

MINUTES

1. Call to Order

Meeting called to order by Co-Chair Mr. Cervasio, at 7:11 pm.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Roll Call

In attendance were: Mr. Cervasio, Ms. Joyce, Ms. Carroll, Ms. Ejnes, Ms. Keeling, Ms. Pezza, Ms. Reichert, Mr. Steere, and Ms. Swanson (7:22). Also present were Dr. Barnes, Ms. Haines, Ms. Sinwell and Mr. Anderson.

Discussion and/or vote on the following:

4. Teacher and/or Student Recognition

This item was tabled.

5. Ponaganset Education Foundation Grants

Ms. O'Connor announced grant recipients: 1) Ross McCurdy Alternate Energy Bike Project -\$3,000; 2) Roger Forand, PHS Social Studies video history project - \$2500; 3) Jay Reuker and Greg Coffey, PHS develop an architectural curriculum model to survey PHS campus for possible archeological digs - \$1965.

6. Approval of Minutes

Motion by Ms. Pezza, supported by Ms. Ejnes, to approve the minutes from the Open and Closed meetings on February 3, 2015 as presented.

Motion passed 7-0-1 with Ms. Reichert abstaining

7. Approval of Bills

Motion by Ms. Carroll, supported by Ms. Ejnes to approve the bills as listed on the Monthly Expenditure Report dated February 26, 2015 in the amount of \$\$654,024.85.

Motion passed 7-0-1 with Ms. Reichert abstaining

8. Business Manager's Report

Motion by Ms. Joyce, supported by Ms. Ejnes, to approve the Business Manager's Report as presented. Motion passed 8-0-0

9. Director of Curriculum, Instruction, & Assessment Report
Motion by Ms. Carroll, supported by Ms. Pezza, to approve the
report as presented. Motion passed 9-0-0

Ms. Sinwell reported that, analysis of the scores reveals that students particularly need instruction that supports inquiry skills, for examples, explaining reasoning for a hypothesis, identifying irrelevant data and explaining what may have caused differences in data sets. She reported that the High School Science Department is implementing several short-term action steps and is involved in implementing additional long-term steps to address the achievement levels.

10. Superintendent's Report -Personnel: Resignations, Appointments, Retirements, Leaves, Layoffs, and Other Personnel Actions

Motion by Ms. Pezza, supported by Ms. Ejnes, to approve the Superintendent's report as presented.
Motion passed 8-0-1 with Mr. Steere abstaining.

11. Whole Child Presentation
This item was tabled.

12. Revisions to Graduation by Proficiency Policy 2nd Reading
Motion by Ms. Ejnes, supported by Ms. Keeling, to approve the revisions to the Graduation by Proficiency Policy as a 2nd Reading.

Motion passed 6-3-0 with Mr. Steere, Ms. Swanson, and Ms. Reichert voting no.

Several committee members expressed their concerns and asked Dr. Barnes to comment. Dr. Barnes stated that, according to a memo from the Commissioner, if a student stays home, it counts against the school's participation rate, but not against the percentage of students who passed.

Mr. Cervasio asked Mr. Anderson is there any penalty 1) to the school and 2) to the parent if they choose to have their child not take this test? Mr. Anderson responded there is no penalty to the parent, but if a district has three bad years of test results, it could be serious. He cautioned the committee that

it could set a precedent. For instance, if a child doesn't like Geometry, can the parent then say my child is not taking Geometry assessment? Mr. Anderson and Dr. Barnes both believed that not taking the standardized test does not impact money from the state, but over time it could impact a districts classification as Commended or Leading, if a school does not attain a 95% participation rate.

