

SCHOOL COMMITTEE BUSINESS MEETING
FLAT RIVER ADMINISTRATION COMPLEX
1675 FLAT RIVER ROAD - Auditorium

June 9, 2009

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Patenaude at 6:05 p.m.

Members present: Chairperson Katherine Patenaude, Vice-Chairman Andrew 'Ben' Perra, Member Thomas Hetherman, Member Lisa Tomasso, Member Nancy E. Sprengelmeyer, Superintendent Kenneth R. Di Pietro, Assistant Superintendents Michael Convery and James Erinakes, and Attorney Frederick Tobin.

Recording Secretary: Donna A. McDonald

Executive Session: Personnel, Litigation, Negotiation, Student Appeal

Motion No. 09-6-1 by Vice-Chairman Perra, seconded by Member Hetherman, that the Committee recess into executive session at 6:06 p.m. to consider matter(s) relating specifically to personnel, litigation, negotiation and student appeal; 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 Sprengelmeyer	<u>AYE</u>
	Member Hetherman	<u>AYE</u>
	Member Tomasso	<u>AYE</u>

Motion No. 09-6-2 by Vice-Chairman Perra, seconded by Member Sprengelmeyer, to recess to the Open Meeting.

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

Motion No. 09-6-3 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.

Attorney Tobin left after Executive Session.

Business Agenda:

The regular business meeting reconvened at 7:10 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by a moment of silence for the pending school business. Chairman Perra notified the public of emergency exits. Member Tomasso read the Mission Statement.

Consent Agenda:

Minutes of the open meetings of 5/12/09.

Superintendent approval of a paid leave of absence for Kristina McKenna, Grade 5 Teacher at Western Coventry Elementary School, from approximately 6/9/09 to 6/30/09. (maternity)

Superintendent approval of an unpaid leave of absence for Jennifer Jendzejec, Grade 3 Teacher at Washington Oak Elementary School, for the 2009/2010 school year. (Educator Quality Fellow at the Rhode

Island Department of Education)

Bills, Warrants, Payroll: In the amount of \$6,430,590 for the month of May, 2009.

Motion No. 09-6-4, by Member Sprengelmeyer, seconded by Member Hetherman, to approve the Consent Agenda as presented regarding minutes of the 5/12/09 open meeting, leaves of absence and fiscal reports for May, 2009, as presented/amended. Motion unanimously approved.

Personnel:

Administrative Resignation/Retirement:

Motion No. 09-6-5 by Member Sprengelmeyer, seconded by Member Hetherman, to approve the recommendation of the Superintendent to accept the resignation of John Canole, Director of the Regional Career & Tech Center @ CHS, for the purpose of retirement, effective 6/30/09. Motion unanimously approved.

Certified Resignations/Retirements:

Motion No. 09-6-6 by Member Tomasso, seconded by Member Sprengelmeyer, to affirm the recommendation of the Superintendent to accept the resignation of Marie Custer, Social Studies Teacher at Coventry High School, for the purpose of retirement, effective 6/30/09. Motion unanimously approved.

Motion No. 09-6-7 by Vice Chairman Perra, seconded by Member Hetherman, to affirm the recommendation of the Superintendent to accept the resignation of Janice Gallagher, Grade 3 Teacher at Hopkins Hill School, for the purpose of retirement, effective 6/30/09. Motion unanimously approved.

Motion No. 09-6-8 by Member Hetherman, seconded by Member Sprengelmeyer, to affirm the recommendation of the Superintendent to accept the resignation of Lee Ann Hughes, Self-Contained Teacher at Hopkins Hill School, for the purpose of retirement, effective 6/30/09. Motion unanimously approved.

Motion No. 09-6-9 by Vice Chairman Perra, seconded by Member Tomasso, to affirm the recommendation of the Superintendent to accept the resignation of Geraldine Marcoccio, Physical Education Teacher for the District, for the purpose of retirement, effective 6/30/09. Motion unanimously approved.

Motion No. 09-6-10 by Member Sprengelmeyer, seconded by Vice Chairman Perra, to affirm the recommendation of the Superintendent to accept the resignation of Beverly Rotenberg, Self-Contained Teacher at Coventry High School, for the purpose of retirement, effective 6/30/09. Motion unanimously approved.

Motion No. 09-6-11 by Member Tomasso, seconded by Member Sprengelmeyer, to affirm the recommendation of the Superintendent to accept the resignation of Ellen Thompson, Social Worker for ULSS, for the purpose of retirement, effective 6/30/09. Motion unanimously approved.

PBGR Coordinator Renewals:

Motion No. 09-6-12 by Vice-Chairman Perra, seconded by Member Sprengelmeyer, to affirm the recommendation of the Superintendent to approve the renewal of Anthony Marsella, Donna Tobin and Jacques Branchaud, to the positions of PBGR Coordinator at CHS, for the 2009/2010 school year. Motion unanimously approved.

School Committee Communications:

There were no communications to report.

