



## MINUTES

### Providence School Board Business Meeting

797 Westminister Street

Providence, RI 02903

June 26, 2019

#### CONVENE MEETING

1. Call to Order – President Hemond called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.

Board Members Present: Nicholas Hemond, Travis Escobar, Diagneris Garcia, Robert Gondola, Muyideen Ibiyemi, Nina Pande, Mark Santow, and Kinzel Thomas

Board Member Lorraine Lalli was not present.

Board Members Muyideen Ibiyemi arrived at 6:38 p.m., and Travis Escobar arrived at 6:59 p.m.

2. Superintendent's Comments

Superintendent Maher shared comments about his four-year tenure as the superintendent of PPSD, where he has worked with many remarkable, dedicated and inspirational people who were there to serve the students. Although there was some degree of progress that was not met as he would like, it has been his honor to serve as the Superintendent. As he has witnessed the hard work of staff, teachers, and principals, he believes there are good works taking place at schools, and there are many things to be proud of.

Superintendent Maher noted that the Providence School Board has been an incredible partner in this journey. They are caring, knowledgeable and engaged. They're tough when they need to be and in empowering the district, and school leadership in best possible way. They know what need to be done, and are ready to do it.

Superintendent cited on the report by Johns Hopkins Institute for Education Policy (JHU), and the recent news articles. He hopes that the report will empower the district and the board to make changes that has been laid out in the Board strategic plan. If not, this will be the next of in a long-line reports over the decades, citing low performance in the Providence schools without real changes or lasting improvements.

While leaving his position, Superintendent Maher stated that he'll continue to be a proud parent of Providence Public Schools, and as long as he is here, he will be continue to be the biggest advocate.

### **APPROVE AGENDA**

3. Approve Agenda

**A motion was made to approve the agenda as presented.**

**MSV – Pande, Santow (5-0) Motion Approved**

### **RECOGNITIONS**

4. Gail Mastropietro - In Recognition of Service to Providence Students and Providence Public School District
5. New England League of Middle Schools (NELMS) Teacher Awards (DeSesto Middle School)

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

6. Public Comment

Sarah Monteiro – Graduate of PPSD, shared her positive experiences at Providence schools, tell the untold stories, and to pay homage to the PPSD educators. She gave a special tribute to Gail Mastropietro for her compassion and noted how she made her felt welcomed at the district. Monteiro also narrated a story of hope, love and joy, and recited a poem by Nikki Giovanni “Ego Tripping.”

Frank McCartin – As a veteran teacher, he came to support the two teachers who are being recognized, and to respond to the report of Johns Hopkins Institute for Education Policy on PPSD.

### **SCHOOL BOARD COMMENTS**

7. School Board Comments

President Hemond acknowledged Superintendent Christopher Maher for his time serving at PPSD. He also thanked Sarah Monteiro for bringing the laughter into the Board rooms. He agreed with Monteiro that everyone at PPSD is committed to serve the students. President Hemond responded to the report of Johns Hopkins, and shared his thoughts.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

8. Approval of Minutes- May 22, 2019
9. Personnel Actions
10. Retirements and Resignations

**A motion was made to approve the consent agenda**

**MSV – Pande, Gondola (7-0) Motion Approved**

### **REPORT ON PERSONNEL**

11. Vartan Gregorian Elementary School/Principal - Matthew Russo

**A motion was made to approve item 11**

**MSV – Pande, Gondola (7-0) Motion Approved**

12. 360 High School/Assistant Principal - Richlieu Norris  
**A motion was made to approve item 12**  
**MSV – Thomas, Gondola (7-0) Motion Approved**

13. Acting Superintendent – Dorothy Smith  
**A motion was made to approve item 13**  
**MSV – Pande, Gondola (7-0) Motion Approved**

#### **REPORT ON CONTRACTS**

14. Electronic Queue Management System for Student Registration  
15. NEOPOST - Mail Sorting Machine -- PPSD Mail Room  
16. 2019-2020 Odysseyware Contract  
17. Generation Citizen SY19/20  
18. Illuminate Education, Inc. (formerly SchoolCity, Inc.)  
19. The Boston Educational Development Foundation, Inc.  
20. New England Basecamp  
21. Highlander Institute  
22. Turnitin, LLC  
23. Curriculum Associates, LLC.  
24. Home Depot  
25. Learning A-Z Contract  
26. Imagine Learning Contract  
27. Rosetta Stone Contract  
28. Restorative Practices: The Educated Edge  
29. Chronic Absenteeism: Kininvolved  
30. Catapult Learning LLC  
31. Food Services Contract-Two-Month Extension on Existing Contract with Sodexo  
**A motion was made to approve items 14 to 31 as one vote**  
**MSV – Thomas, Pande (7-0) Motion Approved**

#### **BUDGET REVIEW**

32. 2018-2019 March Projection  
This matter was informational only, no vote was taken
33. 2018-2019 April Projection  
This matter was informational only, no vote was taken

#### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

34. Executive Session pursuant to Rhode Island General Laws §42-46-5(a)(1) Personnel; §42-46-5(a)(9) Level B Grievances; §42-46-5(a)(1)--Superintendent Search; and §42-46-5 (a)(2)— Litigation.  
**A motion was made to enter into Executive Session pursuant to Rhode Island General Laws §42-46-5(a)(1) Personnel; §42-46-5(a)(1)--Superintendent Search; and §42-46-5 (a)(2)— Litigation. The Level B Grievances were removed from the agenda.**  
**MSV – Pande, Gondola – Motion Approved (7-0) on a roll call vote: Hemond, Escobar, Garcia, Ibiyemi, Pande, Santow, and Thomas.**

**REPORT ON EXECUTIVE SESSION VOTES**

35. Report on Executive Session Votes- There were two votes taken

**A motion was made to seal the minutes in executive session  
MSV – Gondola, Garcia (7-0) Motion Approved**

**A motion was made to come out of executive session  
MSV- Gondola, Pande (7-0) Motion Approved**

**A motion was made to seal the minutes in public session  
MSV – Gondola, Garcia (7-0) Motion Approved**

**ADJOURN**

36. Adjourn Meeting

**A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 8:38 p.m.  
MSV- Gondola, Garcia (7-0) Motion Approved**