

Pawtucket School Committee Regular Meeting  
Jenks/JMW Complex for the Performing and Visual Arts Media Center  
350 Division Street, Pawtucket, Rhode Island 02860  
Tuesday, November 12, 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 meeting to order at 6:03 PM.

- a. Roll call

Ms. Bonollo-arrived at 6:12 PM; 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; Mr. Dale McGhee, Chief Financial Officer; Dr. Mark Andrade, Chief of Operations and Facilities; Mr. Diony Garcia, Legal Counsel; Ms. Holly Demers, Ms. Rose Gaitan, Colliers Project Leaders; Mr. Jonathan Levi, Jonathan Levi Architects and Mr. Gordon Zaniol, Shawmut Design and Construction.

- 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 informed the community of their recent and upcoming events.

III. Recognition

- Tolman Soccer Athlete

Superintendent Royal commented good evening everyone. I am truly honored to stand here today to celebrate an outstanding accomplishment by one of our own, Channel 10 Athlete of the Week, Moriah Stefanik, a 12<sup>th</sup>-grade student at Tolman High School. Moriah has set a new standard of excellence, becoming Tolman's first female soccer player to reach 100 goals! Moriah, your dedication, skill, and perseverance inspire your teammates, coaches, and all of us in the Pawtucket School District. You have proven that with hard work and determination, anything is possible.

Thank you, State Representative Leonela Felix, for recognizing Moriah with this citation. It's a testament to her impact on our community and a proud moment for Tolman High School. Congratulations again, Moriah, on this historic achievement. We are all so very proud of you!

IV. 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. Camron Segalla commented I just wanted to begin, not everyone knows me personally, as some may know I ran for Mayor. For me, school was everything. As someone who had a hard home life, I looked forward to the first day of school. History is very important. Sometimes I come to this podium and repeat things. First, I want to congratulate these incoming school committee members and I want to remind them they're here to represent this Pawtucket School Department, not the Pawtucket Teachers' Alliance. We voted you in and the community will be watching. I've spoke with many of them and trust you will serve this district well. If they choose to ignore us, we will remind you. I will also remind the teachers, you don't work for the Pawtucket Teachers' Alliance President. If he tells you to do something, you are under no obligation to listen.

I also want to thank the Superintendent. She hasn't been here long but has done so much. She's not only the first Afro American Superintendent in Pawtucket, but the first in Rhode Island. Let me make one thing very clear to incoming members. If you try to vote her out, I and a lot of others will do everything possible to vote you out. I will remind the incoming members we voted you in and we can vote you out.

V. Presentation:

- District Strategic Plan and Review

Superintendent Royal commented good evening. We want to present to you the Pawtucket School Department Strategic Plan. Every three (3) years we have to provide to RIDE our goals. I think a couple of meetings ago I provided a year in review. We just received our formal data today. We met with our principals whom we meet with once a month. All the things we do must align with the strategic plan. Also, I have my cabinet who will go over their department goals as well.

Mrs. Rabbitt commented good evening. I'm going to start off with the district priorities.

1. Safety and Culture

- We will provide a safe and nurturing environment for our students.
  - Safety is always a top priority in our schools.
  - Our culture must be inclusive of all. Our positive culture will lead to improved student engagement, academic achievement, teacher satisfaction and the overall climate of the learning environment.
2. Student Success
    - All students need to experience success in school. Student success include academic performance as well as cognitive, social emotional and physical well-being.
  3. Organizational Capacity
    - Our school department must have the capacity to provide all the supports needed for our schools to succeed.
  4. Financial Stability and Sustainability
    - We will use our financial resources to achieve our district goals. We will build programs and schools that are sustainable in the future.
  5. Infrastructure (Facility) Improvement
    - We have embarked on an exciting and accelerated infrastructure improvement plan. Thanks to this committee, we are committed to providing modern facilities for all students.

Mrs. Royal commented the District Strategic Plan is from 2023 to 2026 and we'll start with the English Language Arts. Dr. Tate will be providing the final part of the goals and data and the final part of the school year. So, we can visit classrooms, so we can collaborate on what a successful program is for our students. This Strategic Plan is located on the RIDE website.

