

Pawtucket School Committee Work Session  
Jenks/JMW Complex for the Performance and Visual Arts Media Center  
350 Division Street, Pawtucket, Rhode Island 02860  
Thursday, July 25, 2024 @ 6:00 PM  
Minutes

**Update: Tonight's scheduled public meeting will be conducted in-person, and can be viewed virtually using Zoom, a free tool for virtual meetings. Please find information on how to view below using a computer or telephone.**

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- I. Open Call-Public Session  
Meeting will come to order

The Chairman Mr. Charbonneau called the work session to order at 6:00 PM

- a. Roll call

Ms. Bonollo-here; Ms. Carney-here; Mr. Chellel-here; Ms. Dube-here; Ms. Fernandes-here; Ms. Grant-here; Mr. Charbonneau-here

Also, in attendance was Mrs. Patricia Royal, Superintendent of Schools; Mrs. Lisa Benedetti-Ramzi, Assistant Superintendent; Dr. Lahna Tate, Chief of Assessment, Accountability and Research; Mrs. Krystal Lofton, Chief of Human Resources and Talent; Mr. Dale McGhee, Controller; Mr. John Cote, Director of Facilities; Mr. Kris Silva, Assistant Director of Facilities; Mr. William J. Conley, Jr., Legal Counsel and Colliers Project Leaders Team.

b. Pledge of Allegiance

The Chairman Mr. Charbonneau led the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. Public Participation

Comments from the public are invited at this time. Persons wishing to speak must sign in with the Committee Chair before speaking prior to the commencement of the meeting. The Committee is precluded from acting on items raised by Public Comment which are not already on the agenda. Public comment will be included in the minutes of the meeting.

Mr. David Fagnoli, Pawtucket, RI commented good evening all and thank you for giving me this time tonight. School Committee and Superintendent Royal as a candidate running for School Committee while working on my nomination paperwork one thing parents spoke about was lack of the schedule to this meeting. As a parent it's not even available on the School Committee website. Other concerns revolve around special education needs which are most often denied or not granted and 504 plans would be eliminated. I'm hoping this doesn't happen knowingly, because of cuts in the budget this year. IDEA says all children should have a Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE). One parent spoke of a racial incident at Goff that was so disturbing. It it's true and there's a mountain under this, they cannot take place. All schools are public buildings and these things need to be known. Electrical malfunctioning, mold spreading throughout, we have to do something to address this. If we have a mold issue, that's huge. What happened to all the Covid money? Where did it go? With that being said Ms. Dube you've given so many years to public service, thank you. Mrs. Ramzi, good luck to you.

Mr. Jax A. Ventura 22 2<sup>nd</sup> St (against any anti-LGBTQ+ Groups) commented thank you for listening to me today. I'm here because I heard that there were anti-LGBTQ+ groups potentially speaking today, so I'd like to combat that with some pro-LGBTQ speaking. I'm a proud Pawtucket homeowner, a former secretary of the Mayor's community board, a voter, a dedicated city volunteer, and a passionate advocate for LGBTQ+ rights. Over the past three years, I've had the honor of growing Pawtucket's annual pride flag raising, amplifying the representation of and voices of LGBTQ+ people in our community. I also serve as the advisor for the Gender Sexuality Alliance at Davies Career and Technical High School in Lincoln where half of the students come from the Pawtucket School District. But today, I speak to you on something even more personal.

I'm a non-binary Pawtucket resident using the pronouns Jax or they/them. I stand before you today to urge the Pawtucket School Committee to uphold the Rhode Island Department of Education (RIDE) policy supporting transgender and gender diverse students. The voice seeking to strip away these protections are not just misguided, they are dangerous. Our students deserve the right to explore their identities in an environment free from hate, intolerance, and isolation.

Growing up, I always knew I was different. Assigned female at birth, I could have been labeled a tomboy, but I lacked the language to describe my true self. At that time, my parents never understood or accepted me yet their lack of understanding did not diminish who I was. It wasn't until June, 2015, inspired by other gender-diverse public figures that I found the words gender fluid or gender neutral to describe myself publicly. In August of 2020, I made my transition, officially receiving my "X" gender marker on my state ID.

