

# **EAST PROVIDENCE SCHOOL DEPARTMENT**

**East Providence City Hall**

**145 Taunton Avenue**

**East Providence, Rhode Island 02914**

## **School Committee Meeting**

**December 12, 2006**

### **Open Session**

**Mrs. Morris, Chair of the Committee, called the meeting to order at 6:30PM. All members were present: Robert Faria, Eileen Lovett, David Medeiros, Mildred Morris and Steven Santos. Also present: Dr. Jacqueline Forbes, Superintendent of Schools and Andrew Thomas, Legal Counsel. 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) Litigation, seconded by Mrs. Lovett. Vote 5-0.**

**Public Session reconvened at 7:30PM. 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 following meetings: October 26, 2006, November 9, 2006, November 14, 2006, November 21, 2006, December 1, 2006 and December 8, 2006, seconded by Mr. Faria. Vote 5-0.**

**Chair's Report- Student Liaison, Sean Snead, presented a report on high school activities.**

### **Student Recognition**

**Kelly Thompson, Executive Director of the Community Mediation Center and Erika Kruse, Director of ADR and Chief Counsel for the Supreme Court administered the oath of confidentiality and presented certificates to students who successfully completed the Middle School Mediation Program. The mediation program, a conflict resolution program, trains students to help their peers resolve their differences peacefully. Administrators at Riverside and Martin Middle Schools were commended for supporting this program.**

**The presentation regarding the Senate Youth Scholarship Competition Award will be forwarded to the January agenda.**

**The East Providence High School Football Team was recognized for winning the State Championship. Mr. Paul Amaral, Athletic Director and Coach Sandy Gorham presented certificates to the players. Mr. Amaral requested that the School Committee vote to approve the purchase of State Championship jackets, patches or rings for the team. A motion was made by Mr. Medeiros to approve the purchase, seconded by Mrs. Lovett. Vote 5-0. Mrs. Morris requested that Dr. Forbes send a letter to the City Manager requesting City Council**

**participation (half the cost of the purchase) as in the past.**

**A motion was made by Mr. Medeiros to recess, seconded by Mrs. Lovett. Vote 5-0. The Committee reconvened.**

**Committee Appointments – Mrs. Morris made the following committee appointments:**

**Mr. Medeiros Planning, Finance, Family Involvement Team**

**Mr. Santos Recreation, Cafeteria, Insurance**

**Mr. Faria Transportation, Finance**

**Liaison to the City Council**

**Mrs. Lovett and Mrs. Morris Family Involvement Team, Wellness Committee**

**& Cafeteria Committee**

**Mrs. Lovett and Mrs. Morris Legislative Liaisons**

**Dr. Forbes & Mrs. Morris Carousel Committee**

**Whiteknact School Courtyard Project – Linda Succi, Principal, made a presentation regarding the transformation of Whiteknact school's courtyard into an active learning landscape with the support of RI Resource Recovery and the University of Rhode Island College of Life Sciences Extension Center working in partnership with the teachers, staff, families and friends of Whiteknact School.**

**Hearings - None**

**Reading of Communications - None**

**Report of Superintendent and Staff – Dr. Forbes praised the students of East Providence for their athletic, artistic and academic talents and advised that the high school has once again been designated a Regents' Commended School for the 2006 school year. Dr. Forbes related that she looks forward to working with the new School Committee to continue to provide students, families, staff and the City of East Providence with an outstanding school department.**

**Dr. Hilton presented the 2006-07 financial report in a new format requested by Dr. Forbes.**

**Mr. Medeiros requested an update regarding health insurance. Dr. Forbes advised that she has spoken to all bargaining units regarding switching to an alternate health insurance administrator; East Providence School Department is self insured and we pay a company to administer our plan; by switching administrators, we have the potential to save the district a great deal of money. One bargaining unit has approved, one has shown strong support and Dr. Forbes hopes to have an answer from three others before the Christmas break. In response to Mr. Faria's question, Dr. Forbes advised that the savings would be approximately \$1.3 million over a three year**

**period. A motion was made by Mr. Mederios to send a request to the bargaining units, seconded by Mr. Faria. Vote 5-0.**

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

**Retirement (Close of 2006-07 School Year)**

**Karen Franks Art Teacher, Martin Middle School**

**Lombi Zuendoki Math Teacher, Martin Middle School**

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

**Facilities Update – Peter Barilla, Jr. advised the School Committee regarding the following projects: A sidewalk was repaired in the half-circle area and playground at Waddington School; blacktop circle on the side of Riverside Middle was patched; the boiler control was replaced at Francis School. Additionally, energy saving projects were completed: RISE has replaced all lights at the Administration Building and RISE will be replacing lights at Hennessey School during Christmas recess. Also, bids have gone out for the hearing plant and a new generator at the High School. A selection committee has been formed and the bids are under review. Mrs. Morris asked for a special meeting next week to award the bid for the hearing plant and generator. Also, Waddington, Silver Spring and Orlo Avenue Schools all have new roofs.**

