

Monday, May 14, 2018

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BRIDGEPORT BOARD OF EDUCATION, held May 14, 2018, at Bridgeport Regional Aquaculture Science & Technology Education Center, 60 St. Stephens Road, Bridgeport, Connecticut.

The meeting was called to order at 6:47 p.m.

Present were Chair John Weldon, Vice President Hernan Illingworth, Secretary Jessica Martinez, Joseph Sokolovic, Sybil Allen, Dennis Bradley, Ben Walker and Maria Pereira. Chris Taylor arrived subsequently as noted.

Supt. Aresta Johnson, Ed.D. was present.

RECOGNITIONS:

Three students(triplets) from John Winthrop School performed a song appropriate for Mother's Day. They were accompanied by ISS employee Frederick Golphin on guitar.

Dr. Johnson said Fairchild Wheeler Interdistrict Magnet School was honored as a national magnet school of excellence by Magnet Schools of America.

Dr. Victor Black said Fairchild Wheeler was a new venture in the district and is a thing that can showcase the opportunity for students and the ability of our kids. He said all three schools are recognized as schools of distinction and all three schools are certified by Magnet Schools of America until 2022.

Two Fairchild Wheeler students were honored for their first place finish in a AAA of America contest for their traffic safety video.

Mr. Weldon said Spanish translation services were available.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS:

Topacio Gomez, a freshman at Bassick High, reported on her school. Among the items she highlighted were a visit by 13 business students to New York, work on the new Bassick curriculum, last night's community event held by the PTSO, an upcoming bullying workshop, and the success of the dance team at an event in Maryland and Washington, D.C.

Alayjah Evans of Central reported on her school. Among the items she highlighted were the winners of March Madness attendance, the performance of the play "The Man Who Came to Dinner," the National Honor Society's blood drive, a recent talent show, AP testing and student Carlos Guzman's success in the state science fair.

Emily Nivello reported on all three Fairchild Wheeler schools. Among the items she highlighted were the senior prom at the Waterview, the June 1st exhibition day, today's awards assembly, an upcoming National Honor Society ceremony and the second annual play. A NASA engineer visited the school on April 27th to discuss pathways to becoming a NASA engineer. She also highlighted recent scholarship awards.

Damarus Seda of Harding High reported on her school. She highlighted a recent rigorous week of testing, the progress of spring sports, and May 15th's freshman orientation.

Nathaniel Perez, a junior at Harding, noted the upcoming prom on May 24th at the Omni Hotel and said Ms. Seda was crowned the Barnum Festival queen. He added Sheena Graham, a music teacher, was selected as the Harding teacher of the year.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Gary Peluchette, president of the Bridgeport Education Association, spoke in opposition to a proposed workshop by Educators for Excellence. He said the group is backed by conservative corporate reformers. He said the founders of the organization do not hold teaching certifications. He added the organization backs merit pay and the elimination of recognizing years of service in a reduction of force. He said the Connecticut Education Association provided many free services this year to teachers.

Alexis Young spoke in favor of retaining the name of Harding High. She said she didn't realize it was left up to the board to vote on this. She said a lot of people have come from Harding and done great things.

Chris Cannon said he went to Harding High with Ms. Pereira. He urged the students and alumni be allowed to decide the name of the school. He said he went to Harding for five years and stayed back on purpose for one year because he loved the school.

Carolyn George, a Faith Acts member and a mother, thanked John DiDonato and his department for meeting with her and her son and getting the best resources for him.

Marge Hiller congratulated Ms. Seda, the new Barnum Festival queen. She said the Inspiration event last week was a tremendous success. Charmaine Worthy was honored for her dedication at Tisdale School. Two teachers were chosen as Baird outstanding teachers and will receive \$20,000.

Kayon Legg, a parent and Faith Acts member, thanked the board for changing from what it was previously known for. She hoped the board would push through issues and show a united front. She said kids were precious gifts from God and we need to protect them.