It was a moment of profound validation and relief, marking a significant step towards embracing my true identity in adulthood. Our students are at a critical point in their lives exploring who they are and seeking acceptance. Schools should be a sanctuary where they can safely navigate these waters. I'm deeply grateful for my own GSA advisor in high school, Mrs. Napier, who accepted and celebrated me. Now, I strive to offer the same unwavering support to our students at Davies and the students at Pawtucket because I'm a resident here allowing them to explore their names, pronouns, and labels without judgement. I celebrate their courage and self-discovery.

I implore you to not let Pawtucket regress into a place of hate and intolerance. Stand firm in supporting policies that protect and uplift transgender and gender-diverse students. In doing so, we affirm the core values of equality, justice, and inclusivity in our community. Let the Pledge of Allegiance, which starts every student's day and every meeting here, be a true reflection of our commitment to liberty and justice for all. As a member of the Pawtucket School Committee, you have the power and responsibility

to ensure that every student feels safe, valued, and protected. Be the champions of their liberty and ensure that our schools are places of acceptance and support for every child. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Mr. Robert Chiaradio, Westerly, RI commented I am here this evening as part of my statewide mission to speak at every school committee meeting in Rhode Island and inform you , everyone here, and everyone watching at home that no district is obligated to comply with RIDE's misleading and untruthful transgender guidance policy or the illegal hijacking of Title IX.

I'll explain, but I'll ask you questions first. I know you can't answer. How would you feel if your daughter were in a girl's bathroom or a locker room thinking she was in a girl's only space when all of a sudden a boy identifying as a girl entered? Are you good with her feeling uncomfortable and unsafe with her privacy violated? How about if she were an athlete in track, swimming, or field hockey and a boy who identifies as a girl takes her spot on the team or injures her or defeats her? Or if she were paired up with a biological boy on an overnight field trip sponsored by the school? Or if your teachers are made to go against everything they believe in and are forced to call a boy a girl and a girl a boy? And finally, what if your school keeps life-altering secrets from you, a parent, regarding your child? You must be okay with it because every single one of these things is allowed under your current policy, which RIDE calls law. Angelica Infante-Green is lying to you and you are lying to Pawtucket's families.

There is no legal obligation to comply with this policy, but you do anyway. Pawtucket's families know what's best for Pawtucket's kids, not RIDE and not even this committee. You owe Pawtucket parents the truth. This district's Title IX policy reflects that of the Biden Administration's hijacked rewrites scheduled to begin on August 1<sup>st</sup>, which as many of you may know, a court order – a temporary injunction has now been issued and that will not start on August 1<sup>st</sup>. Title IX was written to protect women from discrimination based on sex, not men who identify as women. That is not the same thing.

I hope Pawtucket's parents will not accept this. I certainly do not, and I promise to fight it with everything I have for as long as it takes. This committee cannot adopt this unlawful and unsafe rewrite of this law. But of course, if it does, it will be sued by your own families and you will lose. The Westerly School Committee's new policy, when completed, will right the wrongs I mentioned earlier. Your policy must do the same. Proponents of these policies lose their argument at the jump as no matter how much a boy wants to be a girl, thinks he's a girl or acts like a girl, he will never be a girl. Never. Same for girls identifying as boys. This is not an indictment of these kids. It is a fact.

There are solutions to these issues. There are solutions where all kids, whether they're confused with their sexual identity or not, are given and provided the safety and privacy all of these kids need and deserve. Follow Westerly's lead. Ditch your current policy. You owe it to Pawtucket families to tell them the truth and I promise you, you'll be held accountable. Lastly, I would say God bless the people of Pawtucket, the children and the families of Pawtucket and God bless the United States of America. Thank you very much.

