

Pawtucket School Committee Regular Meeting
Jenks/JMW Complex for the Performing and Visual Arts Media Center
350 Division Street, Pawtucket, Rhode Island 02860
Wednesday, September 11, 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.

To join Zoom Meeting via Computer

1. Open Browser (Chrome, Internet Explorer, etc.)
2. Go to join.zoom.us
3. Enter meeting ID [818 3501 5235](#)
Enter Pass code [041015](#)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81835015235?pwd=IKYaLu1l0vbjmGbX5UVVKHvQXazgpV.1>

To join Zoom via Telephone

1. Dial one of the numbers below
Dial by your location

[+1 305 224 1968 US](#) [+1 309 205 3325 US](#) [+1 312 626 6799 US \(Chicago\)](#) [+1 646 876 9923 US \(New York\)](#) [+1 646 931 3860 US](#) [+1 301 715 8592 US \(Washington DC\)](#) [+1 253 215 8782 US \(Tacoma\)](#) [+1 346 248 7799 US \(Houston\)](#) [+1 360 209 5623 US](#) [+1 386 347 5053 US](#) [+1 408 638 0968 US \(San Jose\)](#) [+1 507 473 4847 US](#) [+1 564 217 2000 US](#) [+1 669 444 9171 US](#) [+1 669 900 6833 US \(San Jose\)](#) [+1 689 278 1000 US](#) [+1 719 359 4580 US](#) [+1 253 205 0468 US](#)

Or One tap mobile :

[+13052241968,,81835015235#,,,,*041015# US](#)
[+13092053325,,81835015235#,,,,*041015# US](#)

2. When prompted enter the meeting ID number [818 3501 5235](#)
3. Enter Pass code [041015](#)

International numbers available: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81835015235?pwd=IKYaLu1l0vbjmGbX5UVVKHvQXazgpV.1>

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

The Chairman Mr. Charbonneau called the meeting to order at 6:01 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. Lee Rabbitt, Assistant Superintendent; Dr. Lahna Tate, Chief of Schools; Mrs. Krystal Lofton, Chief of Human Resources and Talent; Dr. Mark Andrade, Chief of Operations and Facilities; Mr. Dale McGhee, Chief Financial Officer; Mr. Kris Silva, Assistant Director of Facilities; Mr. Hersh Cristino, Chief Information and Innovation Officer; Mr. William J. Conley, Jr., Legal Counsel and Ms. Megan Havrilla, Colliers Project Leaders.

- b. Pledge of Allegiance

The Chairman Mr. Charbonneau led the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. Special Reports of Student Representatives

- Charles E. Shea High School
- William E. Tolman High School
- Jacqueline M. Walsh School for Performing and Visual Arts

The students reported on recent and upcoming events.

Deputy Chairwoman Dube commented I want to say to the students who just spoke, I teach public speaking and you have to realize the power behind you. My students are usually a ball of nerves. I look forward to hearing you speak more. Thank you.

III. 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 and thank you for giving me time to speak to you. I'd like to speak to yesterday's polling. It was a disgrace. I spent the day acknowledging each person coming out. The Pawtucket Teachers' Alliance handed out flyers who you didn't want people to vote for and put smiley faces on the candidates who you wanted and every time you were asked who put it together. It was really dirty and some of your own teachers were embarrassed to have to hand them out. Now on to McCoy Stadium and the significant high school and the possibility of not having a high school built here. We still have bonding to put to it and if not, students will have to remain at the same school and you continue to throw stones at the new Superintendent and continue to throw them at her. You should be embarrassed.

Mr. Camron Segella, Pawtucket, RI commented I'd like to speak to the scheduling conflicts with the City Council and if you can avoid scheduling meetings on the same day. I spoke to the Council who don't seem to want to take the first step and it gets tough for those of us who want to attend both.

Congratulations shout out to those who won and the Superintendent regarding the free lunch. There were times I couldn't afford lunch and it was really embarrassing. So, I want to thank you for doing that and you, Ms. Dube. It's a good thing to see. Thank you.

