

MINUTES OF THE PATERSON BOARD OF EDUCATION WORKSHOP MEETING

June 1, 2016 - 6:45 p.m.
Administrative Offices

Presiding: Comm. Chrystal Cleaves, Vice President

Present:

Dr. Donnie Evans, State District Superintendent
Ms. Eileen Shafer, Deputy Superintendent
Sidney Sayovitz, Esq., General Counsel

Comm. Oshin Castillo
Comm. Jonathan Hodges
*Comm. Errol Kerr
Comm. Lilisa Mimms

Comm. Nakima Redmon
*Comm. Flavio Rivera
Comm. Kenneth Simmons

Absent:

Comm. Christopher Irving, President

The Salute to the Flag was led by Comm. Cleaves.

Comm. Mimms read the Open Public Meetings Act:

The New Jersey Open Public Meetings Act was enacted to insure the right of the public to have advance notice of, and to attend the meetings of the Paterson Public School District, as well as other public bodies at which any business affecting the interest of the public is discussed or acted upon.

In accordance with the provisions of this law, the Paterson Public School District has caused notice of this meeting:

**Workshop Meeting
June 1, 2016 at 6:30 p.m.
Administrative Offices
90 Delaware Avenue
Paterson, New Jersey**

to be published by having the date, time and place posted in the office of the City Clerk of the City of Paterson, at the entrance of the Paterson Public School offices, on the district's website, and by sending notice of the meeting to the Arab Voice, El Diario, the Italian Voice, the North Jersey Herald & News, and The Record.

Moment of Silence for those who lost their lives in the military

PRESENTATIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS

Dr. Evans: I have only one item tonight and it's Resolution No. 7 under "Resolutions for a Vote at the Workshop Meeting." The item specifically is a request for approval of the award of a contract for Prescription Plan insurance to Benecard Services, LLC for the

period between July 1, 2016 and June 30, 2017, at the prices and other terms set forth in the FI Marketing Analysis. I'm going to call on Mr. Bob Murray to come and provide an overview of that item for the Board.

Mr. Robert Murray: Thank you, Dr. Evans, Madam President and Commissioners. The change that is part of this resolution moves from Express Scripts to Benecard for the forthcoming year. Fundamentally, it is different because Express Scripts is a third party administrator. That means that essentially the Board pays for those costs for insurance and the use of the program and it would be what's commonly called an excess insurance policy, a stop loss policy. Think of the old Lloyd's of London, someone that guarantees beyond a certain amount of payment. Benecard is an insurance program where it's premium based. The increase in the Benecard program as compared to the cost to the district in 2015-16 is approximately 5%. Based upon the industry statistics and the reports that we have from the consultants and brokers for the district, Conner Strong, 15% is a more standard yearly increase. The increase for Paterson with the change to Benecard is approximately 5%. With respect to the preceding year, with the excess loss program we had the financial crisis concerning what was commonly called compound drugs. With respect to that program, for the 2013-14 year the excess insurance had a loss of \$2 million. That was essentially Express Scripts because the excess policy was really held by National American Insurance in Texas. In the year 2014-15, the loss on the excess policy was \$4 million. In the current year, the loss on the excess policy will be slightly over \$15 million. That's the loss that the carrier endured. That's the loss that they suffered because the cost of the insurance was approximately \$300,000. As a result of that, Express Scripts and no carrier would issue an excess policy for the year 2016-17. No policy would be offered unless there were several restrictions put into the policy. Those were things that we recently negotiated with Paterson Education Association. In summary, what we have before the Board tonight is an insurance program. It has an absolute cap on it. I might also point out that Conner Strong, your broker, has negotiated as part of this program that dependent upon the actual employee usage of the program if the usage is less by certain benchmarks then what the program calls for and there's actually less cost, the district is eligible for a dividend. In other words, cash at the end of the year. My experience is from time to time that's a reality, all dependent on actual use. So we have a new program with approximately a 5% increase as compared to a more typical 15%. I'd be happy to answer any questions.

Comm. Cleaves: Are there any questions?

Dr. Evans: That concludes my report.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

It was moved by Comm. Hodges, seconded by Comm. Simmons that the Public Comments portion of the meeting be opened. On roll call all members voted in the affirmative. The motion carried.

Comm. Cleaves: Speakers, note that you have three minutes to speak. Be courteous to those who have to come behind you.

Ms. Annerys Salcero: Good evening everyone. My name is Annerys Salcero and I have a son in School 7. His name is Andrew. He's in the sixth grade. I come today to speak on a specific item because it's been quite the adventure and experience that I've had with the Paterson district and my son having his needs met. Right now I come to you to present that my son has a personal aide and he is categorized as an eloper

because he has the tendency of running or hiding. With that in mind, one of the child study team members came up to my husband and said if we would agree verbally on having his recess unsupervised. Right now his recess is limited to an area where he's in the library. That's where he's at right now. She's asking me if I can have unsupervised recess for my son. That makes no sense. It's a playground outside. There are different exits that he can very clearly. Also, because his IEP specifically says he needs supervised unstructured time, which is where he gets to practice and improve his social and peer-to-peer skills. This is just so you guys have an understanding of what type of child study team I've been working with and the administration in this building. I do not understand how that makes any sense. He's an eloper. How are we going to have him in the yard? That's one thing. The next thing is that he has an aide and he's in the spectrum, which means that routine needs to be consistent for him. The aide was absent one time about three weeks ago. She's entitled to a day off, but we have a backup plan where there's a specific teacher in the building that my son's familiar with or another aide. The administrator in the building, which I believe was Ms. Cecala, the Principal, makes the decision to put a complete stranger. I understand you guys need your substitutes. You have to keep them in the building. But why assign a child who has a specific routine and schedule and does not transition well? Why put a complete stranger in the building who he might have never seen before? Does anybody see how that's just not the ideal thing for the building? So what happened? After weeks that my son did not have any episodes and things were under control he has another meltdown. Halfway through the day of course he does. He has a person who doesn't understand him and he's trying to do his best and put all the effort forward, which he has been doing, and now he goes in the bathroom and he's having this meltdown. What the child study team does after that is unbelievable. They call me and they ask me to come pick him up because they're busy doing other things and they can't allow him to go in the office. I almost had an anxiety attack at my job. I'm at work and I'm getting a phone call. I can't get to my son. My husband is out of town and he can't get to my son. You're calling me? That's your first reaction? That's your first plan of action when we have already met with so many people and we have discussed so many things that have worked? We have overcome a lot. You all have to know that we have overcome a lot. When he started it wasn't like that. It was a lot hardship, but he overcame a lot and they know what to do. Why not make the best decision, which is to put somebody in the building he's familiar with? You could even put him in another classroom. No, you put a complete stranger and then have the audacity to call me and tell me to leave my job and go pick him up because my son is screaming? I'm having anxiety because they can't handle it. Thank god that I have a relationship with someone in the district and I called someone and asked, "Please go and help me. Is there anything you can do? I can't leave my job because I'm responsible for the well-being of some other kids." She happens to be able to go. Why couldn't the administration in this building make that decision on their own? Why not call the next person up? Why not consult with the child study team? They just chose to call me to pick him up. That's the first thing you don't do with a child that's working on transitioning in the school system and who is overcoming all these different difficulties that he has with work avoidance. I don't understand why they didn't take into action one of the plans that we had. They didn't. They completely disregarded it and that's just one little thing. I have a whole list of stuff which I'm putting together in my email and writing in my letters to make sure that you guys are aware. I think it's critical and vital that you know what's going on. If the teachers are doing their part and if the parents are doing their part, then we need the administrator not to go only by the books or only so much on what they think, but we need them to do their part.

*Comm. Kerr enters the meeting at 6:55 p.m.

Ms. Salcero: They need to consult the experts and work with the people who put things in place that are in the best interest of the child. Right now I don't feel very comfortable in this building with this administration and with these people who are running this if they are not going to take into concern the things that the experts are telling them, the plans that are in place. They just say, "Come pick him up?" This was from the beginning, from when we started in the school. I also have to let you know I'm starting to believe there's something with the principal and me or with my family. I'm going to be really brief because I heard the timer and I appreciate you not taking me off. There was this social trip. It was an opportunity for my son to go and continue to grow with the peer-to-peer relationships and the social skills. He magically doesn't get a permission slip home, but yet he comes home every day saying, "Mommy, my friends are saying they want me to go and I should bring \$60 in." I said, "I'm not giving you \$60 unless I get a permission slip." So when I finally called the child study team they said, "I'll get back to you at the end of the day," and I get nothing. So the next day I leave my job, I go show up, and say I would like to get a permission slip. They said, "Oh no, the buses are full." I asked them how many students they had and they had to pull a number out. At the end of the day, my son went to the trip. I'm very grateful for that happening because I got to experience my son. He was having so much anxiety and so much trouble that he couldn't even enter the classroom at first as he was acclimating into this new school and everything. I got to see him walk with his friends, go swimming with his friends, go talk, and have the best time ever. If I would have been home waiting for that permission slip or accepted her no, then that's it. No. When I went to the trip there were a lot of people there who were happy and thrilled, a lot of the teachers and the other administrator. I forgot the name of the teacher who was in charge of the trip. She was happy to see my son because she understands that he belongs there. He is entitled to the social extracurricular stuff and supervised as well as he's learning to cope with this and grow. I want you to know me. I'm Annerys Salcero and I'm here for my son. I would like to work with you. Since day one all I was told by the parents is that I should go out of district. No. I'm very involved in my community and I'm a big fan of that. I think it's important. You can't just go on your education and your family. You have to be part of a bigger picture and those who know me know that. I'm very much interested in working together, but if somebody is trying to just have their own agenda and what works for them, no. Here we need to be looking at my son's best interest. I understand there are other kids as well. I'm not asking those other kids' interests to be jeopardized. I really think you need to know this is going on in this building.

Comm. Cleaves: I want you to sit and talk with Ms. Coy and Ms. Warren. Ms. Coy and Ms. Warren, can you please sit with this parent?

Ms. Salcedo: I appreciate it. Thank you. Have a good night.

*Comm. Rivera enters the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Mr. Charles Ferrer: Thank you, Madam President. I apologize for being late. I just want to talk about a brief opportunity that knocked at the district's door and we missed it. I guess we forgot to open the door. I want to talk about State Street. I want to talk about this sublease and how much of a bad deal we just put together. We're leasing that building that had a \$400,000 one-year lease on the building and we leased it to this company for \$184,000 to put 45 of our children in the building that we're going to give that district money for. Even if we gave them \$15,000 per student, that's probably about \$675,000. If we leased the building to them for about \$550,000 we would have made our lease plus some profit. That would have made sense. Instead, we decided to lease it to them for \$184,000 and it leaves us in the hole for \$216,000. I'm not sure if we're in a triple net lease on that building. If we are, then all expenses might be on us. Where's

the benefit? That's not how that was supposed to have been done. I looked up a few of the Board of Trustee members and one is a retired CEO for Morgan Stanley of 20 years. So that would mean that his pockets are so much deeper than mine. We cannot do business like that. If we're not sure of the business or real estate practice, ask people that know real estate. I've only been in it since 1983. That was an opportunity for us to at least get the \$400,000. They needed a building or they couldn't open their school. We just handed it to them at a loss for us? That means you just failed Business 101. That's what that meant. Even if we said just cover the \$400,000. We're going to give them the money for the children that we put in there, 45 and it might grow to more. That means we're going to give them enough money to cover the \$400,000, but it's like they can end up making a profit here. That's not smart business. I think if we want to show the State that this Board and Dr. Evans are working together and the Board respectfully has requested to table this to have more discussion, that's what should have been done. At the end of the day, this has to be a workable unit. At the end of the day what's going to make Paterson successful is when all the stakeholders can sit down and begin to agree and do what's right. I don't know if there's a way out of that situation, but it needs to be looked at. That was a bad deal for Paterson. Unless we got at least what we were going to pay, the \$400,000, that's not a deal that we should have gone into. We could have made money on that. \$550,000 is what I would have leased it to them for, with the agreement that they handle all repairs. Who are the repairs to make that building ready for those kindergarten children? They don't use the same bathrooms as the older children. Their bathrooms are smaller. Who is that on? And what about the desks that have to be brought in and things of that nature? Who's all that on? It's not smart business. I'm sorry. I'm disappointed. Then on top of that, we had all the children and adults getting sick in that building. I was in there and I saw all the ants running around and in the cafeteria. And we're going to expose other children to that? Not good. That's what I really wanted to talk about here tonight. The other things I'll talk about at another meeting. This Board has to work together. If the Board asks you to table something for more discussion, Dr. Evans, please respect the request of the elected Board. Elected and appointed – there's a difference. Thank you.

