

**CRANSTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
MONDAY, APRIL 13, 2026
CRANSTON HIGH SCHOOL EAST ~ AUDITORIUM
899 PARK AVENUE
CRANSTON, RI 02910
EXECUTIVE SESSION - 6:00 PM
IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWED BY PUBLIC MEETING**

Minutes

The Cranston School Committee Public Session Meeting was held on the evening of April 13, 2026 at the Cranston High School East Auditorium, 899 Park Ave, Cranston, RI 02910. The meeting was called to order at 6:01 pm by Mr. Melillo and seconded by Mrs. Medeiros.

Roll was called. Mr. Catone-present, Mrs. Medeiros-present, Ms. Marchetti-present, Mrs. Nadeau-present, Mrs. Crowley-present, Mr. Melillo-present, Mr. Fusco -present. Mr. Fusco stated that a quorum was present.

RIGL 42-46-5(a)(1) Personnel

- a. Discussion of Certified Employee "A"

RIGL 42-46-5 (a)(2) Collective Bargaining/Litigation

- a. Trades/Mechanic Negotiations

A motion was made by Mrs. Medeiros and seconded by Mrs. Crowley to adjourn the executive session meeting. Roll was called. Mr. Catone-yes, Mrs. Medeiros-yes, Ms. Marchetti-yes, Mrs. Nadeau-yes, Mrs. Crowley-yes, Mr. Melillo-yes, Mr. Fusco -yes.

A motion was made by Mr. Catone and seconded by Mr. Melillo to call to order the Public Work Session Meeting. Roll was called. Mr. Catone-yes, Mrs. Medeiros-yes, Ms. Marchetti-yes, Mrs. Nadeau-yes, Mrs. Crowley-yes, Mr. Melillo-yes, Mr. Fusco -yes

Chairman Fusco stated that no votes were taken in the Executive Session.

A motion was made by Mrs. Nadeau and seconded by Mrs. Medeiros to seal the Executive Session minutes. Roll was called. Mr. Catone-yes, Mrs. Medeiros-yes, Ms. Marchetti-yes, Mrs. Nadeau-yes, Mrs. Crowley-yes, Mr. Melillo-yes, Mr. Fusco -yes

A motion was made by Mrs. Crowley and seconded by Mrs. Nadeau to approve the minutes of the January 27, 2026, February 3, 2026 school committee meeting. Roll was called. Mrs. Medeiros-yes, Ms. Marchetti-yes, Mrs. Crowley-yes, Mr. Melillo-yes, Mr. Fusco -yes

Mr. Catone-I just wanted to note that we're approving the minutes from January 27th, which was one of our budget work sessions. In the spirit of transparency, and for anyone who may be curious about how thoroughly we examine and review the budget, I would encourage people to look at those minutes. They reflect a very detailed and in-depth conversation. I also want to commend Mrs. Falcone for preparing those minutes, because they capture an incredibly complex discussion, particularly in that meeting. Thank you very much.

Committee Reports -

School Buildings Committee- Anthony Melillo and Keith Catone-Mr. Catone-The very quick update is that, as far as our construction and renovations are going, we are all on track. Gladstone and Eden Park, in particular, will be good to go and on schedule for the upcoming school year. Work also continues at the AES site. One piece we wanted to make sure folks were aware of is that we are beginning the process of potentially moving forward with a reparation bond on the ballot this coming November. This would be a bond to support repairs and renovations in our current schools — not new construction — but taking care of the infrastructure needs in buildings throughout the city. Anyone who has been paying attention to our conversations here, in the Buildings Committee, and in joint meetings with the City Council knows there is a lot of need in terms of the physical condition of the buildings our children attend every day and where our educators and staff work. We just wanted to say that publicly tonight and give people a heads-up that those conversations have started, and we'll continue updating everyone as they progress.

