

**EAST PROVIDENCE SCHOOL DEPARTMENT**

**East Providence City Hall**

**145 Taunton Avenue**

**East Providence, Rhode Island 02914**

**April 12, 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 of Schools, Mr. Robert Silva, Esq. and Mr. Andrew Thomas, Esq. 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.**

**Motion by Mrs. Morris to seal the minutes of the Executive Session, seconded by Mrs. Lovett.**

**Vote 5-0.**

**The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag and a Moment of Silence were observed.**

**Record of Previous Meetings – A motion was made by Mr. Medeiros to approve the minutes of the March 8th and March 29th School Committee meetings, seconded by Mrs. Lovett. Vote 5-0.**

### **Chair's Report**

**Nicole Gauthier, Student Council Liaison to the School Committee, presented a report.**

**Recognition of Student Athletes – Mr. Gouveia related that the School Committee was very proud to be able to recognize outstanding Townie Athletes at this meeting. Athletic Director, Mr. Phil Ricci, was present to acknowledge and congratulate East Providence High School students, Molly Hawksley and Eric Osei, who have achieved national recognition in track and field events.**

**Recognition of Hockey Team – Winner of the State Championship – Coach Greg Amore introduced players and coaches. Mr. Ricci asked for permission to purchase jackets and patches for the team and to hold a dinner on May 22, 2005 as has been past practice. Motion by Mrs. Morris, seconded by Mr. Medeiros. Vote 5-0.**

**Mr. MacNamara, Music Director was present to advise the School Committee and school community that all of the East Providence bands at the middle and high school level performed at the RI Music Educators annual Band Festival March 31st-April2nd and received an “A” rating, which is considered superior. Mr. Gouveia requested that the students and directors be present at the June meeting in order to be recognized by the School Committee and the community.**

**Reading of Communications – Mr. Vinhateiro read a letter received from Ms. Mary Sheekey, an administrator for NAEP, regarding Martin Middle School students and staff. Mr. DeVall and staff deserve congratulations for a job well done and the students should be commended for exemplary behavior.**

#### **Report of Superintendent and Staff**

**Monthly Financial Statement – The Business Manager, Dr. Hilton presented the Monthly Financial Statement. Mr. Medeiros asked for an explanation of the pension increases. Mr. Vinhateiro explained that there is no self -funded retirement; the State Retirement Board sets the amount of the contribution for all municipalities in the state. Mr. Gouveia asked for reassurance that all items through March 31, 2005 were reflected in the statement. Dr. Hilton advised that all items have been included.**

#### **Personnel Recommendations**

**Mrs. Morris expressed deep regret upon receiving the resignation letter of the Athletic Director, Mr. Phil Ricci and on behalf of the School Committee, wished him good luck, health and happiness.**

## **Appointments**

**Michelle Brousseau-Cavallaro Math Department Head – High School**

**Thomas Grady Math Coordinator – Riverside Middle School**

**Robert Duarte Student Liaison – High School**

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

## **Retirement**

**Phillip Ricci (32 Years) Athletic Director – Close of 04-05 School Year**

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

## **Resignation**

**George Sarganis Student Council Advisor and Environmental Club**

**Advisor – Riverside Middle School – Effective 6/05**

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

## **Family & Medical Leave (Maternity)**

**Pamela Riel Social Studies Coordinator and Teacher – Martin Middle School Approx. 9/12/05**

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

### **Parental Leave**

**Susan Tullson English Teacher, Martin Middle School**

**Remainder of 2004-05 School Year**

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

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

**Hennessey School – Handicap sign has been reinstalled in the school parking lot.**

**Martin Middle School – Trees have been cut at the front door to provide more light to driveway area. Two lights are to be installed over the front walkway for added lighting to parking area and driveway.**

**Silver Spring School – Meeting with Parent Group is scheduled for April 13, 2005 – Issue regarding the stairs will be discussed.**

**Orlo Avenue School – Work is progressing on the roof. The main roof is 85% completed as of Friday, April 8th.**

**Whiteknact School – New lights to be installed during April vacation week. RISE has contracted the job out.**

**Mr. Mutter has been advised that all requests regarding traffic signs**

should be referred to the city traffic engineer. Mr. Mutter has asked for changes to some of the signs. Riverside Middle School has asked for signs to possibly reroute buses in order to ease traffic during peak times.