Ms. Raquel Soto: Good evening, Board members. My name is Raquel Soto and I have a child that's in School 7, Mark Maysonet, and Genesis Maysonet at Rosa Parks. I'm here for Mark Maysonet. I had a meeting today at School 7 with Ms. Cecala and the reason I had the meeting was because there was an incident with a teacher yesterday. My son has autism. He also suffers from OCD. He also has depression and he's been working really fine. He's honor roll. Yesterday because he was shaking a water bottle and because he was overwhelmed with everything that was going on because of a fire drill he got yelled at by his math teacher and she said he was a disappointment. Today I had a meeting with Ms. Cecala and the teacher told me, "You're not going to see me anymore. I'm going to retire in 14 days." That's how the meeting started off. The meeting led to a big argument between the principal, myself, and Ms. Felix. Ms. Cecala started yelling at me telling me, "If he's shaking a bottle he could hurt somebody." I said he has a personal aide. There's no reason for him to hurt anybody. My son has never been a problem in school. For someone to use the word that she used, it's demeaning for him. Today he asked me, "Mom, am I a disappointment for you?" I said, "No, Mark. You made Junior Honor Society and Honor Roll every marking period. You were stemming. You were shaking because you were overwhelmed with the noise. You moved the bottle because you couldn't stay still." Something is going on with School 7 that this principal is not doing what she's supposed to do. These teachers are not getting the training that they're supposed to get. For someone to tell my son that he's a disappointment, that's a disappointment to me. For my son to come out of the school crying and for another student to tell me that he's crying because he got yelled at and that he was a disappointment, how am I supposed to get him over that? This kid has

been working so hard, a kid that had meltdowns at School 29. I picked him up crying. He left the school. To achieve everything he has achieved until today, Honor Roll and Junior Honor Society, one word can break him. Something has to be done with these people at School 7. That's all I have to say because I'm upset. I don't want to start crying in front of everybody, but something has to be done at School 7. You don't break a kid that has been built from the bottom. He is doing so well and one word broke him. He was crying and crying for just that word. I tried to get that through to Ms. Cecala and she said, "That's what I use for all my kids." He's not all your kids. He's a child with three disabilities and autism on top. That's all. Thank you.

Mr. Lou Turco: Good evening everyone. My name is Lou Turco. I'm a member of the Hawthorne Board of Education. I'm here tonight to speak with you – I'll try to get it in within three minutes, but I doubt it – about the current proposed expansion and funding formula at PCTI and how it affects all of us. I'm not here to take anything away from PCTI on how the school is run or how they educate their children. Take a step back about five years ago when Dr. Hodges, myself, and Jeff Fischer from Manchester approached the freeholders about the funding formula. We were not prepared at the time, we did not have support, and we did not do our research. We were basically swept under the rug. However, lo and behold, this past January 7 in an article in the Bergen Record talking about the reorganization in Passaic County a statement was made where PCTI was going to have a \$60 million expansion. That number has since been changed to \$30 million, as we were made aware of a week ago Monday, but the dollar amount for the expansion means nothing. It's what it's going to do to all the districts throughout the county. They propose to increase their enrollment by a third. Some districts throughout Passaic County they'll cripple. It's not going to help you either. You have approximately 1,700 students – and I'm not telling you anything you don't know – at PCTI. One third of that would be about 565. At the \$11,000 or \$12,000 tuition that's going to cost you \$6.5 million. Where are you going to get that money? I follow all boards of education throughout the county. Where are you going to come up with that money? The teacher's union is going to lose more teachers. You're going to lose more programs. That's why something has to be done. In turn, people from the county will say to you if you take those children back, you still have to educate them and it's still going to cost you money. That's true and I'm not saying we're looking to close PCTI. But to take it one step forward, if you did take back all 1,700 children it would probably cost you about \$10 million to educate them. With the mere fact of figuring simple math of 17 children to a class you'd have to hire 100 teachers at \$90,000 to \$100,000 including benefits. If you took all those children back, you're going to save \$10 million. Of course, that's not going to happen. Let's talk about the funding formula for a minute. By the way, I have sent Dr. Evans a narrative. I have resolutions here. I hope you all have them. I hope you would pass it because if Paterson passed them you would really take the lead throughout the county and I promise you I would back you every step of the way. This is my first stop. I represent about 10 members throughout the county that are behind this. Let's talk about the funding formula. I don't know how many people really know how PCTI is funded. For one thing, if a homeowner throughout the county looks at their tax bill they see local taxes, school taxes, and county taxes. I guarantee you if you ask four out of five people how is PCTI funded they're going to point to that county line, which is not true. They have a \$76 million budget. 51% of that budget comes from us, sending districts, nearly \$39 million. The county gives the minimum, \$7 million, as opposed to Bergen County where they have a third less children. I'm not trying to compare us to them. Dollars are dollars. Bergen County contributes almost \$29 million to their county school. The rest of it, the \$7 million from the county and the \$39 million from us, the balance comes from state and federal funding. It has to change. It must change. If you go to a given town such as Paterson and my town Hawthorne every person in the town or the city, every

homeowner, regardless of whether they have children or not, pays for the schools. Why is it different on the county level? Not every town or every district sends children to PCTI. They're county children as opposed to city or borough children. So there are various formulas we have and various answers to these issues. We need to get in front of the freeholders. We need the support of every Board in the county. If we have that, then we can go to them and say, "Here's what your constituents are saying. There needs to be a change." I don't know whether you can take action tonight, but the resolutions you have are very simple. One basically says you oppose the expansion and the other one says you oppose the current funding formula. If you want to discuss this anymore I will certainly stay a while. I know I've taken my three minutes. Thank you very much. I appreciate the time.

Comm. Hodges: I don't know what your plans are. When do you want to have that discussion? It's not on the agenda.

Comm. Cleaves: I just got this this evening. I haven't had a chance to review it. Let's give everybody a chance to review it.

Comm. Hodges: It was mailed to them last Tuesday.

Comm. Cleaves: If you want to take action on it...

Comm. Hodges: I just want to have a preliminary discussion at some point. I don't want the gentleman to stay if we're not going to have at least have a preliminary discussion because there are some additional facts. We had another meeting last Monday.

Comm. Cleaves: I think we need to discuss this at maybe a special meeting.

Comm. Hodges: Our last meeting is going to be the 15th. All I want to say is that I want to have some brief discussion tonight or let the gentleman go. There's no point in him sitting here if we're not going to do it.

Mr. Turco: That's alright. You can all think about it. I'll gladly stay for a while. Before I sit down, the piece of paper you have in front of you went to every Board member, every Superintendent, and every BA throughout the county. Let me just read the last two lines. "Please be aware this effort is in no way meant to be political and is completely bipartisan. It is our hope that this discussion move forward with the utmost respect for all parties involved. This is not about how PCTI operates or educates its children, but merely about how it is funded. The burden that has been placed on all sending districts and our children needs to be changed." Thank you very much.

Comm. Hodges: What I propose to do is simply bring some additional information during 'Other Business.' That's all.

Comm. Cleaves: Okay.

Ms. Victoria Oquendo: Good evening everybody. I was looking over the agenda and I know this evening a resolution for a vote is going to come up for No. 2. It says you're looking to approve to the sum total of \$17,552.67 for 10 staff members to attend conferences and workshops. With all due respect, when you look at the track record and the sum total of where we are today, with all your outside consulting costs, your principal coaches, and your prior workshops and conferences, you might want to rethink that because I'm not too sure what effect, if any, that will have on the performance of the

public school system. Second, I need to know did anybody have any knowledge of the Fetty Wap video that was recorded at Eastside High School. Was that approved through the Board? Did that go through the legal channels? Did the Passaic Film Commission know about that video being shot there? I don't have a problem with Fetty Wap's music. People have a right to listen to what they want to listen to. The problem I have is the message in it. The video starts with the mother begging her son to go to school. Then he walks through the hall with posters of drug innuendos on the wall, a stripper pole in the band room, girls shaking their behinds in the classroom, and pseudo 40-ounces on the desk. What message are we sending? Who's going to be held, not accountable, because accountable just means you're aware? We're going way past accountability. We want somebody held responsible for that because if they're taking things on their own accord and not going through the proper channels and following policy and procedures, then that's a problem, especially when we implore the students all day long to follow policy and procedures. Then they turn around and see the hypocrisy in staff. Again, I'm looking to know who approved that and what are going to be the repercussions, if any. Also, who is Ronald Humphrey and what is his position at Eastside? The brother walks around the school like he owns it. Contrary to popular belief, he does not. Where is the \$10 per ID badge going? Where is the empanada money going? Where is the candy money going? Where is the water money going? Who is capitalizing off these children in Eastside and where is the money going? I feel like Jerry McGuire up here. Show me the money. There are too many liberties being taken and you guys are not aware of these liberties. It's unfair for us to come and hold you responsible when you have no knowledge, which is also a problem because you should be aware of what's going on under your watch. That Fetty Wap video wasn't a little photo shoot. That was a big shebang bang. We're lights, camera, action! Somebody let them in that school. An administrator was on staff and I would like to know who it was. Did you see a story board? What's going to happen? Thank you.

Comm. Cleaves: You said badges, water, and empanadas. What else?

Ms. Oquendo: The ID badges and the water. They're selling empanadas and candy.

Comm. Cleaves: The children are being charged for these things?

Ms. Oquendo: Absolutely. The water fountains are inoperable due to the lead situation and the only alternative to them is to purchase a bottle of water. There is absolutely no free water for the children acceptable at Eastside. Also, my son has been at Eastside three years and I have never been invited to one PTO meeting. Do they even have a PTO in Eastside? Thank you.

Ms. Valerie Freeman: Good evening everyone. I'm here today because last night I received a text message and a link to the video. That text came from North Carolina. It simply said, "Have you seen this? Who authorized it? Why would they allow such a message or such a video to be displayed in Eastside High School?" I couldn't answer that. So what I did is posted it after watching it several times because every time I watched it I found something else that was disturbing to me. The fact that we all know the problems that lie in the district with our high school children using drugs, gambling, drinking alcohol, and for someone to allow a video of that nature to be shot at Eastside High School was an absolute disgrace. We cannot condone one thing or tell our children while we're in school that you should not do that and then in another instance turn around and allow someone who's popular and famous to just come in and use the school as they may. The video could have been shot anywhere but Eastside. It shouldn't have been in any school. I'm not just going to keep saying Eastside. He has enough money where he could have rented one of these empty warehouses and made

his own set. But for some reason, someone allowed this young man to come in and make the video. I was appalled from the beginning to the end. Okay, you dropped out of school and you made it. That's great. But to glorify it and to send a message to our children that you too can drop out and do it? Yes, it does start at home. I've been getting backlash back and forth all day. But guess what? I can handle what I can handle, but the look that it brings on this district is not a good look. It makes you, Dr. Evans, look bad and it's not even your fault because you should have been made aware. When they look at us down in Trenton that you didn't know anything about this video or the Board didn't know any about this video and we're trying to regain local control, they're going to say what's going on? We have to tighten up and I believe that things can change, but that message that's sent in that video is absolutely disgusting. From the beginning to the end - from the mother finding a bag of weed in her son's room and not throwing it away or discarding it, but sitting down and smoking it... As a parent, that's appalling to me because guess what? That happens. I'm not going to act like it doesn't happen, but not every household is like that. 40-ounce bottles being sipped in the classroom, kids drinking, shooting dice in the classroom, Eastside High School has to face this every day. You have teachers and staff there that fight this every single day and to allow a person to come in and portray a video of that nature to me just defeats the purpose. Everyone is saying to me he can't control what the kids do. It's not about him controlling, it's about the perception and his influence that he has already. I'm just saying, Dr. Evans, you must take a stand and you must do what you need to do and find out who authorized it and then you have to tighten up your grip on what's allowed in those schools after hours. Thank you.

Ms. Marcella Simadiris: Peace and blessings. Dr. Evans, I do want to start by thanking you for the dissertation that you shared with me. It's a little lengthy. Just skimming through it a little bit it's not really speaking highly of RAC within it. I'm going to put some more time into it before I speak on it for sure. I do want to follow up with that piece on Ms. Lepore's PowerPoint about the SAC counselors that she presented a month ago. I was asking if you could share that PowerPoint with the Education Law Center so they can use it as evidence for the impact of the lack of funding when they try to bring a lawsuit against the state for failing to fund our schools according to the funding formula. I just want to clarify because last month when I came up here I spoke about having district leadership help facilitate a conversation on being intentional with how we interact with students from Napier Academy. I know that the parent department with Mr. McDowell brought a gentleman up here last month and I have so much respect for him. One of the things that he always speaks on is being intentional about how you approach children and knowing how they may be internalizing things and making sure that you approach them in a certain way. I do want to have a conversation so that people know that our students at School 4 are dealing with some things. They're dealing with internalizing how they feel being perceived. It's evident that some adults and students from other schools feel that way about them. So I would like a conversation to happen. Not to have an objective, but just so that we can start the conversation. So if anybody can help facilitate that, I'd appreciate it. I also appreciate you sharing the district's equity plan with me. I just have a couple of questions because I have some concerns still with the representation of African Americans in School 28. Last time I looked at the data it was only 12%. I have a genius at Napier Academy in the fourth grade and he got rejected again. He's a genius. I don't really want to come up here and advocate for him because I want him to stay at Napier Academy, but that wouldn't be fair for him. I just don't understand how that's happening because when I tell you this boy is a genius, he's way smarter than me. I don't understand how they keep rejecting him, especially with the fact that I've been up to this microphone bringing attention to the lack of representation. Within this equity plan Section 3, Part 2, it says "attain minority representation of students within each school, including racial and ethnic balance that

approximates the district charter and Renaissance School project's overall minority, racial, and ethnic representation." Black representation within our public schools is about 29%. That's what it should be looking like at School 28. It should be at least 29%. It also says specifically under Section 3, Number 4, Part A, "ensure that minority and female students are not underrepresented in Gifted & Talented or accelerated advanced courses." This is the district's equity plan. I'm wondering why it's not being implemented. There's another one, but I'm not even going to talk about him. There are a couple of students that are applying for School 28 that should be in there and they're not. They're being rejected. Thank you.