Recreation Committee- Recreation update- Kathy Crowley- A couple of weeks ago, I was able to attend the Recreation meeting since we didn't have a School Committee meeting that night. It was a very good meeting. Steve explained how they are maintaining playgrounds throughout the city, including school playgrounds, by adding enough mulch to make them safe for children. He intends to add two more inches to each playground as part of the ongoing safety improvements. He's also trying to keep up with the grass and grounds around the schools. He only has 20 men working under him, and this time of year is especially busy, but he has everyone on a schedule. We also had a lengthy discussion about dog waste in parks and trails. Unfortunately, it has become rampant. People are even bagging it and then just leaving the bags behind. His crews are having a terrible time trying to keep up with it. When mowing lawns, if there is waste left in the grass, workers sometimes have to go home and change clothes. We spent about 45 minutes discussing this. In the end, he asked whether the School Department could help by having custodial staff pick up around the schools after recess. The broader point was encouraging collaboration between the city and schools to keep Cranston clean and safe for everyone. He also noted that if principals call about issues on nearby city-owned land — bottles, cans, or debris — his department responds quickly to help clean it up.

Cranston Educational Advisory Board (CEAB)- Andrea Nadeau-Nothing to report
Cranston Special Education Advisory Council- Melanie Marchetti-Nothing to report

Rhode Island Association of School Committees-Domenic Fusco- Just a reminder that the annual meeting will be May 16th at the Crowne Plaza. Unfortunately, I won't be able to attend because my son is graduating that weekend, so I'll be away. The agenda should be released shortly. The executive board hopes to meet by the end of the week to finalize it. For those who have attended before, you know it's a great experience, so I encourage anyone who can attend to do so.

Wellness Committee- Anna Medeiros - Nothing to report
Legislative Liaison- Kathy Crowley- Nothing to report

Superintendent's Communication- Superintendent Nota-Masse-We continue to work through the budget process. This Wednesday at 5:30 p.m., the mayor — who postponed his original April 1st presentation — will present the city budget at City Hall. At that point, we will learn how much funding the mayor has included for support of our schools. I strongly encourage anyone available to attend the budget presentation. After that, on Thursday evening at 6:00 p.m., the School Department will appear before the City Council to answer questions about our budget. It is a very long process, and council members ask detailed and pointed questions.

This is a very difficult year. We anticipate making significant cuts to staffing and programming because we are lacking financial support from both the city and the state. We have obligations to our staff and students to provide programs, wages, and services that we are morally and legally obligated to provide — but we simply do not have the funds to do everything we need to do. We are making very difficult decisions and reviewing every aspect of what we do in order to continue providing high-quality services to students, parents, and staff. This situation has been years in the making, and we have now hit a wall financially. I'm asking for support from citizens, parents, staff, and

students to attend either of those meetings — Wednesday at 5:30 or Thursday at 6:00 — to support your schools. Your presence is critical to our survival. I do not want to sit in this chair in a month or two and tell you that the things you truly value and love about your schools are no longer available. That would break my heart. Please support your schools any way you can. We would truly appreciate it.

Tonight is Mr. Joe Balducci's last official public School Committee meeting. Joe has been a valued member of Cranston Public Schools since 1999. Since then, he has been the calm island in a turbulent sea of school finance. He possesses unmatched historical knowledge of Cranston Public Schools and school budgeting across the state. He is respected not only for his expertise in school accounting, but also for his unwavering integrity. Joe is trusted by colleagues, administrators, and School Committees alike. He frequently serves as a statewide leader in his field, and what sets him apart is his commitment to transparency. He patiently and clearly communicates budget matters to School Committees and central office personnel so everyone understands the financial picture. The systems he developed have enabled us to adapt smoothly to changing school finance regulations. He also actively engages in educational discussions and understands the critical connection between educational programming and fiscal management. Personally, Joe has mentored me for 11 years in developing fiscally responsible budgets. Despite limited financial resources, he taught me how to navigate Rhode Island school funding, budget adjustments, and negotiations in good faith. Above all, he demonstrated how transparency builds community trust. Thanks to Joe's planning and leadership, we will be able to transition smoothly to a new CFO — though not happily, because he will be greatly missed. On a personal note, Joe is kind, funny, pleasant, and always a gentleman. He is loved and respected by the staff at Briggs and throughout the district. We wish Joe and his wife Diane many years of happiness as they travel, attend concerts, and enjoy time with their three grandsons.