Ms. Krystyne Bento commented good evening everybody. Yesterday was a bit of a strange day. I've been at polling stations for decades and will agree with Dave there was a big showing of teachers, some of the teachers out there do not live in Pawtucket yet were handing out flyers and didn't even know some of the candidates running. Some of them are here tonight. Yes, they were endorsed. One said it was because they didn't have time. How you going to make time when you have to attend? Some of the teachers were handing out pamphlets about people they knew nothing about. I spoke to a lot of really nice teachers. They all had one thing in common. They just want someone who's going to fight for the teachers more. Who are you at war with? You have a Union President doing a terrible job, in my opinion. I'm here about the kids. We need someone who's going to stand up for the kids. When you have someone that looks like us, oh no! I'm going to address Lee Rabbitt. I had to go to Shea High School and was pretty calm and talking to Dr. Andrade. I heard Lee Rabbitt made a phone call, "there's an irate person in the building." What makes me irate, Ms.. Rabbitt, what did you do and who did you call when one of your school committee members went into the school department and made a new employee cry? An older white woman is scaring the bejesus out of them. Did you call anyone? Who's going to hold her responsible for what she did? Who wants to work here when someone like that rolls up and scares someone? When I walk up because of my color, I'm irate, but who's she? Who is cocoa for cocoa puffs? As I walk in as a parent, I'm crazy and irate and when a school committee member walks in and screams, if it were me, I'd be locked up right now.

Mr. Justin Rojas, 35 Smart Street, commented I prepared some remarks that may change at the end. We social workers sent an email to the school committee members. After that, I believe should be read. School psychologists and guidance counselors, we came here today to address what we believed to be five (5) shortages of social workers and unequitable distribution of social workers. We appreciate the role the Superintendent took engaging with our social workers. We're not here to compromise the

work of the school committee. We come on behalf of our profession. We just want to stay on your radar. I also want to re-iterate the multi-faceted role social workers play. Our impact extends far beyond the data. We have vastly different roles from school psychologists and in our clinical training we pointed out reports in recent social media of the positions mentioned only one was a new position that opened up. There was a Valley Breeze article. School social workers covering for a leave of absence not targeting those five (5) social worker positions also concerned about those five (5) social worker positions under policy we feel is inequitable. We have acknowledged at Tolman who have over 1,000 students. It's unreasonable and my remarks changed significantly after the Superintendent reached out to say they would be hiring two (2) additional social workers for the high schools.

Ms. Yahire Reales, 88 Chaplin Street, commented I am a student at Tolman and there is a new schedule at Shea and Tolman. Each class is 45 minutes and it is not enough for AP classes that might affect our test scores. The schedule is not going to help our test scores. We're not going to have seven (7) if we chose them as internship. We wouldn't have enough hours. Our teachers have had a lot of trouble. I wanted to bring that to your attention to see if there's anything you could do.

IV. New Business Discussion/Action Items

a. Fallon Play Yard Fence Approval

Mr. Silva commented I'm here before you today to ask you for your approval for the Fallon Play Yard Fence. The Pawtucket School Department is actively seeking quotes for a play yard fence at Fallon through the MPA consisting of 71 lf of 4ft tall vinyl coated black chain link, 3 swing gates and a 14ft cartilever (rolling) gate. We received one (1) reply from United Fence for the total cost of \$15,169.00. We were asked to get the quote by the Special Education Director and the former principal for pre-k to get to play in the yard. This would be funded from the local budget.

Ms. Bonollo moved to approve to award the Fallon Play Yard Fence to United Fence in the total amount of \$15,169.00. Ms. Grant seconded.

Mr. Chellel commented is there a deadline?

Mr. Silva commented if approved tonight, I will get it done right away.

Mr. Chellel commented only one (1) bid? Is it that pressing? Can we wait to get another bid?

Mr. Silva commented it's average and I would suggest we do it now. The kids are interrupted during nap time.