Dr. Tate commented priority 1: English Language Arts

- Goal: The percentage of students meeting or exceeding expectations on ELA state assessments will increase to 26% by the end of the 2025-2026 school year. Initiative 1: Increase the instructional capacity of school administration; Initiative 2: Strengthen core instructional capacity for all teachers

Priority 2: Math

- Goal: The percentage of students meeting or exceeding expectations on Math state assessments will increase to 21% by the end of the 2025-2026 school year. Initiative 1: Increase the instructional capacity of school administration; Initiative 2: Strengthen core instructional capacity for all teachers.

Priority 3: Graduation Rate

- Goal: We will increase our graduation rate to 76% by the end of the 2025-2026 school year. Initiative 1: Improve school attendance rates through the establishment of school and district attendance teams; (We were recognized by Governor McKee for improved chronic absenteeism) Initiative 2: Improve the efficacy of the existing credit-recovery program; Initiative 3: Increase the percentage of students who earn one or more CTE credentials prior to graduation. Some of those students must be in those programs 3-4 years to achieve this. We put on them on a path to complete the CTE Program (pathway program).

Assessment Data:

Some will be a tough pill to swallow but we're moving on with some support. This is some of my team:

Randy Buck-Executive Director of Secondary Schools; Kimberly McCaughey-Executive Director of Elementary Schools; Ryan Wallace-Director of Curriculum; Rachael Moree-Director of Special Education; Ricardo Pimentel-Director of CTE; Karen Stern-Director of MLL; Mary Parella-Director of COZ and Francesca Dominique-Supervisor of Literacy. Supervisor of Literacy is new as well.

Proficiencies this is our data ELA 16.3% down to .9% within a margin of error. This could be due to attendance issues. This moved up just a little. 2019-2023 was during Covid. Proficiency means we have 16.3% proficient in ELA. 84% cannot read at grade level.

Math 17.5% proficient in math.

Mrs. Royal commented if you look back at pre-covid data 24% pre-covid. Math 17 pre-covid; 16.9%, 17.5% math has been stagnant throughout.

Dr. Tate commented proficiency by subgroup afro American; native American-not enough students in this category to get that data. Elementary we do have some celebratory schools, Cunningham. Curvin went from 18% to 26% in math. Little 23% to 25%; Varieur 43% to 54%; ;Winters 9.6% to 16.4%; Winters 13% to 21% and Winters in Math 13.5% to 21.5%. RICAS proficiency colored slide chart shown. Shea 2023 12.8% ELA to 18.2% increased. Shea was below 5% but at 5.1% now. Tolman went down from 24% to 23% and 5.8% to 5% but we can move that. Science JMW went down double digits in math, science and ELA. We have plans to make improvements

Mrs. Royal commented JMW has approximately 180 kids and one student can change the numbers drastically. We're looking at data. This is not the be all that ends all. There are social workers, mothers, fathers but these are the data points and they say it's only one test i.e. when students go to get their driver's license, join the armed forces or enter college. It's important we keep our students in skilled strategies. We're teaching the standards. We expect students to make at least one-year worth of growth.

Dr. Tate commented Slater was at 5.5% and now they're at 5.6%. They're working really hard. When you don't see data, they didn't have any. Slater has improved in science. Danielle is doing a great job. 22-23 72% so we're trying to move up.

#### Support, Initiatives & Programs:

- Implementation of School Instructional Priorities (progress monitoring and look fors)
- Targeted small group instruction
- Instructional Resource teachers
- Math Coaches for 9<sup>th</sup> grade (Shea & Tolman)-RIDE gave us
- Data Chats
- ILW (Instructional Learning Walks)
- MLL Social Workers and Guidance (including elementary school) – used MLL Categorical funds so we can take the load off the social workers
- Pawtucket Hope Academy-We're seeking a new director
- Marching Band
- CACD Partnership – After school Support including SEL Initiatives-after school support including SEL initiative so it's not all geared toward MLL

The marching band is up and running. I think they only have over 100 students and will perform at the Thanksgiving game. RIDE allowed us because they believe it will help our attendance. Change is very difficult sometimes and we are working towards progress.

#### Business Office:

Mr. McGhee commented good evening. This is one department where a lot is going on behind the scenes. Dale McGhee, Chief Financial Officer; Adam Olivere, Controller; Donald Solomon, Senior Accountant; Patricia Lithgoe, Accounts Payable; Bethany Blanchette, Accounts Payable; Selenia Colon, Payroll; Terri Fleury, Benefits; Erin Houle-Wilbur, Payroll; Linda Fontaine, Buyer; Pauline Tougas, Business Support.

