

**EAST PROVIDENCE SCHOOL DEPARTMENT**

**Martin Middle School Cafeteria**

**111 Brown Street**

**East Providence, Rhode Island 02914**

**School Committee Special Meeting**

**September 6, 2005**

**Open Session**

**Mr. Gouveia called the meeting to Order at 6:30 PM. Four members were present: Robert Faria, David Medeiros, Mildred Morris and Antone Gouveia. (Eileen Lovett was absent). Also present were Manuel Vinhateiro, Superintendent of Schools and Andrew Thomas, Esq. A motion was made by Mr. Faria to move to Executive Session in accordance with RI General Laws, Section 42-46-5 (a) (1) Personnel & (a) (2) Collective Bargaining and Litigation, seconded by Mr. Medeiros.**

**Public Session reconvened at 7:00 PM. A motion was made by Mrs. Morris to seal the minutes of the Executive Session, seconded by Mr. Medeiros. Vote 4-0.**

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

**Mr. David Medeiros presented the first invitation to the “Show your Townie Pride and Celebrate Family Involvement in the East Providence Schools” event scheduled for Friday, October 14, 2005 at 6:00 PM at Pierce Stadium prior to the East Providence High School Football Game against Hendricken High School. There will be a pre-game procession of families led by the East Providence High School Band, half-time awards and Townie Pride presentations. One free admission from 5:30 PM to 6:00 PM with each book donation to the Books are Wings Program. Mr. Gouveia will be presenting the same invitation at the City Council meeting.**

### **Report of the Superintendent**

**Personnel Recommendations – Diane Rodericks presented the personnel items as follows:**

### **Appointments**

**Michael Almeida Middle School Reform Coordinator**

**Pamela Murray Head Teacher, Kent Heights School**

**Brenda Thibault Safety Patrol Coordinator, Silver Spring School**

**Paula Frank Advisor, Youth Alive Club, High School**

**Motion: Mrs. Morris/Second: Mr. Medeiros. Vote 4-0.**

**Recall**

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

**Retirement**

**Cecelia Connors (26 Years) Secretary, Meadowcrest School**

**End of 05-06 School Year**

**Resignation**

**Diane Pennoyer Reading Teacher, Oldham School**

**Effective Immediately**

**Personnel Recommendations (continued)**

**Resignation**

**Jean Otis Supervisory Assistant, Waddington School**

**Effective Immediately**

**Extended Personal Leave**

**Sophia Sotis Spanish Teacher, High School**

**Effective 9/30/05 to end of 2005-06 School Year**

**Nancy Sisto Supervisory Assistant, Meadowcrest School**

**2005-06 School Year**

**Family Medical Leave Act (Maternity)**

**Jennifer McGovern Grade 4 Teacher, Waddington School**

**Effective approx. 11/28/05**

**Motion: Mrs. Morris/Second: Mr. Medeiros. Vote 4-0.**

**Policy IV.D.1. Placement, Promotion & Retention Policy (Proposed New East Providence High School Graduation Requirements) – Second Passage - Mr. Vinhateiro recommended second passage of the policy to bring East Providence in line with all state regulations. Motion by Mrs. Morris to approve, seconded by Mr. Medeiros. Roll Call vote: Mr. Faria, aye; Mr. Medeiros, aye; Mrs. Morris, aye; Mr. Gouveia, aye. Vote 4-0.**

### **Unfinished Business**

**2005-2006 Budget – Mr. Vinhateiro stated that the School Committee recently held two public sessions on the budget and recommended that the School Committee vote to approve it. Motion by Mr. Medeiros to approve, seconded by Mrs. Morris. Mr. Faria said after last weeks meeting, he was frustrated, not with the public, but what School Committee and Superintendent have been doing to be fiscally responsible and at the same time support education. Some individuals who attended the workshops were intimidated to not speak. He spoke about family involvement and that education is the responsibility of the whole community and the School Committee has focused on this. We want our students to achieve and families to be involved. The School Committee wants to show they will do what they have to in order to get things done. The Superintendent has made proposals which died at the State House which would have**

**saved us money. He maintains an open door policy to discuss budget or any other issues; and, last year the teachers relinquished money to assist the City and the School Department and we cannot forget that. We need to make sure that children are our #1 priority.**

**Mr. Gouveia stated that the School Committee asked the Superintendent for a needs budget, not a wish list budget; we could have used more money for technology, textbooks and professional development. We cannot expect teachers to teach without professional development. Teachers are trying to catch up every day with the changing face of education. The Superintendent has given the School Committee a needs budget and we all share the concerns of the taxpayers. He is well aware of the problems heard at the last meeting, but needs some solutions as to how to get 6400 students to the next level. This is the cost of today's education. The City Manager and the Superintendent will sit down to see what can be done and come up with a possible solution. The School Committee stands fast behind the Superintendent on what they asked.**

### **Public Comment**

**Mr. Michael Rock said he watched the last meeting on television and the attack upon the teachers was incredible; he found it personally revolting. He gave an analysis of a \$60,000 salary, taking into account preparation time in and out of school and added \$1 hour for**

**benefits, comparing it to the earnings of sports figures. He felt that teachers are really underpaid for what they do.**

**Mrs. Morris commented that she had been asked by constituents to look into the fact that other communities are charging for busing costs.**

**Mr. John Connelly felt that school department employees did not deserve the discourse at the last meeting; it was not fair to disparage them. He felt that they should have gathered background information first from the Superintendent and the School Committee, as there are demands from the “No Child Left Behind Act” and the money associated with those mandates. We should let the educators do their jobs. He felt that no contracts should be opened unless all contracts in the city are opened. We need to take care of the kids.**

**Mr. Faria was very disappointed with what he expected of himself at the last meeting.**

**Roll call vote: Mr. Faria, aye; Mr. Medeiros, aye; Mrs. Morris, aye; Mr. Gouveia, aye. Vote 4-0.**

**A motion was made by Mrs. Morris to adjourn at 7:30 PM, seconded by Mr. Medeiros. Vote 4-0.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Patricia A. Iannelli, Executive Secretary**

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