Ms. Grant commented thank you for bringing this forward. Myself and Dr. Tate walked Fallon this spring and met with the pre-k teachers and all day long in two (2) classrooms kids kept walking through all day long. If you have five (5) pre-k classrooms that's ten (10) disruptions per day. We walked out with the principal and asked if the students could walk through the corridor. It's a very wide corridor and kids could run out in the street. I think it's something that needs to be provided.

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. Pot Hole Repair Approval

Mr. Silva commented the Pawtucket School Department requested MPA quotes for pot hole patching (sawcut, removal, and replacement) totaling 792 sf of asphalt at Agnes Little. We received one (1) response (typo in staff report) to our request: Oak Hill Farms in the total amount of \$7,524.00. We've had parents and teacher complaints.

Ms. Bonollo moved to approve to award the pot hole repair at Agnes Little to Oak Hill Farms in the total amount of \$7,524.00. Ms. Grant seconded.

Ms. Bonollo commented that's the back lot? Isn't it the City's responsibility?

Mr. Charbonneau commented it's our responsibility to repair pot holes.

Mr. Silva commented yes, it's our responsibility to maintain and repair.

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. The Empowerment Factory MOU-PSD at Fallon Memorial Elementary School

Ms. Dube moved to table The Empowerment Factory MOU-PSD at Fallon Memorial Elementary School. Ms. Carney 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.

Mr. Charbonneau commented this item will be placed on the 9/26/24 work session agenda.

d. Pawtucket Unified High School Project Labor Agreement (PLA) Feasibility Study Presentation-Discussion and Possible Action to Enter into a PLA

https://www.psdri.net/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/Exhibit A - Pawtucket Unified HS_RIDE Stage II Submission_09.15.23.pdf

https://www.psdri.net/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/Exhibit B Pawtucket Unified HS_RIDE Stage II Appendices_09.15.23.pdf

<https://www.psdri.net/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/Pawtucket UHS PLA Study Final w Exhibits.pdf>

Mr. Dylan Conley commented thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think a lot of this is the legal background. I really want to focus on structural changes. I think as the RIDE program has approved construction across the state, more districts are participating in Project Labor Agreements (PLA) for market expectation and this is pushing projects into PLA's They'll be no double benefits which could increase labor costs. Both points are directed to touch base on push back on PLA's is wage cost and not correct. It's prevailing wage cost and is not an option. Actual labor costs are mutual. The other critical component is trade costs. I've been warning communities the Rhode Island General Assembly ended this and caused a crush of applications. The thing I'm concerned about is a delay in this project in billions of dollars in construction and I think it's important to have a PLA in place especially, a project of this size. I believe this is one of the largest projects in this state and will provide favorable buying power. The next step would be to negotiate a contract to include key personnel and benefits. The timeline relative to a school project is relatively important.

Mr. Chellel moved to approve to enter into a Project Labor Agreement for the Pawtucket High School Project. Ms. Carney seconded.

Ms. Bonollo asked a question that was inaudible.

Mr. Conley commented they're very invested.

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. Goff Middle School Building Temperature

Ms. Grant commented I know I believe it was the last meeting we had this. This is something we should keep an eye on. When these windows were put in we were not aware we could only open them four (4) inches. I know when the Superintendent and I toured the school, we had some discussion about bringing air conditioners in and how many we'd need. Since the teachers have

gone back to school, I've received a couple of emails. I won't read the whole thing and want to share some of the concerns: the building is hot in spite of the temperatures outside; classrooms are extremely hot; windows that open in only open three-four inches; students/teachers are hot and this is with fans in the classrooms. The outside temperature is 74° and the inside temperature is 80°. Teachers had to purchase their own fans. I'm concerned about the window and I'm not sure how it works. The school buildings don't have control over heat so often times they have to open the windows and I'm also concerned about how unhealthy it is. They have limited access to water. The filters have not been changed and we don't have a plumber. Some windows don't open at all. Air flow is a concern. This isn't a healthy environment for teachers and students to be in. I've brought this before the committee a couple of times and this falls back on us. I understand we have a lot of schools that don't have air conditioning, but these windows don't open enough. I really do think we need to look into it. We're a customer service entity and we need to look into it. If we don't have them in the right environment, they can't teach. I wanted to bring this to my colleagues' attention. I know when I spoke to the Superintendent the number was about 50. I think this is going to continue to be a problem. I just wanted to continue to advocate to do something about this building.