Patrick Dixon said he did not want the Harding name to be a racial or color situation. He said racism and color, and Mr. Harding, did not educate students at Harding High. He said the teachers are not getting paid enough. He added there was too much negativity, too much separatism and too much hate. He questioned why the board gets to decide 94 years of Harding history.

Laurayne Farrar-James, a member of the naming committee for the new high school, said she was a 1943 graduate of Harding High. She said the seven members of her household who came out of Harding never had a moment when they were proud of that name. She described Harding as one of the worst individuals to set foot in the White House. She said she was here to promote Lillian Whiting Hamilton, who attended Bridgeport High School at the turn of the

century as one of the few African-American graduates, and later became a teacher. She also described the removal of a statue from Central Park of J. Marion Sims, a gynecologist who performed experiments on black slave women with no anesthesia. She claimed Warren Harding raped twelve black women according to social media reports.

Steve Karjanis, a retired social worker in the district for 21 years, noted a newspaper story about a judge ruling on a school bullying case. He said people have been in denial about these types of problems. He questioned whether the education and safety of the children was getting better. He said action was needed for the children. He said the Leadership Group was dismantled despite the fact that it helped hundreds of students.

Tammy Bogdanyi said she found the chair's comments about the behavior of the public during public speaking hypocritical because certain board members can speak to parents in a degrading, disgusting, filthy way. She said she received an e-mail on April 30th from a particular board member. She then read the e-mail, which accused her of living in filth, allowing her sons to run the streets, being morbidly obese, and cheating public housing and welfare. Ms. Bogdanyi said, contrary to the claims in the e-mail, she had volunteered months and years of her time on behalf of parents and students.

Albert Benejan, the PTSO president at Bassick High, said the Parent Convention would be held on May 30. He said it would be an amazing event, pointing out the workshops that will be held. He said the recent event at Bassick celebrated teachers and other staff members at the school. He said there had to be a new Bassick High similar to Harding and Roosevelt. He thanked Mr. Bradley for a recent donation to the Parent Convention.

Crystal Mack said Ms. Bogdanyi was one of the finest parents she had worked with. She said bullying was out of control and the children need people they can identify with. She said there were not enough Latinos, black women or black men in the schools. She urged Mr. DiDonato and Dr. Johnson to keep up the fine work.

APPROVAL OF BOARD MINUTES:

Ms. Pereira moved approval of the minutes of the Special Meeting of April 16, 2018, with an edit. The motion was seconded by Mr. Walker and approved by a 6-0 vote. Voting in favor were members Weldon, Sokolovic, Illingworth, Martinez, Allen, and Bradley. Mr. Walker and Ms. Pereira abstained.

Ms. Pereira moved approval of the minutes of the Regular Meeting of April 23, 2018. The motion was seconded by Mr. Walker. Two corrections were noted. The motion was approved by a 7-0 vote. Voting in favor were members Weldon, Sokolovic, Illingworth, Martinez, Allen, Pereira and Bradley. Mr. Walker abstained.

Mr. Sokolovic moved approval of the minutes of the Special Meeting of April 27, 2018. The motion was seconded by Mr. Walker. Two corrections were noted. The motion was unanimously approved.

Mr. Sokolovic moved approval of the minutes of the public hearing of April 30, 2018. The motion was seconded by Mr. Walker. Ms. Pereira said she had to abstain because, although she was referred to as a coward, she was at a P & Z public hearing fighting the zoning changes allowing liquor stores within 750 feet of our schools. The motion was approved by a 7-0 vote. Voting favor were members Weldon, Illingworth, Martinez, Bradley, Allen, Sokolovic and Walker. Ms. Pereira abstained.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:

Mr. Weldon said he appointed three board members of the selection committee for legal services: himself, Mr. Illingworth and Ms. Martinez. He said the proposals came in last week. He said he understood there was an intention to make an award before the end of June.

