

EAST PROVIDENCE SCHOOL DEPARTMENT

East Providence City Hall

145 Taunton Avenue

East Providence, Rhode Island 02914

Special School Committee Meeting

June 21, 2007

Open Session

Mrs. Morris called the meeting to order at 6:00PM. All School Committee Members were present: Robert Faria, Eileen Lovett, David Medeiros, Steven Santos and Mildred Morris. Also present: Dr. Jacqueline B. Forbes, Superintendent of Schools and Robert Silva, Esq. A motion was made by Mr. Santos to move to Executive Session in accordance with RI General Laws, Section 42-46-5 (a) (1) Personnel, (a) (2) Collective Bargaining/Litigation, seconded by Mr. Medeiros. Vote 5-0.

The Public Session reconvened at 7:00PM. The School Committee recessed Executive Session and will return to Executive Session after the public session. A motion was made by Mrs. Lovett, seconded by Mr. Medeiros to move to open session and to seal the minutes of the Executive Session.

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag and a Moment of Silence was observed for the RI State Trooper who was hospitalized and the firefighters who lost their lives in the line of duty in S. Carolina.

Elementary School Principal Interviews- A motion to table by Mr. Santos, seconded by Mr. Faria. Vote 5-0. (No candidates were forwarded; the position will be re-advertised at a later date.

Report of Superintendent and Staff

Personnel Recommendations – Diane Rodericks presented the following personnel items:

APPOINTMENTS

Gregory McCarthy Assistant Principal, RMS

Effective 2007-2008 School Year

Joseph Tavares Interim Director, Buildings and

Grounds - Effective 8/1/2007

Lombi Zuendoki (1 yr only) Secondary Summer School Math

Don Lurgio Secondary Summer School Science

George Currier, Jr. Secondary Summer School English

Kelsey Thethonia Secretary, Secondary Summer School, MMS

Motion: Medeiros/Second: Lovett. Roll call vote: Mr. Faria, aye; Mrs.

Lovett, aye; Mr. Medeiros, aye; Mr. Santos, aye; Mrs. Morris, aye.

RETIREMENT

**Margaret Marcotte (22 yrs) Principal, Silver Spring School
Close of 2007-2008 School Year**

**Jeffrey Smith (29 yrs) Speech/Language Pathologist
Close of 2007-2008 School Year**

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

RESIGNATION

**Lauren Mitchell School Nurse/Teacher
Close of 2006-2007 School Year**

Barbara Allen Testing Coordinator, RMS

Motion: Medeiros/Second: Faria

EXTENDED LEAVE OF ABSENCE

**Karen Mellen Teacher, Bio-Med Technology, CTC
2007-2008 School Year**

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

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Paula Frank Advisor, Youth Alive Club, EPHS

2007-2008 School Year

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

RECALLS

Charles Hassell Elementary Teacher

Crystal Cunha Special Education Teacher

Mylissa Bourne Elementary/Special Ed. Teacher

Joseph Lydon Social Studies Teacher, HS

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

Mr. Santos asked about the time limit on the Interim Director of Buildings & Grounds position. Dr. Forbes said it depends on the outcome of the discussion with the City regarding consolidation. She appreciated the fact that Mr. Tavares agreed to step up to the position and asked for approval.

Proposed Personnel Changes - Dr. Forbes commented that in light of the financial difficulties facing the district, she is proposing program and staff reductions for the 2007-08 school year; relief from the bargaining units that she had hoped for, has not received to date and that no Superintendent wanted to be in this position. The School

Department has been working with the East Providence legislators who have appealed to the General Assembly for mandate relief; however, the bulk of the mandate relief we had requested was not approved; some success with an increase in group home reimbursements in the amount of \$126,000. Also, the district will not receive the governor's proposed increase to education of 3% (or \$802,000 for East Providence) because it did not receive legislative approval. The School Committee has engaged a firm to conduct a program audit, which looks at minimum staffing and program requirements that must be provided based upon general law, mandate or RIDE regulations. Dr. Forbes proposed the reduction of 23 positions through attrition and layoffs for the 2007-08 school year, which will realize a savings of slightly more than one million dollars and will impact schools and programs. In accordance with the RI general law fiduciary responsibility of the Superintendent, Dr. Forbes requested that the School Committee take action on the proposals to assist the district in its efforts to reduce the impending budget deficit.

These staffing reductions will reduce, but will not eliminate the deficit; however, they represent a further step toward balancing the next year's budget. Dr. Forbes related that while we have to take this action to move forward, there is still hope that the unions will consider granting the district budget relief to lessen the impact of these decisions.

Mrs. Rodericks advised that the Superintendent recommended the layoff of individuals in the custodial and secretarial unions as

follows:

****LAYOFFS EFFECTIVE AT THE START OF THE 2007-2008 SCHOOL YEAR**

SECRETARIES

Julieta Borja-Penha

Joan Henderson

Jordana Croke

Arlene Boyd

Maryanne O'Rourke

Donna DelleFemine

Lisa Goulden

Gail Costa

Edna Souza

Isabel Evans

CUSTODIANS/MAINTENANCE

Joao Raposo

Henry McCormick

Joanne Pimental

Motion by Mrs. Lovett, seconded by Mr. Faria. Roll call vote – all aye.

Dr. Forbes wishes to notify the employees first and will share information at a later date.

Mr. Faria asked that the School Committee meet in July as there is more to do; he needs to understand every line of the budget and the

impact at a July meeting; this is part of a total picture, which will not be a pretty one. Dr. Forbes advised that we have a road map to follow. Regarding the consolidation efforts, Mr. Faria said the School Committee needs to make a resolution as a School Committee to give the City Manager every opportunity to look at any possibilities. A motion was made by Mr. Faria to make a resolution and sent it to the City Manager to look at every opportunity and every department for cost savings to the City as long as the quality of services does not suffer in any way and on behalf of the School Committee, the Superintendent will provide an open door policy for information to assist in potential consolidation efforts for non-instructional services.

Motion seconded by Mrs. Lovett. A Roll call vote: Mr. Faria, aye; Mrs. Lovett, aye; Mr. Medeiros, aye; Mr. Santos, aye; Mrs. Morris, aye.

Mr. Faria said he would be looking for opportunities regarding the budget and would like to tell the School Committee about the possibility of analyzing each contract and total package from beginning to end. He asked the School Committee to think about it; he has had contact with an agency that does that if the School Committee agrees, but he wanted to bring it up now.

II.F.6. Risk Management Policy – Vehicle Use – Second Passage

Dr. Forbes said that at the last meeting, Mr. Santos said the basic idea of the policy was sound and language was in place, but he tried to define the term “mobile equipment.” Mr. Santos thinks the way it is

constructed covers all the areas which needed to be covered. If there are no other suggestions or comments, Dr. Forbes thinks it is an improved document and asked for the School Committee to approve it. Mr. Silva suggested that a typo be corrected. Motion 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.

Mr. Silva advised that the School Committee would be returning to Executive Session. A motion was made by Mr. Medeiros to return to Executive Session under RIGL 42-46-5 (a) (1) Personnel and (a) (2) Collective Bargaining/Litigation, seconded by Mrs. Lovett. Vote 5-0...

The School Committee returned to open session at 8:40PM. A motion was made by Mr. Medeiros to return to open session, seconded by Mr. Faria. Vote 5-0. Motion made by Mr. Medeiros to seal the minutes of the executive session, seconded by Mr. Faria. Vote 5-0.

A motion was made to adjourn by Mr. Medeiros, seconded by Mr. Faria. Vote 5-0

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia A. Iannelli, Administrative Assistant

Eileen Lovett, Clerk of the Committee