Ms. Bonollo commented I saw this on the agenda and spoke to Kim about it. Today when going through emails RIDE is committed to helping. LEA's can seek approval for immediate health and safety upgrades, etc. Is that a possibility we could do with Goff?

Mr. Charbonneau commented I don't know if air conditioning falls under health and safety. I would caution this school committee going forward adding 50 air conditioners to windows one old building electrical draw, it will be a compounding thing. I think all schools should have central air. We have to be equitable here. Slater was due for new windows and we pulled back so, I would just caution this committee.

Ms. Dube commented filters that need to be changed?

Mr. Silva commented three or four were changed today. They were in yellow, not red and I told my custodians when they turn yellow put in a maintenance ticket.

Ms. Dube commented to Mr. Charbonneau's point, do we know if we have all of our filters checked?

Mr. Silva commented I have one of my guys going to change them.

Ms. Dube commented as we head into cooler weather is there a plan in place to manage cooler temperatures so we don't have to open windows?

Mr. Silva commented our systems are over ten (10) years old and it's been determined they are faulty valves and would have to go to the MPA for quotes. I have fans and can send more to Goff. We can't regulate the temperature at Goff. The boiler will run at night and we record the temperature and when the building loses degrees, we go out and turn it back on.

Ms. Dube commented last question, have you been in the building and evaluated it compared to others?

Mr. Silva commented it's on par with other buildings who do not have air conditioning. The windows were approved by the Historic Society and we asked to move blocks up where the windows can open up ten (10) inches.

Ms. Dube commented it's an historic regulation you can't open windows for safety purposes.

Mr. Silva commented I would have to look into that. If we could open it ten (10) inches, it would be more than what is there.

Ms. Fernandes commented there's something, heat is controlled by downtown?

Mr. Silva commented it's a building maintenance system that tells you what is working and what is not. This one is dated and we are unable to do that.

Ms. Fernandes commented to what Ms. Grant said about the filters?

Mr. Silva commented I had the plumber going out to change filters.

Ms. Fernandes commented does it have to be a plumber?

Mr. Silva commented no. I prefer to have one of my maintenance guys doing it.

Ms. Bonollo commented I thought it was a safety and liability issue and talked about putting in screens to prevent students from exiting those windows.

Ms. Grant commented the gentleman stated they could be raised higher. I can't specifically recall what he said about the screening.

Mr. Silva commented that's why I recommended having them blocked off for safety concerns.

Ms. Grant commented it's not me saying a plumber is needed. It's someone who said it.

Mrs. Royal commented I want to add I spoke to the principal at Goff and she shared with me the information has not been shared with her. She didn't know this was a problem. I'm going to ask moving forward to give the principal and assistant principal an opportunity to address the concerns first and was notified it was done. It would be so helpful if we address staff at the school first. I just ask that you do that first.

V. Discussion Items:

a. School Committee Members' Roles and Responsibilities

Mr. Charbonneau commented I put the School Committee Roles and Responsibilities just to, I think it's moot at this point but I think the Committee would be wise to tighten up the communication. I think there's emails flying all over with directives, flying all over with committee members to staff members and then committee members looking to me for an update or an answer and I don't even know that a staff member was directed to do something. Like I said, it was irrelevant, it's not irrelevant. I think the long-term success of this committee depends on a way to channel information away from the members to the Superintendent. But when we have members firing off 5, 6, 7 emails a day looking for updates sometimes a day later on things, looking to schedule things that are beyond our purview. I'll take the hit for the committee getting off the rails with their engagement with the Superintendent. I caution you with all these projects ahead, somehow, some way that communication has got to tighten up and we have to remember that we hired her to run the district. Not us running the day to day minutiae of everything. Case and point was "the principal doesn't even know." There's one thing to be available to your constituency and to be responsive to your constituency, there's another thing to spend the chief executive of the district's day chasing ghosts around because someone reached out to one of us personally in a text message or phone call or what have you.