It was moved by Comm. Redmon, seconded by Comm. Simmons that the Public Comments portion of the meeting be closed. On roll call all members voted in the affirmative. The motion carried.

BOARD COMMENTS

Dr. Evans: I'd like to respond to two items in particular. One has to do with the Fetty Wap video. There's a statement that I'd like to read to that end. Over the Memorial Day weekend, I was informed by cabinet members about a YouTube video featuring Fetty Wap that appeared to be taped at Eastside High School. As some matters still need to be thoroughly examined, especially with regards to the proper procedures being followed, I am authorizing a full investigation on this matter using an independent investigation. However, based upon preliminary reports with regards to this video, which has been confirmed as having taken place in the school building, it has been decided that the principal of operations has been placed on administrative leave with pay until the investigation has been completed. The other item that I wanted to address at Eastside was the selling of water and other items as well that we're going to look into. I know about water. Water has been sold at Eastside High School by one of the clubs for as long as I can remember. Mr. Morlino is sitting over there and he can verify. The water has been checked for lead and there is safe drinking water available through the water fountain at no cost. Mr. Morlino?

Mr. Steve Morlino: I just checked on my little device, which is hard to read also, and there are five water fountains currently out of service at Eastside. All the rest are operational and as of last week all the Board of Health violations having to do with water anywhere in the building were satisfied.

Comm. Hodges: Five out of how many?

Mr. Morlino: There are 29 water fountains in the main building and between all the TCUs there are about 30 additional ones.

Comm. Hodges: Is there a timeline for those other ones?

Mr. Morlino: Two of them are awaiting parts. Three of them are awaiting retesting of the water.

Comm. Hodges: I don't know how long it takes kids to go from one class to another, but we're saying that there's no safety reason for them to not have access to the water.

Mr. Morlino: There's no reason they would have to purchase bottled water.

Comm. Cleaves: Dr. Evans, you stated that the bottled water is being sold by one of the clubs?

Dr. Evans: There has been a club selling bottled water for a long time, actually going back several years.

Comm. Mimms: But is this person in particular, Ronald Humphrey, connected to the club? That's something we have to verify.

Dr. Evans: No. He's part of security.

Comm. Cleaves: Could you explain who Mr. Humphrey is?

Ms. Shafer: Mr. Humphrey is the Director of Security at Eastside High School. He oversees the Board security guards and the contracted security guards.

Comm. Cleaves: Anything else you'd like to address?

Dr. Evans: The other items that were mentioned specific to Eastside we will investigate and give you a report.

Comm. Simmons: I just have a question with regard to the investigation. Do you have a timeline on when that investigation is to be completed?

Dr. Evans: Not yet. We actually made the decision today after reviewing all the information that we had as of 3:00 o'clock this afternoon and determined that there was some additional information we needed. So the next step tomorrow morning is to hire an investigator to go beyond the internal inquiry that took place. The goal is to resolve this as quickly as possible. The community, the Board, and everyone needs answers soon.

Comm. Simmons: Secondly, I thought that a couple of years ago we had addressed school use in the policy committee where we amended the actual policy so that events of this nature would come before the Board for approval.

Dr. Evans: We did.

Comm. Simmons: I thought we did.

Dr. Evans: That's part of what's being investigated.

Comm. Simmons: I've been getting a lot of calls about this as well and I've gotten calls from people out of state as well asking what we're doing. It is an embarrassment and I'm not taking anything away from Fetty Wap. His situation is a unique one because he dropped out and he was able to continue, pull himself up, and get to where he is. I think the argument for a lot of people in the community, because there is an argument that is taking place, is not against Fetty Wap at all. He is an artist and he is doing what artists do. He has a right to do that. I've stated that I won't let my kids listen to Fetty Wap. When we were considering allowing the Mayor to use Kennedy for the rain date for the concert, I was one of the people who was against that because I understood his lyrics. He is rapping about what he knows. Like Ms. Freeman said, the things that are in the video actually happen. So he's rapping about what he's seen, his environment, and they are true.

Comm. Hodges: They didn't happen inside the school. Let's be very clear. Some of those images didn't happen in the school.

Comm. Simmons: Pre-Lean On Me those things may have happened. Pre Joe Clark.

Comm. Hodges: I wasn't here for that.

Comm. Simmons: But I think that had this come before the Board I can't sit here and tell you I would have voted against him shooting the video at the school. If the Board was allowed to be a part of the process and actually had the discussion we may have had the opportunity, so that we could protect our interests, to make sure that all the permits were in place from city and county to actually film. You do have to have permits to do those things. If the principal of operations didn't see a story board or didn't understand the treatment for the video we would at a minimum have been able to see the final product before it was released and decide whether or not it should be released. If they didn't agree, then you go shoot your video somewhere else. In the beginning of the video there is some dialogue about his dropping out and he was a nobody and now his name is known worldwide. While that's true, the district could have been able to put its mission there also about our goals and our purpose. While people are arguing about him having the right to say the things that he's saying or it's not a big deal that the video was shot there – and I'm shocked at some of the people who are saying that – as educators we have a different responsibility. We have a larger responsibility to make sure that we don't send the wrong message. We do have a problem with dropouts. We do have a problem with increased drug usage. So we have to make sure that we protect our interests and to make sure that this just doesn't happen again. We have to make sure that the rules and policies are being followed. I do believe that the Principal should have the right to control their building and what happens in their building when it comes to community use. This wasn't community use. Things of this nature should actually come before the Board. At a minimum it should come to the Deputy Superintendent or the Superintendent's office before those approvals are granted.

Dr. Evans: I just want to mention that Comm. Simmons is right and part of the ongoing investigation is whether or not the processes and procedures that he just referenced were followed. If not, why?

Comm. Hodges: I have gone back and forth on my position on this. I actually reached out to the clergy today because I have vacillated between being outraged when I first saw the video and I actually went and researched Wiz Khalifa. I didn't know what that was and I actually had to look it up. Then the connotation became clear and there was other imagery within the video that was very disturbing. Let me just say just about everything in that video this district is and should be antithetical to. For our understanding of what should be shown to children, that was antithetical to what our role should be. But having said that, we also have a responsibility to teach freedom of speech and sometimes speech is not what we like. There's nothing in there that I would have wanted to see promoted. There are some things that I acutely object to. As I've mentioned earlier, when I was 16 or 17 you didn't have the kind of language that was used on television or on the radio. You never heard that kind of language or the suggestiveness of the content. It wasn't that bad. It goes beyond suggesting now. They're frank with it. You didn't have that, but you did have Richard Pryor, Redd Foxx, and Lenny Bruce and some of these other people. I remember purchasing a Richard Pryor album and playing it in my aunt's house. She didn't say anything until the end and then she told me never to play that again in her house, and I understood that. You know Richard Pryor's content is explicit. There is frank profanity use.

Comm. Cleaves: Excuse me, Dr. Hodges. Audience, I would like you to just quiet down a little bit. The Commissioners don't get to express what they need to express all the

time on Facebook or in the streets and we have an issue here that has circulated throughout the City of Paterson. The Commissioners are now speaking on it and I think you need to hear what they have to say. So when you go back out and continue to have those conversations about the Fetty Wap video you can now say that you've heard some responses from the Commissioners. If everyone is talking you're missing the Commissioners' point of view. We get backlash for not responding or not reacting. We are reacting up here and we need you guys to listen to our reactions.

Comm. Hodges: My point is I'm not 16 or 17 anymore and I look at Richard Pryor's work in a different light in view of what I want to say to children. I can't be as condemnatory of Fetty Wap when I understand what I as a 17-year-old would have viewed or thought of his work. Over and above my own personal values, we have a responsibility to entertain speech that we don't like. That's our job, to teach that something you don't care for or find repugnant you have to allow it to occur. Dr. Hodges is not saying he wants to have a porn video at any of our schools. Let me be very clear. That's an extreme case and we do have a responsibility to manage those kinds of issues. But quite frankly folks, if certain hate groups came forward and said, "We're part of this community and we want to hold a meeting with our community people," we can't say no.

Comm. Cleaves: Yes, you can.

Comm. Hodges: No, you can't. They have a right to have that speech, even if you don't like it. They have a right to have that speech.

Comm. Cleaves: Not in the school.

Comm. Hodges: Yes, they can. If it's an open building, I can't say you can have it because I like what you say, but you can't because I don't like what you say. I can't do that. Nobody can because then he could sue me for denying him the freedom of speech that he's entitled to, that I gave to somebody else. In this particular case, could we have said this whole thing might not be what we want to entertain? If the Board had that discussion, that's an issue. I just ask you to understand there are people who use our buildings now. There's one person in particular who I don't care for. They're claiming it's a religious affiliation that they're part of and they use our buildings. We can't say we don't like what they say or their version of religion so we're not going to let them use the building. We can't do it. I would have liked to have the opportunity to have a disclaimer put on. If you're going to produce whatever, in whatever meeting or process was going on we would make it very clear that we don't condone, promote, or any way want to participate in what's being done here. That should be part of our next policy. That's not our practice. We don't condone anything whether we like or not. We should make that clear with every event. You cannot associate us with whatever is going on here. But we also must view this in terms of free speech. If you're going to give that use of the building to a church, then there are other agencies which will come and want to use the building for their purposes whether we like them or not. That's all I'm saying.

Comm. Mimms: I'm really glad that this issue is being investigated. I saw the tag on Facebook today. I wasn't feeling well yesterday, so I didn't get to respond to the video link that was sent to us yesterday. I did see the link and I'm glad that it's being investigated so we can find out exactly what happened and what was not done so that those matters can be taken care of. However, these are two separate incidents. There was a back-to-school concert that was done and now this is a YouTube video. I remember when it was presented to us, initially the response was no. The flyer for the

back-to-school concert was done on behalf of the city and I believe the Mayor's name was on the flyer. Some members of the Board were saying no and I recommended before we said no to the concert that we had a conversation with the management team of Fetty Wap and the Mayor to find out exactly what they were trying to present. We didn't have any details. We had no information and I felt that as a Board and a community we needed to understand the dynamics of what the concert would be about before we make a response. At that time we also decided that the language needed to be curbed so that the children that were there would not be negatively impacted. So all of that was done and they had the concert. Even in this incident it was not presented to the Board and we were not aware of it. If it was presented, we could have had the same dialogue where that could have been done or it could have been stated that we don't believe this would be something that would be a good indicator for our children in the environment we're living in. I think when it doesn't come before the Board and we're not aware of it and then we're asked to comment or respond to something that we don't have facts on, it's pretty hard to respond. We have nothing to say. Then when you want to respond as a Commissioner, you're beat up for responding. So when you don't respond they beat you up and when you do respond they beat you up. It's almost like don't respond until you have facts. If I don't have the information, I'm not going to respond. It's nothing against anyone in particular, but in this incident with the YouTube video, I had no facts. I knew nothing. I was aware that it was at Eastside High School because I'm an alumni of Eastside, but I had no information. So for me to say this happened, I had no facts. I know the video had some explicit information in it. The language was not great. It wasn't a good storyline for our kids. However, we have to allow the investigation to take its course and then you, Dr. Evans, to do what you need to do as the administration. Our job is not to run the schools. As Board Commissioners our job is to make sure the schools are run well. We want to make sure that as the investigation goes on that we stay on top of it to ensure that whoever the parties were responsible and connected to it, whatever happens. I'm not sure if there's termination, suspension without pay, or whatever happens. As long as we as the Board are a part of that dialogue, that will be great. To the community, after it's all done I just request that we send a letter out to the editor of the newspaper stating the incident. We were not aware of it, but these are the recourses that we have taken as a district to ensure that this will not happen again.

Comm. Kerr: I just want to say I'm really in sync with Comm. Simmons on this one. I don't believe the discussion here tonight is about free speech. Everyone has a right to free speech, but free speech privileges cannot be everywhere. You just don't go into a church and start saying certain things and say it's free speech. You just don't go into a schoolroom and talk about your free speech and say anything you want to say. Certainly, you don't go into a courthouse and talk about free speech and have the liberty to say whatever you want to say. We have to protect our school buildings. They represent something. We cannot allow the buildings to be further denigrated with this kind of lewdness and glorification of alcoholism and drugs. This is not the idea for a school building and I just don't care about what kind of speech you want to tag on that. It's just not right. As a Commissioner I'm truly disturbed. I saw the video. I don't need any more evidence. It's there. It's clear. The question is, how did they get inside that building? That is what needs to be investigated. You talk to these kids and I watched the interview with these kids and they say, "It doesn't affect me. Everything is cool." Do you know what you're doing? You're sowing that seed in that child. This is not a problem. This is not a problem until you get sick. You take poison and it's no problem until you start getting sick and start falling over. That's when you say, "I should not have taken this." This is sickness. In the district we're struggling with the perception of negativity and we are sitting here trying to sanitize that kind of stuff. I can't believe it. No way. It's sickening to my stomach for what happened there.

