

# **EAST PROVIDENCE SCHOOL DEPARTMENT**

**East Providence City Hall**

**145 Taunton Avenue**

**East Providence, Rhode Island**

## **School Committee Meeting**

**February 8, 2005**

### **Open Session**

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

**The School Committee returned to open session at 7:30 PM. All members were present. A motion was made by Mr. Medeiros to return to open session, seconded by Mrs. Lovett.**

**Vote 5-0.**

**Mr. Faria led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag and a Moment of Silence was observed.**

**Record of Previous Meetings – A motion was made by Mrs. Morris, seconded by Mr. Medeiros to approve the minutes as presented. Vote 5-0.**

### **Chair's Report**

**Nicole Gauthier, Student Liaison reported on activities at the High School.**

**Mr. Gouveia reiterated the School Committee's continued commitment to parental involvement. Increased involvement is a key component in their effort to improve the schools. Comparing it to team play, he expressed the need to build a team with the right players at the right time, relying on each member of the team. Using football as a model, he felt that if everyone were not committed, the team would not be successful.**

### **Hearings – None**

**Communications – Mr. Gouveia reported that a letter received from a Martin Middle School parent regarding outside lighting, would be addressed under the Facilities Report.**

**Also, a letter was received from Senator Paul Fogarty, District 23, regarding Senate Bill 2005S-0064 An Act Relating to Education. This legislative initiative, if enacted, will close the gap between the amounts of school aid offered to rural school districts. Contact Senator Fogarty if there are any questions. Representatives Henry Rose and Helio Melo were present in the audience.**

**Mr. Gouveia said he received an anonymous letter alleging certain activities on school buses; the bus company has been advised to ask aides and drivers to be aware of certain activity on buses and report it.**

**Mrs. Morris advised regarding the nutrition committee.**

**Report of the Superintendent and Staff - Dr. Forbes asked Dr. Hilton to present the Monthly Financial Statement. A motion was made by Mrs. Morris to accept, seconded by Mr. Medeiros. Vote 5-0.**

### **Awarding of Bids**

**Spring Athletic Supplies Beacon Sports Supply \$2,879.81**

**Sports Supply Group \$ 390.69**

**Grogan Marciano \$2,947.00**

**Greg Larson Sports \$ 326.96**

**A motion was made by Mrs. Morris to award the bid for spring athletic supplies in the amount of \$6,544.46, seconded by Mr. Medeiros. Vote 5-0.**

## **Personnel Recommendations**

**Ms. Zambarano, Acting Human Resource Director, presented the following recommendations of the Superintendent:**

### **Job Share – 2005-2006 School Year**

**Candace Andrade & Joanne Tortolani Special Education,  
Self-Contained Class**

**M. J. Francis Elementary School**

**Crystal Monteiro & Megan King Grade 5, M.J. Francis Elementary  
School**

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

## **RESCINDING RETIREMENT**

**Patricia Ciallella Bus Assistant**

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

## **RESIGNATIONS**

**Susan Lombardi    Teacher Assistant**

**Effective, January 13, 2005.**

**Amy McGowan    Girls' Track Coach, MMS**

**Joel Swan    Asst. Coach, Freshman Football**

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

### **EXTENDED PERSONAL LEAVE**

**Sharon Waterman    Diagnostic Prescriptive Consultant, Special  
Services.    Remainder of the year**

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

### **LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

**Cathleen Medina    Head Coach, Football Cheerleading  
Head Coach, Competition Cheerleading  
2005-2006 School Year**

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

### **FAMILY & MEDICAL LEAVE ACT (Maternity)**

**Michaela Gallogly    Grade 3 Teacher, Kent Heights School**

**Approx. March 14, 2005, to end of school year**

**Anne-Marie Scott Special Education, Self-Contained, Teacher**

**Silver Spring School - Approx. April 11, 2005, to end of school year**

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

**Additionally, it is the recommendation of the Superintendent that due to declining enrollment, there will be a reduction of seven (7) positions and one (1) position due to a senior teacher returning from leave. A motion was made by Mrs. Morris to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent, seconded by Mrs. Lovett. Roll call vote: Mr. Faria, aye; Mrs. Lovett, aye; Mr. Medeiros, aye; Mrs. Morris, aye; Mr. Gouveia, aye. (In compliance with past practice, the names were not announced).**