Ms. Jennifer Carney commented Mr. Chairman, point of personal privilege. Sir, thank you for your thoughts. I'm the mother of a transgender child who attends these schools. My child, who I hate to have to put on blast right now and expose him, since the moment he could speak, walk, talk, make relationships and find out who God put him on this earth to be, has worked every day in the face of adults who have shamed him and given hate towards him for figuring out who he is.

Mr. Chiaradio commented where's the hate in my speech?

Ms. Carney commented you had a chance to speak and I did not interrupt. I have a point of privilege. You say, God bless America." God bless my child.

Mr. Chiaradio interrupted Ms. Carney again and Chairman Charbonneau used the gavel to allow Ms. Carney to continue.

Ms. Carney commented my child deserves the same safety every day in that school to go in and learn because guess what? That's what he's there for, not to have anybody wonder what's under his clothes. So, sir, you stand corrected. Every child in this city, in this country, and in this world has a right to an education and to be safe when they walk in that building.

Mr. Chiaradio interrupted and commented what did I say?

Ms. Carney commented I appreciate the fact that you like to sue against the civil rights of my child because I'll take that on personally. Let's talk about the law because I worked as a Director of Strategic Planning for two (2) years at the Rhode Island Department of Education. I wrote Policy. Please sir, please come and take my civil rights, my child's civil rights and every family's civil rights away.

Mr. Chairadio interrupted and commented why do you say hate speech? Because it disagrees with what you say?

Chairman Charbonneau commented Mr. Chiaradio, you had your point in public comment. Ms. Carney's had her rebuttal. We're moving on.

Mr. John Clark, Woonsocket RI commented I would like to pass at this time.

Mr. Justin Cardinale, Providence, RI commented I'm a science teacher at Tolman High School where I have taught for 14 years and while I'm certainly enjoying my summer right now, I'm very excited for my 15<sup>th</sup> year at Tolman. I'm here to speak in support of our trans students and RIDE's transgender policy. I have had the honor of knowing and teaching many trans kids here in Pawtucket. Students who transitioned socially in middle school during their time at Tolman or later on in their lives. I have talked to kids who have felt the anguish of unapologetic use of their dead names, of repeated mis-gendering of living and hiding in the darkness for fear of rejection from their peers and more often fear of rejection from their own families. For some of these student's one or two trusted adults may be all that's standing between them and disaster.

I realized I was gay when I was 13- years' old and it was the most terrifying revelation of my life. Moreover, it was around the 2004 election when gay rights became a wedge issue and a national conversation. I listened to America debate whether or not I was confused or sick or evil, when all I wanted was to be me and to be left alone. I can't begin to describe the kind of psychological and emotional toll that takes on your mind and it is exactly like how today transgender youth have been put up on the political chopping block by people who don't care about them or understand them and do not want to.

The people who are here to speak against our trans students will tell you this is about their concerns, not hate, but make no mistake, this is about pure unadulterated hatred and vitriol. These are the same kinds of people who targeted gay people in the very recent past and they are here for their next victims. I spent all of high school teetering on the verge of suicide, not because of who I was, but because of the way I was treated by other people, and by the way, I was treated that way at home by my parents. At school, though, I had trusted adults. My biology teachers, Mrs. Wong, listened to me, supported me and validated my humanity. I'm not sure that I'd be alive today without the guidance of that wonderful educator and other caring adults like her. And yes, I told her many things my parents didn't know about me. As long as I was not in danger of harming myself, she kept those things in confidence. Most parents are wonderful people, but we know that some kids aren't safe being their authentic selves at home with their families. Those kids are their own human beings, not their parents' personal property. It is healthy and necessary for kids to have their own lives. The RIDE transgender policy provides many kids an opportunity to live with their true selves and to be treated with respect even if just for a few hours a day. The RIDE policy was carefully crafted with input from the LGBTQ community. The RIDE policy is based on evidence, best practices, and harm reduction. The RIDE Policy is focused on treating children with dignity. The bigots here tonight want teachers to mistreat and mis-gender our students. The bigots here tonight want trans kids to feel uncomfortable, unprotected, and unsafe wherever they are. The bigots here tonight want to outlaw the kind of compassion that stopped me from killing myself.