Chairperson's Communication - Mr. Fusco-I'll start off by echoing a lot of what the superintendent just said. Joe, you will be missed. And it's funny — we found out years ago that, in typical Cranston fashion, we grew up in the same neighborhood, just about 20 years apart. Joe, congratulations, good luck, and I'll see you at the Providence Bruins. A few other comments. This time of year brings a lot of good moments and, of course, some difficult ones as well. The good moments are all of the events happening throughout our schools — plays, concerts, arts nights, and so much more. I try to attend as many as possible. Over the past few weeks, I had the opportunity to attend *Willy Wonka Kids*, performed by the talented cast at Rhodes Elementary, and they did a fantastic job. A couple of weeks ago, several of us on the committee also attended the Cranston Area Career and Technical Center Military Ball, which is always a great event. It was really special to see those students and everything they've accomplished over the years. As we head toward the end of the school year, I want to congratulate all of our students and teachers for the hard work they've put in this year, and I hope to see many of you at upcoming events.

As for the difficult news, the superintendent touched on it earlier. The mayor presented his budget this week, and we know the city is facing financial challenges. Unfortunately, the schools have too often ended up on the short end of the stick. This Thursday, if you're able to attend, please do. We're not asking anyone to speak — just showing your support means a lot. And if you can't attend, consider sending a quick note to your councilperson letting them know you support our schools. It's going to be a tough year, but hopefully we can make our message heard.

School Committee Communication -

Mrs. Mederios- I just wanted to give a shoutout to the Dutemple PTO. They're holding a trivia night tomorrow evening at The Thirsty Beaver . It's \$10 per person, and it's a really fun event. I went last year but unfortunately can't make it this year, so hopefully some of you can attend. They'll have student performances, raffles, and a lot of other fun activities. The fundraiser is to support Mr. Cox and the music department there. Doors open at 5:30 p.m., and the event starts at 6:30 p.m. There will also be a bar available, so enjoy yourselves if you go. Thank you."

Mrs. Crowley- Woodridge is holding their Bingo Night this Thursday at 6:00 p.m. Unfortunately, Anthony and I won't be able to attend, but it's the first time they're offering this event and we're hoping it's a big success. We attended the Glen

Hills event a few weeks ago, which was very successful. Andrea was kind enough to donate to that event as well, and I was able to get a donation from Antonio's. Unfortunately, we're committed elsewhere that evening. Thank you."

Public Hearing

Students (Agenda/Non-Agenda Matters) - None

Members of the Public (Agenda Matters Only) - None

Resolutions

Resolution No. 26-04-01

Sponsored by the School Committee

WHEREAS, Cranston High School West senior Natalia Jackson has been named the Rhode Island High School Journalist of the Year by the Journalism Education Association; and

WHEREAS, Natalia Jackson will advance to the national competition, with the National High School Journalist of the Year title to be announced at the Journalism Education Association Spring Convention in April; and

WHEREAS, Natalia Jackson has also been named to the All New England High School Journalism Staff by the New England Scholastic Press Association, recognizing the top high school journalists across the six New England states; and

WHEREAS, Natalia Jackson serves as an anchor, director, and writer for West Watch News at Cranston High School West and is the only student from Rhode Island selected to the 17-member All New England Staff; and

BE IT RESOLVED that the Cranston School Committee congratulates Natalia Jackson on her outstanding achievements and recognition, and commends her dedication to excellence in student journalism.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be presented to Natalia Jackson as a token of the Committee's recognition and appreciation.

A motion was made by Mrs. Crowley and seconded by Mr. Melillo to approve Resolution No. 26-04-01. Roll was called. Mr. Catone-yes, Mrs. Medeiros-yes, Ms. Marchetti-yes, Mrs. Nadeau-yes, Mrs. Crowley-yes, Mr. Melillo-yes, Mr. Fusco -yes

Resolution No. 26-04-02

Sponsored by the School Committee

A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE CRANSTON HIGH SCHOOL THUNDERBIRDS FOR AN OUTSTANDING 2025 SEASON

WHEREAS, the Cranston High School Thunderbirds achieved an exceptional 15-0-1 record during the 2025 season; and

WHEREAS, the team earned the titles of Division 3 Champions, Undefeated Regular Season Champions, and Division 3 State Runner-Up; and