Ms. Dube commented thank you so much. I asked Mr. Charbonneau to pull some policies. These are dating back to quite a while ago back to 2015 when some of us were first on this committee. But I do want to say that The Code of Ethics, Code of Basic Management Principles and if you do remember, we did spend a lot of time on this policy and number four (4) says "we recognize their critical responsibility for selecting the superintendent, defining his or her responsibilities, and evaluating his or her performance regularly without directly engaging in administrative processes" and I think that as Mr. Charbonneau said it's very important that we allow those first jobs to be very important but also ask that stipulations be remembered. Number eleven (11) "we act only through public meetings since individual board members have no authority to bind the board." I do think it is hard. I've been around for a decade. Some of you have been around for longer than a decade and we know a lot. We have a lot of information. We know a lot and have a lot of history, more than our Superintendent has and I know that we are eager to share it and in part, our wisdom. I think it does become a lot and there's a lot to do in this district and the day to day can become overwhelming at times.

Ms. Bonollo commented I was happy. Excuse me? I did not speak when you were speaking. Mr. Charbonneau.

Mr. Charbonneau commented Ms. Bonollo, please. Ms. Bento, please, public participation is over. Ms. Bonollo, you had the floor.

Ms. Bonollo commented so, one of the things is I'm frustrated with is communication. It's difficult to speak with the Chair sometimes and I know you have a job and I know you have a family but you know we do ask questions and when we don't get answers

Mr. Charbonneau commented if you're going to direct it at me then let's have a conversation about it. Can you site an example? Because the example I sited about being off the rails is when you show up outside a school on the first day of school and you're calling administrators on their cell phones saying you know they're there because you've spotted their car and you're at this door and you want to be let in.

Ms. Bonollo commented I had received a call that there was no toilet paper, there were no supplies, there weren't a sufficient number of teachers. I had called the Administration Building and had asked to have an appointment with the school. I was told I couldn't have one. Shortly after that we received an email from you or an email from Dianna from you that said that you request that we do not visit any of the schools for the first month of school. Well, that's a red flag. Because we talk to people. Anyways, I did go in the school and it was not sufficiently staffed and we've been paying \$22,000 a month since July. They had no furniture, not sufficient teachers. There wasn't sufficient time to prepare. There were only five (5) students in elementary in the building and it is there still were not sufficient teachers for that. I wanted information on that. I wanted to know why we weren't prepared when we knew in July that we were putting in an alternative learning program into a school that was going to hold 60 students and on the first day and I want to know why we weren't prepared to hold 60 students and there were only five (5) students and when there were supposed to be 60 and where were the disciplinary students that were supposed to there. I didn't get an answer from that. I stopped by the next day and met with Mr. Lopes, he took me around and we talked about it. He said that the students would be in by the 16th and he told me what the plans were. Today I happened to be in the area and they were getting equipment delivered so, it's getting there. But it was the point that we were supposed to start school on the 28th and we weren't prepared and I wanted to know why. It was a simple question. What brought this up was I had requested that if there was possibly a meet and greet with the principals and the administrators of this district because there have been so many people onboarded that we don't know who they are and it would be nice to be introduced to them. It's not like it hasn't been done before because it has. That was a number of days ago and I never received a response to that and it was 10 days ago. I said maybe before a meeting, at a meeting, however you wanted to do it. I don't see where there is a problem. So, there's a problem with communication. People communicate with you, Jay but they don't communicate with everybody else. It's very frustrating. Kim asked twice to see the, to have a review of the Superintendent or find out what her plan was for the year. It was dismissed. She brought it up again at a public meeting and nobody answered. Last meeting Jim asked about a couple of positions on the list and he didn't get a sufficient answer. What I'm saying is we need some type of communication and we need to know where it is coming from. We're not trying to be difficult, we want this to succeed. However, in order for it to succeed, we need answers. So, if there's someone who wants to give us answers, then we would appreciate it. It is our responsibility to hire the Superintendent and the Superintendent to run the district. Yes, that's fine but we can't close our eyes just because she's in position and you know that as well as anybody else does. We've run into before so, we're not going to run into it again. Yes, I would love for you to succeed. I'd love this whole thing to work out fine. But some where along the lines we need answers to questions. If there's someone else that can give us answers, then that's fine. Direct us to them. When we get emails from you we get a simple answer, thank you. We don't get a disposition of what we asked. We don't get anything other than thank you so, we know that you've gotten the email.