Ms. Pereira said there was an ad hoc committee working on legal expenses. She said Mr. Weldon did not appoint a single member of that committee to the selection committee. Mr. Weldon said this committee is evaluating proposals

COMMITTEE REPORTS/REFERRALS:

Mr. Weldon said Ms. Allen has been reassigned from the Finance Committee to the Governance Committee. He said within the School Building Committee Ms. Martinez has been made the regular member and Mr. Taylor is the alternate member.

Ms. Pereira asked the committee chairs who send agenda items for the regular agenda to clarify that the items should be placed under committee reports, not Old Business or New Business.

Mr. Walker said the Teaching & Learning Committee would next meet tomorrow.

Mr. Illingworth said the Personnel Committee met recently and interviewed two candidates for principal at Columbus School and made a recommendation. He said the civil service testing for custodian was discussed and the city has agreed to do the testing. He said initially the committee was told that the testing would be open to everyone, but when the posting was made it was advertised for only provisional employees currently in the Custodian I position. He said the testing is scheduled for May 31st.

Mr. Illingworth said we need to have outside candidates and follow the law when it comes to civil service testing.

Ms. Pereira said limiting the test to current employees is not an option because the city charter indicates it must be open to everyone.

Dr. Johnson said she e-mailed Mr. Dunn about the matter and has not received a response yet. She said she shared the concern that the test be open so there are enough candidates who pass the test.

Mr. Illingworth moved that item A under Old Business, discussion and possible action on substitute services RFP, and item E under New Business, discussion and possible action on superintendent's annual evaluation, be considered next. The motion was seconded by Ms. Pereira and unanimously approved.

Mr. Illingworth said the committee members who sat on the substitute

services RFP were Marlene Siegel, Frank Chester, Chris Mitchell, Elizabeth Maurer, Principal Luisa Wolf and two teacher representatives. The three bidders were Delta, Kelly Educational Staffing and Source 4 Teachers.

Mr. Illingworth said the committee recommended Kelly Educational Staffing. He said even though the pricing is a little higher with Kelly, Mr. Chester described the strengths of the company. Mr. Illingworth said he found the screening process, including face-to-face interviews, by Kelly to be an important feature.

Dr. Johnson said since the process took place take Source 4 Teachers reached out to her and Ms. Siegel and offered to reduce their rate.

Ms. Pereira said Source 4 Teachers went through a merger and didn't notify the board of it. She said this is the company that hired a teacher at Harding who did not have the legal authority to work in the United States and sexually assaulted students in his classroom.

Ms. Pereira said there were five bidders and by far Kelly Educational Staffing was the best, especially their focus on recruiting minority substitute teachers.

Marlene Siegel, chief financial officer, said the rates reviewed by the board are not the final rates and are subject to negotiation. Ms. Pereira noted the principals and the teachers rated Kelly as the top bidder. She added Kelly has committed to a 97 percent fill rate. Ms. Siegel said the current provider was around 88 percent.

Mr. Illingworth said the committee voted unanimously to authorize the administration to go into contract negotiations with Kelly Services. He apologized to board members for not submitting information in the board packet and said it was kind of unfair to ask them to make a decision on something without information. Ms. Pereira noted that every board member received every bid submission electronically.

Ms. Siegel said she coordinated the process and was able to provide any information needed.

Ms. Pereira moved *“to authorize the administration to negotiate a contract with our selected provider for substitute services, Kelly Educational Staffing Solutions.”* The motion was seconded by Ms. Martinez and unanimously approved.

Mr. Taylor arrived at the meeting.

Mr. Illingworth said the committee met to establish a timeline to conduct the superintendent’s evaluation. He said the superintendent decided to use a rubric that has eight domains, which are very detailed and specific. The committee suggested one meeting be held where the superintendent gives the board information and supporting documents on the first four domains on June 28th; July 2nd would cover the remaining four domains. On July 26th, the board members would present their ratings in executive session. Any board member that decides to rate the superintendent 1, 2 or 4 must have supportive detail. The chair would then average the ratings in each domain.

