

SCHOOL COMMITTEE BUSINESS MEETING
SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION OFFICES
1675 FLAT RIVER ROAD

September 8, 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 Nancy Sprengelmeyer, Superintendent Kenneth R. Di Pietro, Assistant Superintendents Michael Convery and James Erinakes, and Finance Director Robin Reasor. Member Tomasso arrived at 6:30 p.m.

Recording Secretary: Donna A. McDonald

Executive Session: Personnel, Litigation, Negotiation, Student Appeal

Motion No. 09-9-1 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 Hetherman	<u>AYE</u>
	Member Tomasso	<u>AYE</u>

Motion No. 09-9-2 by Vice-Chairman Perra, seconded by Member Tomasso, to recess to the Open Meeting at 7:15 p.m.

<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 Tomasso	<u>AYE</u>

Motion No. 09-9-3 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 7:0 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.

Consent Agenda:

Minutes of the Open Meetings of 7/14/09.

Superintendent approval of a paid leave of absence for Jennifer Lawrence, 1.0 Mathematics Teacher at Feinstein Middle School, from approximately 12/21/09 to 2/11/10. (maternity)

Bills, Warrants, Payroll: In the amount of \$1,706,538 for the month of July, 2009.

Monthly Municipal Reports: In the amount of \$65,338,525 for the month of July, 2009.

Motion No. 09-10-4 by Vice-Chairman Perra, seconded by Member Hetherman, to approve the Consent Agenda as presented regarding the minutes of the open meeting of 7/14/09, leaves of absence and fiscal reports as presented. Motion unanimously approved.

Approval of Executive Session Minutes:

Motion No. 09-10-5 by Member Hetherman, seconded by Member Sprengelmeyer, to affirm the minutes of the executive sessions of 3/10/09 and 7/14/09 and that the records of the meeting be kept closed pursuant to R.I.G.L. Sections 42-46-4 and 42-46-5. Motion unanimously approved.

Personnel:

Administrative Resignations/Retirements:

Motion No. 09-10-6 by Vice-Chairman Perra, seconded by Member Sprengelmeyer, to approve the recommendation of the Superintendent to accept the resignation of Denise Richtarik, Principal of Tiogue School, for the purpose of retirement, effective 6/30/2010. Motion unanimously approved.

Motion No. 09-10-7 by Member Tomasso, seconded by Member Sprengelmeyer, to approve the recommendation of the Superintendent to accept the resignation of Kathleen Miner, Assistant Principal of Feinstein Middle School, for the purpose of retirement, effective 6/30/2010. Motion unanimously approved.

Motion No. 09-10-8 by Vice-Chairman Perra, seconded by Member Hetherman, to approve the recommendation of the Superintendent to accept the resignation of Augusto Gomes, Assistant Principal of Feinstein Middle School, for the purpose of retirement, effective 6/30/2010. Motion unanimously approved.

Administrative Appointment:

Motion No. 09-10-9 by Member Sprengelmeyer, seconded by Member Hetherman, to affirm the recommendation of the Superintendent to appoint Lonnie Morris to the position of Assistant Principal at CHS, for the 2009/2010 school year effective 8/27/2009. Motion unanimously approved.

Certified Leave of Absence:

Motion No. 09-10-10 by Member Sprengelmeyer, seconded by Vice-Chairman Perra, to approve the recommendation of the Superintendent for an unpaid leave of absence for Lonnie Morris, 1.0 Physical Education Teacher, Feinstein Middle School, from 8/27/2009 to 6/30/2010. Motion unanimously approved.

Certified Resignations/Retirements:

Motion No. 09-10-11 by Vice-Chairman Perra, seconded by Member Sprengelmeyer, to approve the recommendation of the Superintendent to accept the resignation of Francis Trigo, Industrial Arts Teacher, Coventry High School, for the purpose of retirement, effective 6/30/2010. Motion unanimously approved.

Motion No. 09-10-12 by Member Tomasso, seconded by Member Hetherman, to approve the recommendation of the Superintendent to accept the resignation of Michael Senerchia, Physical Education Teacher, Feinstein Middle School, for the purpose of retirement, effective 6/30/2010. Motion unanimously approved.

Motion No. 09-10-13 by Member Hetherman, seconded by Vice-Chairman Perra, to approve the recommendation of the Superintendent to accept the resignation of Kate Gillis, Occupational Therapist for ULSS, for the purpose of retirement, effective 6/30/2010. Motion unanimously approved.

Motion No. 09-10-14 by Member Sprengelmeyer, seconded by Member Tomasso, to approve the recommendation of the Superintendent to accept the resignation of Shirley St.Amand, Grade 1 teacher, Tiogue School, for the purpose of retirement, effective 6/30/2010. Motion unanimously approved.

Motion No. 09-10-15 by Member Tomasso, seconded by Vice-Chairman Perra, to approve the recommendation of the Superintendent to accept the resignation of Helene Scola, English Teacher, Feinstein Middle School, for the purpose of retirement, effective 6/30/2010. Motion unanimously approved.

Motion No. 09-10-16 by Member Sprengelmeyer, seconded by Member Hetherman, to approve the recommendation of the Superintendent to accept the resignation of Donna Della Porta, Special Education Curriculum Coordinator at CHS, for the purpose of retirement effective 6/30/2010. Motion unanimously approved.

Motion No. 09-10-17 by Member Hetherman, seconded by Vice-Chairman Perra, to approve the recommendation of the Superintendent to accept the resignation of Lynn Sisson, Grade 3 Teacher at Blackrock School, for the purpose of retirement effective 6/30/2010. Motion unanimously approved.

