

EAST PROVIDENCE SCHOOL DEPARTMENT

East Providence City Hall

145 Taunton Avenue

East Providence, Rhode Island

School Committee Meeting

September 15, 2004

Open Session

Mr. Barilla called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. Four members were present: Helio Melo, Mildred Morris, Edna Snow and Peter Barilla. (Mr. Antone Gouveia was absent). A motion was made by Mr. Melo to move to Executive Session in accordance with RI General Laws, Section 42-46-5 (a) (1) Personnel & (a) (2) Litigation, seconded by Mrs. Snow. Roll call vote: Mr. Melo, aye; Mrs. Morris, aye; Mrs. Snow, aye; and Mr. Barilla, aye.

Public Session reconvened at 7:30 PM. Mr. Barilla called the meeting to order. Mrs. Snow led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag and a Moment of Silence was observed for a Whiteknact School student, Zachary Boucher, who died in an automobile accident over the past weekend.

Record of Previous Meetings – A motion was made by Mrs. Morris to approve the minutes of the August 11, 2004 and August 24, 2004

School Committee meetings, seconded by Mrs. Snow. Vote 4-0.

Chair's Report – (Teacher Recognition) The principal of Riverside Middle School, Mr. Michael Almeida, acknowledged and commended Mrs. Rebekah Gendron, a Robotics teacher at Riverside, who was recognized by the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, Inc. (IEEE) Educational Activities Board (EAB) for her exceptional achievement in continuing education on behalf of the IEEE.

Mr. Barilla requested the Committee's permission to change the order of business and move to New Business – Item #1. A motion was made by Mrs. Snow, seconded by Mr. Melo to change the order of the agenda and move to New Business, Item #1 Ratification of Custodians' Contract – RI Council 94 AFSCME Local 2969. Vote 4-0.

Mr. Vinhateiro recommended that the School Committee approve the contract between Local 2969 and the School Committee. He related that the School Department and the custodians' union bargained in good faith during some extremely difficult times; the members have agreed to a zero percent increase for 2004-2005; a 3% increase in 2005 and a 1% pay increase in 5/06. On 11/1/05, maintenance personnel will receive one upgrade with no pay increase. If the State Holiday VJ Day is discontinued, those employees will no longer have that holiday and for the first time, attendance incentives have been included in the contract. The benefits will remain intact. The Superintendent related that this bargaining unit has always been willing to come to the table and has suffered more than other units

with eight staff reductions. The members have also taken on extra duties and responsibilities and have always been ready to assist with snow removal or emergencies, especially during the crises at Kent Heights and Wadding ton Schools and he was happy to recommend this contract to the School Committee for ratification. A motion was made by Mr. Melo to approve, who felt it was important for people to realize that Local 2969 has stepped up to the plate; this is a prime example of work commitment for the good of the system and he thanked them, seconded by Mrs. Snow who also wanted to recognize the excellent job they perform in our schools. Mrs. Morris thanked the maintenance staff for giving up a lot. Mr. Barilla concurred with his colleagues that these are hard working people. Roll call vote: Mr. Melo, aye; Mrs. Morris, aye; Mrs. Snow, aye; Mr. Barilla, aye. Vote 4-0.

Hearings - None

Reading of Communications - None

Report of Superintendent and Staff

FY 2003-04 Budget Update/Monthly Financial Statement was presented by Dr. Hilton who related that the report has held to projections. Mr. Barilla asked for reassurance that every obligation and/or bill was included in the statement.

Awarding of Bids

Dump Truck Old Colony \$39,224

Motion by Morris/Snow. Vote 4-0. (The transfer of three vehicles to the School Lunch Program will cover this expense).

May Food Service Dishwasher Replacement (Riverside Middle School \$8,610.00

Motion: Melo/Second: Snow. Vote 4-0.

Personnel Recommendations – Ms. Diane Zambarano, Acting Human Resources Director presented the following personnel items:

Appointments

**Glenn Piros Assistant Principal, Senior High School
(resignation of Liz Legault)**

**Stephen Prew Assistant Principal, Martin Middle School
(replacing Glenn Piros)**

**Helen Thompson English Teacher, Senior High School
(replacing Pat Armstrong)**

Marissa Lombardo Math Teacher, Senior High School

(for Daniel Tannehill)

**Gina Chianesi Science Teacher, Martin Middle School
(for Amy McGowan who was transferred to SHS)**

**Leslie Eastwood Math Teacher, Martin Middle School
(for Charles Eastman who was transferred to SHS)**

**Kristen Pruett Special Ed Teacher, Self-Contained, Whiteknact School
(resignation of Michelle Quint)**

**Mary-Jane Estrella Safety Patrol Coordinator, Silver Spring
Motion: Morris/Second: Melo. Vote 4-0.**

Recall

Katherine Bagwell Teacher Assistant, Kent Heights School

Debra Parker Teacher Assistant, Bus

Sheila Durfee Teacher Assistant, Bus

Dolores Conway Teacher Assistant, Bus

Todd Tewksbury Education Specialist, Martin Middle School

Motion: Morris/Second: Melo. Vote 4-0.