Let me be very clear. Robert here wants trans kids to disappear from public life, live in misery, or kill themselves. That is what he wants most in this world and that's why he's touring the state school committees all summer long. He's disturbingly obsessed with our most vulnerable kids. He will deny it up and down, but he is a liar. Do not give a home in Pawtucket to his hate. I urge this school department to stand firm and continue to support RIDE's transgender policy and support and protect our trans kids here in Pawtucket.

Mr. Sean Hagberg, Cranston, RI commented I'm here in support of the RIDE policy. I have two professional opinions. I'm a cultural anthropologist. My interest is in power and power relations and I respect everything that was said by all the supporters here and don't want to diminish any of that. The malevolent forces that we see being played out in this room have been around virtually

forever and one of the mistakes we made is that we often put that inside people, but culture doesn't exist inside people. Culture is between people and this malevolence will recede, but will come back and once we can identify that it's in the interstitial spaces, the places between us, we can start to scribe it out.

My second day job is I'm a neuroscientist and I study empathy, the neurobiology of empathy, the system you have in your body that allows your brain to light up when you see somebody else. Your brain will light up if you see somebody's joy or pain, just like their brain does when we do scans of it. So, what I ask you to do is come from a place of empathy. Understand where the vulnerable person is and have empathy for them.

III. Approval of previous meeting minutes 4/29/24, 5/30/24; 6/11/24

Ms. Bonollo moved to approve the previous meeting minutes 4/29/24, 5/30/24 and 6/11/24. Mr. Chellel and Ms. Dube seconded.

Voice vote:

Ms. Bonollo-yes; Ms. Carney-yes; Mr. Chellel-yes; Ms. Dube-yes; Ms. Fernandes-yes; Ms. Grant-yes; Mr. Charbonneau-yes

Motion carries unanimously.

IV. New Business Discussion/Action Items

a. Recall of Certified Educators

Mrs. Lofton commented good afternoon School Committee and Superintendent. Before you, you should have a list of six (6) employees we are recalling. If you have any questions, I am here to answer them.

Mr. Chellel moved to approve to recall the six (6) certified educators. Ms. Dube and Ms. Grant seconded.

Mr. Chellel commented I see we have a social worker. Why are they coming back for only one (1) year? I believe this school committee put social workers in our schools as something we want to put our resources into.

Mrs. Lofton commented the social worker is being placed at this new alternative school and that is was the reason for the one (1) year.

Mr. Chellel commented also one (1) year at Winters?

Mrs. Lofton commented that could be for a person going out on maternity leave.

Ms. Bonollo commented Jaycenne is going over to Winters. Does Jenks have a social worker?

Mrs. Lofton commented we cannot discuss by names. If you want specifics, I can get that to you.

Ms. Bonollo commented I just want to know if we have one (1) at every school full time and not part-time. We have students who have needs.

Dr. Tate commented they're full time.

Ms. Bonollo commented we have two (2) at each?

Dr. Tate commented no.

Roll call:

Ms. Bonollo-yes; Ms. Carney-yes; Mr. Chellel-yes; Ms. Dube-yes; Ms. Fernandes-yes; Ms. Grant-yes; Mr. Charbonneau-yes

Motion carries unanimously.

b. RIDE MOA Amendment #1 Learning Inside Out Initiative

Mrs. Ramzi commented we're seeking approval from the school committee for an amendment to the RIDE Learning Inside Out Grant Chris Spiegel presented a little while ago. We had a meeting with RIDE in June and didn't have the time to get to all the schools and suggested we ask for an extension.

Ms. Bonollo moved to approve the RIDE MOA for the Learning Inside Out Initiative Amendment #1. Mr. Chellel seconded.

Ms. Grant commented the reason it didn't happen this summer is RIDE didn't have the opportunity to approve?

Mrs. Ramzi commented Leftfield didn't have the time to do the work.

Ms. Grant commented are we sure this will be done next year?