Some initiatives you may not know about is a Protect Our Building Initiatives Building Sensor Solution Grant. I think it's very important to be proactive instead of reactive, i.e. pipes freezing before it becomes a bigger issue. There regular health insurance and Aflac as a supplemental option. Healthcare cost increase of 4.67%. We were able to offset 4% of that cost so less than 1% being passed on to everyone. We've starting monthly budget meetings with principals.

#### Technology:

Mr. Cristino commented we have me, Hersh Cristino, Chief Information and Innovations Officer; Paul Abbott, Systems Engineer; Ernie Morgan, Network Administrator; Kevin Duffy, Security; Sandra Simoes, Asset Manager; Kristen Conceicao, State Data Manager;

Melissa Williams, Technology Clerk; Donald Bradshaw, User Support Manager; Ruben Colon, Technician; Jason Oliveira, Technician; Brien Ramsey Technician and Chris Williams, Technician.

Paul Abbott and Ernie Morgan have been around awhile. Kristen is a State Data Manager to report all data to RIDE. Melissa Williams is the person who answers calls and routes appropriately. Donald Bradshaw is the User Support Manager who sets up accounts and disables them. Then we have the technicians who work between us and the City. A great addition to our department.

Continuity of Service: My biggest goal is to make sure we're never down. We try to put in things behind the scenes to prevent that from happening. It comes in network switches and is a continuous process. Security upgrades and we added many new cameras and doors. We are embarking on our phone upgrade. Cyber security, this is a big thing. The state and country have invested a lot in cyber security. We have to make sure staff and students know how to handle that.

It's been a while but we talked about our website and will do a little bit of revamp. New parent resources page and student's educator, new programs come out this week.

School Committee Policy Page: I want to thank Erin for her work and making it into multiple languages in the best way we can.

Analytics on our current page to see frequently visited pages and cross platforms.

Mr. Charbonneau commented what's the succession plan? Who's your direct replacement?

Mr. Cristino commented Paul Abbott.

Facilities:

Dr. Andrade commented good evening everyone. Thank you for the opportunity to share with you the Facilities Department's progress and ongoing work to create safe, welcoming, and inspiring learning environments across our district.

Since 2016, collectively, we've prioritized infrastructure improvements, with over 70 large-scale projects completed and another 15 currently in progress. Every one of our 16 schools have benefited from this investment in some way.

To give you a sense of the impact:

We've added new roofs to seven schools, with additional replacements scheduled for Varieur and Curtis next summer. These upgrades not only extend the life of our buildings but also improve energy efficiency. Safety remains a cornerstone of our work. We've completed over 15 fire and life safety upgrades, ensuring our schools meet the highest standards for fire suppression and code compliance. We've also upgraded lighting in 12 buildings to energy-efficient LED systems, which enhance visibility and reduce costs. And beyond infrastructure, we're creating spaces that enrich our students' educational experience. We've completed seven new media centers, adding modern resources for learning, and continue to renovate our new playgrounds, including Curtis and Cunningham.

Looking ahead, our current projects are progressing well. The Baldwin School is set to reach substantial completion by early summer, and the Unified High School project is advancing to schematic design, with demolition scheduled for March. We're committed to maintaining this momentum as we look forward to these and other improvements in the coming years.

These upgrades are more than just construction projects; they're part of our vision to ensure every child learns in an environment that's as supportive and high-quality as the education they receive.

Ms. Dube commented I know Hersh mentioned it I sat down on the Policy Committee to ensure continuity where I started a decade ago who started policy manual and Hersh came forward to make sure all future policies are online. My question is as we look at that data, I looked heavily at the statewide data and the state is on the exact same trend. Reading dipped and Math rose. It was almost uncanny on how we match the exact trend. Is there something we're missing about the tests?

Mrs. Royal commented when the Commissioner rolls out data, each district has their opportunity to address the core subjects. She had a lot of the data you're seeing across the Cities. We have to plan for more professional development and the other thing is

attendance and improving student and teacher attendance and those are the things we're working on for this district.

VI. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes, 9/11/24 and 10/15/24

Ms. Bonollo moved to approve the previous meeting minutes, 9/11/24 and 10/15/24. 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.

