

EAST PROVIDENCE SCHOOL DEPARTMENT

East Providence City Hal

145 Taunton Avenue

East Providence, Rhode Island

September 26, 2005

Open Session

Mr. Antone Gouveia, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 7:00PM. 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., assistant legal counsel. 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. Faria. 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 7:30PM, seconded by Mr. Medeiros. Vote 5-0

A motion was made by Mrs. Morris to seal the minutes of the Executive Session, seconded by Mr. Medeiros. Vote 5-0.

The School Committee proceeded to the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag, followed by a moment of silence.

2005-2006 Budget.

Chairman Gouveia explained that in light of last week's City Council meeting, the Finance Committee had reviewed the School Department's budget to see if anything had been missed with respect to areas where there might be potential adjustments and reallocations. Chairman Gouveia explained that in his three years on the Committee, the School Department had taken the following actions to reduce expenses: 1) The Human Resource Director had not been replaced when called to active military duty, instead, the position was gapped with a person who was also filling another position within the School Department. 2) The position of Technology Director had not been filled. 3) The position of ESL Director had not been filled after the incumbent retired; instead, the Superintendent restructured the Department, and did not replace the Technology Director. 4) The ESL Coordinator's position had not been filled. 5) The Talent Development Program had been cut. 6) There had been cuts in textbooks. 7) The Special Education Department had been restructured. 8) House Leadership positions at Martin Middle School had been restructured, and two positions had been lost. 9) The School Committee had extracted co-pay from the Superintendent and the Assistant Superintendent. 10) The teachers had come forward and agreed to deferring raises in the Teachers' Contract. 11) One School

Building had been sold, and another had been leased. Chairman Gouveia explained that if the School Committee indicates to the City Council that it needs a certain funding level to effectively operate the schools, and that if the School Committee then keeps cutting its budget and deferring expenses, then the School Committee is just setting the schools up for failure. Chairman Gouveia indicated that the School Budget submitted to the City Council was a true needs budget, and that if the City Council wants the School Committee to come up with further cuts, then the Finance Committee had the following potential recommendations:

Mr. Faria presented the Finance Committee's potential recommendations: 1) Reduce the number of new custodians from four to two for a savings of \$105,000. 2) Eliminate the purchase of two jeeps, and lease the same, for a potential savings of \$36,000. 3) Reduce \$5,000 from the purchase of snow blowers.

Chairman Gouveia discussed the cons of going with reallocations in the areas presented by Mr. Faria.

Motion made by Mr. Morris to send to the City Council a note to the effect that the Council could choose to reallocate from the School Committee's budget those items presented by Mr. Faria as potential recommendations, Seconded by Mr. Medeiros. Roll call vote: Mr. Faria, aye; Mrs. Lovett, aye; Mr. Medeiros, aye; Mrs. Morris, aye; Mr. Gouveia, aye.

Public Comment.

Ms. Perry spoke regarding her concerns over the budget, and that it should not be cut by the City Council. Dennis Streit spoke regarding Riverside Middle School fund raising activities, and the First Annual Golf Tournament. Eileen Fletcher spoke regarding the strife in the community over the budget, and that the community needed to come together and think about its children.

Adjourn.

A motion was made by Mrs. Morris to adjourn at 8:05 PM, seconded by Mr. Medeiros. Vote 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrew A. Thomas, Assistant Legal Counsel

David Medeiros, Clerk of the Committee