Mrs. Royal commented wait, I want to be clear. I send a response thank you that was for something that was already shared with you through community bulletins or community newspapers and you send it to me and I say thank you. It's not an actual question that you asked me. I'm wondering, it's a huge concern of mine when my committee members tell me 60 students where did you get that number from?

Ms. Bonollo commented Mr. Lopes.

Mrs. Royal commented right. We have a lot of hearsay and a lot of not factual information going around and I just talked about this in the newspaper. I want to deal with facts and every time someone sends an email, text, call, ask, my understanding is that I am responsible for sharing information with my committee because this is one (1) body. When you call and everyone here is calling there is only one person on the phone asking me questions, that information is supposed to go through Dianna so the question can

be share with the whole committee and then I respond to the whole committee as a whole. You send me a text and ask me individual questions and a lot of times they're not questions. Then you talk at me and you say you're upset with me. Where is this coming from? You're saying 60 students. It was never dictated that 60 students would be there on the first day of school. I don't know where that came from. So, I'm going to ask again, That was the process shared with me when I started. We act as one body. You send your questions or comments to Dianna and Dianna shares it with the Chair and the Chair answers her share the information. That was my understanding. But then I don't want to feel like you all think that I don't want to communicate. So, I try to respond. But really, I'm stepping outside of the guidelines. So, when you send me a lot of emails, Joanne, a lot of emails throughout the day, share, share, share and I said thank you because this job is huge. We're the third largest district in the state. There's a lot going on and I mean one time I said thank you and you said I want you to say more than thank you. We're going to share the information. You want me to share something and I will share it. I don't have a problem with that. You do send me a lot of emails and it's hard for me to continuously respond when I have water filters that need to be filled or I have a parent that is upset because there is a lot going on. There is a lot going on. I think you need to get back to the facts. It's a lot of hearsay. If someone says it, you all take it and run with it likes it's the truth. I'm just saying give me an opportunity to answer. Sometimes you're upset and I'm wondering why are you so upset. Where is this information even coming from and why are you so upset and then I'll respond, but it is a lot to do day to day in this district. It's a big lift. I want to be successful. I want my teachers, leaders, staff to be successful and it's going to take all of us and I think that when we do tighten up all of that communication and we do focus on why we're all here and we wouldn't be here if it wasn't for our students. But we're going to have to and I know everybody wants the answers and I just heard this from one of my constituents and I need to know this now. Sometimes I can't get that right now. But if we follow a directive which was already in place through our operations and our code of ethics, and our procedures I think that will tighten up and then Dianna says I have these three and we'll need to respond to these and I'm going to three or four. I have seven (7) bosses and I love each and every one of you but I'm only one person trying to run a district of over 8,000 students. It's a lot.

Ms. Dube commented I want to read the actual narrative "individual School Committee members interested in visiting schools or classrooms will inform the School Committee Clerk, who will make arrangement for visitations through the Principals of the various schools. Such visits will be regarded as informal expressions of interest in school affairs and not as "inspections" or visits for supervisory or administrative purposes." It is troubling to have members violating those policies. When I ask for an agenda item to be put on the agenda then we're hypocrites. We as a body of seven (7) need to understand and some of these were made before we came here. None of us are authorize to govern day to day, only here and in executive session we are allowed to govern. We have to stop being an obstacle to that success.