VII. New Business Discussion/Action Items

- a. Pawtucket High School – Approval to Submit Early Release Package #1 for the Demolition of McCoy Stadium and Early Sitework to the RIDE School Building Authority (SBA)

Ms. Demers commented hello everyone, it's so nice to see you. This is a milestone. This is the first thing to go to RIDE. In front of you is the demolition schedule and historically will start in June and the demolition in March.

Mr. Zaniol commented this includes immobilization including fence, trailers with utilities. The site number includes 30" sewer main that goes right through the building. To help move the schedule quickly, the utilities get disconnected. We set up temporary power and security cameras and prep ground and that's included in that package. We'll immobilize in February. It will take three months for the demolition, then three to four months to complete the ground work.

Ms. Demers commented we will come back in January before the demolition.

Ms. Dube moved to approve to submit the early release package #1 for the demolition of McCoy Stadium and early sitework to the RIDE School Building Authority for the Pawtucket High School. Mr. Chellel seconded.

Mr. Charbonneau commented once we have the demolition timeline we make sure it's out there publicly?

Ms. Demers and Mr. Zaniol commented yes.

Ms. Bonollo commented it's been on the news where all other districts are having issues with costs so they're changing their minds. Make us feel comfortable.

Mr. Zaniol commented other districts are seeing increases. Shawmut is in several of those communities and on budget and is working with Jonathan Levi. We see the data. We won't come to you for more money. We know we can't. The team has been incredible. We work together. I can't say we're going to be over budget.

Ms. Bonollo commented you don't see any delays in the future?

Mr. Zaniol commented we're executing the plan and we're moving ahead. Electrical is an issue. We're out in front of it and as long as we stay on that trend, we will make the schedule work.

Ms. Demers commented it's been a very cohesive group and this district has been involved in all aspects of it. We also are recognizing long waited items and are working on that.

Mr. Zaniol commented also, we're working with RIDE regularly. Some of these numbers are going to be very big.

Ms. Demers commented they're on board with CTE and propose not just construction. We need to move everything at the same time forward.

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. Colliers Project Leaders Contract Extension to Continue to Provide Project Management Services for the \$220M Bond and Capital Program of Projects

Mr. McGhee commented we are seeking to extend the contract with Colliers. They were original awarded the contract in 2019 and it was extended out to December, 2024 and they are currently working on projects and we're looking to extend the contract for another two years.

Mr. Chellel commented is this just for bond money?

Mr. McGhee commented you did it in 2019 and extended it in 2022. This will be all Capital Projects and bond.

Mr. Charbonneau commented if I may, I think one of the votes I'm most proud of casting is hiring Colliers nine years ago. The whole team I think you saw in the Superintendent's Strategic review the scope of projects done in those nine years. I think this committee has been very well served. As many times as they've been at that podium and we've hammered them, they've been true to this district.

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. Varieur Elementary School Roof Replacement: Design Review for RIDE Submission

Ms. Daikh commented good evening. We are pleased and honored to continue I think this is my last meeting before going on maternity leave. Mr. Philip Conte is here to give a brief presentation on the Varieur Elementary School Roof Replacement.

Mr. Conte commented the existing condition of the roof is at the end of its useful life. And in need of replacement. Down to the decking, roof drainage is very poor. Roof access is not ideal and there's no hazmat present. The design approach is an install built up roof system and vapor barriers installation. This will improve roof drainage by building up the roof edges to increase insulation value to increase the slope.

Ms. Bonollo commented on the drainage part, the drains are going down into the ground or school?

Mr. Conte commented it will go through the building underground. Nothing discharges on the site. All drainage is internal. We will relocate roof hatch and we'll work with design and go out to bid to do the roof next summer. We want to go out to bid in the winter to do the work in the summer.

Ms. Bonollo commented we ran into roof projects that became very problematic.

Mr. Chellel moved to approve the Varieur Elementary School Roof Replacement Design Review for RIDE submission. Ms. Dube 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.

VIII. Discussion Items:

- a. Monthly Vendor Report
- b. Budget Transfer Report
- c. Work Order Summary
- d. Enrollment Report

Ms. Dube commented the work order update, they seem high and I didn't know if we don't have the staff to handle it.

Dr. Andrade commented they are high due to some maintenance staff who support this work and are down half. We are hopeful once we solidified the contract we hope to free those positions.

Ms. Grant commented I'm assuming they're able to work overtime to get some of this work done?

Dr. Andrade commented we're trying to be as efficient as possible.

Ms. Grant commented could you provide us with an overtime report for the maintenance and custodians?

