

**EAST PROVIDENCE SCHOOL DEPARTMENT**

**Martin Middle School**

**111 Brown Street**

**East Providence, Rhode Island 02914**

**School Committee Special Meeting**

**September 5, 2006**

**Open Session**

**Mr. Gouveia 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: Dr. Jacqueline Forbes, Superintendent of Schools and Robert Silva, Esq.**

**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.**

**Vote 5-0.**

**Public Session reconvened at 7:30PM. A motion was made by Mrs. Morris to return to open session, seconded by Mrs. Lovett. Vote 5-0.**

**A motion was made by Mr. Medeiros to seal the minutes of the Executive session, seconded by Mrs. Morris.**

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

## **Report of Superintendent and Staff**

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

### **Appointments**

**Taylor Temple Elementary Music Teacher**

#### **Special Subjects**

**Diane Hurd ½ day Kindergarten Teacher**

**M.J. Francis**

**Wayne Branch Freshman Class Advisor, SHS**

**Richard Silva Senior Class Advisor, SHS**

**Linda Crocker Head Teacher, M.J. Francis**

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

### **Supervisory Assistants**

**Margaret Furtado M.J. Francis**

**Roseann DeVargas M.J. Francis**

**Darlene Simmons Kent Heights**

**Lorraine Mendillo Kent Heights**

**Diane Nees Oldham**

**Joanne Johnson Oldham**

**Lorraine Reed Orlo Avenue**

**Linda Pace Orlo Avenue**

**Maureen Goldreyer Silver Spring**

**Elena Rose Hennessey**

**Marlene Walmsley Waddington**

**Mary Olsen Waddington**

**Diane Macedo Meadowcrest**

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

## **RESIGNATION**

**Belinda Wilkerson Advisor, Multicultural Club,**

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

## **FAMILY & MEDICAL LEAVE**

**Jane Watson Secretary, Library, SHS**

**Effective September 5, 2006**

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

## **LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

**Lisa Massey Educational Specialist, RMS**

**Motion: Morris/Second: Medeiros. Vote 5-0. 2006-2007 School Year**

## **RECALL**

**Kendra Kopecky-Bowden Educational Specialist, RMS**

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

## **2006-2007 Budget Work Session**

**Dr. Forbes explained that “the budget was developed collectively and represents the needs of the district. The goal is to attain our educational objectives at a reasonable cost. I presented the budget on August 15th to the School Committee; the School Committee met on August 22nd and asked clarifying questions and then voted on 1st passage. Last week, the School Committee met on August 29th and again asked questions and took questions from the audience. A decision on second passage was postponed until tonight’s meeting so that all five School Committee members would be present and have an opportunity to have their questions answered. Chairman Gouveia asked for proposed reductions to the budget in addition to the potential reductions (high school track replacement, curriculum director, 4 custodial positions). Tonight the School Committee will vote on second passage.”**

**She presented proposed reductions to the budget for discussion and deliberation. Dr. Forbes indicated that the proposed additional cuts were not her recommendation.**

**&#1607; Textbooks - \$53,000 (Physics 1st grant will provide to High School). Dr. Forbes said we may need to purchase replacement books; the bulk of these books will be provided by the grant; this will help offset textbook account. Mr. Gouveia asked if this cut would**

impact any subject area that needs replacement books where this money could be applied. Dr. Forbes said there is enough in the account to take care of our needs. Mr. Gouveia asked if we could move the money to the library account. Motion by Mr. Faria to reject the proposed textbook cut and to reapply \$53,000 to library funds by Faria, seconded by Mrs. Lovett. Roll Call vote: Mr. Faria, aye; Mrs. Lovett, aye; Mr. Medeiros, aye; Mrs. Morris, aye; Mr. Gouveia, aye.

&#61607; Level funding band & supplies – (\$7,500 and \$1500) (keep last year’s proposal). Dr. Forbes advised that we will have to be more careful; she would be denying the request for an increase. Mr. Faria asked what the increase would be used for. (Purchase of large band instruments). Motion by Mrs. Morris to accept the cut, seconded by Mrs. Lovett. Roll Call vote: Mr. Faria, aye; Mrs. Lovett, aye; Mr. Medeiros, aye; Mrs. Morris, aye; Mr. Gouveia, aye.

&#61607; Vocational Education (\$6500) – Level fund supplies – Motion by Mr. Faria to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent, seconded by Mr. Medeiros. Roll Call vote: Mr. Faria, aye; Mrs. Lovett, aye; Mr. Medeiros, aye; Mrs. Morris, aye; Mr. Gouveia, aye.