Motion No. 09-9-18 by Vice-Chairman Perra, seconded by Member Hetherman, to approve the recommendation of the Superintendent to accept the resignation of Janet E. Mansour, Mathematics Teacher, Feinstein Middle School, for the purpose of retirement, effective 6/30/2010. Motion unanimously approved.

Certified Appointment:

Motion No. 09-9-19 by Member Sprengelmeyer, seconded by Vice-Chairman Perra, to affirm the recommendation of the Superintendent to appoint Debra Addressi to the position of .5 one-year-only Physical Education Teacher at Feinstein Middle School for the 2008/2009 school year. Motion unanimously approved.

Classified Recalls:

Motion No. 09-10-20 by Member Tomasso, seconded by Member Sprengelmeyer, to affirm the recommendation of the Superintendent to recall the following custodians from layoff for the 2009/2010 school year. Motion unanimously approved.

<u>Custodian</u>	<u>Recalled to</u>	<u>School</u>
Wayne Regnaiere	1.0 Custodian	FMS
Riley Perry	.5 Custodian	Administration

School Committee Communications:

There were no communications to report.

CHS – 75 Years:

Principal Michael Hobin briefed the Committee and the public on the progress of the 75th anniversary celebration of Coventry High School. An event is planned for Saturday, November 28, 2009 at the Rhodes on the Pawtuxet in Cranston. This is a not-for-profit night. A bulk mailing will go out in two weeks. There is a save-the-date on the CHS website. Collages for every decade will be placed in the auditorium.

Support Staff Appreciation:

The School Committee established a practice of recognizing the work of support staff at its first business meeting of the school year. Custodians and maintenance workers work all summer to prepare schools for the start of the school year. This year there was a particular challenge with the closing of Oak Haven Elementary School, the transition of students to the remaining five elementary schools and the transfer of school equipment and supplies, as well as a late job fair establishing new positions/placements for many teachers and support staff. In addition, support staff such as clerks (school and administrative) worked during the summer or were called back to address changing school enrollments and the work related to the management and operation of the school district. Additionally, some teaching assistants worked during the summer months in Extended School Year (ESY) programs and have returned to work for school-year support to students; behavior specialists have returned for their support including work with PBIS. There are a host of support staff in addition to those mentioned above including grounds keepers, certified occupational teacher assistants (COTA) and others who support student learning. Copies of a proclamation, which was read by Chairperson Patenaude, will be distributed to all support staff.

PTA Dialogue – School Transitions:

PTA leaders from each elementary school were invited to speak with the Committee regarding the transition of students to new schools.

- Tiogue – nothing but good things to say about the school from the Oak Haven parents; the new teachers are excited; there is a lot of angst about the busses.

- Washington Oak – bussing is a concern with some children getting home at 4:30; drivers should review the route; wonder if the school day could start and end earlier. There was a space issue with special needs students, but Mr. Erinakes corrected the problem. The principal did a phenomenal job for being the largest elementary school in the district. Mr. Steverman is working on plans to correct the parking situation.
- Blackrock – bus complaint about children getting to school late.
- Hopkins Hill – Parents and staff love their new principal, Ms. Whitehead. The PBIS kickoff will be on Friday. There were bus problems only the first two days.
- Western Coventry – smooth transition. The school had a meet-and-greet with a scavenger hunt which was a lot of fun.

Superintendent's Status Report:

Enrollments were reported with a reference to the 2008/2009 enrollments, addressing the transition related to the closing of Oak Haven Elementary. Enrollments in many classrooms are at maximum as a cost-saving effort due to level funding.

The start of the school year experienced delays in transportation, particularly at the 3rd and 4th tiers of elementary schools where a third of the busses were arriving late. The second day improved arrival times, but still required a change of two busses to Western and other schools. The change resolved late busses at three schools. Calls continue to come in from parents seeking changes to bus stops. Mr. Denomme of First Student said that this was the most challenging start-up in ten years. Mr. Martin explained to the public that the bus drivers love the children. They may not arrive on time, but they are delivered safely.

Motion No. 09-10-21 by Member Sprengelmeyer, supported by Member Tomasso, to go beyond the end time of 10:00 p.m. to finish the meeting. Motion unanimously approved.

Grants Report:

Mr. Convery, Mr. Erinakes and Mr. Di Pietro provided the Committee with the amount of funding and the purpose of federal and state grants. The State eliminated the Professional Development Article 18 monies. New federal stimulus monies are required to be held in restricted accounts to document the expenditures leading to improved student achievement.

Committee Liaison Reports:

This agenda item was tabled.

Citizens' Comments:

PTA presidents thanked Assistant Superintendent Convery for the Math and Title I clarification. Member Tomasso announced that the Alternative Funding Sub-Committee meeting will be held the first Tuesday in November. A press release will be sent out.

Scheduling of Next Meeting:

Motion No. 09-10-22 by Vice-Chairman Perra, supported by Member Hetherman, that the next meeting of the School Committee be scheduled for Tuesday, September 22, 2009 at 5:00 p.m. This meeting will be the annual walkthrough of school facilities. Motion unanimously approved.

Adjournment:

Motion No. 09-10-23 by Member Sprengelmeyer, supported by Member Hetherman, that the meeting be adjourned at 10:37 p.m. Motion unanimously approved.

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Approved by School Committee 11/10/09