Mrs. Ramzi commented they assured us it will. There were other districts there as well who had to ask for an extension.

Ms. Bonollo commented there was another grant we received at the same time, was it used yet?

Mrs. Ramzi commented I can clarify.

Ms. Dube commented are you saying RIDE has one firm to do all of the districts and now Leftfield is saying it's not feasible?

Mrs. Ramzi commented they didn't get to it.

Ms. Dube commented is there an option for us to go out to bid?

Mr. Charbonneau commented it's under approved projects. The project is going to cost \$99,200 and is coming from the School Building Authority (SBA).

Mrs. Ramzi commented yes.

Roll call:

Ms. Bonollo-yes; Ms. Carney-yes; Mr. Chellel-yes; Ms. Dube-yes; Ms. Fernandes-yes; Ms. Grant-yes; Mr. Charbonneau-yes

Motion carries unanimously.

c. Approval of District Roof Repairs

Mr. Cote commented before you we have pricing separated by school for district wide roof repairs. Through the MPA process (#64) the Facilities Department sought out proposals for roof repairs at three (3) locations in the district; Shea, Tolman and Cunningham. Several companies were contacted, three (3) responded and two (2) gave proposals. A mandatory walk through took place and the scope was specified and sent via email. This scope was needed along with the proposal. Shea repairs, \$14,000; Tolman repairs, \$20,000; Cunningham repairs, \$12,000 for a total of \$46,000. A & M Sheet Metal and Roofing was the lowest bidder for all three (3) locations with a total disparity of \$16,500. After reviewing the individual pricing, I would ask the School Committee on my recommendation to award A & M Sheet Metal and Roofing Inc. with a total proposal of \$46,000.

Ms. Bonollo moved to approve to award the district roof repairs to A & M Sheet Metal and Roofing Inc. in the total amount of \$46,000. Ms. Dube seconded.

Ms. Bonollo commented what exactly are the disparity?

Mr. Cote commented they're rubber that inevitably erodes. At Tolman, you have it bubbling up and the same at Shea. At Cunningham it is old like tar paper and gravel. You can see in the past where they made us use vinyl.

Ms. Bonollo commented how long do you expect these projects to last?

Mr. Cote commented I can't answer that. Before school starts, they need complete roof replacements at Shea and Tolman. Until we find the funding source, we have to make sure we make a complete report and can only repair right now.

Ms. Bonollo commented what about flashing at Cunningham?

Mr. Cote commented I can have a vendor come and look at it.

Roll call:

Ms. Bonollo-yes; Ms. Carney-yes; Mr. Chellel-yes; Ms. Dube-yes; Ms. Fernandes-yes; Ms. Grant-yes; Mr. Charbonneau-yes

Motion carries unanimously.

d. Charles E. Shea and William E. Tolman High School Auditorium Curtains

Mr. Silva commented we contacted vendors from the RI MPA for quotes to remove and dispose of old curtains and to furnish and install new curtains that will be the same colors as existing in the auditorium at Shea and Tolman High Schools. We received one (1) response to our request from D. M. Loneragan Inc.: Tolman – 11 window curtains, 2 panels per window (2 prong pleat 50% fullness) to be installed on Traverse Rods. Material 15 oz velour - \$17,569. Shea – 10 window curtains, 2 panels per window (2 prong pleat 50% fullness) to be installed on existing track 10 panel valances to be installed on existing wood trim. Material 15 oz velour 3 existing tracks to be recorded - \$22,487 for a total cost of \$40,056. It is the recommendation that the school committee award to D.M. Loneragan Inc.'s proposal for the auditorium curtains at Shea and Tolman.

Ms. Dube moved to approve to award the Charles E. Shea and William E. Tolman High School Auditorium Curtains to D. M. Loneragan Inc in the total amount of \$40,056.00 from the Capital Fund. Ms. Carney seconded.

Ms. Dube commented what is the age of the curtains now?

Mr. Silva commented I've been here since '97 and they haven't been changed.