WHEREAS, Head Coach Matthew Davis was recognized as the Division 3 Coach of the Year for his leadership and dedication; and

WHEREAS, individual student-athletes received numerous honors, including Division 3 Offensive Player of the Year and All-State recognition awarded to Abby Theul, while many other team members earned All-Division and All-Rookie honors, including:

First Team All-Division *Savannah Theroux, Reese Vitale, Yeimy Escalante

Second Team All-Division * Michelle Kim, Alejandra Gonzalez
Division 3 All-Rookie Team *Nora Ciccone

WHEREAS, the following student-athletes were recognized for academic excellence:

Cora Dempsey, Yeimy Escalante, Reese Vitale, Michelle Kim, Savannah Theroux, Lizzy Biegel, Ashley Budano, Kiera Simpson, Mia San, Donna Hernandez, Caroline Lagos, My'ah Abreu

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Cranston School Committee hereby congratulates the Cranston High School Thunderbirds, their student-athletes, and coaching staff for their outstanding achievements, dedication, and sportsmanship during the 2025 season;

A motion was made by Mr. Catone and seconded by Mrs. Nadeau to approve Resolution No. 26-04-02. Roll was called. Mr. Catone-yes, Mrs. Medeiros-yes, Ms. Marchetti-yes, Mrs. Nadeau-yes, Mrs. Crowley-yes, Mr. Melillo-yes, Mr. Fusco -yes

Resolution No. 26-04-03

Sponsored by the School Committee

Recognizing Cranston Herald Winter All-City Athletes – 2025–26

WHEREAS, the following student-athletes were honored by the Cranston Herald Winter All-City teams for the 2025–26 winter season:

Cranston East Boys Basketball: Alex Fernandez, Maison Gonzalez, Jio Reyes

Cranston West Boys Basketball: Nate Conca, Diante Jackson, Jake Anzivino, Noah Germain –

Player of the Year: Noah Germain, West

Cranston East Girls Basketball: Ceana Tuazon, Genesis Williams

Cranston West Girls Basketball: Kyla Buco, Talya Walker, Madeleine Marques, Saniyya Chase, Maggie Sjovall – Player of the Year: Kyla Buco, West

Cranston East Wrestling: Val Cortes, Mila Dy, Keldy Garcia, Nathen Le

Cranston West Wrestling: Dante Richardson, Kaiden Cook, Norman Trott, Alberico Mancini, Giana Espinal Albizu, Alaina Reynolds– Wrestlers of the Year: Dante Richardson, Giana Espinal Albizu,

Cranston Co-op Boys Hockey: Jacob Bovay, Alex Barriera, Bryce Crance, Jacob Case, Aidan Fowler

Cranston West Gymnastics: Gianna Desmarais, Lexee Felicio, Madilyn Bolton, Nyree Corriveau, Angelina Desmarais – Gymnast of the Year: Gianna Desmarais

Boys Indoor Track East : Cohen Brinker, Max Catrambone, Daniel Perez, Nathaniel Brennick

Cranston West: Ryan Stoloff, Ryan D'Errico, Ben Phok – Athlete of the Year: Cohen Brinker, East

Girls Indoor Track Cranston East: Winnie White, Jessica Chin, Brooke Sloan

Cranston West: Mylla Jean, Reece Vitale, Leah Yanovich, Annelisa Joyce –

Athlete of the Year: Reece Vitale, West

Cranston Co-op Boys Swimming: Vincenzo Paliotta(West) , Rulin Liu(East), Eri Ogunde(East) , Harrison Fisher(East)
Swimmer of the Year: Eri Ogunde

Cranston Co-op Girls Swimming: Mariia Chekrallah, Amanda Tierney, Elizabeth Joyce, Scarlett Agnoli, Zaria Barbosa – Swimmer of the Year: Mariia Chekrallah

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Cranston School Committee congratulates all 2025–26 Cranston Herald Winter All-City student-athletes for their outstanding performances, leadership, and dedication to their teams and schools; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that these students be presented with a copy of this Resolution signed by the members of the Cranston School Committee.