In response to a request from Mrs. Morris regarding installation of a plug for an additional vending machine, Mr. Vinhateiro has asked Mr. Daft to advise him regarding the scope of the work needed. Mr. Faria asked about handicap parking at the High School; Mr. Mutter we will add two spaces next to the existing spaces. Mr. Daft has requested six spots to be designated for visitor parking and quick pick-ups.

Mr. Mutter will review plans regarding a bus routing arrangement for Riverside Middle School with Mr. Almeida, Mr. Linneman, and the Superintendent to try to come up with a solution to the congestion.

**Field Trip Requests - None**

**Report of Sub-Committees –** Mr. Faria related that he and Mr. Gouveia have been meeting with the Superintendent and directors for perspectives on next years budget. He thanked all directors for their input and assistance.

**Unfinished Business - None**

## **New Business**

**School Lunch Program - Mr. Vinhateiro recommended that the School Committee approve a request from the Business Manger for an increase in the price of school lunch. Next school year, the price will be increased fifteen cents. Mr. Vinhateiro advised that East Providence is presently charging considerably less than all of the East Bay districts and this increase is necessary to ensure that our lunch program continues to operate at a profitable level. A motion was made by Mrs. Morris, seconded by Mrs. Lovett to approve the increase. Roll call vote: Mr. Faria, aye; Mrs. Lovett, aye; Mr. Medeiros, aye; Mrs. Morris, aye; Mr. Gouveia, aye.**

**Smoking Policy Review – Mr. Vinhateiro related that since the smoking issue was discussed at the last meeting, he met with, Mr. Daft, Kathy Reese and the Substance Abuse Coordinator. A new policy is being drafted and Ms. Reese has written a grant through the Lung Association which will fund an after school cessation program. All agreed that the goal is to keep students healthy. An alternative to suspension entails four cessation classes after school. RI Lung Association does reimburse for the program. Mrs. Morris is gathering policies from other school districts and will provide information at a later date. She wants a stricter policy in order to abide by state law. Ms. Reese said she has been working with the substance abuse committee on this issue and would be willing to work on a committee to draft a new policy. Mr. Faria said a policy can be in place but the**

question is where does the responsibility lie in enforcement. Mr. Gouveia commended Ms. Reese for the cessation work; he said we cannot expect teachers to be in the parking lot or at school events to ticket kids. Right now, the policy is unenforceable. The School Resource Officer cannot be expected to spend time outside ticketing smokers. He wants to be realistic about it; 25 feet from the building is an enforceable issue, but the policy is not enforceable. Mrs. Lovett felt that we need to raise the bar. Mr. Vinhateiro recommended that since we have an existing policy, we should look at the situation in a more realistic fashion. There is legislation restricting smoking in many more places now than ever before and education and communication is needed. It is not going to be easy; it will need to be a concerted effort and everyone needs to be involved, parents included, working together. Discussion about ways to reinforce the smoking policy. Mr. Medeiros said we currently have a policy, which is not being enforced now; we should be enforcing that policy.

**Reschedule June School Committee Meeting - Mr. Gouveia advised that the date of the June School Committee has been rescheduled to Monday, June 13, 2005 instead of the second Tuesday of the month due to a scheduling conflict. Motion by Mr. Faria, seconded by Mrs. Morris. Vote 5-0.**

**Payment of Bills - None**

**Question and Answer Period**

**Mary Ann Matthews provided information to the School Committee regarding the breakfast program and the percentage of students who have breakfast. She is preparing a presentation and requested that this topic be placed on the next agenda.**

**A motion was made by Mrs. Morris to adjourn at 8:50 PM, seconded by Mr. Medeiros. Vote 5-0.**

**Respectfully Submitted,**

**Patricia A. Iannelli, Executive Secretary**

**David A. Medeiros, Clerk of the Committee**