Comm. Redmon: My first comment is that as a community we have to be honest. If the artist would have come to us in the proper manner with the policies and procedures we could have had a true discussion. I sat here a couple of weeks ago when we talked about drug use in this district. Since you are glorifying this in your video you could have probably brought this back to us and we could have done a whole documentary with our students. We could have talked about the drug use and the abuse that goes on in this neighborhood. We have to be realistic. This is where we live and we know that this is happening. Am I appalled by the video? Yes. I am appalled by the way we got it. I'm not on social media, but my phone was ringing off the hook from the time with people asking, "Did you know what is going on in the school?" It's embarrassing as a Commissioner when we're here to do our jobs and make sure that the school is run properly, not to overrun the administration, and then we come to meetings and we're faced with things like this. It is embarrassing to sit at this table sometimes. The artist should have come here properly to discuss it with the Commissioners. Or the administrator at that building should have come here to discuss it with the Commissioners. Then we could have had an open dialogue with parents included coming to know about the drug use that goes on in our community and we could have had a bigger discussion, more than just that rap video. Now this school has also had to get over the Joe Clark days and it still hasn't gotten over the Joe Clark days. Any time I mention the word "Paterson" the first thing they talk about is Eastside High School and Lean On Me. That school has come far from that and every time we try to move far from that we're hit back in the face with that again. It could have been a lot more constructive. That's all I can say. It could have been a lot more constructive. I do believe in freedom of speech, but that's not the way you go about it. We have to respect the way that we go about it. It is based on policies and procedures. We have policies and procedures for a reason and this is the reason they should be followed. I do agree with the administration with the investigation. We can't say anything until we know the findings of the investigation. But I hope that the administration takes the investigation and the findings to the full. Somebody should be held responsible. Night in and night out we listen to parents who come here and tell us about different problems at schools and it seems like they're not getting the answers that they're requiring. That's all I have to say.

Comm. Castillo: It is good to sit down and actually listen to all that the Commissioners have to say because you don't see their responses on Facebook. Personally, I'm surprised. I'm glad we had this conversation. I know who Wiz Khalifa and Fetty Wap are. I'm one of the youngest on this Board and because of that I don't think that video should have been shot in an educational facility. The first thing I did when I got the 1,000 messages about this was talk to my 15-year-old brother. He told me, "Are you guys out of your mind for letting them do that in your school?" He knows who these people are. There has to be a distinction of what message we're portraying. What positive message are we really sending to our students? We're telling you all day how you have to graduate, do a good job, be positive, and move forward. Two seconds later, the lights turn off and this is the type of video that we're filming in your school that's now nationwide. What message are we truly sending, not only to the students, but to the parents and to everyone outside of Paterson? Paterson is more than just Fetty Wap, alcohol, drug use, and dropping out. I think that's the misconception that people have outside of this district and that we're allowing to be portrayed. I'm all for freedom of speech. I'm all for making an educational purpose to the video. But we could have done the same thing if this video was shot in any other warehouse or art factory and we could have used it as a district to see the differences. But not in an educational facility where we're sending a message for these children to move forward,

get a higher education, get a good job, do the right thing, and be a good member of our community. We need to see what's more important to us.

Comm. Rivera: Good evening everyone. I'm not going to prolong the conversation. What type of content were we expecting from Fetty Wap? That's the first comment I'm going to make. Ever since I've been a Board member, I always had an issue with giving principals full control of the activities that take place in their buildings. A great example is School 3. I remember maybe nine months ago a lot of the neighbors complained that School 3 was using the school playground for teacher parking. The interesting part is that this building didn't even have an entrance for people to drive their cars into the building. On top of that, the principal was parking right in front of the building, which is a fire hazard, where kids actually walk. This could potentially be a liability to the district. Recently, while campaigning, a lot of residents complained about School 18. The playground that the school has is being used for parking and now the kids have to cross the street to go to the playground across the street. I'm not putting any blame on the principal from Eastside for doing this. That's not my intent. We need to have better control as a district of how our facilities are being used. Yes, they should have some control, but we should be aware of every decision that they make in order to protect our interests. I just wanted to add that in there. We can't just say that principals have full control and they can do whatever they want in the buildings. It shouldn't be like that.

Comm. Simmons: Just touching on what Comm. Rivera said, and I want to restate this, because the principals are the closest to their community, I do want them to have some control. For me this is about process. I want to make sure that we have things in place to make sure that those processes are being followed. When we have policy we should make sure we're following those policies. We just have to figure out a way to make sure that these things are happening. Again with the video, these things happen. It is reality. If it had come to the Board we could have figured out a way to make sure that we got our message and mission in there. I think I told Dr. Evans when he sent us the email, I was aware that the video was being shot. I just assumed that all necessary permissions had been granted. I was only aware of it because I know the manager personally. I know the heads of the record companies personally. That's the only reason I knew that it was actually happening. I believe if we had the opportunity to have the discussion we would have been able to get what we wanted out of it. If we didn't, we could say, "Shoot your video somewhere else."

Comm. Hodges: I'm going to say it once again. Everything in the video is antithetical to my personal values. But I think that we have to have a larger discussion about how we determine what we will have and what we won't have. Without that, it can't be my values, Apostle Mimms' values, to Mr. Simmons' values. That can't be the only way we decide because if she's not here when the discussion comes up we lose her portion. There has to be an overriding standard in place that's fair to everyone. Again, it's our job to teach. Sometimes teaching is an ugly and uncomfortable process. I do not support the imagery in that video, but we have to be able to talk about it and then take this situation and go back to those classrooms and discuss it. I would have liked to have had the opportunity to add a disclaimer saying that our job is to promote education. There are 3 million views in 4 days. It would have been nice to have Paterson's position very clear. At the same time, we do have a responsibility to protect the interests of children and also to teach. Those discussions did not take place, but I don't know if even under our current regulations it would have come to us. That's what I'm not sure about. I don't know how any principal could have moved forward if the rules say if a community person comes and says they want to do this, that, and the other how you determine whether or not they can do you but not you.

Comm. Cleaves: I think you have to check the policy and procedure. We can go on and on about this.

Comm. Simmons: I just want to touch on the policy part of it.

Comm. Cleaves: We could go on and on all night about our different opinions on how this situation should have been handled and the meat of the issue. Just note that we have other items on our agenda that we have to get to. I just want you to be aware of that.

Comm. Kerr: All I'm saying is content alone should be the determining factor regarding whether or not something like that is filmed inside the school building. That's all I'm saying - the content of the video. We don't have to have this stuff done and then we tack on a disclaimer on it and see if we can get any mileage out of it. You just can't come into my house and curse. It's not going to happen.

Comm. Cleaves: Comm. Simmons, did you want to say something about the policy?

Comm. Simmons: If I recall, the policy talks about community use. Maybe we need to amend the policy further to decide what is and isn't community use. Honestly, I don't want the Board to have to vote on every event that happens at a school. I don't want to take that position. So we have to figure out what is and isn't community use. In a situation like this if there is a fee, what that fee is going to be and, if it's filming, how we make sure all the necessary permits have been acquired. Right now the way the policy is written I don't think there's anything in there that actually specifies what community use is.

Comm. Mimms: Dr. Evans, I know that you have a meeting with the principals. In that meeting there could be a discussion around how they sign off on community events. Maybe there's a standard or a procedure that's presented to all the principals at the same time explaining this is what's needed and then it comes to your attention so that after this incident there will not be anything. One of the things that I have found since I've been on the Board is that we're very reactive as a district. It's already out there. We're very appalled by the video, but someone has already moved it forward. In the principal's meeting there should be a discussion very explanatory about the expectations moving forward. Whatever happens, if someone comes to you, we need to present it. Especially if it's something touchy, unethical, or it's going to negatively impact the school. One of the things that would have been good is if the content was changed and Fetty would have said, "This is where I was. I dropped out, but I'm going to do this video. I want to donate some laptops to the school." The content has changed, but there's something in it for our students. A lot of times our students miss a whole bunch of stuff for people's personal agenda. So when we present it to the principals we can say this is the procedure and that way we won't have any reactive situations in the future. I think that would be a good idea.

Comm. Cleaves: To close this conversation up, when I saw the video at first I didn't understand it. My daughter lives in Virginia. I called my daughter in Virginia this morning and I asked her if she saw the video and she said yes. I asked her to explain it me. I don't listen to rap music so it's hard for me to follow because I don't listen to it. My rap of the day was Sugar Hill Gang and Queen Latifah. I had to get this video explained to me to see if what I was seeing visually went with what I was hearing. What I was seeing didn't match what I was hearing. She gave me a 29-year-old viewpoint of the video. It took me out of being judgmental to say how does this benefit the children that I was elected to serve and protect. Then I had to put all of this in perspective. I'm

proud of Fetty Wap and glad that he was able to pull himself up and continue to live because a lot of people may not have been able to survive what he survived. I'm proud of him. Fetty Wap is not who's accountable to this elected Board. It is the administrators of that building. It is those who serve in this district that are accountable to this Board. That's who we have to hold accountable to make sure that whatever is coming out of or going into our school buildings is positive for our children. The folks in this town elected us to do better than what they were getting before. If we're not being held to a higher standard and holding those who are sitting in these roles to a higher standard, then all of us need to just pack up, go home, live our lives the way we want to live it, say what we want to say, and just leave these children to fend for themselves. But that's not what we were elected to do. The administration is accountable to us. I'm hoping at the end of this investigation, whatever the results are, are going to be the results. We have to remember last year there was a principal that was demoted because of a misspelled word on a billboard. So whatever the consequences are and whatever our own personal feelings are, we have to put that stuff aside because here we had a principal that did not put the billboard up there but was held accountable for that billboard. So when this investigation is going on and it's taking place, whatever the results are, we have to eat it. It's not personal. We have to eat it. Just as we have those parents that come to all of the meetings to hold us accountable, we have to continue to hold staff and administration accountable for the positions that they hold within this district. Dr. Evans, you have a task at hand for you and we await the results of whatever comes out of this investigation. Moving forward, I hope whatever the message that comes out of this all of our administrators in our buildings will take heed to make sure that they're following the proper procedures that are set in place for this district. Thank you.

RESOLUTIONS FOR A VOTE AT THE WORKSHOP MEETING:

Resolution No. 1

BE IT RESOLVED, that the list of bills and claims dated May 26, 2016, beginning with vendor number 86 and ending with vendor number 799548, in the amount of \$13,577,319.78; and

BE IT RESOLVED, that each claim or demand has been fully itemized verified, has been duly audited as required by law in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:19-2.

It was moved by Comm. Redmon, seconded by Comm. Castillo that Resolution No. 1 be adopted. On roll call all members voted in the affirmative, except Comm. Hodges who voted no, Comm. Hodges who abstained on anything pertaining to himself, the YMCA, and Jumpstart, Comm. Mimms who abstained, and Comm. Rivera who abstained on anything pertaining to NJCDC, if necessary. The motion carried.

Resolution No. 2

WHEREAS, on March 15, 2007, the State of New Jersey adopted P.L.2007, c.53, *An Act Concerning School District Accountability*, also known as Assembly Bill 5 (A5), and

WHEREAS, Bill A5, N.J.S.A. 18A:11-12(3)f, requires that conferences/workshops have prior approval by a majority of the full voting membership of the board of education, and

WHEREAS, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:11-12(2)s, an employee or member of the board of education who travels in violation of the school district's policy or this

section shall be required to reimburse the school district in an amount equal to three times the cost associated with attending the event, now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approves attendance at conferences/workshops for the dates and amounts listed for staff members and/or Board members on the attached and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that final authorization for attendance at conferences/workshops will be confirmed at the time a purchase order is issued.

STAFF MEMBER	CONFERENCE	DATE	AMOUNT
Matthew Caruso	International Baccalaureate Category 2 Workshop: History	July 6-8, 2016	\$1,135.46 (registration, transportation)
Teacher/International High School	New York, NY		
Frank Barber	International Baccalaureate Category 2 Workshop: Language A: Language and Literature	July 6-8, 2016	\$1,135.46 (registration, transportation)
Teacher/International High School	New York, NY		
Dewitt Evering	National Principal Leadership Institute: Leaders Make the Difference Summer Institute	July 9-14, 2016	\$2,125.00 (registration, transportation, meals)
Principal/ACT @ JFK	New York, NY		
MaryAnne Perrotta	National Principal Leadership Institute: Leaders Make the Difference Summer Institute	July 9-14, 2016	\$1,875.00 (registration)
Principal/SET @ JFK	New York, NY		
Pamela Powell	National Principal Leadership Institute: Leaders Make the Difference Summer Institute	July 9-14, 2016	\$2,203.75 (registration, transportation, meals)
Principal/BTMF @ JFK	New York, NY		
Daisy Ayala	School Nutrition Association Annual National Conference 2016	July 10-13, 2016	\$2,157.00 (registration, transportation, lodging, meals)
Business Administrator	San Antonio, TX		
David Buccholtz	School Nutrition Association Annual National Conference 2016	July 10-13, 2016	\$2,157.00 (registration, transportation, lodging, meals)
Director/Food Services	San Antonio, TX		
Petra Efelis	School Nutrition Association Annual National Conference 2016	July 10-13, 2016	\$2,157.00 (registration, transportation, lodging, meals)
Wellness Coordinator/Food Services	San Antonio, TX		
Ricardo Gelo	School Nutrition Association Annual National Conference 2016	July 10-13, 2016	\$2,157.00 (registration, transportation, lodging, meals)
Operations Manager/Food Services	San Antonio, TX		
Emily Walsh	Handle With Care Instructor & Re- Certification Program	September 21, 2016	\$450.00 (registration)
Behavior Analyst/MLK	Clarksburg, NJ		

TOTAL CONFERENCES: 10
TOTAL AMOUNT: \$17,552.67

It was moved by Comm. Mimms, seconded by Comm. Redmon that Resolution No. 2 be adopted.