Mr. Illingworth said on August 9th the board will meet with the superintendent and deliver the evaluations.

Dr. Johnson said her preference would be to present all eight domains on June 28th. Ms. Pereira said it was a lot of ground to cover in one meeting. Mr. Illingworth said he had concerns about handling everything in one long meeting.

Ms. Martinez moved *“to move forward with the timeline that we had suggested in committee.”* The motion was seconded by Mr. Illingworth.

Ms. Martinez said after a few hours the board turns into exhausted little children and she wanted to make sure we have enough time and bandwidth to go through the process.

The motion was unanimously approved.

Mr. Taylor apologized for being tardy due to a personal matter. He acknowledged the Bridgeport Military Academy for their honor guard duty at a memorial presentation.

Mr. Taylor said he did not have a report from the Facilities Committee.

In response to a question, Mr. Taylor said the discussion at the committee level about the issues raised by Make the Road students was exploratory for Mr. Lischner and Mr. Polotowski to work together.

Ms. Martinez reported on the Finance Committee meeting of last week. She said we are on target for the 2017-18 budget. She said there was also discussion of the 2018-19 budget.

Ms. Martinez moved that Items B, C and D under New Business be handled next. The motion was seconded by Mr. Illingworth and unanimously approved.

Ms. Martinez moved *"to pass the draft RFQ for the E-Rate vendor as revised and reviewed."* The motion was seconded by Mr. Illingworth.

Ms. Pereira said she had several questions since it was not discussed in committee.

In response to a question, Jeffrey Postolowski, ITSC director, said the RFQ indicates the district has 23,000 computers, but the district has about 44,000 devices, which includes access points, printers and other items.

In response to a question, Dr. Johnson said the enrollment figures as to where the district ranks statewide fluctuates. When the RFQ was written, the district was the second-largest in the state.

In response to a question, Ms. Siegel said the district match for the E-Rate in Category 1 funding is \$430,921.32 and in Category 2 the district's share is \$46,239.60. Ms. Siegel said Category 1 covers voice services and the E-Rate percentage in this category has been consistently declining and will eventually reduce to zero.

Mr. Postolowski said this pays for our telephone and fiber services. He said our goal is to have all those services off our books by the time E-Rate reimbursement is eliminated. He said traditional telephone lines are being replaced by phones that operate over the

Internet, a process which is taking place in every corporation and school district.

In response to a question, Mr. Postolowski said the evaluation criteria for the RFQ was created based upon what the district had done in the past and what other districts have done through best practices.

Ms. Pereira said when the board selected Shipman & Goodwin responders to the bid had to have high-level management and attorneys who were minorities. She said the board should consider as part of the evaluation of its contracts that points be awarded for minority high-level employees.

The motion was unanimously approved.

Ms. Martinez moved *"to pass the resolution for schools and libraries universal services(E-Rate) for 2011-19."* The motion was seconded by Mr. Illingworth.

Ms. Pereira moved *"to amend the motion to approve the E-Rate board resolution authorizing Chair Weldon to sign the required document."* The amendment was seconded by Ms. Martinez and unanimously approved.

The motion as amended was unanimously approved.

Ms. Martinez moved *"to approve the Xerox proposed amendment to existing agreement."* The motion was seconded by Mr. Illingworth.

Ms. Pereira said the matter was voted down in the committee and a second motion to vote it through cannot be done. She said someone on the prevailing side has to make a motion to reconsider.

Ms. Pereira said this contract has consistently not gone out to bid. She noted the contract is worth \$1.1 million per year. She said she didn't know why anyone would ever be opposed to going out to bid.

Ms. Martinez said the committee did not get a detailed overview before making a hasty decision. She said she has met with Ms. Siegel who provided her with further information. She noted the

district is in year three of a five-year contract with Xerox. She said under the proposed extension the entire district would get new equipment and save up to \$60,000.

