



MINUTES

**Providence School Board Business Meeting
797 Westminster Street, Providence, RI 02903**

February 13, 2019

CONVENE MEETING

1. Call to Order – Nina Pande as the longest serving member of the School Board called the meeting to order at 6:38 p.m.

Board Members Present: Nicholas Hemond, Nina Pande, Travis Escobar, Diagneris Garcia, Lorraine Lalli, Mark Santow, and Kinzel Thomas

Board Members Not Present: Robert Gondola, and Muyideen Ibiyemi

2. Superintendent's Comments

Superintendent Maher indicated that the previous night's storm, highlighted the fact that there were number of schools in need of urgent repair. For decades the schools fell into disrepair due to lack of funding, and now there is a committee, consisting of parents, teachers, principals, and school board who came together and shared their opinion on school buildings. The Superintendent applauded Joseph DiPina, who chairs this committee, and the resulting recommendations from the committee is on the agenda for presentation. Superintendent also expressed his indebtedness to the Mayor, the City Council, members of the School Board, and Providence residents who have echoed their voice in support of school facilities investment, and this is crucial moment.

3. School Board Organizational Meeting - Election of Officers

Pande – Turned over the meeting to Monsurat Ottun, the School Board Attorney, for the election of officers.

Ottun – Called for a recommendation of School Board Officers

A motion was made by Board Member Mark Santow to re-elect the current slate of School Board Officers:

- 1) **Nicholas Hemond – Board President**
- 2) **Nina Pande – Board Vice President**
- 3) **Bobby Gondola, Jr. – Board Secretary**

MSV – Santow, Thomas (7-0) MOTION APPROVED. On a Roll Call Vote: Escobar, Garcia, Santow, Hemond, Lalli, Thomas, and Pande.

President Hemond chaired the remainder of the meeting.

APPROVE AGENDA

4. Approve Agenda

A motion was made to approve the agenda as presented

MSV – Santow, Lalli (7-0) MOTION APPROVED

PUBLIC COMMENT

5. Public Comment –

Jayson Rodriguez, 10th grader at Classical High School, and member of the Providence Students Union, a delegation to push the removal of School Resource Officers (SROs)-- 'Counselors Not Cops'

Danny Svay, 11th grader at the MET shared the positive school safety culture at his school, and in support of 'Counselors Not Cops' campaign.

Destiny Pan, Senior at Classical High School, and a youth leader at the Providence Youth Student Movement (PrYSM) addressed her support of 'Counselors Not Cops' campaign.

Nancy Xiong, a facilitator for the Alliance of Rhode Island Southeast Asians for Education in support of hiring more school nurses and social emotional counselors over SROs.

Yan Sosa, a student at Classical High School, and member of the Providence Students Union spoke on the topic of 'Counselors Not Cops.'

Aleita Cook, a student at PTCA, and an organizer for the Providence Students Union called for more funding resources to hire more school mental health professionals over SROs.

Superintendent Maher- Thanked the youth for their presence and voicing their opinions. He has mentioned that the youth representatives have met with him in December, and that they will continue a dialogue. He encouraged them to continue the conversation, and set something up to share of their findings.

SCHOOL BOARD COMMENTS

6. School Board Comments

Vice President Pande thanked the youth representatives for their support of the social emotional learning, which is very important to her, and it's the priority of the School Board. She was also acknowledged Heather Tow-Yick, Chief of Staff who is resigning, and Gail Mastropietro, the Transformation/SEL Specialist/Lead School Psychologist who is on her way to retirement. Both have played a significant role, and are invaluable staff who helped to start the SEL programs in our schools.

Santow-Thanked youth for their research, and comments. He would like to see a presentation on School Resource Officers and their role at the schools at a future meeting

President Hemond - Requested that Yvonne Graf contact Commissioner Steven Paré and coordinate a presentation on SROs at a future meeting.

CONSENT AGENDA

7. Approval of Minutes - January 30, 2019
8. Personnel Actions
9. Retirements and Resignations
10. Home School Candidates

**A motion was made to approve the consent agenda
MSV – Pande, Santow (7-0) MOTION APPROVED**

PRESENTATIONS

11. RIDE Stage II Application - Joseph DiPina, Jr. - Chief of Administration

ACTION ITEMS

12. Resolution Approving RIDE Stage II Application

**A motion was made to approve item 12
MSV – Pande, Santow (7-0) MOTION APPROVED**

13. Non-renewal of Teacher Contract—Erin Salbaoui

**A motion was made to uphold the Superintendent’s recommendation for non-renewal.
MSV – Pande, Santow (7-0) MOTION APPROVED**

EXECUTIVE SESSION

14. Executive Session pursuant to Rhode Island General Laws: §42-46-5 (a)(1) Personnel; §42-46-5 (a)(9) Level B Grievances; and §42-46-5 (a)(2)--Work Session

**A motion was made to go into executive session pursuant to Rhode Island General Laws: §42-46-5 (a)(2)--Work Session. The Level B Grievances and Personnel matters were removed from the agenda.
MSV - Pande, Santow - MOTION APPROVED (7-0) on a roll call vote: Escobar, Garcia, Santow, Hemond, Lalli, Thomas, and Pande**

REPORT ON EXECUTIVE SESSION VOTES

15. Report on Executive Session Votes - There were three vote(s) taken

- **A motion was made to seal the minutes in executive session
MSV - Lalli, Santow (7-0) MOTION APPROVED**
- **A motion was made to come out of executive session
MSV - Lalli, Santow (7-0) MOTION APPROVED**
- **A motion was made to seal the minutes in public session
MSV - Lalli, Santow (7-0) MOTION APPROVED**

ADJOURN

16. Adjourn Meeting

**A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 p.m.
MSV - Lalli, Santow (7-0) MOTION APPROVED**