**Field Trip Requests – Mr. Edward Daft, Principal of East Providence High School was present to request School Committee approval for a trip to London, Paris and Amsterdam from April 14-21, 2005. Motion to approve by Mrs. Morris, seconded by Mr. Medeiros. Vote 5-0.**

**Mr. Michael Silva, Advisor requested approval for 8th grade students at Martin Middle School to participate in the Close Up Capitol Experience in Washington, D.C. Motion by Mr. Medeiros, seconded by Mrs. Morris. Vote 5-0.**

**Mr. Kevin Riley, 7th Grade Science Teacher at Martin Middle School (House D) requested approval for students to attend a two-day educational opportunity at URI's Alton Jones Campus from 2/28-3//05.**

**A motion was made by Mrs. Morris, seconded by Mrs. Lovett. Vote 5-0.**

**Facilities Report – Mr. Harry Mutter, Director of Buildings and Grounds reported the following:**

**Eleven new tabletops have been installed in the cafeteria at Waddington School. New bathroom partitions have been installed at Francis School; At the High School, Kent Heights and Meadowcrest; new computer programs have been installed at these schools for the heating and ventilation, which will help to maintain proper heating in the schools. Fifteen computers have been reprogrammed at the Career/Technical School for the high school special education department. Other computers are being reprogrammed for both middle schools. Outside lighting issues at Martin Middle School are under discussion with the principal and PTO at this time. At the administration offices, shredding of approximately 140 boxes of obsolete records was completed. Also, a broken pipe at the Vocational School will be fixed over February vacation. Mr. Gouveia congratulated Mr. Mutter and his staff for efficient snow removal, but there is a need to get some equipment to clear walkways, etc. Mrs. Morris said there is a need for snow blowers at every school and the**

men should be commended for their work during the recent snowstorm.

**Grants/Consultants – A motion was made by Mrs. Morris to approve the list recommended by Dr. Forbes, seconded by Mr. Medeiros. Vote 5-0.**

**Special Education Report – Sharon Waterman, Director of Special Education presented an overview of the special education program in East Providence including the purpose and regulations, population/census, programs, number and costs of out-of-district placements, accountability, and district supports. She reported that 6,198 students are enrolled in East Providence public schools, 1,032 are enrolled in private and parochial schools and 1,479 students are in special education. She noted that the School Department typically gets 300 new referrals for special education each year. Since the school year started, 82 students with individualized education plans have entered the district and 22 needed to be placed in self-contained classrooms. Eleven have been to alternative schools outside the district. The city has 93 students that have been placed in 20 schools outside the district, at a cost of nearly \$3.5 million for this year.**

**Mr. Gouveia asked about continuing erosion in particular areas and what is being done to improve those areas; he asked Ms. Waterman to possibly come back to the next meeting regarding questions, because it is a sensitive area and a considerable expense. Dr. Forbes**

**will work with the Superintendent and Mrs. Waterman to work on those questions.**

**Mrs. Morris asked about the Meadowcrest program and how parents are informed about it. Ms. Waterman explained that pediatricians are generally aware of these programs, Child Find, newspaper advertisements, etc. Mr. Gouveia asked if invitations should be extended to the Special Education Advisory Committee, as he would like community input from someone other than educators.**

### **Report of Sub-Committees**

**Mr. Medeiros related that the School Committee should take the lead in developing a policy on parental involvement. Mrs. Lovett and Mr. Medeiros worked together and compiled a packet of School Improvement Team plans for the other members of the School Committee and requested additional information from the RI Association of School Committees. Mrs. Lovett asked to arrange a workshop meeting on March 22, 2005 at 7:00 PM to gain community input in order to update the Parental Involvement Policy. A motion was made by Mrs. Lovett to hold a workshop meeting in order to work on this policy, seconded by Mr. Medeiros. Mr. Gouveia would like to send each parent a formal invitation through the school children. Vote 5-0.**