Ms. Martinez said she unfortunately felt rushed in committee, but said she did not understand what we had before us. She said according to Section M of the state contract the contract can be extended.

Ms. Siegel said it was a state contract covered by Article M of the city ordinance. She said when it is done with the approval of the purchasing agent, the state contract can be used because the state has already engaged in the bidding process for the lowest possible pricing and then we negotiate even better pricing.

Ms. Pereira said the city charter says only a three-year contract or a two-year contract with a one-year extension can be given. Ms. Siegel said the state contract can be used because the bidding has already been done and state contracts can be used for any length of time with approval the purchasing agent.

Ms. Pereira said the contract had not gone out to bid since Ms. Siegel had been in the district. Ms. Siegel said the district is three years into the existing agreement, so there is no question of going out to bid. She added Xerox is offering brand-new equipment for every school and the Paper Cut management technology, which will help reduce paper waste in the district. She said it is critical at a time of fiscal austerity to take advantage of this opportunity.

Ms. Pereira said Ms. Siegel's high-end projection of \$66,000 savings was not significant on a \$2.2 million contract. Ms. Siegel said it was highly significant because it includes new equipment.

Mr. Bradley said he doesn't like siding with Ms. Pereira, but she has a point. He said we lose nothing by presenting that offer to a competitor and putting it out to bid.

Mr. Sokolovic said we stand to lose the use of the new equipment for two years. Mr. Bradley said no company is going to walk away from the district and everybody has to negotiate.

The motion was approved by 7-1 vote. Voting in favor were members Illingworth, Weldon, Martinez, Bradley, Sokolovic, Walker and Taylor. Ms. Pereira was opposed. Ms. Allen abstained.

Ms. Martinez said the next Finance Committee meeting would be June 13th. She said all the committee meetings going forward will be at 6:00 p.m.

Mr. Sokolovic reported on the Students & Families Committee. The committee met on May 10th.

Mr. Sokolovic said magnet school policies were once again discussed and once again are not ready for the full board. The committee is seeking information with regard to intradistrict school policies. He said two of three committee members may prefer to follow the state standards for interdistrict schools, but one member wishes the intradistrict policies to remain as they are. He said the issue needs to be brought before the full board for meaningful debate.

Mr. Sokolovic said the questions that need to be answered are: Is it legal for an independent, local school board to have its own policy for intradistrict schools which have entrance and deselection criteria? And is it allowable for local school boards to have intradistrict entrance and deselection criteria and also have a lottery process?

Mr. Sokolovic said a presentation was made to the committee pertaining to a new program at Bassick High and its integration in the plans for a new Bassick, consisting of three tracks: advanced manufacturing and automotive; construction and technology; culinary arts. He said the Bassick team would report to the board at the next regular meeting.

Mr. Sokolovic said the status of the 46th annual Parent Convention was presented to the committee. Nearly everything is in place. He said it was concerning that less than 55 parents had signed up so far. He said he was still waiting to hear phone blasts on the subject.

Mr. Sokolovic said all PAC/PTSO elections are complete and the information is mostly updated. Results are still being awaited from Bryant School. He said there has been some improvement in

membership with real concern remaining in only three or four schools.

In response to a question, Mr. Sokolovic said he could provide the updated document to the board members.

Mr. Sokolovic said the next item discussed was the expenditure of Title I funds. He said on a districtwide basis the district is exceeding the minimum one percent threshold for family engagement. An area of concern is the \$7 per pupil allocation for parent engagement at the school level. There are eight schools spending less than 75 percent of its allocation. Total unexpended funds at all schools total about \$22,000. He said this represents lost opportunities for family engagement.

Mr. Sokolovic said the committee will be requesting quarterly financial reports beginning in the 2018-19 school year. He said staff should look at the best practices of the twelve schools that spent over 99 percent of their Title I and family engagement dollars.