A motion was made by Mrs. Crowley and seconded by Mrs. Medeiros to approve Resolution No. 26-04-03. Roll was called. Mr. Catone-yes, Mrs. Medeiros-yes, Ms. Marchetti-yes, Mrs. Nadeau-yes, Mrs. Crowley-yes, Mr. Melillo-yes, Mr. Fusco -yes

Resolution No. 26-04-04

Discuss and vote on home school applications.

Resolution No. 26-04-05

BE IT RESOLVED, at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Cranston School Committee approves the voluntary dissolution of the school's charter effective July 1, 2026, and authorizes the submission of a request to the Rhode Island Department of Education to terminate the school's charter in accordance with applicable state law and regulations.

Resolution No. 26-04-06

BE IT RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Program of Studies for SY 2026-2027 to be approved by the Cranston School Committee.

Resolution No. 26-04-07

BE IT RESOLVED, at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Cranston School Committee approves the 2026 Rhode Island Student Survey.

Resolution No. 26-04-08

BE IT RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the following Conferences/Field Trips of Long Duration be authorized:

Gayle Dzekevich, Director of the Adult Ed Program to travel to Indianapolis, Indiana from April 12 – April 16, 2026 to attend the COABE – Coalition of Adult Education)Conference. Travel and accommodation expenses to be funded by the WIOA Grant

Resolution No. 26-04-09

BE IT RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the following Conferences/Field Trips of Long Duration be authorized:

Aimee Duarte, Cranston High School West along with 1 student to travel to Atlanta, GA from May 29, 2026 – June 6, 2026 to attend the Skills USA National Leadership Conference. Funding source for this trip is paid by a grant.

Resolution No. 26-04-10

BE IT RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the following Conferences/Field Trips of Long Duration be authorized:

Craig Hughes and Jessica Janota, CACTC, and Cranston West Students to travel to Atlanta, GA to partake in the DECA National Competition. Departure will be on Saturday, April 25, 2026, returning Wednesday, April 29, 2026.

The student's fees are funded through fundraising donations from the business community. Food must be purchased individually at the personal expense of each participant.

Resolution No. 26-04-11

Sponsored by the School Committee

In Support of the Blue Ribbon Commission Report on School Funding

WHEREAS, the Blue Ribbon Commission's report, *"Equalizing Opportunity: Creating a Fair and Transparent Funding System for Rhode Island's Public Schools,"* provides a thoughtful and comprehensive plan to modernize school funding; and

WHEREAS, the current funding formula does not fully account for major cost drivers such as transportation, facilities, early childhood education, and certain special education services; and

WHEREAS, the Commission recommends a more accurate Core Education Amount and stronger support for students with the greatest needs, including economically disadvantaged students, multilingual learners, students with disabilities, and those in high-cost CTE programs; and

WHEREAS, the report promotes greater transparency, accountability, and alignment between funding and student outcomes;

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Cranston School Committee supports the recommendations of the Blue Ribbon Commission and urges the Rhode Island General Assembly to take action to modernize Rhode Island's education funding system; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Committee reaffirms its commitment to a fair, transparent, and student-centered funding model for all students.

Resolution No. 26-04-12

Sponsored by the School Committee

WHEREAS, timely and unobstructed access for law enforcement officers and emergency medical personnel during an emergency is critical to saving lives and minimizing harm and;

WHEREAS, 2026–S 2280 would require every public and private school, certified educational institution, college, and university in the State of Rhode Island employing or enrolling twenty (20) or more staff members and students in the aggregate to develop, maintain, and annually update a comprehensive school safety and emergency response plan and;

WHEREAS, said legislation further requires that these plans include provisions ensuring immediate and unobstructed access to all facilities, including buildings, classrooms, and grounds, by law enforcement and emergency medical personnel during an emergency, including through secure electronic entry systems, key fobs, card access, manual keys, or other approved means and;

WHEREAS, 2026–S 2280 establishes a clear review and approval process by local chiefs of police or their designees, with required annual submission, recommendations for improvements, and accountability for noncompliance and;

WHEREAS, the Cranston Police Department works closely with Cranston Public Schools and non-public schools within the City to plan for, train on, and respond to emergency situations, and has firsthand experience with the importance of immediate and reliable facility access during critical incidents and ;

