

City of Providence
STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL

No. 252

EFFECTIVE June 1, 2021

WHEREAS, Harrison Peters was appointed the superintendent of Providence Public Schools in February 2020 by the Rhode Island Department of Education; and

WHEREAS, On Monday, May 10, 2021, a Providence school administrator, Olayinka Alege, was arrested and charged with assault after allegedly forcibly massaging a teenage boy's foot in a Warwick gym; and

WHEREAS, It is shocking to learn that superintendent Peters was not only aware of past accusations regarding the same type of behavior by Mr. Alege prior to hiring him in Providence, but that he actually decided to go out of his way to vouch for Mr. Alege specifically during the hiring process; and

WHEREAS, As the superintendent of the Providence Public School system, Mr. Peters' single most important responsibility is to ensure the safety and well-being of every student who enters a Providence school; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Peters' willingness to ignore the warning signs and vouch for an individual with past allegations of inappropriate contact with students demonstrates a complete disregard for the safety of the students in his care; and

WHEREAS, The lack of judgement demonstrated by superintendent Peters in vouching for and hiring Mr. Alege has completely eroded any level of trust between the superintendent and the local communities he is asked to serve; and

WHEREAS, In order to restore confidence with the local community that the Providence Public School system is capable and committed to providing a safe learning environment for students, Harrison Peters should resign from his position as superintendent so that a new candidate can be appointed to begin the process of rebuilding trust with the residents of Providence.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the City Council of the City of Providence does hereby call upon Mr. Harrison Peters to resign from his position as Superintendent of Providence Public Schools effective immediately.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be transmitted to the Honorable Governor of the State of Rhode Island, the Mayor of Providence, the Superintendent of the Providence Public School District, and the Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education for the State of Rhode Island.

IN CITY COUNCIL
MAY 20 2021
READ AND PASSED



JOHN J. IGLIAZZI, PRESIDENT



CLERK