

SCHOOL COMMITTEE SPECIAL BUSINESS MEETING
SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION OFFICES
1675 FLAT RIVER ROAD

January 5, 2010

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Patenaude at 6:30 p.m.

Members present: Chairperson Katherine Patenaude, Vice-Chairman Andrew 'Ben' Perra and Member Thomas Hetherman, Member Lisa Tomasso, Member Nancy Sprengelmeyer and Superintendent Kenneth R. Di Pietro.

Recording Secretary: Donna A. McDonald (not present)

Executive Session: Personnel, Litigation

Motion No. 09-12-1 by Vice-Chairman Perra, seconded by Member Hetherman, that the Committee recess into executive session at 6:04 p.m. to consider matter(s) relating specifically to personnel and litigation; said action being taken in accord with Open Meetings Act, Sections 42-46-5(a)(1)&(2).

<u>Roll Call Vote:</u>	Chairperson Patenaude	<u>AYE</u>
	Vice-Chairman Perra	<u>AYE</u>
	Member Hetherman	<u>AYE</u>
	Member Tomasso	<u>AYE</u>
	Member Sprengelmeyer	<u>AYE</u>

Motion No. 09-12-2 by Vice-Chairman Perra, seconded by Member Hetherman, to recess to the Open Meeting.

<u>Roll Call Vote:</u>	Chairperson Patenaude	<u>AYE</u>
	Vice-Chairman Perra	<u>AYE</u>
	Member Hetherman	<u>AYE</u>
	Member Tomasso	<u>AYE</u>
	Member Sprengelmeyer	<u>AYE</u>

Motion No. 09-12-3 by Vice-Chairman Perra, seconded by Member Hetherman, that the records of the executive session be kept closed pursuant to Sections 42-46-4 and 42-46-5. Motion unanimously approved.

Business Agenda:

The regular business meeting reconvened at 7:150 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by a moment of silence for the pending school business. Vice-Chairman Perra notified the public of emergency exits and Member Hetherman read the Mission Statement.

Personnel:

The UCOA requirements and State reliance on federal grants as well as the pending RTTT grant have significantly increased grant-reporting requirements. Coventry Schools made a commitment to seek alternative funding. The target acquisition for alternative funding will be a range of \$10,000 to \$250,000 per year. A grant and report manager position funded to the extent possible by grants will be re-established.

Motion No. 10-1-4 by Vice-Chairman Perra, seconded by Member Hetherman, to re-establish the position of grant and report manager for Coventry Public Schools to include a focus on seeking alternative funding. Motion unanimously approved.

Race to the Top:

Superintendent Di Pietro presented a summary overview of the Rhode Island Department of Education's (RIDE) application to the Race to the Top (RTTT) grant program. Superintendent provided a comparison of the RTTT application and RIDE's strategic plan. The four primary areas of focus are: establishing high standards and assessments, providing access to data on student performance, teacher quality and schools improving education quality based on student performance and transforming low achieving schools. Based on the overview of the proposal, the potential funding of \$1 million to Coventry and the qualifiers included in the Memorandum of Agreement, Superintendent Di Pietro recommended support for RTTT.

Motion No. 10-1-5 by Member Hetherman, seconded by Vice-Chairman Perra, to support Coventry's participation in the State's Race to the Top application subject to review of the full State plan document. Motion unanimously approved.

Citizens' Comments:

There were no citizens' comments.

Scheduling of Next Meeting:

Motion No. 10-1-6 by Vice-Chairman Perra, supported by Member Hetherman, that the next meeting of the School Committee be scheduled for Tuesday, January 12, 2010. Motion unanimously approved.

Adjournment:

Motion No. 10-1-7 by Vice-Chairman Perra, supported by Member Hetherman, that the meeting be adjourned at 9:18 p.m. Motion unanimously approved.

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Approved by School Committee 2/11/10