Comm. Hodges: I just want to say that there's a common misconception that the public has that there is no value to travel. What I really want to underscore is that there are other districts, people, and training venues other than Paterson. It's frequently of great value to send our people away to get a sense of what other people are doing and what's possible to bring back with the people who, by the way, are competing with us in terms of educating kids. We need to be kept abreast of what's available and possible for our children because we don't have a lock on all educational pedagogy here in the City of Paterson. While I intend to vote no on a number of things because I don't have my compendium put forward, I will vote yes on this particular item.

On roll call all members voted in the affirmative, except Comm. Hodges who abstained on anything pertaining to himself, the YMCA, and Jumpstart, and Comm. Rivera who abstained on anything pertaining to NJCDC, if necessary. The motion carried.

Resolution No. 3

Whereas, the School Business Administrator, acknowledges the receipt of approval from the State of NJ Department of Education to transfer \$6.9 million of Early Childhood Carryover Funds to the General Fund.

Whereas, the School Business Administrator will transfer Early Childhood Carryover Funds from the Special Revenue fund with an inter-fund transfer to the General Fund.

Whereas, these funds will be appropriated to the general fund as Early Childhood Revenue and appropriated in accounts which supports K-3 staffing and programs per our request in the October 19, 2015.

Whereas, the appropriation of Early Childhood funds will be allocated to the following Schools with Preschool programs to salary (16-5-110-100-101-XXX) account as follows:

School #1	450,922
School #6	512,967
School #10	824,314
School #15	775,428
School #18	1,053,030
School #21	879,529
School #24	726,486
School #28	674,358
Dale	483,455
E.W. Kilpatrick	519,511
Total	\$6,900,000

Whereas, the remaining amount in the Early Childhood fund will be sufficient to address previously established priorities for Early Childhood programs.

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved, the Paterson Public Schools acknowledges the approval to transfer \$6.9 million of Early Childhood carryover funds to the General Fund, and appropriate in budget accounts summarized above to support K-3 staffing and programs as agreed.

Be It Further Resolved, that this resolution shall take effect upon its adoption.

It was moved by Comm. Redmon, seconded by Comm. Castillo that Resolution No. 3 be adopted.

Comm. Hodges: This \$6.9 million goes to general fund?

Dr. Evans: Yes.

Comm. Hodges: It was not anticipated? When we made our budget, we had not already committed it to our budget?

Dr. Evans: No.

Comm. Cleaves: This is carryover money.

Dr. Evans: It's carryover money that actually has been accumulating over time.

Comm. Hodges: Is it already budgeted?

Comm. Cleaves: Or is this new money?

Ms. Daisy Ayala: It's not in the current year's budget.

Comm. Hodges: Good. That's all I need to hear.

Ms. Ayala: In any event, the Commissioner gave us permission to do that. It has to be allocated to the fund balance from early childhood to the general fund and then allocated to salaries and programs. It's really in accounting. It's going to eventually fall out to fund balance to help us generate fund balance for next year's budget.

Comm. Cleaves: You said salaries or programs?

Ms. Ayala: Yes.

Comm. Mimms: Will that help us to bring back some of the...

Ms. Ayala: We did that already. Dr. Evans had brought back some teachers at the beginning of the year.

Comm. Cleaves: We're talking about programs.

Ms. Ayala: No programs. It's mostly salaries.

Comm. Redmon: This is a problem because I kind of figured that if we found this extra revenue it would go back into the early childhood program.

Ms. Ayala: It's coming out of the carryover of early childhood to help support the general fund for this year.

Comm. Cleaves: But the program falls under general funds.

Ms. Ayala: Correct.

Comm. Cleaves: So my question to Dr. Evans would be, why did we not use this money to go towards programs?

Dr. Evans: First of all, let me explain that the funds are carryover funds from previous years for early childhood. We cannot automatically on our own independent of the Commissioner's permission take it and use it for the fund balance, as Ms. Ayala has mentioned, or use it for some other purpose. As we were going through the year and identified needs, Ms. Ayala kept track of what those needs were and then we began to entertain the notion of using some of those funds. There is a significant amount that has not been transferred from early childhood.

Ms. Ayala: We had to give a proposal and say this is how much money we basically need for resource teachers, but it has to be allocated to k-3 only.

Comm. Cleaves: You said that we got the approval from the Commissioner to move this money.

Ms. Ayala: And early childhood as well.

Comm. Cleaves: To move the money to the fund balance, which pays for salaries and programs.

Comm. Hodges: There has to be a larger discussion in executive session about what some of this money is intended for.

Dr. Evans: Oh, the source. Dr. Hodges is right. That goes beyond the question that was asked.

Comm. Hodges: There's more to this.

Dr. Evans: Yes. We'd be happy to do that. That deals with the source. What it went towards was as Ms. Ayala indicated, offsetting some expenses for this year as well as enhancing the fund balance.

Comm. Hodges: But there are some other problems in terms of what the money was supposed to be doing.

Dr. Evans: There are some other issues.

Comm. Hodges: The Board needs a larger discussion on that in closed session.

Dr. Evans: Good point.

On roll call all members voted in the affirmative, except Comm. Hodges who voted no, Comm. Hodges who abstained on anything pertaining to himself, the YMCA, and Jumpstart, Comm. Mimms who voted no, Comm. Redmon who voted no, and Comm. Rivera who abstained on anything pertaining to NJCDC, if necessary. The motion carried.

Resolution No. 4

Whereas, the School Business Administrator, acknowledges that there is deferred revenue from the Demonstrably Effective Program Aid (DEPA) from 2007-08, in the amount of \$21,298 on the balance sheet in account 10-481, and appears on the audited Schedule of Expenditures of State Financial Assistance (Exhibit K-4).

Whereas, these funds were distributed to districts and used for programs in the individual schools which qualified for such aid, such as schools with low-income enrollment equal to or greater than 20% but less than 40%, and received \$316 per pupil, while schools with low income enrollment equal to or greater than 40% received \$448 per pupil.

Whereas, In 2007-08, Paterson Public Schools received \$11,616,627 million, of which only \$21,298 remains unspent and is not required to be returned to the grantor.

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved, Paterson Public Schools, allow the transfer of \$21,298, of unspent DEPA from 2007-2008, from deferred revenue account 10-481 to be moved to the 2015-16 budget in miscellaneous revenue 10-1990, to be used for fund balance.

Be It Further Resolved, that this resolution shall take effect upon its adoption.

It was moved by Comm. Mimms, seconded by Comm. Castillo that Resolution No. 4 be adopted.

Comm. Cleaves: This is additional funds going into the fund balance?

Dr. Evans: Going back to 2007-08.

Ms. Ayala: These are various grants that weren't spent 100%. Some of it was like \$20 or \$110. We're pretty much cleaning up our revenue and deferred. If we got \$100,000 we probably spent \$99,500. So \$500 sits there and no one spent it. A lot of it has to do with the vending commission that we received. For years it hasn't been spent. We reach out every year to the schools to spend the money and they haven't spent it. So we're cleaning up our books and just putting the money in miscellaneous revenue.

Comm. Cleaves: How do we balance our budget yearly if we always have this excess left over that's dating back to 2007-08?

Ms. Ayala: It's from there and forward. From 2007-08 we're talking about \$200 or \$300. The year after that it continues to accumulate.

Comm. Rivera: This is the first time I've seen this, but I think I know what it is. Did we collect all the revenues? This is money we didn't spend, right?

Ms. Ayala: We collected the revenue, but this was money that was not spent.

Comm. Rivera: Is this a reimbursable grant?

Ms. Ayala: Not all of them. I'll give you an example. Like I said, on the vending machines at one point we were getting commission and we allocated some of the commission to the schools. Some had \$11 or \$15 and year after year they weren't spending the money. We were reaching out and this year we decided, because a lot of it is old, to clean up our books and put it into miscellaneous revenue.

Comm. Rivera: The reason why I ask is because if we have reimbursable grants...

Ms. Ayala: This is not reimbursable. This was received. That's why it's in deferred.

Comm. Rivera: I understand, but what I was getting at is that given that we haven't seen these grants I had to ask those questions. I've been working with different grants for the past 10 years and what can happen is if as a department we bill the state for an expense and we didn't spend it, then we have to make sure that we're looking into this matter. I just needed to know some details about what grant made this up.

Ms. Ayala: We'll give you details. There's a whole detailed general ledger listing of what school had it and where it came from.

Comm. Rivera: My concern is how come we didn't discuss this in the finance committee?

Ms. Ayala: We did. This was at the finance committee. We went through this agenda.

Comm. Rivera: But did we discuss this in particular?

Ms. Ayala: We kind of just touched on it, but we didn't go into the detail we're doing now.

Comm. Castillo: It was there.

Comm. Mimms: It's good that it's being identified now, but it's very scary that it's taken nine years for it to be found. The biggest concern is when it comes to state and federal regulations and guidelines, maybe not in this one in particular but in futuristic grants or monies that we receive, if we don't have guidelines in place in the district to monitor and have controls in place to trigger us to know that there's money left over and those types of indicators internally in the district, it's going to cut us from the funding we're receiving, whether it be Title 1 or Title 2 money. So we definitely need to do internal indicators so that we can control and have checks and balances with different balances that are left over. This is a 9-year balance that we're being presented tonight to make a vote on.

Ms. Ayala: It's not a 9-year balance. It's cumulative for nine years. Most of it, almost \$20,000, is vending machines and the schools have not been spending it. We reach out every year to the school and we tell them.

Comm. Mimms: It still doesn't matter whether it's vending machines or not. It's cumulative over nine years. If it was just this year we were voting, that's one thing. But this is a cumulative resolution that's being presented to us tonight for \$21,000 that's been done over nine years. The real question is, what else is out there that we haven't found? I'm just proposing that we need to build internal indicators inside of our finance. It goes in line with curriculum and all that stuff. We have to have some internal checks and balances to make sure that we're meeting and adhering to guidelines, not just internally, but based on state and federal. If we don't, we're going to miss out on some of the grant money that we've been provided.

Comm. Rivera: I don't want to prolong it, but what you're telling me is that this is not a grant. This is just commission from vending machines?

Ms. Ayala: Right.

Comm. Rivera: It's not considered a grant. It's just a commission we get.

Ms. Ayala: There is a grant. One grant was for \$5,000 and they only spent like \$4,090. It's a combination of miscellaneous revenue, such as the vending machine commission, and small grants that we got from Lowe's. It's not these big grants. It's little grants that we get \$1,000 here and we give an opportunity to the schools to spend it. Every year we reached out for them to spend it and it doesn't get spent. So this year we cleaned it up. Maybe with the details you'll have a better understanding of what it is.

Comm. Mimms: I was going to ask do we have the details of what it is.

Ms. Ayala: Yes, we do.

Comm. Mimms: That's what we would like to see.

Comm. Redmon: How long are we allowed to keep those on our books before we have to clean it up?

Ms. Ayala: They were funds that we already received. We had the cash all along. We just gave an opportunity to whoever got a Lowe's grant or a Home Depot grant to spend the balance of it.

Comm. Cleaves: Every year when we go through the budget cycle why are we not picking this money up? Even though you say it's a few dollars here and there, in nine years we've gotten \$21,000. Why is it not being picked up or discussed during the budget process? This money has to be sitting somewhere. Like Comm. Rivera said, he doesn't remember hearing about it in a budget meeting. How come it just appeared now?

Ms. Ayala: When we're doing the budget we're not looking at our balance sheet. We're looking at our profit and income statement. That's how we pay the budget. There was intent there and someone did 95% of the intent. We're talking about 50 schools. We're not talking about just one. We're talking about 50 schools year after year. When you come down to it, it's insignificant for that school. However, we want them to use it and in some cases we tell them they have \$50 and they can spend it on supplies or whatever the intent was. They got \$5,000 for a playground and there's \$45 left and it stays there. That's why I said if you had the details you'd have a better understanding that the amount is very insignificant. We want the school to use it, but they don't use it.

Comm. Cleaves: In the future when you present something like this to us, could you just give us the full picture so we won't have to have this discussion? We would be able to see the full picture, the pages of however many dollars.

Ms. Ayala: Sure.

Comm. Hodges: I'm growing increasingly concerned about these resolutions because we should have the full picture on all of them before we vote on them. That's just good practice. You can't vote blindly. I continue to vote no because you have to have all the information and a chance to review them before you vote on them. You're jeopardizing yourselves – I'm voting no – by voting yes on these things without having read them. If you're sitting in a court of law and they say, "Comm. Mimms, you voted yes on this. Did you read page 4? What does page 4 say?" You voted yes. How do you vote for things you don't know? It's a contract or whatever it is. I really have to insist that we have the

details before we vote on this stuff and have a chance to review it. I'm very uncomfortable with this. I understand what it is. I would like to encourage the schools to use those resources because we're in a bad place now and that's a roll of paper or whatever it is.

Comm. Cleaves: I have one last question. Have we earmarked this money for anything? Are we just putting it in the fund balance? Has been earmarked for something specific?

Ms. Ayala: Just miscellaneous revenue.

Comm. Hodges: That's going to go towards Dr. Evans' new bus.