Mr. Sokolovic said a discussion on new strategies for family engagement included a great student suggestion to create a more welcoming environment in the high schools at the beginning of the day. Another idea was to have parent leaders speak to the importance of family engagement in their children's education at orientation for new students and parents.

Mr. Sokolovic said the next committee meeting will be on June 14th.

Ms. Pereira said she was concerned because the board had not received the biography of the speaker at the Parent Convention. She said the person had no degree or certification in bullying. Mr. Sokolovic said he believed he received a small biography.

Ms. Martinez said it was not our job to micromanage the process of the parents. Ms. Pereira said the board manages Title I funds with the parents. Ms. Martinez said the speaker was highly credible and certified. Ms. Pereira said the speaker last year made many false and inaccurate statements.

Mr. Sokolovic said he received a small biography a few days ago and

did not forward it. He said he would now forward it to the entire board.

Mr. Walker said the pathways proposed for Bassick include several disciplines, including medical. He said there would be a similar discussion at the Teaching & Learning Committee tomorrow night.

Ms. Pereira referred the end of year bullying report to the Students & Families Committee meeting. She said the year prior the social work director told us there were zero incidents and last year 28 were reported. She said this is the fourth year in a row we are looking for this information.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORTS/AGENDA:

Dr. Johnson said the state Department of Education gave the district an opportunity to apply to for a federal grant that has been submitted. It is for students who came into the district as a result of Hurricanes Irma, Harvey and Maria and the 2017 wildfires in California.

Dr. Johnson said on May 7th the Tauck Foundation interviewed the district and its partners for our second round of the social-emotional grant application.

Dr. Johnson said three of the four Educators for Excellence ceremonies for the Bridgeport Higher Education Alliance have been held at Sacred Heart, Fairfield University and Housatonic Community College. The University of Bridgeport event is upcoming

Dr. Johnson said the grandparents' luncheon was held on May 11th.

Dr. Johnson said BMA will graduate on June 22 at the University of Bridgeport. The other graduations will take place at Kennedy Stadium on June 22. She said the high school principals, along with herself and support staff, walked Kennedy Stadium to look at the grounds and the parking situation after the renovation. Tickets have been made in the event the ceremony has to be relocated inside Central High.

Dr. Johnson said on May 31st the comprehensive high schools will be engaged with the police department and community partners on a film "Walking While Black: Love is the Answer" and a back-and-forth dialogue between students and the police.

Ms. Pereira moved approval of personnel items I to V. The motion was seconded by Ms. Martinez.

Ms. Pereira said Dr. Johnson highlighted in the District at a Glance the Relay graduate school of education. Dr. Johnson said it was a fast track to certification.

Ms. Pereira said many teachers are opposed to it because this allows certification without going through the same rigorous process they used to become teachers.

Dr. Johnson said seven to ten people showed up for the informational session. Two paraprofessionals nominated by their principals met the criteria; the others did not because the criteria is quite rigorous. She said this was a great opportunity to cultivate our own.

Ms. Pereira said our students need the most qualified people, not less qualified people. Dr. Johnson said we want to keep people in the district. She noted there is also a Connecticut Alternate Route to Certification(ARC) as another example of what the Relay program is attempting to do.

Dr. Johnson said he knew many fine teachers who had gone through the ARC process, which has been available for many years, at least since 1999. She said she did not believe teachers in Relay were less qualified; they are non-tenured for four years and have to go through a rigorous evaluation process. She noted Relay is a new program approved by the Connecticut Department of Education.

Ms. Pereira said the Relay program was just passed last year and there was major opposition from the superintendents' association and teachers.

Dr. Sheila Kearney, who has a doctorate in education and is a former teacher, said she was part of the state minority teacher recruitment

efforts. She said the program is oriented towards people looking to change their careers and they often are aides who have worked in the classroom for fifteen or twenty years.