Mrs. Royal commented I don't have the ability to stop overtime. It's part of their contract.

Ms. Grant commented I think I meant are we offering them overtime to get the work done? If you don't have enough staff to offer it to.

Ms. Bonollo commented on the budget report we had before it's moved from one account to another and it doesn't show that. What is the contract special education? We're taking it from supplies and putting it in transportation?

Mr. McGhee commented at that time the transportation contract had not been uploaded. It's where we're finding that account.

#### IX. Superintendent's Update

Mrs. Royal commented this past Friday, November 8, 2024 I had the opportunity to attend the key spirit awards. One gentleman who was only in our country three months wrote a speech and I enjoyed every minute of it.

We have an upcoming community family night on 11/19 4:30 PM – 5:30 PM at Fallon and 6:00 PM -7:00 PM at Greene. We're looking forward to our families coming, Light refreshments will be provided.

Some committee members and myself had some site visits last Thursday at Shea/Varieur and Pawtucket Hope Academy. Kudos to our staff. We also had an opportunity see the art classroom and able to engage in the marching band at Shea. We're still looking for dancing skills for it. The art program is vitally important. We entertain our students' benefits 1) SEL process traumas, art education improves college scores and critical thinking about their own work and those of other problem-solving skills.. We applied for a grant and received an Arts Initiative Grant from RIDE to enhance our art program. I watched and heard the teacher talk about Disney Production. Rico applied for that grant and we did receive that. We've had it for four to five years.

Ms. Grant commented I think the concern is for the teachers. They were paid and wondering if that was also included in that.

Mrs. Royal commented I will have to check with Rico on that.

I also want to give a huge shout-out to the Shea High School Boys' Soccer Team for being selected for the RI Interscholastic League's High School Team of the Week and for winning the State Championship. Also, the Tolman High School Boys' Basketball Team for winning their second straight Donaldson Lynch Memorial Tournament and the Tolman High School Girls' Volleyball Team for winning the Division III State Championship.

#### X. School Committee Members' Update

Ms. Carney commented this is going to be one of my last few times I get to address everyone publicly so, I would like to thank everyone who originally had their faith and hope in me to do the best for the kids that voted for me to be part of this committee. And, all of my colleagues who have worked really hard. I couldn't be more proud of the Superintendent and her team. I hope that everyone knows the day in and day out work that are front and center and all of the hours it takes to build your team and all of the positive things that you bring to us every single meeting. As far as the test scores go, that was a hard pill to swallow. Between 2015 and 2019 we had made gains in ELA, we made gains in Math, we made gains in graduation requirements. From 2019 through 2023



it started to decline. We do follow state averages as Ms. Dube had stated. However, state and national averages also show that a student with an IEP or a disability is about 10 -15% of our students and again, students graduate every day and read above grade level and do math at or above grade level with an IEP. We have students who come to this country that take a little longer to learn English and perhaps grasp the curriculum, but we have had a student who after three months here write a speech. If you were to add those numbers together, we're looking at about 25% of the population that might inhibit or have barriers to their learning to have them read and write on grade level. That leaves us with 75% of the students who come to us every single day with no barrier. We have every single one of our schools is a Title I school. Every single school in this district faces poverty. Yet, we do have one school and I've heard other people ask along the way what makes the difference and I'll tell you I've learned firsthand. I used to walk through the school that had the highest reading rates in this district and there are papers posted on every classroom door that says teacher and student responsibilities. I've had other districts calling me asking me to sit in on professional learning communities because every teacher showed up on time with their data talked about how to deliver instruction to their students and every student matters' and they went out and they did it. It can be done. They would ask me as COO then, how can you not scale up your other schools. I said that's the biggest question. That's the million-dollar question, because not every person here is able to do that. It's instructional leaders that we want to offer for professional development and coaching too is the investment that you have complained about. It is about guidance counselors in elementary schools that you have pushed back on. So, when our teachers are not trained and our instructional leaders are not trained and we don't have guidance counselors in school, who else do we do we have left to blame but ourselves and in that classroom, teacher of record. So, when you say the closest of kids know better, then have them do better because my stomach hurts, that I still have less than 5% of my middle school students that still cannot read or write at grade level. It makes me angry that I have done this work myself as a teacher, as a curriculum director, as an instructional coach, as a school committee member and this still has gone backwards. Put that time and energy that you have pulling t-shirts out of the trunks of your cars and making signs and yes, I have had teachers tell me that they had to come under a call of arms from their union. That they had to show up. It was their expectation. You put that time and energy that you take to make into signs and put it into differentiating into your classroom and what your kids need every day and make that time valuable, then maybe we'll see an increase in our reading scores. Until then, while I'm not on this committee, I will be at that podium and I will be watching that data and I will be asking those same questions. So, the ones closest to the kids know best, do best. I pray and hope that we can have our students come back to where they were and be the best Pawtucket that we can be. Because your teachers also reported to according to a 2017 informative assessment that 75% or more of their kindergarteners were reading at or above grade level teacher reported data at the end of that year. What happened? We closed an emergency gap in 2017 in first graders by 40% in reading. What happened? That's my update. Thank you everyone for your support while I've been on this committee. I will continue to serve this community. I love these kids. I love the teachers. I love this team and I love them enough to continue to be angry about it. So, that's my piece and thank you and have a good night.