Comm. Cleaves: A new what?

Comm. Hodges: Four buses.

Ms. Ayala: I would be more than happy to forward all the details.

Comm. Castillo: It's not just money that was found out of left field. It was something that was left as a cushion, a little bit of spending money that the schools had. But I have to clarify that it did come to the finance committee. It was there and we touched on it. I guess we didn't go into detail with asking all the questions that you guys wanted the answers to.

Comm. Cleaves: Thank you for your clarity.

Comm. Rivera: I want to point out one more thing, though. The same way these cancellations are benefitting us right now, in the past we had other things in our balance sheet that might affect our surplus in the future that we might not be acting on now or maybe we did already in the past. A lot of the SDA receivables that we had in the books, have we cleared those out yet?

Ms. Ayala: We've been working with the SDA to clear that out and get our money on that.

Comm. Rivera: The intent of that comment is just grants that are carried over. The money was collected and it was not spent. There's not a timeframe to get those things off the books. It's good practice that we do it every so many years. Again, we have a \$500 million budget when you combine all the resources and this is just \$21,000.

On roll call all members voted in the affirmative, except Comm. Hodges who voted no, Comm. Hodges who abstained on anything pertaining to himself, the YMCA, and Jumpstart, Comm. Mimms who voted no, Comm. Rivera who voted no, and Comm. Rivera who abstained on anything pertaining to NJCDC, if necessary. The motion carried.

Resolution No. 5

Whereas, Brighter Future Priority IV: Efficient and Responsive Operation Goal 3: Increase accountability for Performance and Goal 4: Increase administrative and staff capacity as ongoing training for Professional Development of the 2014-2019 Strategic Plan of the Paterson Public Schools; and

Whereas, Professional development for teachers is essential to the success of all Career Technical Education programs. As such, PLTW teachers will complete a two-week training session for every PLTW class that they teach so that they are fully prepared to engage students in innovation. The PLTW is an intensive and immersive in-person training experience held at one of PLTW affiliate universities, and

Whereas, the PLTW programs are designed to serve middle school and high school students of diverse backgrounds from those already interested in STEM-related fields to those who are more inspired by the application of STEM than they are by traditional mathematics and science courses, and

Whereas, PLTW classes are taught in school during the school day, and every instructor of PLTW courses receives extensive training as well as ongoing support in the courses they teach. The STEM subject matter is rigorous and allows students to actively engage in hands on activity, and

Whereas, during the core training the teacher will assume the role of a student and must successfully complete and pass all activities, projects and problems given to effectively implement and instruct the course, and

Therefore, Be It Resolved, Paterson Board of Education will approve the professional development and send one teacher from the Perkins approved program STEM at Architecture and Construction Academy at JFK Education Complex receive Project Lead The Way (PLTW) core training and certification in Civil Engineering and Architecture (PTE-CEA) at Purdue University, 401 N. Grant St, West Lafayette, IN 47907, from June 19, 2016 to July 01, 2016.

It was moved by Comm. Redmon, seconded by Comm. Castillo that Resolution No. 5 be adopted.

Comm. Hodges: Civil engineering is a degree. What is a certification in civil engineering? What is that about? Is that additional?

Mr. David Cozart: Good evening. Project Lead the Way is a program that has specific courses that teachers have to be certified in in order to teach the program. That's one of the course work we have. ACT Academy has moved away from the traditional workshop classes to become more engineer-based and technology-based. That's one of the pathways that we have at ACT Academy. That course is a requirement to be taught and they have to be certified by the vendor.

Comm. Hodges: So this is certification so they can teach along the lines of civil engineering without conferring to a civil engineering degree.

Mr. Cozart: Correct. When the kids go through this whole pathway, at the end they have a certificate saying that they are certified to do this. Various school districts have it. Baltimore, Maryland has it throughout their pathways and some of them have it from grammar school through grade 12.

Comm. Cleaves: Once this teacher receives the certification that we're paying for, are they locked into staying here for a certain period of time to make sure they teach our students and not take the certificate and leave?

Mr. Cozart: We encourage that component, but that certificate won't help them unless they go into another building that has Project Lead the Way. It's only for that specific pathway.

Comm. Mimms: Do we have a description of what this training entails and the teacher that was selected and the reason they were the choice to go to this school? What was the reason this one teacher was selected based on the requirements of the program?

Mr. Cozart: Yes, we have the information regarding the actual program itself. We have the course description. We made the decision on the teacher based upon his staffing. Who in his staff is teaching this course on that pathway? His administrative team decided which teacher was best suited to teach that pathway for a group of kids. That's how they selected the teacher for that and it used the teacher's background and prior knowledge to see who is a better fit to deliver instruction to the kids. That came from Mr. Evering and I supported his team's recommendation for the teacher.

Comm. Mimms: I'm not familiar with the program. It may be a great program. The problem I have is with the underfunding of the budget that we are able to allocate funds to certain entities. Even though this may be a great program, it bothers me because we have so much turnaround. We have people who are in our district and then leave our district for more money. I'm concerned that we certify them for something and then they leave and go to another district. We can't control that. That's why I'm trying to understand.

Mr. Cozart: I understand what you're saying. That certification will only help you if you are part of the Project Lead the Way program someplace else. It's a national program. If you go into Tech and they are not offering that program, that certificate will mean nothing to you. It's only if you're going into the Project Lead the Way program. Regarding what we're trying to do at the academy, we are bringing the level higher. We have higher expectations. This won't be the first time you'll see this Board come through the same actions for this course because the program itself is that tight and strict. It's pushing you to excel regarding moving to more technology-based and engineering-based themes regarding the old-fashioned wood and metal shop. Not to be disrespectful to that profession, but it's more intense now. That's what we're trying to move the students to at ACT Academy, to more intensive work.

On roll call all members voted in the affirmative, except Comm. Hodges who abstained on anything pertaining to himself, the YMCA, and Jumpstart, and Comm. Rivera who abstained on anything pertaining to NJCDC, if necessary. The motion carried.

Resolution No. 6

Whereas, the district's Brighter Futures Strategic Plan's first priority is to provide Effective Academic Programs, the Division of Academic Services/Special Programs recognizes that field trips are supplemental supports for essential concept acquisition of instructional programs, and

Whereas, field trips afford students a firsthand educational experience that is not available in the classroom, and

Whereas, the Assistant Superintendents have approved/recommended the addition of the attached field trip locations;

Therefore Be It Resolved, the Paterson Board of Education accepts the attached list of approved destinations as appropriate field trip sites for the students of the Paterson Public Schools for the 2015-2016 school year.

It was moved by Comm. Redmon, seconded by Comm. Mimms that Resolution No. 6 be adopted. On roll call all members voted in the affirmative, except Comm. Hodges who abstained on anything pertaining to himself, the YMCA, and Jumpstart, and Comm. Rivera who abstained on anything pertaining to NJCDC, if necessary. The motion carried.

Resolution No. 7

Purpose: Resolution of the State Operated School District of the City of Paterson, County of Passaic, State of New Jersey, to award the contract for Prescription Plan insurance for the 2016-2017 school year.

Whereas, Paterson Public Schools ("PPS") at 90 Delaware Avenue, Paterson, NJ 07503 provides insurance protection to its covered employees, including prescription coverage and

Whereas, Conner Strong & Buckelew ("CSB"), insurance broker/consultant of record for PPS, solicited quotes for both prescription drug plan ("Prescription Plan") insurance and the administration of the Prescription Plan for PPS (Plan Sponsor of the Prescription Plan) and for prescription expense aggregate excess loss reinsurance ("Prescription Stop Loss Insurance"); and

Whereas, Benecard Services, LLC. ("Benecard") located at 3131 Princeton Pike, building 2B, Suite 103, Lawrenceville, NJ 08648 was the only vendor to submit a proposal to CSB for Prescription Plan insurance for the 2016-17 school year; and

Whereas, Benecard has proposed premiums which are estimated to be approximately \$22,520,000 (5% above the expected 2015-16 expense) as described in the attached Marketing Analysis prepared by CSB; and

Whereas, all vendors of self-insured Prescription Plan administration and Prescription Stop Loss Insurance that submitted proposals had cost estimates in excess of the Benecard premiums and would require implementation of more stringent cost containment programs than required by Benecard, and

Whereas, CSB has recommended to PPS that PPS accept the proposal of Benecard and award a contract for PPS Prescription Plan insurance to Benecard for the 2016-2017 year, and

Whereas, Prescription Plan will be a fully insured plan sponsored by PPS in 2016-2017; and

Whereas, Prescription Plan provides for the payment of prescription drugs and related services for employees eligible to receive such benefits through affiliation with a group that has a contract or other arrangement in effect with PPS; and

Whereas, Benecard provides prescription drug benefits insurance and, in connection therewith, has established networks of participating retail pharmacies and operates a system for the processing, fulfillment and payment of claims for prescription drugs furnished by such pharmacies; and can provide prescription fulfillment by mail; and

Whereas, Plan Sponsor of Health Plan will retain the services of Benecard pursuant to the contract to provide a prescription drug benefit program and in order to provide the services and program in the contract, Prescription Plan will be providing Benecard with Protected Health Information for its eligible persons; and

Whereas, the parties to this contract desire to conduct their respective activities in compliance with the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996, ("HIPAA") and amended by the Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health Act ("HITECH Act"), part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 ("ARRA"), the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act of 2008 ("GINA"), and the final regulations to such Act promulgated in January 2013;

Whereas, the awarding of this contract is in line with the Brighter Futures Strategic Plan 2014-2019, Priority IV: Efficient and Responsive Operations, Goal 4: Increase administrative and staff capacity;

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved, in consideration of the premises and the mutual covenants contained herein, the parties to this contract are in mutual agreement and Benecard is awarded a contract for Prescription Plan insurance for the period between July 1, 2016 and June 30, 2017 at the prices and other terms set forth in the attached hereto FI Marketing Analysis – Benecard and incorporated herein by reference.

It was moved by Comm. Redmon, seconded by Comm. Castillo that Resolution No. 7 be adopted.

Comm. Kerr: I think I missed that discussion.

Comm. Cleaves: We got a presentation on it.

Comm. Kerr: Can you give me a brief overview about the main points?

Comm. Cleaves: All I can tell you is they're moving from Express Scripts to Benecard.

Dr. Evans: As of June 30 we won't have Express Scripts or any other prescription carrier. Benecard is the new carrier. This involved the negotiations that you heard a lot about with the unions. All of the unions were involved, including the PEA, in identifying a new carrier to contain the costs of our prescriptions. This is the new provider.

On roll call all members voted in the affirmative, except Comm. Hodges who voted no, Comm. Hodges who abstained on anything pertaining to himself, the YMCA, and Jumpstart, and Comm. Rivera who abstained on anything pertaining to NJCDC, if necessary. The motion carried.

Resolution No. 8

Purpose: Resolution of the State Operated School District of the City of Paterson, County of Passaic, State of New Jersey, to renew the contract for Broker of Record Employee Health Benefits, RFP-420-16 for the 2016-2017 and 2017-2018 school years.

Whereas, at the Board of Education meeting of June 17, 2015, resolution number C-18 was approved by the Board, awarding a contract for Broker of Record Employee Health Benefits to Conner Strong & Buckelew located at 40 Lake Center Executive Park, 401 Route 73 North, Suite 300, Marlton, NJ 08053 for the 2015-2016 school year; and

Whereas, Human Resource Services has deemed the services from Conner Strong & Buckelew to be “effective and efficient” as required for renewal under 18A:18A-42; and

Whereas, the vendor has agreed to extend the contract for the next year at no increase in rates over the previous contract; and

Whereas, an allowance was made in the bid specifications for renewal of this contract section 1.10; and

Whereas, the awarding of this contract is in line with the Brighter Futures Strategic Plan 2014-2019, Priority IV: Efficient and Responsive Operations, Goal 4: Increase administrative and staff capacity; now

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved, that the Paterson Public School District approves the renewal of the contract for Broker of Record Employee Health Benefits, RFP-420-16 to Conner Strong & Buckelew located at 40 Lake Center Executive Park, 401 Route 73 North, Suite 300, Marlton, NJ 08053 for the 2016-2017 and 2017-2018 school years not-to exceed \$125,000.00 per year plus reimbursement of expenses not to exceed \$75,000 per year pending budget approval.

Be It Further Resolved, the vendor has been notified that no goods or services will be provided to the District without first receiving a fully executed purchase order; and that the terms on the purchase will be honored completely; if the vendor does not agree with the terms on the purchase order, the vendor will not provide any goods or services to the District until such time a new purchase order is completed and delivered with terms the vendor will honor; and the vendor being awarded this bid has complied with all Affirmative Action requirements.

It was moved by Comm. Simmons, seconded by Comm. Mimms that Resolution No. 8 be adopted. On roll call all members voted as follows:

Comm. Hodges: No. (Comm. Hodges abstained on anything pertaining to himself, the YMCA, and Jumpstart)

Comm. Kerr: No.

Comm. Mimms: No.

Comm. Redmon: No.

Comm. Rivera: No. (Comm. Rivera abstained on anything pertaining to NJCDC)

Comm. Simmons: Yes.

Comm. Cleaves: I abstain.

The motion did not carry.