Mr. Walker said most, if not all, participants in the ARC program have four-year degrees. He said the Relay program has some good in it in recruiting minority teachers, but also bad because there is no degree requirement. He said there is quite a bit that is part of a four or five-year teaching degree that is skipped. He compared it to somebody who was assisting in surgery for three or four years being handed the scalpel. He said there are other ways that things like this can be accomplished. He said there are districts all over the country that are laying off teachers who are qualified.

Dr. Kearney said in no way does this diminish the qualifications to be in a classroom.

Ms. Martinez said the Commissioner of Education is working on changing the regulations and the certification process to recruit more minority teachers in Connecticut. She said her son had been blessed with great teachers, including a TFA teacher who was very innovative. She said things were going to change for all teachers in the future.

Dr. Johnson said the two individuals who will go forward in the program are not guaranteed to be hired.

Mr. Sokolovic noted some subject areas are easy to recruit teachers for, while others are hard. He asked if the program would be limited to shortage areas.

Dr. Johnson said one criteria for participants is a grade point average, but she would have to get further information from human resources. Dr. Kearney said a four-year college degree would be required. Dr. Johnson said one of the candidates is pursuing secondary certification and one is pursuing elementary education.

Ms. Pereira said we should not water down qualifications and she would not support any teacher candidate who came through the Relay program because urban districts need the most qualified

teachers. She asked that information on such candidates, like TFA, be supplied to the board.

The motion on the consent agenda was unanimously approved.

OLD BUSINESS:

The next item was discussion and possible action on the T-Mobile contract.

Dr. Johnson said at the Facilities Committee she was asked to bring the contract to the board.

Ms. Pereira said she was concerned because the option period was changed from a year to six months and now the school would receive only \$1,000 a month during the six months.

Dr. Johnson said that was an increase from the original option terms of \$100 per year. She said the renewal period calls for \$6,000 payments every six months for 18 possible months.

Ms. Pereira said this is them purposely trying to take the space off the market and the board getting shortchanged.

Dr. Johnson said we have reached out to competitors to T-Mobile to see if there is any interest. She said the numbers were revised with Shipman & Goodwin to be much more aggressive than in the prior draft created with the city attorney's help.

Dr. Johnson said the payments have been raised by \$35,000 to \$48,000 per year, with a three percent increase on an annual basis.

Ms Pereira said she wanted to make sure if the company needed access to the roof that they were paying a hundred percent of the custodial and security guard costs. Dr. Johnson said that was added to the contract.

Dr. Johnson said the termination period was revised from 30 days to 60 days. Language was removed that T-Mobile could cancel for any

reason or no reason. Language for penalties has been added if they default. There are also provisions on payment of taxes, if necessary.

Dr. Johnson said the assignment provisions give the district the right to agree to change in the tenant.

Dr. Johnson said there has to be an agreement as to who signs off on the contract with regards to the city and the board's ownership of the building.

Dr. Johnson said one portion of the Hallen roof was replaced in 2000 and another portion is 35 years old.

Mr. Taylor said his concern was who gets the check. He says he grows frustrated trying to do business with non-business persons. He said the FCC selected the location for the frequency. He said the location is worth about \$250,000 a year.

Mr. Taylor said he can't figure out why it hasn't been put out to bid or the \$250,000 demanded. He said he was baffled by the whole process.

In response to a question, Dr. Johnson said \$1,800 in legal fees had been incurred with Shipman & Goodwin.

In response to a question, Dr. Johnson said T-Mobile would not have the right to sublease the location and a sentence read by Mr. Sokolovic would have to be stricken. She said she would get back to the board with further clarification.

Dr. Johnson said in the revised document T-Mobile would have to put up their own meter for utility costs.

In response to a question, Dr. Johnson said further information is needed from the insurance carrier on the insurance provisions.

In response to a question, Dr. Johnson said both the tenant and landlord are named insureds.

In response to a question, Dr. Johnson said the board needed to be cognizant of the fact that there could be some environmental issues on the older side of the roof.