Ms. Fernandes commented this is my last opportunity, my last update? Today is another one of those tough days for me. I walked in here and it brought me back to a couple of years ago. The night that we voted for our Superintendent. I saw new school committee members here which I'm really happy to see. There was one who was up there already pointing fingers in our Superintendent's face. Disgusting. Disgusting and wouldn't even shake Mr. Segalla's hand for whatever reason. These are the people that this city voted in. I really, really hope and I heard someone on this committee, and I won't name names, someone on this committee who said, "well at least they'll be three (3) people of color on the committee. Great. But I want you to think of something. The same Mayor who uses the Cape Verdean people of this community to take pictures with and do photo ops and get his votes single handedly took out the one Cape Verdean in this City that sits on this school committee. So, I really hope our Cape Verdean population is paying attention. Why did that happen? Because I don't vote the way that people want me to vote. Just like the Teachers' Alliance. I didn't realize when I first ran that asking for an endorsement was like I was signing away my soul and if I didn't vote the way the Teachers' Alliance wanted me to vote, then they too, like the Mayor's office would blacklist me or whatever it is you all did, right, with your dirty schemes. So, I just really, really hope, I'm going to go back to that podium because you mentioned that podium. Because I'll be at that podium too. Let's talk about that podium that you were all so angry that I had the audacity to stand up there and point out the fact that we, let me remind all of you that we wanted to put forward a white principal who came from Westport with 1% of the population and never had worked in an urban school. That's who you guys wanted to interview as our Superintendent. Because I had the nerve to stand up there and stand up to all of you, the City Council decided to change the charter to put in a new ordinance to make it so you can't go up to the podium if you're on a committee. That's how this

City operates. You say something they don't like and they change an ordinance. Come on now. Come on. All of this and I know all of you are sitting out there thinking "oh no, this doesn't exist," and every time I hear someone bring up race, you say oh no, not here, not here. Let me tell you, I am disgusted to hear a teacher call a kid a nigger. Disgusted! So, you guys take that because this is what we're dealing with. It is not a secret. It is not a rumor in front of a room full of kids. Don't you dare stand up for that teacher! This is our city! I really hope, and I have nothing against you guys and I wish you all the luck and I am very sad that this city uses you guys to get you in here. I'm sure you are all wonderful guys and I wish you all the best. But don't sit up here and do what the Mayor tells you to do, what the Superintendent tells you to do, what Jim Chellel tells you to do. Do what is right for the kids because we've lost that. That is not what this committee is about and yes, I will remind you of one more thing. We have three (3) people of color now on our committee, but you guys remember the majority, 1, 2, 3, and then that Wildenhain who couldn't even shake someone's hand and had the nerve to sit and yell at the Superintendent. That's who this city voted in. So, all of you voters, all of you who live in this city, pay attention, pay attention! Disgusted! I couldn't even focus on this meeting thinking about the fact a teacher did this. Disgusted! Disgusted! I am sorry. Thank you, I'm done.