Resolution No. 9

Whereas, professional service contracts fall under 18A:18A-5: exceptions to requirement for advertising and shall be awarded for a period not to exceed 12 consecutive months; and

Whereas, however the Paterson Public School District recognizes the need for complying with the New Jersey purchasing laws for obtaining the most competitive and responsive bid for goods and/or services; and

Whereas, Under the Authorization of the Business Administrator formal public RFQs were solicited for Professional Services – Audit Services, RFQ-930-17 to audit the 2016-2017 fiscal school year; and

Whereas, Sixteen (16) vendors were mailed/e-mailed bid specifications (the list is available for review in the Purchasing Department), which two (2) responded to the district's solicitation; and

Whereas, this solicitation was made by advertised public notice appearing in The Record and The Herald News on April 12, 2016. Sealed bids were opened and read aloud on May 5, 2016 at 11:00 am in the Conference Room, 4th Floor, 90 Delaware Avenue, Paterson, NJ 07503 by the Purchasing Department; and

Whereas, per the attached bid summary, the Business Office recommends that the request for qualifications for Professional Services – Audit Services, be awarded as follows:

Lerch, Vinci & Higgins, LLP 17-17 Route 208

Whereas, the awarding of this contract is in line with the Brighter Futures Strategic Plan 2014-2019, Priority IV: Efficient and Responsive Operations, Goal 3: Increase Accountability for Performance; and

Now Therefore, Be It Resolved that the State District Superintendent supports the above mentioned recommendation that the above listed vendor(s) be awarded a contract for RFQ-930-17 not to exceed \$125,000.00 to audit the 2016-2017 fiscal school year.

It was moved by Comm. Mimms, seconded by Comm. Redmon that Resolution No. 9 be adopted.

Comm. Kerr: Is this the present accounting firm that we have on the books?

Ms. Ayala: Yes, it is.

Comm. Kerr: When will the contract for this company expire?

Ms. Ayala: This is the last year.

Comm. Kerr: So they're due to do our audit for...

Ms. Ayala: This year. That will extend it into next year.

Comm. Kerr: Is that a new policy?

Ms. Ayala: It's not a new policy. Because the contract was expiring the finance committee asked me to go out for an RFQ, which is a one-year term.

Comm. Kerr: After the next year then...

Ms. Ayala: We will go back out and do an RFP for three years. We're going to extend the vendor list to include additional vendors.

Comm. Kerr: If you issue an RFP you normally send it out to how many companies?

Ms. Ayala: 16.

Comm. Kerr: You need to expand on 16? There is a need to expand the 16?

Ms. Ayala: The finance committee seems to think so and that's fine.

Comm. Kerr: Are we doing this to every company and every area?

Ms. Ayala: No.

Comm. Kerr: So why are we choosing to do it here to this company?

Ms. Ayala: Because the finance committee feels that there are other firms out there...

Comm. Kerr: We're not going to work by the finance committee. We're going to work by policy.

Ms. Ayala: There really is a no policy.

Comm. Kerr: I want the administration to get it very clear. We as a district are going to be functioning based on policy, not on what you, I, or what the next person says. I'm not going to sit here and accept that. We are going to base our operations on policy.

Ms. Ayala: Okay. So when the one term is up we will revisit for the following auditing years and we will go by policy.

Comm. Kerr: Thank you very much.

Comm. Rivera: What process do we use to hire our legal services in the district? Do we do an RFQ? Do we do an RFP? Do we do competitive bidding?

Ms. Ayala: We do an RFQ.

Comm. Rivera: Which is Request for Qualifications, which under the state law any municipality or state agency could do because it's professional services. So why is it that all of a sudden I become chair of the finance committee and I'm asking the district for the purpose of rotating auditors and everything just gets put under a microscope? For example, we as a committee did not tell the purchasing department or the business office to send it out to 16 vendors.

Ms. Ayala: No, you did not. That's who we have on record.

Comm. Rivera: That's what you guys did on your own. The purpose of an RFQ is just to give the district the flexibility to choose. The finance committee, a member of three,

did not choose what vendor we're going to pick. Normally that is left to the discretion of the administration to choose what company we're going to work with and then we vote on it. My intent with what I tried to sell to the finance committee was that the auditors that we currently have in place are good auditors. They've been there a long time and they work with a lot of entities, but they've been here already for about nine years. The intent was to rotate auditors every so many years in order to maintain that independence. This is something the state in the past tried to put into law but they couldn't. They could not enforce it, but it's good practice. They recommend that districts, municipalities, or counties rotate their auditors from time to time. I don't understand why every time something is done some Board members make it seem that it's for other reasons. Again, we do the same exact process for our legal department. We do RFQs. Whoever runs that department decides what consultants to use. The reason I have this tone is because this has been going on for six months. Let's just put this bed. We have a lot of issues here. We're hiring the firm that has been here for a long time for this year and we're giving them next year again. If you guys feel that an auditor that has been around for 10 or 11 years you want to keep around, then the Board as a whole can decide to do that. Keep them for a longer time, but don't try to insinuate that the process is wrong. It is under the procurement law. You can do a RFQ. The last time we did a competitive bidding for three years. For professional services you don't have to go to the lowest bidder. You don't. I just don't understand. Let's stop insinuating that we're doing this for a particular reason.

Comm. Cleaves: We're going to have a Board meeting and a discussion. We're not going to take this personal. I'm not going to sit through another personal conversation between two people that should have a conversation outside of the realm of the other six or seven of us. This is not the first time that this has come to the table and every time it does it's turned out the same way. I'm not doing it. If we're going to keep it professional and about business, then that's what we're going to do. If you have an issue about the resolution, let's talk about the resolution. Let's keep personal feelings and attacks out of the discussion.

Comm. Kerr: It has not entered into the discussion tonight.

Comm. Cleaves: Yes, it has entered the conversation.

Comm. Hodges: Yes, it has. What I want to clarify is I reserve the right to question anything that happens in this district because that's my responsibility and I'm not going to apologize to anybody for doing it. Ever! So if there's any confusion about that, they can see me and I'm very happy to talk with people about it. I do not attack people personally on this Board. I defy one of you to show me when I've done it because I haven't. I have been attacked, particularly by people who seem to feel they're threatened when you ask questions. But I have not attacked people personally and I'm not going to because there's a higher purpose here. I will challenge process, procedures, and the administration, but I do not issue personal attacks. That has not been my behavior in the 13 years that I've been here and I'm not going to start tonight. Nor will I allow my activity to be characterized by such even indirectly because that's not what I'm doing. If I have a question about an issue, I will ask that question and I'm not going to apologize for it. That's all I want to say. I'm not attacking anyone when I say that.

Comm. Cleaves: Any more questions regarding the resolution?

On roll call all members voted in the affirmative, except Comm. Hodges who voted no, Comm. Hodges who abstained on anything pertaining to himself, the

YMCA, and Jumpstart, Comm. Mimms who voted no, and Comm. Rivera who abstained on anything pertaining to NJCDC, if necessary. The motion carried.

GENERAL BUSINESS

Items Requiring a Vote

Instruction and Program

Comm. Hodges: I really want to commend the staff, Dr. Evans, because there's an over-abiding concern about how we're going to do these things given the finances that we have in front of us and we ended up having almost a four-hour meeting last night. I must say a small part of that was my questioning. There were other people who wouldn't stop talking, like Mr. Kerr. I couldn't shut him down. Your staff was so engaged that I had to try to stop them, which is really unique because they work here all day. They worked very hard in our discussions last night and I really wanted to make that very clear. I think that they enjoyed the meeting. We talked about a number of concerns. When I say freedom of speech, one of the areas that we were concerned about was in A-1 through A-3 on page 2. In the first three items there was a passage under demonstrate achievement goals where you state that the goal and objective of Spanish studies is to, among other things, develop interconnected cultural awareness and acceptance. I had an objection to the term 'acceptance.' Acceptance implies to me propaganda. You're imposing this standard on people as opposed to bringing them to an awareness and allowing them to make their own judgments. I think that our job here is to not indoctrinate, but rather give the kids the tools that they can research this information, get a sense of what a variety of sides are, and then make their own determinations. That was why we had a lengthy discussion about that and they have changed the language to reflect that discussion. Also, in I&P-8 there was phrase that said "foster cultural understanding and multiculturalism." There were some questions about whether or not we want to foster multiculturalism as opposed to 'provide acute awareness' of multiculturalism. In that posture you're giving the kids an understanding of what it is and allowing them to make their own judgments of it. That's a stronger posture, I thought, than what this language currently had. Those were the kinds of questions that we raised. They do have serious implications because you don't want to limit a child's understanding just based on somebody's values. We could all disagree on what's good, bad, appropriate, or not appropriate. But the child should be brought to view the issue and then decide for themselves what's good or bad. That's what we talked about there. Another area of great concern was teachers in the area of science. How do we make sure that we retain teachers? Certainly we have an issue with the loss of teachers in this district. What kinds of methods are we going to employ to make sure that we are able to have the staff that we need in the opening IB program, our regular science department, or anywhere else for that matter? We noted the fact that we've lost the National Board Certification Program, which among other features didn't cost us anything and gave us first crack at teachers that were operating at a different level than our normal teachers. We had a chance to see those teachers in action and learn from what they were doing, but also train our own and give them an understanding that we have spots available. We don't have that anymore and some of us are lamenting the loss of that and have for a few years now. It's also an opportunity for us to look at other people who might down the line choose to come here. We don't have that venue anymore. That's a problem and something we should again pursue among other techniques to bring teachers to this district. If you lost two or three teachers in the IB program the requirement for training is that they have to have or they can't teach. You just can't put a substitute in there because they have to have the requisite training. Those issues we discussed last night. There was a concern about the AP programs,

the number of students that are taking AP, and how well they fare. As many people know, if you're at a college you evaluate a school district and their seniors in large part on the amount of AP courses and the success rate of those students in those courses. We have not fared well. We wanted to take a look at what those numbers are and have been and discuss how we plan to address that in the near future given the financial situation that we have in this district. There were other areas. I'm going to give you a more complete discussion on what took place in the written work since I have all the information together. I really want to say the discussions were really very good and I'm just sorry the rest of the Board didn't get a chance to participate. Despite being long, the energy that the staff had and brought to the table was extraordinary and I'm deeply appreciative of it. Are there any comments?

Comm. Castillo: I think that we also need to give kudos to programs like the IB program on how hard they're working. They have a whole procedure working together on teachers, students, and programming. They're giving the teachers an opportunity to get these certifications and we have more applicants for teachers that want to participate in this program. They've created a whole community. The director of early childhood has an excellent process on how they do things and how they're keeping in contact with the kids even after they leave the preschool. Dr. Hodges has been talking about getting the kids to read better by the third grade and how they're monitoring that. I think it gave us, not only a great meeting, but also more insight into the information that we talk about amongst ourselves and we also got more clarification from the staff on what's going on in each individual school and each program. I thought that was great as well.

Comm. Hodges: Early childhood is of particular concern primarily because if we're not able to bring those kids up to grade level then it makes it harder for us to do the other things that we want to do in terms of retaining them or making sure that they remain at that level when things begin to drop off in third and fourth grade. So we have to do a better job. I think the district had already pledged two or three years ago to get us to the point where at least 65% of our students who have two years of early childhood beginning at kindergarten are able to read. We're not there yet. What we're looking at is what kinds of things need to be done to make sure that we get that accomplished. Does it involve resources? Does it involve a change of programs? What kinds of instruction or monitoring of the reading process has to take place in order to make sure that we find a way to overcome that? We need to teach parents other things. We need to give them vocabulary. All those things we have to explore to change those outcomes. We simply just can't do what we've always done in order to make additional progress. I'll stop there, but that was the tenor of the conversation last night. I really enjoyed it.

Operations

Comm. Cleaves: Do we have an Operations report?

Fiscal Management

Comm. Rivera: As you saw from the agenda, we asked the Business Administrator to proceed with the resolution to appoint the auditing firm for 2017. I'm just going through the bullet points. I also had a question regarding the list of consultants that we all got a copy on through an email. The discussion that we had was that some of the consultants that are there you indicated that we're not renewing. Then you have a few that are on the list to be determined by you. That means that they're included in your budget for next year and you have the flexibility to use them as you please. Do we have a plan to use those others?

Dr. Evans: There was only one where there was flexibility. All the others we have plans for them. Some are going to complete work that they're already engaged in. A good example is Mindy Proper, who is the person who is in the lead in making the transition from ALIO to Edumet and some of the supporting systems that feed into it. That work is not complete and we knew it wouldn't be complete. We knew it would take a little longer than the end of this year to complete that work. She brings expertise that we do not have in-house to complete that. That's a good example of the people who we're continuing. The one where we're uncertain at this point in time is Dr. Fulmore's company. We engaged him to help with the transition of HARP and YES coming together in one building and establishing the culture that we wanted to see and working with the principals to help facilitate their collaboration. Thanks to him, it's coming together in ways that we're satisfied with. I will weigh at the end of the year in talking with him and the principals whether or not that process is complete and make that determination. For all the others, there's a definite rationale and plan for continuing.

Comm. Rivera: I wasn't going to get into detail with any of them, but Linda Crescione, for example, the services that she's providing is to help transition with the opening of the new schools.

Dr. Evans: That's part of it. That's not the totality of what she does. She's also supporting me in the work that I'm doing in leading the local governance initiative to return to local control. That's going to continue through next year.

Comm. Rivera: That's fine. The next bullet point is we asked for an update regarding the transportation bids for the routes. Where do we stand with that? As we all know, that cost us a few millions dollars going out there late and we need to know the status of it.