Ms. Grant commented why would this be coming from the Capital Fund? Both schools have funding.

Mr. Silva commented I would have to find that out.

Mrs. Royal commented we can't use school improvement funds. That is for strictly instructional.

Ms. Grant commented this is for use with fashion shows and different things. I'm not sure where the line gets drawn. I understand the SIP funds have quite a bit of money in their buckets. If it's educational, I can't understand why they can't use their funds.

Mrs. Royal commented each bucket of money comes with different guidelines.

Ms. Grant commented why don't they fit?

Mrs. Royal commented I'd have to show you the different values. Curtains are not part of the educational process. I felt it was important to add to the school culture and for families instead of seeing curtains that are half hanging and tattered.

Ms. Grant commented I'm just trying to understand what these funds are used for and where the money should be coming from and only going to Capital for everything and the funds are building up in the schools.

Mrs. Royal commented the schools didn't put money aside. There are a lot of pots of money that come with different parameters and guidelines and after the Title I audit, we have to make sure money is going where it should be.

Ms. Grant commented I just want to make sure they're using their money.

Ms. Bonollo commented what's is the condition of the stage curtains?

Mr. Silva commented they need to be replaced.

Ms. Bonollo commented would there be a financial impact?

Mr. Silva commented this company doesn't do that.

Ms. Carney commented all the monies are specifically tied to those goals within the Strategic Plan for teachers and supplies and I just want to say schools should be proud.

Mr. Charbonneau commented are we done with all the repairs with the Shea auditorium roof?

Mr. Silva commented I would have to check with John, but yes.

Roll call:

Ms. Bonollo-yes; Ms. Carney-yes; Mr. Chellel-yes; Ms. Dube-yes; Ms. Fernandes-yes; Ms. Grant-yes; Mr. Charbonneau-yes

Motion carries unanimously.

e. Recommendation to Award the General Contracting Services for the Shea High School Commissary Kitchen

Ms. Daikh commented the Pawtucket School Department is in receipt of a bid for the Shea Commissary Kitchen general contracting services solicited under the State of RI Master Price Agreement (MPA) Contract #MPA 574-FY25. Three (3) companies were solicited under the State MPA #MPA 574-FY25 and only one (1) company submitted a bid. A copy of the submitted bid is included in the enclosed attachment. Based on the Colliers Project Leaders evaluation of the enclosed proposal, including thorough scope review, it is the recommendation of Colliers Project Leaders to approve this proposal with the following value: \$509,700.00. It is the recommendation of Colliers Project Leaders that the School Committee award the Shea commissary kitchen general contracting services for a total of \$509,700.00 to Maron Construction Co., Inc. of Providence, RI.

Ms. Bonollo moved to approve to award the general contracting services for the Shea High School Commissary Kitchen to Maron Construction Co., Inc. of Providence, RI in the total amount of \$509,700.00. Ms. Dube seconded.

Ms. Bonollo commented kitchens in general weren't we supposed to do Goff and

Mr. Charbonneau commented we're on Shea tonight. If you want to inquire, do so with Jiana.

Roll call:

Ms. Bonollo-yes; Ms. Carney-yes; Mr. Chellel-yes; Ms. Dube-yes; Ms. Fernandes-yes; Ms. Grant-yes; Mr. Charbonneau-yes

Motion carries unanimously.

f. Approval to Conduct Feasibility Study for Use of a Project Labor Agreement for the Unified High School

Mr. Charbonneau commented we're at the point in the Unified High School discussion and process where we should look at using a feasibility study. We used it at Winters and Baldwin. These take a long time to produce. I think it would behoove this school committee to move forward.



Ms. Bonollo moved to approve to conduct a feasibility study for use of a Project Labor Agreement for the Unified High School. Ms. Dube and Ms. Grant seconded.

Ms. Dube commented I'm glad this is on here. The first projects, Potter and Greene they were gut projects and not as much as the RFP's and I'm really glad we're doing a feasibility study.