Ms. Bonollo commented so the Superintendent said a lot of what I wanted to say and that was congratulations to our sports' teams because they have over the past few years raised the bar in Pawtucket and come forward. I did go on the visitations at Shea, Varieur and the PHA. I was pleased with what I saw. Yes, do they need help in certain areas? Yes, they do. But, hopefully, there is a plan in place and I am looking forward to hearing more of what we do. PHA has approximately 23 students now but it didn't look fully staffed as far as a lot of teachers. So, I'm waiting for the day when it can be what was dreamed of. What we wanted it to be. I did meet their behavioral specialist and I was very pleased with what I saw. They actually took the time and made the room special for the kids that would be there for a time out or a relaxation period. So, I was really pleased with that to see a way for our students to remove the stress from their life and be able to focus on education and get back into a regular school. I was very happy with that. I did not hear about my great friend or the teacher who said that. That's not acceptable in anybody's book. It's just not. We are what we are. I'm white. You're black. But we are what we are. I was the one who said that we had people of color, and I didn't say we had people of color. I said we had a diverse committee which I meant was we have a Columbian coming in, we have a Dominican and we have a Puerto Rican and yes, they are people of color. But, it's diverse. They come from different places and they've learned different things. It's diverse and that is what I am looking forward to. This political season has been horrendous for most people in politics. It's been mean. It's been nasty. I've actually woken up for the fist time in 18 years and said do I really want to do this? This is something I enjoy doing, doing for the kids. Hopefully, things will get better and we will find a way to change. That's all. Good night.

Mr. Chellel commented in light of the temperature of this room I had many things to say especially, given this is one of our last meetings possibly with Committee Member Carney who I wanted to acknowledge working with you. But I'm going to cut everything short. I just want to acknowledge though because again, these jobs with everything on the outside that was brought up is about the children. I can't go without recognizing Tolman, the Tolman Girls' Volleyball Team. But personally, to me even though I don't have a favorite school, I'm a graduate of Shea High School, let's go Raiders, we are Shea High, for the Shea High Soccer Team to win the Division II State Championship. What an accomplishment! Good night.

Ms. Grant commented I'd like to echo Mr. Chellel. I was working Saturday night and a mom, she's a woman who I'd never met her, but she texts me and emails me quite a bit. She was so proud her daughter was on the volleyball team and she sent me a picture and she was very proud. To the soccer teams, we have some wonderful students in our district and they deserve the best. I think moving forward it would be nice, you know, if we could all come together a little bit more. You know, we do it for the kids and everyone supposedly does it for the kids. I know everyone at this table does it for the kids. Whether we disagree or don't disagree, I know everyone on the team does it for the kids. That's who we need to make sure is always at the forefront. We need to make sure, like when Ms. Rabbitt got up there about security and safety. These are people's children. We need to make sure they're safe here, they're treated with respect here, and then that they're also taught. They deserve that. Like all of us have that opportunity in our lives. I just want to say good night. I don't think we have another meeting until after the Thanksgiving day holiday. So, I do want to wish everyone a nice holiday and a small little break and we'll see you in December.

Ms. Dube commented so, we'll keep that December meeting nice and short then and so, I'll say my parting words now. I did want to say that when I came on this committee a decade ago, there were a majority of new members. I didn't realize at the time how lucky

that was because I realized we had a lot of growth to do. But essentially that majority coming on I do believe, was the reason that we made such accelerated and pointed facilities upgrades over the past decades. Because we could imagine that things could be different. You could say, "they lifted the moratorium" and everyone would have done it. But no other committee did in this state. No other committee seized that moment because they were used to doing things the way they were used to doing. They're not going to take on seven (7) big projects at one time. But we did and we moved aggressively to secure funds and that's why Pawtucket was ahead. Because we had new members that could imagine that it was possible. The committee was able to imagine that we could take on a six-year project to overhaul the policy manual. I might have been the Chair, but it was this committee that had to sit through policy after policy while members of this committee on three, four late nights of looking at policies and able to move that goal. I don't think it would have happened if it were a majority of people who had been on the committee before. So, this is the first time in a decade it's going to happen again. If my stepping aside is going to facilitate that, and it is. My stepping aside will facilitate that happening where they'll be four (4) new members on this committee. I think that means it is a potential for that growth to happen again. I say to those members that just think about what made you sign up to run. What made you decide that you wanted to get involved in this work because a lot can get in your head and a lot of voices can get in your head in the campaign process. As soon as you hit the ground here, you stay focused on the reasons you decided to run and continue to push those goals aggressively, I can tell you it is possible to get things done. It's just really important that you remember why you ran and stay true to that. So, those are my parting words.

Mr. Charbonneau commented good night everybody.

#### XI. Adjournment

Ms. Fernandes 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 regular meeting at 7:47 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Clerk