Dr. Evans: I may stand corrected, but I believe all of the bids have gone out. The director for student assignment services has been sending the bids out now for several weeks.

Ms. Ayala: After we had our finance committee meeting I did speak with Lisa. Unfortunately, she had an emergency meeting this evening, but she will be at the next finance meeting and bring you up to date on where we are.

Comm. Rivera: You may not have the answer, but we'll just ask anyway since you came to the microphone. Did she give you an indication that all the bids are out?

Ms. Ayala: Most of the bids are out. We're just preparing the contracts.

Comm. Rivera: Normally I wouldn't have these questions here, but we didn't have the answer for the finance committee and it's in the minutes. I just went through the bullet points. We also reviewed the bills list. We got into a discussion regarding our cash flow situation in the district and how we will address some of the payments that are coming forward. We also discussed our new prescription benefit plan. Basically, that was it. That was the meeting in its totality. I just want to conclude with any comments or questions. Feel free.

Comm. Kerr: Regarding the prescription, where are we with that? I know that is a hot button issue and a lot of money is involved there. Where are we with that?

Comm. Cleaves: Is that the one we had a presentation on earlier? You missed that presentation. Mr. Murray was here earlier.

Comm. Kerr: I'll get the information.

Personnel

Comm. Cleaves: The personnel committee met on May 31. In attendance were Comm. Cleaves, Comm. Redmon, and Comm. Simmons. Staff present was Ms. Esquilin, Dr. Campbell, Dr. Crescione, and Ms. Santa. The topics we discussed were the out-of-classroom positions, staff, and supervisors. We wanted to know how many we had across the district. We wanted to know if the supervisors that were in every school were needed. If not, were they going back to classroom positions? We didn't get all of our answers. Our answers will be forthcoming, but this is what we discussed. At the Board meeting you'll have a more comprehensive report. Ms. Santa did explain to us that the content area supervisors are assigned to the Focus and Priority schools based on the RAC and NCLB requirements. Our Focus and Priority schools have all the supervisors that they're supposed to have by requirement. We reviewed the vacancy list and I guess it's near to the end of the year so the vacancy list that we had received this time was a little longer than usual because we have resignations and retirements that are being now included in the vacancy list. Dr. Hodges, you're not going to like this, but we do have a lot more vacancies in math and science than we've had in the past. We discussed proposal of transferring leadership at two different schools, taking those two principals and just swapping schools with them two. You see they're listed there. We discussed staffing for School 16 and Dr. Hani Awadallah School. I would like to go into executive session at the end of the meeting briefly just to discuss School 16.

Comm. Hodges: If you're calling for that, I think that might be a time to also discuss the fiscal realities of the item that we had about the money from the early childhood. You can do personnel and fiscal.

Comm. Cleaves: We can do personnel because I think the personnel committee needs some feedback from the Commissioners. We also discussed the human capital transformation. There was a timeline given to us and an organizational chart. It's not attached to the report here, but we do have it and we will make sure that each Commissioner gets it. There's a timeline and organizational chart for the capital transformation. That was it for the personnel committee and we have just P-1 on the agenda. Is there any discussion?

Comm. Hodges: Madam Chair, I stand corrected. It should be personnel and legal, not fiscal.

Comm. Cleaves: Correct.

Comm. Kerr: I notice there are no numbers here regarding the...

Comm. Cleaves: I don't have the notes that I took and Ms. Esquilin typed up the report. She's going to answer those questions for us. Like I said, there was more than usual, especially on the vacancy list because of the resignations and retirements. So when you see that list it's going to be a little longer than we have been getting in the past few months.

Comm. Hodges: I did announce to the district that I would be filming the areas in the building and I did do that. So far it's 1,200 views that people just did not believe that we

have those vacant spaces. There are 1,200 views of that video to date. I would also point out we had requested the number of personnel six years ago versus where we are now because I'd like to update that video with that information. There's still pushback. People still believe that we just have all these people at the top and there's not a clear understanding of just the kind of conditions that we're in. That would be very helpful to put that out. People need to see that this is critical, particularly when you view that your list with the teachers and then raising questions that we had in instruction and program. When you consider the task ahead of us and the things that we have to change, the question remains whether we have the personnel to do that, particularly around professional development. We need to look at those numbers and where we are now and ask ourselves what is this going to mean for us educationally.

Governance

Comm. Cleaves: Comm. Irving is not here.

Subcommittee Reports

Technology

Comm. Hodges: The technology committee has not met yet.

Parent/Community

Comm. Mimms: Parent/Community met on May 24. We started at 5:10. Present was myself, Comm. Cleaves, and Comm. Kerr. Staff present was Mr. Kemper McDowell. We discussed the Parent of the Year Breakfast, which will be held this Saturday, June 4 at 9:00 a.m. at LaNeve's Restaurant on Belmont Avenue in Paterson. There's a typo on this. It's at 9:00 a.m. not 9:00 p.m. We also discussed staffing and the direct impact due to the reduction in force. We talked about the Real Talk Government on Education panel which was held last Thursday. One of our very own Commissioners, Dr. Hodges, was on that panel. It was very informative. They all did a great job. On Title I spending, all of the money was expended. Mr. McDowell also talked about some of the moves internally within his office. Some of the people are now located in the front of the building. Two discussions that we had were around a back-to-school rally or initiative where we try to work and build unity within the community to get community leaders and not-for-profits to come together and provide a message to our children coming back to school and to provide them with supplies and different things. The other thing is the relaunch of the Board newsletter. I just got some information today. We do have money, which I already confirmed, and we will be able to relaunch the Board newsletter. I'm looking to rename the Board newsletter and we can all come up with some suggestions of renaming it from what it currently was because it has not been around in a while. I think it needs a new name. There are two options that I'm going to present tonight and I'm going to make sure they're emailed tomorrow. Option 1 in the Board newsletter is to make sure that our articles are informative and positive in nature and tone, they're produced and printed by our department of communications, and funded through the district budget. This includes the Board members submitting their completed articles to the chair of Parent/Community to collect, review, and edit through Ms. Terry Corrallo's department. Then the final newsletter will be printed internally and sent out. We would like to have within the newsletter a letter from our Superintendent, our Board President, and then each of our Board members that will present an article of a positive nature and tone. The second option is an opinion piece article. It will be produced and presented by the Board's outside production company and funded by a grant or outside source. I don't recommend that one. I think that we can do it internally.

We just have to make sure that our articles are not bashing in nature. They have to be more positive, informative, and keeping the community informed but not in a negative tone. There were some concerns in the past. I wasn't on the Board, but we want to ensure that...

Comm. Kerr: Where did you get that from? Who told you that?

Comm. Hodges: Negative tone? We wouldn't do that?

Comm. Mimms: We want to ensure that the Board newsletter is informative, effective, and that it doesn't stop. We want to start it and keep it going. I'm just putting it out there. Try to come up with some names. I'll send this language to everybody. I think all of you are positive toned Board members so I think we will do just fine. We'll give strict deadlines. We will have about three or four Board newsletters per year. Thank you so much.

Comm. Cleaves: The parent breakfast on Saturday is at 8:30. It begins at 8:30. I would also like to thank Dr. Hodges for joining the panel for Real Talk. I was supposed to be on the panel, but they called me late and I had a previous engagement so I asked them to give you a call. I know he likes to talk and it's called Real Talk. Thank you.

Comm. Redmon: For the newsletter, would it also be distributed digitally so we can have a chance to view it on our website?

Comm. Mimms: Yes, that's the preference.

OTHER BUSINESS

Comm. Cleaves: Regarding the resolution that was presented to us this evening regarding Tech we're going to have a brief discussion. We're not taking any action on it, but Dr. Hodges would like to discuss it a little bit.

Comm. Hodges: I just want to give you some background. Prior to Dr. Evans, in 2006 there was an issue with how our students are being handled and our ability to impact on what's transpiring at Tech regarding Paterson's children. Obviously, they have a selective enrollment process. Their primary charter was to provide vocational services. Somewhere along the line they decided to stop doing that and become technical in nature with an academy at its core. They stopped taking care of our vocational students. They would no longer provide that service, which we discontinued in favor of their expertise. Over the course of time, they were enrolling what they considered to be high-level students as opposed to the vocationally oriented students. I think that's a fair assessment. Six years ago I was asked by the then president T.J. Best to raise this issue which was also being raised by Hawthorne and Manchester Regional about how they were not providing the kinds of services that these other districts wanted, including us, and how they were actually competing with us for students. They were not serving our needs but were moving into areas that we had already moved into. We had that discussion six years ago and that didn't go anywhere. The Passaic County School Boards Association has had ongoing discussions about this over the past year. Increasingly a number of districts besides Paterson, Hawthorne, Manchester Regional, and a couple of others are really being cash strapped because of this practice. When our students leave they take tuition away from these various districts and it's creating a hardship for them as well as them sucking away the higher performing students at the same time. Now in the seventh year of flat funding it's becoming a real financial drain on these districts. They have issued resolutions with the new expansion which is going

to be a \$30 million expansion. They hope to attract 1,000 in the STEM categories. As you can well imagine, those are the higher performing students in all the districts across the county, which is going to cause a dramatic problem for all of these different districts, not just for Paterson. We were called to a meeting Monday night and Mr. Kerr and I went up at Tech. Other districts came and told the Tech Board, the Board of Freeholders, as well as the County Superintendent what their concerns were and raised issues about how things were going and the need for us to work together to engage in planning around how they opened up new courses in their building that would benefit everybody as opposed to just Tech. Those discussions were frank and open. They did not degenerate into an angry tone, but there were some frank discussions put on the table. It was explained to Tech at that particular time that there were going to be resolutions submitted to every district in the county that raises two issues - number one, the funding system that is currently being employed for all our students; and number two, asking that they stop the expansion. So what you will receive is a narrative and one of the resolutions that's not in this handout tonight. It was emailed to you last week. We just want you to understand we're part of a growing number of districts who feel like Tech is not serving our needs very well at all and is creating a financial drain on their districts in addition to ours. \$20 million comes off our budget and we have half of the students over at Tech. This expansion might not be aimed at us, but I guarantee you we're going to lose a number of kids.

Comm. Mimms: In the wording is it \$60 million to \$30 million?

Comm. Hodges: It's \$30 million.

Comm. Mimms: So we have to change it.

Comm. Hodges: We have to change it and update it to \$30 million not \$60 million. That was one of the areas after we made that correction. I just want you to look this over. If you have anything questions, please feel free to call. I really want to emphasize the fact that we're not leading this. The county committee is leading this fight. Actually, Hawthorne and Manchester Regional are especially aggrieved by this and he has been in the forefront as well as Manchester Regional in this process. I will also tell you that other districts have already voted to accept the resolution. So we're actually behind on this.

Comm. Rivera: How much do we pay them per student? Is it the same as the charter schools?

Comm. Cleaves: She's pulling it up now.

Comm. Hodges: We have 1,600 kids and we pay them \$19,000. Let me put it this way, that's one of the issues. If they don't like the students that they have they do send them back to their home districts. By like the students I mean if they don't perform at the level that they prefer to have them, they send them back. We can't do that. At that meeting they were very happy to tell us that we as a district could not do what they do. We're not capable of putting together this kind of program for our children that they can. It was pointed out to them that we can't because we can't send kids back and we can choose and screen kids when they come through our doors. They don't seem to understand that. We left the meeting saying it was the beginning of the process of discussions. They offered the possibility of opening satellite programs within the various districts. That's one of the considerations. They claim that they talked to the Superintendent about doing that in the recent past, opening up programs here as part of their system. That's a possibility. I guess the real concern is the finances that are going to potentially

hurt us moving forward. That's going to be a real problem for us. Number two, if we have an IB program, we don't want to see them tomorrow morning opening up an IB program. That's going to hurt us severely. What we want is joint planning. You're supposed to be a service for the community and for the county. So if you know we have an IB program there's no need for you to do the same thing and compete with us, which they've done with other districts. That's the issue that we have on the table. I think that covers all I want to say about that.

Ms. Ayala: Actually, we have 47 special education students at \$18,829. We have 1,622 regular students at \$11,614.

Comm. Hodges: And they plan to open up 1,000 new slots.

Comm. Rivera: How much do we get on average? I know we asked this question before, but I don't know if the average takes into account all of our students or separates it into special needs.

Dr. Evans: \$18,000 or \$19,000.

Comm. Hodges: But that also reflects the fact that 10% to 12% of your students are special education. We pay as much as \$40,000 for a special education student. So the non-special education amount is what you should be asking. I don't know whether we have that available.

Ms. Ayala: It's on the website.

Comm. Hodges: That's the issue and I'm encouraging the Board to vote yes on this resolution. If nothing else, it will force a more responsive conversation from them. This has actually been a ten-year discussion now. This didn't happen yesterday. This is ten years we've been fighting to get them to moderate their position.

It was moved by Comm. Mimms, seconded by Comm. Castillo that the Board goes into executive session to discuss personnel and legal issues. On roll call all members voted in the affirmative. The motion carried.

The Board went into executive session at 9:45 p.m.

The Board reconvened the meeting at 10:14 p.m.

It was moved by Comm. Redmon, seconded by Comm. Castillo that the meeting be adjourned. On roll call all members voted in the affirmative. The motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:15 p.m.