Roll call:

Ms. Bonollo-yes; Ms. Carney-yes; Mr. Chellel-yes; Ms. Dube-yes; Ms. Fernandes-yes; Ms. Grant-yes; Mr. Charbonneau-yes

Motion carries unanimously.

g. Approval to Engage the Law Office of William J. Conley, Jr. to Conduct Feasibility Study for the Unified High School

Mr. Charbonneau commented as this committee is aware, this law firm would do this outside his scope of work.

Ms. Carney and Ms. Bonollo moved to approve to engage the Law Office of William J. Conley, Jr. to conduct the feasibility study for the Unified High School. Mr. Chellel seconded.

Roll call:

Ms. Bonollo-yes; Ms. Carney-yes; Mr. Chellel-yes; Ms. Dube-yes; Ms. Fernandes-yes; Ms. Grant-yes; Mr. Charbonneau-yes

Motion carries unanimously.

V. Discussion Items

a. School Time Change Survey Results

Mrs. Ramzi commented Tom Realli is the district's transportation manager we're lucky to have and has done a tremendous job with this.

Mrs. Cristino commented I'll start we are reporting back the results of the survey done in May. Mrs. Ramzi and I presented to you some options for late buses. You asked us to do a survey and we're here to present those results. Three (3) schools Curvin, Little and Potter of 436 responses all three (3) schools were represented. We had parents and guardians and a few community members included. We made this anonymous. They could have responded more than once. We had it out for two (2) weeks and had it in multiple languages. Combined between the three (3) groups the size of the groups were not equal. Red is negative, green is positive and yellow is no impact. We saw a greater negative impact and the group for staff members was also negative and we want to share our thoughts.

Mr. Realli commented where do we go from here? The transportation team will be tracking buses and will come back here to see if buses are running late. We will be working with First Student and reinforcing times to parents.

Mrs. Cristino commented things to consider are funds and additional buses. Baldwin will decrease in 2025. We spoke with the Superintendent but it was too late to change times and we need to make sure those plans are in place especially the first couple of months. We're going to figure out what we have to do.

Ms. Bonollo commented can you define the buses that are late, special education, statewide?

Mrs. Cristino commented we're talking about our own buses, the First Student buses that are going to our school both regular and special education.

Ms. Bonollo commented statewide is still included?

Mrs. Ramzi commented not with this.

b. Goff Middle School Windows Design Memo – Discussion

Ms. Bonollo commented the four-inch window opening it said it was decided on by Facilities and Administration.

Ms. Daikh commented this is the architect on record here to answer questions.

Mr. Winkler commented the four (4) inch is a pretty standard and used as a safety measure often used in schools, colleges and hotels and is something that you requested.

Ms. Grant commented Goff has no air condition. I toured the school at the end of the year and in talking with the principal the windows don't come down from the top.

Mr. Winkler commented single hung the problem is the awning rail. The window is very large. It would be very expensive to do double windows.

Ms. Grant commented the air flow is very still.

Mr. Winkler commented a typical classroom has single opening and the reason is accessibility code. Someone in a wheelchair has to be able to reach it and open it.

Ms. Grant commented that's not an accessible building.

Mr. Winkler commented unfortunately, the code says you have to make it accessible.

Ms. Grant commented the one in guidance and the one in the teachers' lounge?

Mr. Winkler commented you also have window mandates and have two (2) different window types and we came up with one pattern. When you get the individual offices, you'll have differences. When you get to spaces with air conditioning, you have to be able to move that and have both types of windows.

Ms. Grant commented I believe these windows have screens.

Mr. Winkler commented correct. You can insert screens. At the time it was decided not to have screens because they collect dust. It wasn't included in the current project.

Ms. Grant commented we all know we've had a very hot year and don't see it getting any cooler.

Mr. Winkler commented there's an after-market screen that can be used and you have to allow the windows to go up higher.

Ms. Grant commented I think it falls back on us.

Mr. Winkler commented most of the other rooms and every classroom has the ability to put in air condition. The other type of screen just fits into the window and these are easier to push out. The others are in more securely. Building code and we certainly did meet the energy code and makes them more efficient. They were installed with weather stripping and will include energy savings.