WHEREAS, 2026–S 2280 reinforces and formalizes the type of coordination already valued in Cranston by ensuring that local chiefs of police, including the Chief of the Cranston Police Department or designee, are directly involved in the annual review and approval of school safety and emergency response plans and;

WHEREAS, these provisions strengthen coordination between schools, local police departments, the Department of Education, and the Director of Public Safety, creating a consistent statewide framework for emergency preparedness;

BE IT RESOLVED by the Cranston School Committee hereby expresses its strong support for 2026–S 2280, An Act Relating to Education — Health and Safety of Pupils and that the Cranston School Committee urges the Rhode Island General Assembly to pass this legislation to improve emergency preparedness and first-responder access in schools and educational institutions across the state.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be forwarded to the President of the Rhode Island Senate, the Speaker of the Rhode Island House of Representatives, and to the members of the Cranston legislative delegation.

A motion was made by Mrs. Crowley and seconded by Mrs. Medeiros to approve Resolution No. 26-04-04, Resolution No 26-04-05, Resolution No 26-04-06, Resolution No 26-04-07, Resolution No 26-04-08, Resolution No Resolution No 26-04-09, Resolution No 26-04-10, Resolution No 26-04-11 and Resolution No. 26-04-12. Roll was called. Mr. Catone-yes, Mrs. Medeiros-yes, Ms. Marchetti-yes, Mrs. Nadeau-yes, Mrs. Crowley-yes, Mr. Melillo-yes, Mr. Fusco -yes

Public Hearing None Agenda Items -

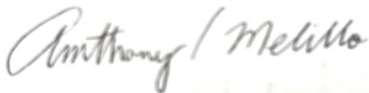
Nancy Iadeluca-Union Local 26- My name is Nancy Iadeluca and I am the K-12 director for all of the cafeteria workers here in the City of Cranston. Unfortunately, I'm here tonight because we have a problem. When Aramark left on June 30th, Chartwells came in. I want to be clear — we have no problem working with Chartwells. We work with them in other communities, and they are the state default provider. They should have been able to come in with no lag time, pick up the ball, run down the court, and score, so to speak. Unfortunately, that has not happened. We have not had a contract since June 30th. We've been more than patient and have given them time to get their sea legs under them. We met with them on February 10th and provided our proposal. We actually had two follow-up dates scheduled about two weeks later, but they never confirmed them and did not show up. As of today, we are still waiting for a date. Last month, I reached out to Vice Chair Mr. Melillo to explain the situation. I also spoke with Councilman and Mayor-elect Mike Traficante, who has been an advocate for lunch workers for many, many years. I always want to make sure everyone understands when there's a problem because I never want anyone to say afterward, "Why didn't they let us know?" There is a problem. Whether that problem affects this year or next year, I can't say, and I'll let Darian speak more to that. But we cannot continue down the road we are currently on. I also understand — very clearly — that you may be advised by legal counsel to stay away from this matter because the School Committee does not employ these workers and that this is an issue between the union and Chartwells. I understand that. But the reality is, if there is a labor action and school operations are affected, it is the School Committee that will ultimately have to answer for it. No one is going to be calling Chartwells to ask why there's a problem. I just wanted to make sure everyone understands the situation. We have been without a contract since June 30th, and it is now April 14th. We have been patient. Thank you very much for listening, and I appreciate your time.

Darlene Sivo-Park View Lead Union 26- I've been a food service worker in Cranston for 30 years, and I wanted to bring a few things to your attention. First, they are not even following our old contract. They are also not following Rhode Island's requirements regarding five paid sick days, nor are they following the 18 days required under Rhode Island law tied to the school calendar. There are other issues as well, but I could stand here all night talking about them. Rather than have every one of my coworkers and union members come up individually, which would make for a very long night, I'm simply going to ask them to stand and clap their hands to show you that this is an ongoing issue that needs to be addressed. Local 49.

Announcement of Future Meetings - Monday, May 4, 2026, Work Session, Brigg Conference Room,
Monday, May 11, 2026, Public Meeting, East

A motion was made by Mrs. Crowley and seconded by Mr. Melillo to adjourn the Public Meeting. Roll was called. All were in favor. The meeting adjourned at 7:13 pm.

Respectfully submitted.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Anthony Melillo". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Vice Chairperson
Anthony Melillo