&#61607; Instruction – Band – Level fund \$2600 – Dr. Forbes believes we can manage another year. Motion by Mr. Faria to accept the proposed cut, seconded by Mrs. Lovett. Roll Call vote: Mr. Faria, aye; Mrs. Lovett, aye; Mr. Medeiros, aye; Mrs. Morris, aye; Mr. Gouveia, aye.

&#61607; Curriculum Office (\$250 cut) Motion by Mr. Medeiros to

**accept, seconded by Mrs. Morris. Roll Call vote: Mr. Faria, aye; Mrs. Lovett, aye; Mr. Medeiros, aye; Mrs. Morris, aye; Mr. Gouveia, aye.**

**&#61607; ESL Instructional Supplies – reduce \$1,000 – Motion by Mrs. Morris to approve, seconded by Mrs. Lovett. Roll Call vote: Mr. Faria, aye; Mrs. Lovett, aye; Mr. Medeiros, aye; Mrs. Morris, aye; Mr. Gouveia, aye.**

**&#61607; Instructional Supplies Resource - \$6,000- Motion by Mrs. Lovett to eliminate, seconded by Mrs. Morris. Roll Call vote: Mr. Faria, aye; Mrs. Lovett, aye; Mr. Medeiros, aye; Mrs. Morris, aye; Mr. Gouveia, aye.**

**&#61607; Special Education Administration, services and supplies – Cut by \$22,000 – Motion by Mr. Faria to accept the recommendation, seconded by Mr. Medeiros. Roll Call vote: Mr. Faria, aye; Mrs. Lovett, aye; Mr. Medeiros, aye; Mrs. Morris, aye; Mr. Gouveia, aye.**

**&#61607; General Attendance Services – Cut by \$350 – Eliminate in-service and reduce printing costs. Motion to accept the recommendation by Mr. Medeiros, seconded by Mrs. Morris. Roll Call vote: Mr. Faria, aye; Mrs. Lovett, aye; Mr. Medeiros, aye; Mrs. Morris, aye; Mr. Gouveia, aye. (Will work with the Vocational School for printing whenever possible)**

**&#61607; Maintenance Operations – \$10,000 Security – Motion by Mr. Faria to accept, no second – Motion by Mrs. Lovett to allocate \$15,000 for the jeep, seconded by Mrs. Morris to accept \$15,000 for replacement of jeep. Roll call vote: Mr. Faria, nay; Mrs. Lovett, aye; Mr. Medeiros, aye; Mrs. Morris, aye; Mr. Gouveia, nay. Motion passed 3-2.**

**&#61607; Proposed security & supplies to accept cut of \$15,000 – Motion by Mr. Faria, seconded by Mrs. Morris for discussion. Mr. Faria withdrew his motion; Motion by Mrs. Lovett to accept the proposal to cut \$4,000 from general building maintenance, \$1,000 in-service, \$10,000 security – Total of \$15,000, seconded by Mr. Faria. Roll Call vote: Mr. Faria, aye; Mrs. Lovett, aye; Mr. Medeiros, aye; Mrs. Morris, aye; Mr. Gouveia, aye.**

**&#61607; Athletics – In-service meetings and training - \$1950 – Motion to accept by Morris, seconded by Mr. Medeiros. Vote 5-0.**

**&#61607; Extracurricular Supplies – Level fund equipment \$1500 – Page 15 – same as last year – Motion by Mr. Faria, seconded by Mr. Medeiros. Vote 5-0.**

**&#61607; Transportation – page 15 – Total reduction \$6,500 (\$5,000 field trips, \$500 equipment) – After discussion , Mr. Gouveia asked for a motion to separate the items. Motion by Mr. Medeiros to separate items, seconded by Mrs. Morris. Vote 5-0. A motion was made by Mr. Faria to accept the field trip cut of \$5,000, seconded by Mrs. Lovett to not accept proposed cut and level fund at \$500, seconded by Mrs. Morris. Roll Call vote: Mr. Faria, aye; Mrs. Lovett, aye; Mr. Medeiros, aye; Mrs. Morris, aye; Mr. Gouveia, aye. Motion by Mrs. Lovett to cut \$1000 in-service, seconded by Mr. Faria. Vote all aye. Motion by Mr. Medeiros to cut \$500 from equipment, seconded by Mr. Faria. Vote all aye.**

**&#61607; District Administration – Page 17 – to reduce expenses by \$2,400, #3333 Travel Expenses (leave the line at \$1500) Line 3600 printing reduce by \$300, Total of \$2400 Motion by Mrs. Morris to**

accept. After discussion, it was decided to take \$2100 out of travel expenses (will be \$2900) and take \$300 out of printing – Motion by Mr. Medeiros, seconded by Mrs. Morris. All aye.