Ms. Dube commented we're on time to finish this project before the teachers return?

Mr. Winkler commented yes.

Ms. Fernandes commented the building looks so different, really nice.

Mr. Winkler commented I go by that building and was happy to help restore it to its historic character.

c. Timeline for Use of Remaining \$100M of the 2018 Voter Approved \$220M Bond

Mr. Charbonneau commented as this school committee is aware, there was \$220 budgeted for Shea, Tolman, Baldwin and Winters. The Shea and Tolman remains largely unspent and there is a provision in the Charter where the City can suspend that goes into effect in 2025. As a committee what are we going to use that \$100M on and what's the process?

Ms. Bonollo commented as you recall RIDE said we couldn't use bond money at Shea or Tolman because we will not be using them for the next thirty (30) years.

Mr. Charbonneau commented this is voter approved bond money the voters approved to improve our schools. Maybe we look at a pre-k campus or new elementary or Kindergarten on the other side of the city. I think the possibilities are there. I know this committee approved a Master Plan but I wanted to make sure every one is aware of this.

Ms. Dube commented what is the timeline for the Master Plan completion?

Mr. Charbonneau commented did we get that from Mario? If we get that it's this school committee approving it. We have a September window and a February window. I think if we want to advance it, it would be this September or February and reach out to Mario and get back to this committee.

Ms. Bonollo commented do we have land available?

Mr. Charbonneau commented I'm not thinking anything. I'm speaking for this committee and the conversations we need to have. Come November, 2025 we don't want to say \$100M bond funds were thrown away.

Mr. Chellel commented I think our buildings need to be repaired. You can't be putting the cart before the horse. When will that plan come before this committee? Is it a year out?

Mr. Charbonneau commented not that long.

Mr. Chellel commented at Goff we changed the windows. It looks like a brand-new school. Before we talk about investing money in pre-k let's take a look at the district as a whole. Maybe Cunningham and Slater could get a rehab?

Ms. Dube commented we know it's not getting codes and reality . We only operate half of our schools without air conditioning and also our teachers and limits our ability to use schools in the summer for robust programs for students to attend home schools.

#### VI. Possible Executive Session

The School Committee may vote to recess to possible executive session in accordance with the provisions under R. I.

General Laws:

1. Pursuant to R. I. G. L. § 42-46-5 (a)(1) for the purpose of job performance, character, or physical or mental health for district legal services.
2. Seal Executive Session Minutes
3. Adjourn the Executive Session

Ms. Bonollo moved to recess to executive session. Ms. Grant and Mr. Chellel seconded.

Voice vote:

Ms. Bonollo-yes; Ms. Carney-yes; Mr. Chellel-yes; Ms. Dube-yes; Ms. Fernandes-yes; Ms. Grant-yes; Mr. Charbonneau-yes

Motion carries unanimously.

The committee recessed to executive session at 7:24 PM to 7:43 PM.

#### VII. Reconvene to open session

The Chairman Mr. Charbonneau reconvened to open session at 7:47 PM.

- a. Roll call

Ms. Bonollo-here; Ms. Carney-here; Mr. Chellel-here; Ms. Dube-here; Ms. Fernandes-here; Ms. Grant-here; Mr. Charbonneau-here

VIII. Report out vote(s) of 7/25/24 executive session

The clerk reported the committee voted unanimously to increase the retainer for district legal services of Conley Law Office to \$20,000 per month, to seal the executive session and to adjourn the executive session.

IX. Adjournment

Mr. Chellel moved to adjourn. Ms. Grant seconded.

Voice vote:

Ms. Bonollo-yes; Ms. Carney-yes; Mr. Chellel-yes; Ms. Dube-yes; Ms. Fernandes-yes; Ms. Grant-yes; Mr. Charbonneau-yes

Motion carries unanimously.

The Chairman Mr. Charbonneau adjourned the work session at 7:48 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Clerk

***Approved 10/30/24***