Maternity Leave

Susan Tullson English Teacher, Martin Middle School

October 1, 2004

Jeanne Ouellette Special Ed, Self Contained, SHS

Approx. October 6, 2004

Motion: Morris/Second: Snow. Vote 4-0.

Leave of Absence

Danielle Costa Supervisory Assistant, M.J. Francis School

2004 – 2005 School Year

Motion: Morris/Second: Melo. Vote 4-0.

Resignations

Sandra Correia Supervisory Assistant

Effective August 30, 2004

(was on leave 2003-2004 school year)

Jennifer Wobst Education Specialist

Effective August 20, 2004

**(was on leave 2002-2003 and 2003-2004
school years)**

Kelly Tanner Education Specialist

Effective August 25, 2004

Jonathan Stringfellow Girls' Softball Coach

Effective immediately

Katherine Savage Safety Patrol Coordinator, Oldham School

Motion: Snow/Second: Morris. Vote 4-0.

Facilities Update

Mr. Harry Mutter provided the following update on facilities projects:

§ Hennessey School - Fiberglass issue in boiler room was taken care of. Leak in the roof; patchwork is being done around skylight.

§ Whiteknact – patchwork being done on the roof leak.

§ Silver Spring – All classrooms have been painted.

§ Kent Heights – diseased tree in front of the building has been taken down.

§ Waddington School – loading dock area has been repaired, new poles and wood have been installed, three parking blocks have been added and a new basketball basket has been installed.

§ Career School – work is progressing on the roof.

Home School Requests – A motion was made by Mrs. Morris to approve the requests recommended by Dr. Jacqueline Forbes, Assistant Superintendent, seconded by Mr. Melo. Vote 5-0.

Prospective Grants/Consultants – Motion by Mr. Melo to approve, seconded by Mrs. Snow.

Vote 4-0.

2004-05 School Calendar Publication – Mr. Rodericks advised that all students have received a copy of the calendar for the third year at no cost to the School Department. Mrs. Morris asked that School Committee meeting dates be included in the next printing.

Curriculum Update – Mr. Vinhateiro explained that when he addressed the staff at the first day of school convocation, he related that academics would be the number one focus; particularly instruction on literacy and numeracy. Dr. Forbes presented the K-12 Literacy Plan for 2004-2005 which focused on systemic and focused efforts, scientific research based materials and instruction including a comprehensive assessment plan, highly skilled, highly trained teachers and committed, collaborative leadership. This plan supports the literacy initiatives required by the Board of Regents. The plan also includes the implementation of PLP's (Personal Literacy Plans) for students below grade level at the elementary, Middle School and High School levels and new literacy classes at the Middle and High

School levels.

Report of Sub-Committees – Mrs. Snow plans to attend a seminar on collective bargaining at RI Association of School Committees on 9/25/04.

Unfinished Business

Kids First - Recess/Lunch - Mrs. Morris previously requested information regarding the effects of students having recess before lunch; the intent being that kids would be more hungry after physical exercise at recess and would therefore eat better during lunch period.

Dr. Forbes reported that 45% of our elementary school children were scheduled for recess before lunch and we will be working to increase that. Mrs. Morris would like to receive feedback from the teaching on how this idea is working out.

New Business

Policy Revision– Athletic Awards V.C.2.- Mr. Vinhateiro recommended that the School Committee approve first passage of an amendment to this policy. The practice has been to find another way to reward multiple year winners and he felt a need to put terms into a policy in order to simplify what needs to be done: first year, students receive a jacket, second year, they receive a ring and in year three, students

would receive a watch at a cost not to exceed the cost of the jacket.
Motion by Mr. Melo, seconded by Mrs. Snow to approve first passage.

Mr. Melo requested that the word “consecutive” be eliminated from the policy. Roll call vote: Mr. Melo, aye; Mrs. Morris, aye; Mrs. Snow, aye; Mr. Barilla, aye.

Mentoring for Administrators & Teachers - Mrs. Morris had concerns that new teachers and administrators were in need of mentoring and asked if a plan is in place. Mr. Vinhateiro will meet with a representative of the Principals’ Association, Mrs. Barlow, to discuss administrative mentoring; there is a plan in place for teachers. Mr. Barilla thought it would also be a good idea for new school committee members. Mr. Vinhateiro will try to schedule a meeting.

Payment of Bills

Local Operating Bill List

Warrant #000508 8/24/04 \$ 11,679.56

Motion: Snow/Second: Melo. Vote 4-0.

Warrant #000509 9/1/04 \$836,194.86

Motion: Snow/Second: Melo. Vote 4-0.

Federal Bill List

Warrant #000507 8/23/04 \$500,247.65

Motion: Melo/Second: Snow. Vote 4-0.

Question and Answer Period - None

A motion was made by Mr. Melo to adjourn at 8:45 PM, seconded by Mrs. Snow. Vote 4-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia A. Iannelli, Executive Secretary

Andrew Thomas, Esquire

Silva Law Group