

# **EAST PROVIDENCE SCHOOL DEPARTMENT**

**East Providence City Hall**

**145 Taunton Avenue**

**East Providence, Rhode Island**

**August 24, 2004**

## **Open Session**

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

**Public Session reconvened at 7:30 PM. All members were present: Antone Gouveia, Helio Melo, Mildred Morris, Edna Snow, and Peter Barilla. A motion was made by Mrs. Snow to return to open session, seconded by Mr. Melo. Roll call vote: Mr. Gouveia, aye; Mr. Melo, aye; Mrs. Morris, aye; Mrs. Snow, aye; Mr. Barilla, aye. A motion was made by Mrs. Snow to seal the minutes of the executive session, seconded by Mr. Melo. Roll call vote: Mr. Gouveia, aye; Mr. Melo, aye; Mrs. Morris, aye; Mrs. Snow, aye; Mr. Barilla, aye.**

**The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag and Moment of Silence were observed. Chairman Barilla asked the Committee's permission to change the order of the agenda. A motion was made by Mr. Gouveia, seconded by Mrs. Morris to move to Item E – Report of the Superintendent and Staff, Personnel Recommendations. Vote 5-0.**

## **Report of Superintendent and Staff**

**Personnel Recommendations – Diane Zambarano, Acting Human Resource Director, presented the following items:**

### **APPOINTMENTS**

**Gretchen Lopez Librarian, Elementary**

**Michael J. Meehen Science Teacher, Martin Middle School**

**Motion: Melo/Second: Morris. Vote 5-0.**

### **RECALL**

**Philip McCormick Reading Teacher, Martin Middle School**

**Charles Hassell Elementary Teacher**

**Marc Marcel Education Specialist, Senior High School**

**Delroy Seton Education Specialist, Senior High School**

**Raymond Veasey Education Specialist, Orlo Avenue School**

**James DeBlois Education Specialist, Kent Heights School**

**Motion: Morris/Second: Snow. Vote 5-0.**

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## **RETIREMENT**

**Marjorie Frackelton (20 years) Grade 3, Silver Spring School**

**Motion: Snow with regret/Second: Morris. Vote 5-0.**

## **EXTENDED PERSONAL LEAVE**

**Richard Iozzi Automotive Technology Instructor, CTC  
2004-2005 School Year**

**Motion: Morris/Second: Melo. Vote 5-0.**

## **LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

**Thomas Moran Custodian, Silver Spring School  
August 16 – October 1, 2004**

**Motion: Morris/Second: Snow. Vote 5-0.**

## **RESIGNATIONS**

**Brent Garriepy Math Teacher, Martin Middle School**

**Effective August 13, 2004**

**Joanna Sakala Preschool Special Ed Teacher, Meadowcrest School**

**Effective August 17, 2004**

**Mary-Kathryn Wilson Special Education Teacher  
(declined recall)**

**Motion: Morris/Second: Snow. Vote 5-0.**

## **ADDENDUM**

### **APPOINTMENTS:**

**Patricia Armstrong English Department Head, SHS**

**Barbara Lardner Freshman Class Advisor, SHS**

**George Sarganis Environmental Club Advisor, RMS**

**George Sarganis Student Council Advisor, RMS**

**Sharon DeBlois Head Teacher, Emma G. Whiteknact School**

**Motion: Morris/Second: Snow. Vote 5-0.**

## **RECALL**

**Denise Castro Elementary Teacher**

**Motion: Morris/Second: Melo. Vote 5-0.**

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**Hearings - 2004-2005 Budget – Second Passage - Mr. Gouveia thanked Mr. Vinhateiro, Mr. Phil Ricci and other staff members for providing information requested by the School Committee during the prior budget work session. Mr. Gouveia commented that he wanted to increase the budget first and then make cuts in other areas. The Superintendent was asked to provide information regarding textbooks and how to get back into the cycle for replacement; \$75,000 for elementary grades 1-2 and \$125,000 for secondary would be required to get back into the cycle. Mr. Vinhateiro said the impact on the reading program would be November 1st; material would be delivered; secondary would fall