After discussion members in the audience who intend to keep their children home and not participate in PARCC, Mr. Anderson clarified that the Supreme Court allows a parent to home school a child but does not give them the right to pick and choose which tests to take or if they are sending their children to school. Dr. Barnes also clarified that, in 2003 the high school regulations were passed and one piece in there is a requirement to take the state assessment, but not to pass the state assessment; there was no requirement for proficiency. In 2007, the district passed a policy that requires every child to take the state assessment. That policy matched the requirements of the high school regulations at that time. In 2013, the policy was revised to reflect the new state regulations that were passed in 2011. Those regulations required a student to show proficiency. The federal government requires the state of Rhode Island to administer a test, but the state chooses the test. Administering the PARCC is Rhode Island's choice; the district's responsibility is to implement the test.

Dr. Barnes added, while parents can opt a child out of a state assessment, in 2015 "Use of the state assessment for high school graduation commencing in 2020 students shall be required to reach a minimum level of achievement on the state assessment or a state's assessment and content area designated by the Council on Elementary and Secondary Education. " Dr. Barnes explained that means students have to reach proficiency on state assessment or on another assessment they designate. Until this changes that will be the expectation of students who graduate in 2020, which are this year's 7th graders.

13. Request to Dispose of Property

Motion by Ms. Ejnes, supported by Ms. Pezza, to approve the request to dispose of broken and obsolete computer equipment as recommended by the IT Director.

Motion passed 9-0-0.

14. Public Hearing on 2015-2016 Proposed Budget - 8:00 pm

Ms. Haines reviewed the draft 2015-2016 budget as follows:
The proposed 2015-2016 regional school budget is built on the following assumptions:

- Projected increase in spending of 1.72% or \$408,421
- Projected decreases in Federal, State, and Housing Aid, and Other Revenues of approximately 2.74% or \$257,115
- Projected net increase in educational programs of 12.99%, in the amount of \$218,635
- Increases in technology purchases for laptops/Chromebooks
- Expansion of Academy programs and courses (Biomedical Science, Computer Science, Materials and Processing that may lead to college credit & industry certifications
- Addition of Boys and Girls Lacrosse
- Increase in Capital Projects of 30.9%, in the amount of \$105,000 due to projects budgeted (Tennis Courts and other capital projects).
- Budgeted use of \$308,347 in fund balance (capital improvement funds of \$138,809; general funds of \$117,000 and debt service set-aside funds of \$52,538.
- Projected increase in healthcare of 2%, pension rates, and other personnel costs.

Increase in district wide and central office facility costs due to projected:

- Increase in electricity of \$75,500 or 30.8%.
- Increase in Property and Liability Insurance of 31.9% or \$23,000.
- Increase in out-of-district tuition expense of \$137,269.
- Increase in Charter School and State placed out-of-district tuitions.

15. Adoption on FY 2016 Budget

Motion by Ms. Pezza, supported by Ms. Ejnes, to approve the 2016 Budget as presented.

Motion passed 8-1-0 with Mr. Steere voting no.

16. Seek to Convene to Executive Session per RI General Laws 42-46-5 (a) (2) Collective Bargaining - Negotiations Certified Teachers; Education Support Personnel; (8) Privacy of Student Records - Homeschool Requests

Motion by Ms. Ejnes, supported by Ms. Pezza, that the Committee recess into Executive Session to consider per RI General Laws 42-46-5 (a) (2) Collective Bargaining - Negotiations Certified Teachers; Education Support Personnel; (8) Privacy of Student Records - Homeschool Requests

Motion passed 9-0-0

Motion by Ms. Pezza, supported by Ms. Swanson, to seal the minutes of executive session.

Motion passed 7-2-0 with Mr. Steere and Mr. Cervasio voting no.

Mr. Cervasio reported that in Executive Session the committee voted to approve a request to homeschooling and discussed contract negotiations.

17. Ratification of NEA Teachers' Contract
This was discussed in Executive Session.

18. Communications
19. Future Agenda Items
20. Public Comment
21. Adjourn

Motion by Ms. Pezza, supported by Ms. Carroll, to adjourn the meeting at 9:33.

Motion passed 9-0-0

Kathryn Ritter-Smith