**Unfinished Business – None**

## **New Business – None**

**After discussions at a legislative breakfast, the School Committee has passed resolutions supporting Representative Helio Melo's bills regarding transportation relief and special education funding relief. Representative Helio Melo explained that the first resolution concerns capping expenses for special education at \$20,000 with the state taking responsibility for any amount exceeding the cap. The second resolution concerns an un-funded mandate requiring bus monitors; a bill has been put forward to make this an option vs. a mandate. A third bill, Mr. Melo discussed with the Superintendent, Mr. Vinhateiro, related to school nurses. The deadline for filing legislation is February 15, 2005. Mr. Melo will keep the School Committee informed when state house hearings are posted on the calendar. Also involved is redistricting busing districts for private/parochial schools. Mr. Melo took the recommendations to the State House to review; RIDE also has recommendations and agrees that changes are needed.**

**High School Report – At the request of the Superintendent, Mr. Edward Daft, Principal of East Providence High School outlined high school reform issues and how they are affecting the high school. He explained the Board of Regents Requirements for High School Diploma System Reform. The High School has responded by working on literacy, graduation by proficiency, portfolios and senior project requirements. A new diploma system will be used in 2008; students**

**must demonstrate proficiency in certain areas.**

**In reference to senior projects and portfolios, Mr. Gouveia asked to keep the School Committee informed about sufficient staff to implement this phase. Mr. Daft expressed a need for a coordinator for senior projects. Mrs. Morris suggested that “filling out an application” be added to the list of employability for all students. Mr. Daft advised that this is a working draft; ninth grade parents will be notified by letter about the new graduation requirements and it will also be posted on the website. It needs to be determined what the senior project will look like, but East Providence is right where it should be to achieve the goals in 2008. Personalization at the High School where 15 students are partnered with a teacher; evaluating this program right now; this is a work in progress and will continue to monitor; need to formalize for next year. In response to Mr. Gouveia’s question regarding student advisory program, Mr. Daft explained that the purpose is to make a large school into a smaller one to fill the gap. They have dropped homeroom period and students are paired up with a teacher. This is a good way for parents to get involved; it is easier for a teacher to call 15 parents. Mr. Daft said there are recommendations from NEASC to reduce the number of levels for classes at the high school. Advanced placement and honors will still be in place.**

**Mrs. Morris asked about more opportunities for vocational school. Dr. Forbes said we will be launching a pre-engineering program at the**

**CTC and students will have the opportunity to take those electives.**

**Mr. Medeiros asked for discussion about the roof at Orlo Avenue School. Dr. Forbes explained that the Superintendent met with the City Manager who will be presenting a plan to the City Council for financing Orlo's roof, which is a top priority, and also Waddington's roof.**

**Mr. Faria would like to receive a plan on all roofs documenting the problems. Dr. Forbes will bring this request to the Superintendent's attention.**

#### **Payment of Bills**

##### **Local Operating Bill List:**

**Warrant #541 1/11/05 \$139,257.46**

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

**Warrant #545 2/1/05 \$842,893.68**

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

**Warrant #546 2/1/05 \$324,375.95**

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

##### **Federal Bill List:**

**Warrant #542 1/12/05 \$303,027.21**

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

**Warrant #548 2/3/05 \$104,357.59**

## **Question and Answer Period**

**Mr. Furtado of the Parent Council invited everyone to attend the next meeting on February 15, 2005 at Orlo Avenue School. They would like representation from all schools and encouraged parental involvement.**

**Dr. Forbes reported that the First Annual Sports Math Night would be held on Thursday, March 3, 2005. This is a joint venture between students in Grades 3-4-5 who will interact with student athletes in math activities while parents will work with a math specialist to assist them in helping their children to succeed. Activities also include Grade 5 students' display of Million Dollar Projects and a story hour. All members of the community and School Committee members are invited to attend.**

**Mr. Faria noted other upcoming activities: science fair, Weaver Library reading buddies and Kent Heights reading aloud program and encouraged everyone to attend..**

**A motion was made by Mrs. Morris to adjourn at 9:25 PM, seconded by Mr. Medeiros. Vote 5-0.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Patricia A. Iannelli, Executive Secretary**

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