to 2005, as we need to order a new series and it would not be a good idea to start mid-year. Mr. Gouveia felt he had to be concerned about the welfare of the school children; this works out to about \$31.25 per student. A motion was made by Mr. Gouveia, seconded by Mrs. Snow to increase the school department budget by \$200,000 for the reading program as outlined in the memorandum by Mr. Vinhateiro. Dr. Forbes explained that for Grade 1 & 2, the Trophies reading series will be used; there is a one-time fee only and the program can be in the building as soon as possible. Roll call vote: Mr. Gouveia, aye; Mr. Melo, aye; Mrs. Morris, aye; Mrs. Snow, aye; Mr. Barilla, aye to approve the increase to**

**\$65,917,128. Mr. Gouveia then proposed the following cuts:**

**§ Repairs of equipment – Line 3230 - \$10,000 – reduce by \$5,000.**

**Motion to cut by Mr. Gouveia, seconded by Mrs. Morris. Mr. Barilla was concerned about repairing the equipment at the Vocational School because nothing was done last year. Mr. Gouveia, aye; Mr. Melo, nay; Mrs. Morris, aye; Mrs. Snow, nay; Mr. Barilla, nay. Vote 3-2. Motion defeated.**

**§ Discussion only about library books, line 24370 and periodicals – This was frozen last year because of cuts and a spending freeze; Mr. Barilla was concerned that we need to spend a certain amount of money which is mandated.**

**§ Line 4921 medial supplies – Motion by Mrs. Morris that this line be merged with medical supplies – eliminate #4921, \$500 for Epi Pens seconded by Mr. Gouveia. Mrs. Morris asked that it be stressed with the nurses that the parents should buy the EpiPens. Mr. Barilla thought parents should be notified to bring them in. Roll call vote: Mr. Gouveia, aye; Mr. Melo, aye; Mrs. Morris, aye; Mrs. Snow, aye; Mr. Barilla, aye. Vote 5-0 to approve this reduction.**

**§ Motion by Mr. Gouveia to reduce Line 1909 custodial substitutes to \$28,000 – Mrs. Morris took over the Chair's seat, Mr. Barilla seconded the motion for discussion. Mr. Melo had reservations; he was concerned that we have dropped that department already and the**

custodians will be alternating buildings as it is now. If a custodian calls in sick, we need to be able to fill in with a sub . Mr. Vinhateiro reported there would be eight fewer custodians and he believed that \$50,00 would be enough money to cover this expense. Discussion about premium wages. Roll call vote: Mr. Gouveia, aye; Mr. Melo, aye; Mr. Barilla, aye; Mrs. Snow, nay; Mrs. Morris, nay. Vote 3-2 to approve this reduction.

§ Mr. Gouveia questioned a huge increase (\$32,292) in the numbers for gas service at Riverside Middle School; these numbers will be rechecked. Mr. Melo asked to look at the gas usage at the High School, which was almost double what was budgeted. Mr. Vinhateiro reported that a penalty had to be paid this year when the gas company asked us to change over to oil, and there was a problem with water in the tank. Mr. Gouveia

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asked that we cut this line by \$16,000. Mr. Vinhateiro will check the numbers and advise the School Committee.

§ Line 4927 – Car Seats – A motion was made by Mr. Gouveia to cut this line to \$2500; seconded by Mrs. Morris. Mr. Linneman advised that we need to purchase some new seats this year; by bus contract, we have to provide these seats; 50 are in use on a regular basis and we need about 25 new ones this year. Mrs. Morris asked that this

item be included in the next bus contract. Roll call vote: Mr. Gouveia, aye; Mr. Melo, nay; Mrs. Morris, aye; Mrs. Snow, nay; Mr. Barilla, aye. Vote 3-2 to approve.

§ Legal Fees – Line 3101 - \$50,000 - Motion by Mr. Gouveia to reduce by \$25,000, seconded by Mrs. Morris. Roll call vote: Mr. Gouveia, aye; Mr. Melo, aye, Mrs. Morris, aye, Mrs. Snow, aye, Mr. Barilla, aye. Vote 5-0 to approve.