In response to a question, Dr. Johnson said Mr. Postolowski reached out to the other large mobile carriers and we are hoping to have additional information back from their senior leadership teams to generate some interest.

Ms. Pereira asked why this came to the board if it had not been approved by the committee.

Dr. Johnson said she was asked at the Facilities Committee to present information to the board.

Ms. Martinez moved to table the item. The motion was seconded by Ms. Pereira and unanimously approved.

NEW BUSINESS:

The next item was discussion and possible action on supporting a black teachers' forum to address issues in education and other topics.

Ms. Martinez said this was item that Mr. Peluchette spoke about. She said she was disheartened to hear him disparage an organization that has been beneficial to the district. She said union teachers are leading this event with the support of an organization. She said when she ran for the board she advocated using non-profit organizations and resources surrounding us. She added that she would be part of the convention.

Ms. Martinez asked the three teachers in the audience to address the board

Denisse Garcia, a first grade bilingual teacher at Columbus School, said she had been in the district for two years. She urged the board to support the forum on the expanded teacher's role out of the classroom.

Ms. Garcia said she was a Hispanic woman who understands how her role extends outside the classroom. She said she is able to communicate with her parents because of the lack of language barriers. She said as a union member she was disheartened by the e-mail that was sent discouraging teachers from attending the event on May 23rd. She said educators of color have the responsibility to advocate for policies that affect us and our students. She encouraged members of the board to attend the symposium and to write a letter in support of the event.

Ms. Martinez said Pastor and Teacher Eric Torres from Tisdale School will be the keynote speaker.

Ryan Brown, a 7th grade math teacher at Read School, said he fights for his students inside and outside of the classroom. He spoke in favor of enhancing teacher diversity. He said teachers should have every opportunity to grow and learn more. He said research shows students of color benefit greatly when they learn from teachers who reflect their background and experiences. He said as an African-American teacher he knows his profession needs to diversify and it needs to happen now.

Mr. Illingworth said it had always bothered him people get too personal and we start to judge people on certain organizations that they want to work with. He said these are our union teachers, they're not outcasts. He said maybe the union leadership should ask them why they chose to go this route. He said he was not going to this event for the name, but for the work that our teachers, BEA members, want to put together.

Mr. Illingworth said he apologized on behalf of the district that they have to be treated that way.

Katerina Bucheli, a Spanish teacher at Harding High, said she was a proud TFA teacher. She said she had wonderful relationships with her kids. She said her heart and passion was in the school, which is something she hasn't seen from other teachers. She urged the board support the Expanding the Teacher's Role Outside of the Classroom event. She said she came to this country from Ecuador and knows the importance of diversity in the classroom.

Ms. Pereira noted two of three teachers who spoke were TFA teachers. She said everything Mr. Peluchette said about this organization was factual.

Mr. Weldon said he didn't want to be berating our teachers. He asked if there was any action being requested.

Ms. Pereira said Educators for Excellence was founded by non-certified TFA teachers and funded by white millionaires and billionaires like Bill Gates who are anti-union and in favor of merit pay. She added that when this organization held a forum Supt. Rabinowitz was totally opposed to going and would only meet with them on professional development.

Ms. Pereira said TFA teachers are required to be union members under the contract. She said the white millionaires and billionaires did not care about our kids.

There was much crosstalk at this point among the board members. Ms. Pereira said she was being interrupted when she had the floor.

Ms. Martinez moved "*that items G through J be tabled until the next meeting.*" The motion was seconded by Mr. Taylor. The motion was approved by a 7-2 vote. Voting in favor were members Weldon, Illingworth, Martinez, Walker, Taylor, Allen and Bradley. Mr. Sokolovic and Ms. Pereira were opposed.

Ms. Martinez moved the meeting be adjourned. The motion was seconded by Mr. Taylor.

Ms. Martinez said she said would support the event and write a letter of support.

The motion was unanimously approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

John McLeod

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