• Business Office Services and Supplies – Reduce \$500 in-service and \$500 office supplies. Motion by Mr. Medeiros to approve, seconded by Mr. Faria. Vote all aye.

• Human Resources – Reduce printing by \$500 and reduce supplies by \$500 – Motion by Mr. Medeiros, seconded by Mrs. Morris. Vote all aye.

• School Committee – Reduce office supplies line. Motion by Mrs. Morris to put \$1000 elsewhere in the budget, seconded by Mr. Faria. Vote all aye. Mrs. Morris asked to put that amount in field trips.

Mr. Gouveia asked for the following votes:

• Curriculum Director Position – Motion by Mr. Medeiros to cut this position, seconded by Mrs. Morris. Discussion: Mr. Gouveia said for the size of the school district, this position is needed. Roll call vote: Mr. Faria, nay, Mrs. Lovett, nay, Mr. Medeiros, aye; Mrs. Morris, aye; Mr. Gouveia, aye. Motion to cut this position passed by 3-2 vote.

• Custodial Positions (4) not filled – Motion by Mr. Faria to cut the positions. Mr. Gouveia requested that the Vice Chair assume the Chair's position and he seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Mr. Faria, aye; Mrs. Lovett, nay; Mr. Medeiros, nay; Mrs. Morris, nay; Mr. Gouveia, aye. Vote 3-2 against cutting the positions.

**&#61607; Track & Field – Motion to accept the cut; patch for a year or two – Mr. Medeiros, seconded by Mr. Faria. Vote 5-0.**

**The School Committee briefly recessed while the numbers were verified.**

**The School Committee reconvened. Dr. Forbes announced that the total reductions amounted to \$399,056; Total budget now at \$71,688,001.**

**Mr. Faria commented that maintenance of school buildings is important and we cannot always predict or operate on a string as far as capital improvements; Expenses are going up and it is frustrating we have less and less money and no room for growth.**

**Mr. Gouveia thanked Dr. Forbes, Mr. Capron and Dr. Hilton for several drafts of the budget. He said in 2006-07 there is no growth for students, which is what the School Committee is here for, no additional professional development to help students, capital improvements only \$15000 for a used jeep. He felt we cannot keep taking money from the budget, as there is nothing for preventative maintenance, no growth for technology, no new educational programs except Physics First, which is a grant. The School Committee has been cutting and consolidating and other than additions to salary and benefits, Mr. Gouveia said he was not happy about the budget. If the City cuts any more money, he doesn't know**

where it will come from; only 4 custodians and a jeep were voted on tonight; there is nothing to be happy about.

Mr. Gouveia related that Dr. Forbes had a meeting with the City Manager regarding healthcare benefits and another meeting will be held on 9/15/06 with the health consultant to help speed up the process. The only other place is to look to city employees as there is nothing left to cut. Maybe it is time to take advantage of the sale; School Committee needs help now. This is one budget Mr. Gouveia is concerned about the City Council cutting. A lot of time was spent on making decisions on small items. Even with the healthcare, it would not greatly impact the budget; this budget did not do much for children. He thanked everyone involved in the process.

Mr. Robert Enos, candidate for School Committee at-large, compared the school budget to home budgets; everyone is facing the same problems. He asked about the age of the current history books; he felt everyone should work together as a team to think outside of the box, maybe corporate sponsorship. He asked about the deficit at over \$2 million. He asked about City Council benefits. He said that people are really concerned about the future of the City. He asked if any School Committee members attended a hearing at the state house regarding group homes. He felt that the School Committee needs to work hard with legislators to help the city. He felt the buyback figure of \$650,000 should be put into escrow (it is not part of the budget) and used toward the deficit if not needed.

**Mr. Faria commented that he went to the State House for hearings and the process is very frustrating. What is needed is a joint effort on the part of School Committees statewide, as we do not do a good job getting the word out to get people there in numbers.**

**Mr. Shawn Cook said he tried to straighten out a problem with the transportation office. Mr. Cook lives at 1825 Pawtucket Avenue and tried to get a bus stop changed unsuccessfully. Mr. Linneman, the Director of Transportation, said this is a house stop and Mr. Cook can come in anytime to discuss this. Mr. Gouveia will try to arrange and attend a meeting.**

**A motion was made by Mrs. Morris to accept second passage of the budget as amended, 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 Mr. Medeiros to adjourn at 9:50PM, seconded by Mrs. Morris. Vote 5-0.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Patricia A. Iannelli, Executive Secretary**

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