§ Mr. Gouveia confirmed the budget increase of \$200,000 and a reduction of \$56,000.

§ Mrs. Snow asked if the pension contributions would be increased during the year (Page 28, 2500 was eliminated) Health insurance on Page 30 reflects School Committee contributions. Mr. Melo questioned benefits and salaries numbers, which were not accurate. (Longevity is now a separate line item).

§ Mrs. Morris questioned Line Item #7000 graduation supplies on page 23; she felt the printing could be done at the Vocational School to save some money. Mr. Vinhateiro said he has already discussed this with the Career/Technical School. Mrs. Morris questioned the position of Special Education Director, as the salary is still in the budget on page 12. Mr. Vinhateiro said he expects to be able to fill that position at some point.

**§ Mrs. Morris questioned the special education numbers on page 12 and was reassured by Mr. Vinhateiro that all these numbers were checked and verified by him and his staff members; however, students moving in and out of the city affect this number and these tuitions are for existing students only.**

**§ Mrs. Snow asked about the group homes. Mrs. Morris asked if bids are required for copiers. The School Committee received detailed information on this topic. Mrs. Snow asked about a plan to replace the obsolete machines. Dr. Hilton said the lease purchase agreement replaces the machines when they are non-functional.**

**§ Mr. Barilla questioned the listing for a gymnastics coach at Martin Middle School. Mr. Ricci reported that the gymnastics program salary is still in the budget because he hopes to start a cross country program at the Middle Schools, only soccer and cheerleading are offered presently. Mrs. Morris took over the Chair's seat. Mr. Barilla said he looked at the athletic budget vs. textbooks and wanted to reduce line #9500, (cross country at the Middle School), seconded by Mr. Gouveia for discussion. Mr. Melo felt that Mr. Ricci had a good point; there are only two fall sports at the Middle Schools and this is a small amount of money for an after school program. Mr. Ricci said the money is for programs at both Middle schools in order to provide more opportunities for boys and girls. Roll call vote: Mr. Gouveia, nay; Mr. Melo, nay; Mrs. Morris, aye; Mrs. Snow, nay; Mr. Barilla, aye. Motion failed 3-2.**

**Mr. Barilla asked for questions from the audience.**

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**Maryann Mathews, 51 Outlook Ave asked questions about teacher subs, attendance software, and repairs of musical equipment, charter school expenses. She felt that textbook and instructional supplies numbers were too low; choral music at the high school could be cut \$1000. She felt that the special education numbers and summer school supplies should be reviewed. She requested a copy of Mr. Ricci's report. Maryann asked about billing out for speech services, etc to private insurers and raised objection to the Upward Bound program when there are other programs.**

**Motion by Mrs. Morris to start the track programs at the Middle Schools, seconded by Mr. Gouveia (funds in the budget already for \$9700). Mr. Ricci requested that this program begin in September 2005 and the motion was amended to reflect this request. Roll call vote: Mr. Gouveia, aye; Mr. Melo, aye; Mrs. Morris, aye; Mrs. Snow, Mr. Barilla, aye. Vote 5-0.**

**A motion was made by Mr.Gouveia for second passage of the budget in the amount of \$65,861,128. He felt this was a legitimate amount of money and believed strongly that we need this money to run our schools, as these are real numbers, seconded by Mrs. Morris. Mrs. Snow felt it was important for everyone to know that the budget**

**started out with a deficit. Mr. Melo commented that Mr. Vinhateiro and staff did a good job and he was comfortable with the numbers, but he thought the vote should be postponed since there are some outstanding negotiations issues; for that reason he is not voting for this budget. Roll call vote: Mr. Gouveia, aye; Mr. Melo, nay; Mrs. Morris, aye; Mrs. Snow, aye; Mr. Barilla, aye. Vote 4-1 to approve. The budget will be submitted to the City Manager as soon as possible**

**A motion was made by Mr. Gouveia to adjourn at 9:55 PM, seconded by Mrs. Snow and Mrs. Morris. Vote 5-0.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Patricia A. Iannelli, Executive Secretary**

**Antone M. Gouveia, Clerk of the Committee**