Ms. Grant commented Superintendent Royal, would it be possible to send out an update weekly? It would have been nice to get an email at night. I had no idea about the PLA and didn't know it changed to Pawtucket Hope Academy. If we just did get updates so no one is hearing it from someone else. If told we're out there in the community and we have no idea I think it's something that could alleviate some of the emails coming in.

Mrs. Royal commented what frequency are you looking at? Right now, I'm updating monthly.

Ms. Grant commented like what I mean like the first day of school. The PLA isn't going to be open. The Pawtucket Teachers' Alliance has come up a lot and shared with us it's something we're very proud of and now we're a couple of weeks into school. If we could just get an update and help us understand more.

Ms. Carney commented thank you for this. I want to call out numbers. I'm going to silence other committee members examples, communicating with staff and asking to do things outside of their daily resources and making repeated requests. I think the Superintendent will be able to manage a newsletter. As a teacher, custodian, you spend your day in the classroom. Some have not even used the bathroom and are in the buildings at dinner time and when I'm looking at my inbox of 300 emails a day and going through all those. We have to hold ourselves with dignity and respect. I'm really hoping the best for this committee coming up. I'm really concerned for the disfunction of this school committee. I wish the best of luck to those coming in. I've found the Superintendent to be very responsive. I respect her time, position and the time to get back to me. Thank you.

b. Monthly Vendor Report

- c. Budget Transfer Report
- d. Enrollment Report

VI. Superintendent's Update

Mrs. Royal commented we had a very strong opening of the school year. Teachers, custodians, lunch workers were happy to see everyone, all of them, I got to see everyone. They're organized so thank you, teachers, staff and students. Thank you Ms. Carney. It takes a lot to make sure kids get home safely. Thank s to my staff and team.

I did want to do an update with the social workers and we did regulate how to spend those dollars. They did alleviate some of those barriers and are working on getting a new platform for our offices that can translate with those categorical funds. I'm bringing back social workers for both high schools and the MLL population and also bringing in additional guidance counselors. This will be the first time I'm able to bring in five (5) guidance counselors in elementary schools. Dr. Tate is working with that and providing additional supports in schools.

I was able to secure a Master Planner working towards future plans. Manuel Cordeiro, a wonderful guy. I look forward to working with his team.

Regarding the young lady who spoke right now we do meet guidelines for the amount of time in the classroom.

I want to say this school committee took me in as the first black Superintendent in this state and instilled with me your trust with your babies. I can't tell you how grateful I am. I have the hardest working staff, teachers, custodians and clerks. They are the hardest working people.

I walked through Pawtucket Hope Academy and met a young lady doing her internship. I came here because I want to work in this district. So, no matter what you hear in the paper, we have hard working people in this district. Those people want to be here. They love to be here. The Pawtucket Hope Academy is a lot better than RIAA. It opened slow because of the great needs of the students we need to serve. A lot of secondary were there too. When students come into the Pawtucket Hope Academy, it is a program, not a school. We're putting in a process to have students get to be successful in getting back with their peers and what it is they need to know to be successful. I think that's important because kids need to know what it is to be successful. I think it's a great opportunity for success. When we had the other program, our students had no credits. Now they will have those credits and be able to walk across the stage with their class.

Thank you for all your support.

VII. School Committee Members' Update

Mr. Chellel commented I want to welcome all the teachers back and wish you a successful school year.

Ms. Grant commented I'd also like to wish you all a successful school year. Good night.

Ms. Bonollo commented thank you and good evening.

Ms. Carney commented good night.

Ms. Fernandes commented good night.

Ms. Dube commented let's not forget those policies. Good night.

Mr. Charbonneau commented thank you and good night.

VIII. Adjournment

Ms. Fernandes moved to adjourn. 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 Chairman Mr. Charbonneau adjourned the regular meeting at 7:41 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Clerk

Approved 11/12/24