**Requests for Home Schooling - Withdrawn**

**Curriculum Update – Mr. Edward Daft, Assistant Superintendent, reported on the district implementation of student based report cards in November for K-Grade 2. A team of teachers, parents, and administrators redesigned the report card format. New report cards will be implemented in Grades 3-5 next year. Mr. Daft thanked the staff at the Career Technical Center who provided the printing. Mr. Daft presented copies to the School Committee of the Kindergarten to Grade 2 Standards-Based Progress Report, Parent Handbook for 2006-07. Dr. Forbes stated that parents will receive more specific information on the standard based report card. Any questions may be referred to Mr. Daft, Dr. Forbes, principals and teachers.**

**Report of Sub-Committees - None**

**Unfinished Business - None**

**New Business – Dr. Forbes recommended that the School Committee approve first passage of amended policy, IV.B.3.a. Early Admission to Kindergarten, which has been amended to clarify timelines and tighten up the procedures. A motion was made by Mr. Medeiros to approve, seconded by Mr. Faria. Roll call vote: Mr. Faria, aye; Mrs. Lovett, aye; Mr. Medeiros, aye; Mr. Santos, aye; Mrs. Morris, aye.**

**2007 School Committee Meeting Dates - A motion was made by Mrs. Lovett to approve the schedule of 2007 meeting dates as follows: January 9, February 13, March 13, April 10, May 8, June 12, August 14,**

**August 21, September 11, October 9, November 13, and December 11, seconded by Mr. Medeiros. Roll call vote: Mr. Faria, aye; Mrs. Lovett, aye; Mr. Medeiros, aye; Mr. Santos, aye; Mrs. Morris, aye.**

## **Payment of Bills**

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

**Warrant #000698 11/27/06 \$1,460,043.89**

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

### **Federal Bill List:**

**Warrant #000699 11/28/06 \$ 243,120.88**

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

## **Question and Answer Period**

**Mr. George Brown, 41 Wannamoisett Road spoke regarding drainage problems near his house, which he believes affects the families at Kent Heights School; he wanted to inform the School Committee in the hope that they would explore the possibility of looking at this issue to get something accomplished. Mrs. Morris said she would go out to look at the problem although she believed the problem should be best addressed by the City and not the School Department. Mrs. Morris agreed to pass this information on to City Council member, Dr. Ramos, to have this complaint checked out. Mr. Faria also will speak to the City Manager, Mr. Brown, as this issue should be brought to**

**the City Council's attention.**

**Mr. Bob Enos, 11 Milburn Road, showed pictures of the piles of snow left by the snow blower in the area described by Mr. Brown. If the School Department did plow to his area it would open up the area for the kids. He feels this is a city and a school issue. Dr. Forbes advised that in the spirit of cooperation, the School Department would be happy to work with the city on this issue.**

**Mr. Enos also questioned the time frame of any healthcare reductions. Dr. Forbes explained that the process entails the leadership to make a determination to bring the issue forward to its members and then to hold informational sessions. Dr. Forbes hopes to have an answer by January 1st. Mr. Enos asked about saving money on custodians; the number of custodians employed, overtime expenses, vacation, black out periods and combining city and school dept. efforts. Mr. Enos asked about the School Committee budget, proposed number to actual budget. Dr. Forbes will get the information to him. He asked about supplies for School Committee members.**

**A motion was made by Mr. Medeiros to return to executive session, seconded by Mr. Faria.**

**Vote 5-0.**

**The School Committee returned to open session Medeiros/Lovett. Motion to seal the minutes by Medeiros, seconded by Mr. Faria. Vote**

**5-0.**

**A motion was made by Mr. Faria to regretfully accept the letter of withdrawal of the candidate for High school principal, seconded by Mr. Medeiros. Roll call vote: Mr. Faria, aye; Mr. Medeiros, aye; Mrs. Lovett, nay; Mr. Santos abstained and Mrs. Morris voted aye. Vote 3-1-1**

**A motion was made to accept the two interim positions by Medeiros, seconded by Mrs. Lovett. Roll call vote: Mr. Faria, aye; Mrs. Lovett, aye; Mr. Medeiros, aye; Mr. Santos, aye; Mrs. Morris, aye.**

**A motion was made by Mr. Medeiros to adjourn at 10:40PM, seconded by Mrs. Lovett. Vote 5-0.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Patricia A. Iannelli, Administrative Assistant**

**Eileen Lovett, Clerk of the Committee**