Public Agenda:

Service Learning Award Recognition:

Superintendent Di Pietro submitted the name of Gene Dufault, Carpentry Teacher at Coventry High School, for the Raymond E. Spear Service Learning Award. Mr. Dufault provides coordination and programs for the Service Learning initiative in the district. Last year, Mr. Dufault and students built a gazebo in the courtyard of Coventry High School to commemorate the service of art teachers. This past year, in addition to coordinator duties, Mr. Dufault engaged a puppeteer and produced both a stage and puppets for the (Im)Possible Dream day care program in Warwick. Mr. Dufault praised the students for doing such good work and said that 'when you give you receive back'.

FY09 End-of-Year Budget Projection:

Superintendent Di Pietro and Finance Director Ferrucci presented the FY09 year-end projection which included deficits related to State Aid reductions and unanticipated expenses offset by savings from litigation settlements and unexpended line items.

Motion No. 09-6-13 by Vice-Chairman Perra, seconded by Member Sprengelmeyer, to accept the FY09 End-of-Year Budget Projection Report as read. Motion unanimously approved.

Superintendent's Report:

Superintendent Di Pietro present the final year enrollments as both a review of changes from October to June and as a prelude to the potential 2009/2010 enrollments. Of the 410 seniors, 380 are ready to graduate on June 17th. The rest will be able to graduate in the summer. Coventry has been recognized for its health efforts in the work place and its high school reform. Coventry was also recognized by the Education Institute of the Year Youth Crime Watch through a grant. The program began at the middle school, then moved to the high school. This year it has moved into the elementary schools.

Review of Town Council FY10 Budget Decision:

The impact of the decision of the Town Council on its recommendation for the 2009/2010 budget would be:.

- If the Town Council provides adequate funding (increase of \$500,000 to \$700,000) for Coventry Schools, the School Committee can report its intent to support the budget and negate the need for program reductions or school closing/redistricting.
- If the Town Council level funds the schools, the School Committee needs to demonstrate the proposed reductions (modified as provided). Either the reductions will be invoked adding an additional \$300,000 for loss of roof and solicitor funds or the contract ratification will offset program cuts leaving the closing of Oak Haven.

Several residents voiced their concerns:

- \$1.9 million originally needed; the teachers are ready to give \$980,000; Oak Haven serves 279 families. \$400,000 has been put into Oak Haven School over the past several years. The School Committee is not meeting their obligations.
- The district is still servicing the same population. Even if Oak Haven closes, why eliminate staff?
- Young children are devastated by the potential closing of Oak Haven School. The closing of the school

- may cause behavioral problems in some children. What will become of the school when it is closed?
- Please consider a plan that causes the least disruption to families.
 - It is totally unacceptable to close any school in Coventry. Take some of the bond money to keep schools open.
 - Can teachers' salaries be decreased somehow to keep Oak Haven open. Did teacher get \$500 once the TSA ended? (The answer was no)
 - The CTA president said that next year each teacher is giving \$2700; and asked that a ratification vote be taken.
 - If the governor's pension incentive passes, will it help? The answer was yes. There will be a \$200,000 - \$400,000 savings. The district will try to make a long-range fiscal plan in the future of redistricting.
 - If more revenues come in during the summer from other sources and decrease in funds, would that enable Oak Haven School to remain open?
 - Impressed that teachers gave money back; they are taking the time to look at the students.
 - Why oppose the contract if the teachers are taking concessions in the 3rd year?
 - Town Council Member Hyde applauded the Committee and the union for their hard work
 - School Committee Member Tomasso said that she was very please with the outcome of the contract.

Contract Ratification Consideration:

Superintendent Di Pietro provided the public with the benefits and liabilities of the proposed CTA contract ratification. A discussion was held, including some comments by residents as listed in the agenda item above.

At this time, it was agreed by the Committee to ratify the contract.

Motion No. 09-6-14 by Member Hetherman, seconded by Vice-Chairperson Perra, to ratify the contract that we negotiated with the CTA. Motion unanimously approved.

Union President Erinakes asked that the contract be signed in public.

Discussion on Redistricting Plan:

Superintendent Di Pietro provided the Committee and public with options considered for closing Oak Haven and redistricting (or a possible use of Oak Haven as an Early Learning Center).

Discussion will continue on Thursday, June 11, 2009.

Motion No. 09-6-14 by Member Hetherman, seconded by Vice-Chairman Perra, to extend the meeting beyond 10:00 p.m., and that the discussion on the redistricting plan will continue on Thursday, June 11, 2009. Motion unanimously approved.

Food Service:

This agenda item was tabled until Thursday, June 11, 2009.

SRP Pension Committee Representation:

This agenda item was tabled until Thursday, June 11, 2009.

Committee Liaison Reports:

This agenda item was tabled until Thursday, June 11, 2009.

Citizens' Comments:

This agenda item was tabled until Thursday June 11, 2009.

Motion No. 09-6-__ by Member Sprengelmeyer, supported by Vice-Chairman Perra, to continue the meeting to Thursday, June 11, 2009, at 7:00 p.m. Motion unanimously approved.

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