programs. Last strategic plan was in 2016, with hopes of putting together a new strategic plan that will help guide the district in helps of being able to keep up with the plan to increase more CTE programs.

7.0 Policy and Planning

Second read and adoption of new policies Equity Policy Multi-Tiered System of Support Policy (MTSS) Motion to pass Equity Policy and Multi-Tiered System of Support Policy

7.1 Equity Policy (2nd Read and Adoption)

Moved Travis Escobar, Seconded by Mark Santow, (7-0) Motion approved

7.2 Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS) (2nd Read and Adoption)

Moved Travis Escobar, Seconded by Mark Santow, (7-0) Motion approved

8.0 Report on Contracts 8.1-8.21(Motion for discussion of item 8.19 Facilities Contract to stand alone Motion Travis Escobar, Seconded by Ty'Relle Stephens. Motion to pass through 8.1-8.18,8.20,8.21)

- 8.1 Handshake **Moved Travis Escobar, Seconded Toni Akin, (7-0) Motion Approved**
- 8.2 Sodexo Food Services **Moved Travis Escobar, Seconded Toni Akin, (7-0) Motion Approved**
- 8.3 NAF **Moved Travis Escobar, Seconded Toni Akin, (7-0) Motion Approved**
- 8.4 Imagine Learning (Edgenuity/ Odysseyware) **Moved Travis Escobar, Seconded Toni Akin, (7-0) Motion Approved**
- 8.5 Cambridge Educational Services (SAT) **Moved Travis Escobar, Seconded Toni Akin, (7-0) Motion Approved**
- 8.6 Branching Minds **Moved Travis Escobar, Seconded Toni Akin, (7-0) Motion Approved**
- 8.7 Engage Learning, LLC **Moved Travis Escobar, Seconded Toni Akin, (7-0) Motion Approved**
- 8.8 West Ed **Moved Travis Escobar, Seconded Toni Akin, (7-0) Motion Approved**
- 8.9 Effectiff, LLC **Moved Travis Escobar, Seconded Toni Akin, (7-0) Motion Approved**
- 8.10 Vista Higher Learning **Moved Travis Escobar, Seconded Toni Akin, (7-0) Motion Approved**
- 8.11 Cengage Learning **Moved Travis Escobar, Seconded Toni Akin, (7-0) Motion Approved**
- 8.12 Curriculum Associates, LLC (MLL) **Moved Travis Escobar, Seconded Toni Akin, (7-0) Motion Approved**

- 8.13 SchoolKit **Moved Travis Escobar, Seconded Toni Akin, (7-0) Motion Approved**
- 8.14 Renaissance Learning **Moved Travis Escobar, Seconded Toni Akin, (7-0) Motion Approved**
- 8.15 Imagine Learning (Imagine Math) **Moved Travis Escobar, Seconded Toni Akin, (7-0) Motion Approved**
- 8.16 Mind Education **Moved Travis Escobar, Seconded Toni Akin, (7-0) Motion Approved**
- 8.17 Bootstrap, LLC **Moved Travis Escobar, Seconded Toni Akin, (7-0) Motion Approved**
- 8.18 Curriculum Associates, iReady **Moved Travis Escobar, Seconded Toni Akin, (7-0) Motion Approved**
- 8.19 Facilities Contract **Moved by Ty'Relle Stephens, Seconded by Travis Escobar, (7-0) Motion Approved**
- 8.20 Catapult Learning **Moved Travis Escobar, Seconded Toni Akin, (7-0) Motion Approved**
- 8.21 US Math Recovery Council **Moved Travis Escobar, Seconded Toni Akin, (7-0) Motion Approved**
- 9.0 Items Pulled from Consent Agenda- Acceleration/Breakthrough Results (Motion to pull item from agenda) Travis Escobar, Seconded Ty'Relle Stephens**

10.0 Presentation(s) Senior Hire Updates

Senior Hire Updates as presented Turnaround Action Plan (TAP) Update Engaged Communities Motion for Item to be pulled out of the agenda Removal of Acceleration/Breakthrough Results Motioned by Travis, Seconded by Ty'relle Stephens

- 10.1 Senior Hire Updates** Superintendent presented the new Senior Hires to the board. Carina Pinto, Suzanne Ouelette. Each appointee gave a brief introduction of themselves to the board members.

10.2 Turnaround Action Plan (TAP) Update Engaged Communities

Carina Pinto, Janet Pichardo and Delia Rodriguez presented on the Engaged Communities update to highlight the newly created engagement spaces for family, communities and students to come together, have a voice a driving force in decision-making. End of the year reflection, created a space by grade level stem meeting elementary, middle and high school. School Principals, PPSD leaders and Superintendent came together to have conversation(s) with parents and community members about the challenges, successes and ensure that their voices are reflected in the reopening plans of the next school year. Updated attendance policy, working together with student support. First community leaders gathering at the United Way, 80 community leaders were invited, 40 community leaders attended. Feedback was good, every other month this gathering held in a different community space. Increased participation of 13% from Survey Works project; increased the percentage of families with the favorable perception of being involved with the child's school from 21 t 30 percent this year; increased the percentage of families who feel that they are welcome at their child's school. This goal was achieved from 79-81 and they not only made the goal, but also have exceeded above next year. Adapted new platforms to

help to increase parent engagement. Health & Wellness committee chair to work with (FACE). Questions asked from board members.

10.3 Acceleration/Breakthrough Results- Item pulled from the agenda

11.0 Executive Session- Motion to support the Superintendent's recommendation on teacher termination

11.1 Executive Session Pursuant to Rhode Island General Laws Sec. §§42-46-4 and 42-46-5(a)(1) Teacher Termination

Recommendation: Seek to convene in Executive Session R.I. Gen. Laws. Sec. 42-46-5(a) (1) – Personnel Action

Motion Ty'Relle Stephens, Seconded by Night Jean Muhingabo, (7-0)
Motion Approved

11.2 Executive Session Pursuant to Rhode Island General Laws Sec. §§42-66-5(a)(2) update on collective bargaining

12.0 Report on Executive Session Votes

Motion to support the Superintendents recommendation for teacher termination vote 7-0

Motion Ty'Relle Stephens, Seconded Night Jean Muhingabo

13.0 Adjourn

13.1 Adjourn Meeting –Motion to adjourn motion Ty'Relle Stephens, Seconded Night Jean Muhingabo Motion is approved

Next Finance Committee Meeting 7-12-2023