

EAST PROVIDENCE SCHOOL DEPARTMENT

East Providence City Hall

145 Taunton Avenue

East Providence, Rhode Island

School Committee Meeting

January 11, 2005

Open Session

Mr. Antone Gouveia, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM. All members were present: Robert Faria, Eileen Lovett, David Medeiros, Mildred Morris and Antone Gouveia. Also present: Mr. Manuel Vinhateiro, Superintendent and Mr. Andrew Thomas, Esq. of Silva Law Group. A motion was made by Mrs. Morris to move to Executive Session in accordance with RI General Laws, Section 42-46-5 (a) (1) Personnel & (a) (2) Litigation, seconded by Mr. Medeiros. Roll call vote: Mr. Faria, aye; Mrs. Lovett, aye; Mr. Medeiros, aye; Mrs. Morris, aye; Mr. Gouveia, aye.

A motion was made by Mrs. Morris to return to public session at 7:30 PM, seconded by Mr. Medeiros. Vote 5-0.

Mr. Faria led pledge of Allegiance to the flag and a Moment of Silence was observed for the victims of the Tsunami in Southeast Asia and

the Mudslide in Southern California.

Record of Previous Meetings – A motion was made by Mr. Medeiros to approve the minutes of the December 11, 2004 meeting, seconded by Mrs. Lovett. Vote 5-0.

Chair's Report

Jonathan Butler, Student Council Liaison to the School Committee, reported on various school activities.

Related to how parental involvement can improve East Providence schools, Mr. Gouveia requested that Mr. Medeiros and Mrs. Lovett work on creating a “strategic” plan to be introduced for adoption at the next meeting. He requested that Mr. Faria develop a plan for School Committee members to attend School Improvement Team meetings. Mr. Gouveia requested that Mrs. Morris work together with him on the intent of the strategic plan and keeping it active.

Mr. Gouveia announced that Kindergarten registration would be held Monday through Friday from 8:00 AM to noon during the month of February and on the evening of February 16, 2005 from 5:00PM to 8:00 PM at the student registration center at 80 Burnside Avenue, Riverside. Documentation is required: birth certificate, proof of immunizations and proof of East Providence residency. Interpreters are available when needed.

Mr. Gouveia invited all to attend the Robotics Competition on Saturday, January 15, 2005 at East Providence High School.

Although Mrs. Morris appreciated Mr. Gouveia's report, she wanted to make clear that the School Committee is a policy making body and members should not over step their bounds by micro managing. Mr. Gouveia said the School Committee should be able to review what is going on in the schools and have a share in it, as the School Committee also has a responsibility to students. Mrs. Morris thinks the Superintendent should be in charge of the schools and asking School Committee members to take on assignments without first asking them is improper. Mrs. Morris said she has proven her dedication to schools over eight years on the School Committee and she trusts the Superintendent's judgment. Mr. Gouveia said he will not operate in a vacuum during his term; he wants to do more than attend events and he wants a better understanding of the process. Mr. Faria said he ran for office to be involved and he wants to be able to be out in the schools.

Hearings - None

Reading of Communications - None

Report of Superintendent and Staff

FY 2004-05 Budget Update/Monthly Financial Statement – Dr. Hilton

presented the report, corrected as requested at the last meeting.

Personnel Recommendations

Ms. Zambarano presented the personnel recommendations:

Isabel Craven 2/5 Reading Teacher, High School

Rosemarie Falls Student Liaison, High School

Motion: Morris/Second: Medeiros. Roll call vote: Mr. Faria, aye; Mrs. Lovett, aye; Mr. Medeiros, aye; Mrs. Morris, aye; Mr. Gouveia, aye.

Facilities Update – Mr. Harry Mutter presented the following report:

- Special Education – 37 donated computers for Special Education are being reprogrammed at the Career Tech School**
- Bathroom partitions have been ordered for Francis School**
- Table tops have been ordered for the cafeteria at Waddington School; the Maintenance Department is moving nine extra cafeteria tables to other elementary schools**
- An electrician has been working to network specific copy machines in order to share specific information and save on printer costs**
- Looking into replacing classroom curtains at Martin Middle School with fireproof curtains or vertical blinds.**

· Light pole at the High School needs a new ballast; electrician will work on this when a lift is available.

Motion to accept the report by Mr. Medeiros, seconded by Mrs. Lovett. Vote 5-0.

Prospective Grants/Consultants – Motion by Mrs. Morris, seconded by Mr. Medeiros to approve payments as recommended by Dr. Forbes. Vote 5-0.

Special Education – Sharon Waterman, Director of Special Education related that information is being collected relating to special education test scores and she will have more details and will present a report at the February meeting. She will also report on the Special Education Parent Advisory Committee Meeting, which was held last week.

Report of Sub-Committees - None

Unfinished Business - None

New Business

Dr. Jacqueline Forbes presented a PowerPoint on the 2004 District Testing results for East Providence Schools. The summary of results, recommendations, and successes were reviewed.

Mrs. Morris commended Dr. Forbes for her efforts; Mr. Faria congratulated her for doing a nice job;

Mr. Gouveia thought it important for the public to understand that RIDE has decided the magic number for cell size, which is 45 students. The size of the school population is not considered; it is not a percentage of the school population. He asked to compare the numbers at Waddington with Francis, which are pretty equal with the exception of cells. Mr. Gouveia would like to know what action is currently being taken at Waddington. Dr. Forbes related that there are personalized reading plans for students; special education teachers are working with regular education teachers to revise academic action plans and to develop subgroup academic action plans based on children's needs. Dr. Forbes related they are determined to find out what the school needs are; additional professional development, etc. The Special Education Director, Dr. Forbes, and the Superintendent are looking at both special education programs and needs throughout the district.

Mr. Vinhateiro noted that Grade 4 students would not be tested in the spring; the tests are being changed and will be administered in October. Mr. Gouveia pointed out that by the time the test results are received, there is no chance to determine the success of action plans, but that the committee will support quick responses to known deficiencies with professional development, textbooks, etc. Dr. Forbes said our plans are successful and we will continue to build upon them. Mr. Vinhateiro commended Dr. Forbes for an excellent

report.

Truancy Report - Mr. Robert Rodericks, Director of Attendance and Registration, recently attended a national conference in Washington D.C. "Partnering To Prevent Truancy – A National Priority." He provided the School Committee with a report containing statistics and information on the success of the Truancy Court in East Providence. The NCLB also sets school attendance as a high priority as it is well know that academics cannot improve without good attendance. East Providence will continue to monitor attendance/truancy by participating in the truancy outreach program.

Payment of Bills

Warrant #000535 12/16/04 \$1,002,717.53

Motion: Medeiros/Second: Morris. Vote 5-0.

Warrant #000539 1/4/05 \$1,003,410.97

Motion: Morris/Second: Medeiros. Vote 5-0.

Motion to seal the minutes of the executive session by Medeiros, seconded by Mrs. Morris. Roll call vote: Mr. Faria, aye; Mrs. Lovett, aye; Mr. Medeiros, aye; Mrs. Morris, aye; Mr. Gouveia, aye.

Question and Answer Period - None

A motion was made by Mr. Medeiros to adjourn at 9:15 PM, seconded by Mrs. Morris. Vote 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia A. Iannelli, Executive Secretary

David A. Medeiros, Clerk of the Committee