

# **EAST PROVIDENCE SCHOOL DEPARTMENT**

**East Providence City Hall**

**145 Taunton Avenue, Room 306**

**East Providence, RI 02914**

## **School Committee Meeting**

**June 23, 2008**

### **Open Session**

**Mrs. Morris called the meeting to order at 5:00PM. School Committee members present: Anthony Carcieri, Stephen DeCastro, Robert Faria, Steven Santos and Mildred Morris. Also present: Dr. Jacqueline Forbes, Superintendent of Schools, Robert Silva, Esq. 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/Litigation.**

**The School Committee returned to public session at 6:20PM.**

**The following candidates were interviewed for the position of Martin Middle School Principal:**

**Stewart Armstrong, Jr., Steven Prew, and Glen Piros.**

**A motion was made by Mr. Faria to move to Executive Session in**

**accordance with R.I. General Laws, Section 42-46-5(a) (1) Personnel, (a) (2) Collective Bargaining/Litigation, seconded by Mr. Santos. Vote 5-0.**

**The School Committee returned to Public Session at 7:45 PM; a motion was made by Mr. Faria to return to open session and to seal the minutes of the executive session, seconded by Mr. Santos. Vote 5-0.**

**Dr. Forbes recommended Mr. Glen Piros for the position of Principal at Martin Middle School. A motion was made by Mr. Santos to approve the appointment, seconded by Mr. DeCastro. Vote 5-0. Congratulations were offered to Mr. Piros.**

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

**Record of Previous Meetings – A motion was made by Mr. Faria to approve the minutes of meetings held on April 8, 2008, May 13, 2008, and May 28, 2008, seconded by Mr. DeCastro. Vote 5-0.**

### **Chair's Report**

**Student Recognition – Mr. Edward Daft presented awards to the Riverside Middle School newspaper, the Viking Press, which received second place award from the Providence Journal. Students and**

**advisor, Mr. Macomber, were congratulated and certificates were presented.**

**The Martin Middle School Boys' Track Team was recognized as State Champions; coaches and students were congratulated and certificates were presented.**

**The High School Boys' Volley Ball Team was recognized as State Champions; coaches and students were congratulated and certificates were presented.**

**Hearings - None**

**Reading of Communications – Mr. Faria congratulated the High School PTSA for hosting a wonderfully successful Post Prom Party. Mr. Santos read a thank you letter from Mrs. Petisce Lynch.**

**Educational Program Report**

**Annual Testing/Classification Report – Assistant Superintendent, Mr. Edward Daft, presented a report on the NECAP/SALT Survey Data Report 2008. Mr. Daft reported that no District SALT Survey data is available for this year; this was the last year for SALT Survey administration as there is no state support/funding for next year.**

**The NECAP results for 2007-08:**

**State results: Reading- 65, Math- 54, Writing- 47**

**District results: Reading- 64, Math- 53, Writing- 42**

### **School Classifications 2007-08**

- **EPHS Insufficient Progress**
- **MMS Met AYP**
- **RMS Met AYP**
- **Francis Met AYP**
- **Hennessey Met AYP**
- **Kent Heights Met AYP**
- **Waddington Caution Status**
- **Oldham Met AYP**
- **Orlo Met AYP**
- **Silver Spring Met AYP**
- **Whiteknact Insufficient Progress**

**The following schools show an index proficiency point gap greater than 15:**

**EPHS, Waddington, Whiteknact, K.H., Orlo, Silver Spring: ELA- IEP**

**Whiteknact, Oldham: ELA- LEP**

**EPHS, Whiteknact, K.H., Orlo: Math- IEP**

**Report of Superintendent and Staff – Dr. Forbes commented regarding the colleges which will be attended by some of our graduates from the class of 2008 and congratulated students and**

**faculty.**

**Personnel Recommendations – Mr. Edward Daft presented the personnel items:**

## **APPOINTMENTS**

**Rochelle Larghi Principal, Secondary Summer School**

**Wendy Coogan Math, Secondary Summer School**

**Laurence Izzi Math, Secondary Summer School**

**Karen Cardillo Business/Computer Tech, Secondary Summer School**

**Maria Mansella 6th Grade English & Science, Secondary Summer School (1 year only)**

**Susana Pimentel Band Director, MMS**

**Diana Morvillo Coach, Girls' Tennis, EPHS**

**Motion: Mr. Faria/Seconded: Mr. Santos. Vote 5-0.**

**Mr. DeCastro requested that the appointment of two custodians not be voted on; he asked to keep the positions open; in this economic climate, not a good time to hire. Mr. Faria agreed. A motion was made by Mr. DeCastro to approve the appointments (without the custodians); table the custodians until things are clearer and continue using substitutes to do the work. Mr. Faria asked to keep using subs, as he would be reluctant to hire any custodians. Mr. DeCastro asked to table with Mr. Faria for discussion; he would like**

to remove.

Dr. Forbes expressed concern about getting the work done; these are not new positions; a program audit conducted last year indicated that we were understaffed already. Mr. Faria said he does not see where we can afford to bring them on full time. Mr. DeCastro asked to amend the motion to eliminate these positions from being hired. All aye. Mr. DeCastro motioned to amend, seconded by Mr. Faria. Vote 5-0. A motion was made by Mr. DeCastro to eliminate hiring custodian positions, seconded by Mr. Faria Vote 5-0

## **2008-2009 SCHOOL YEAR**

**Danika Bishop English, EPHS**

**Alison Bienenfeld English, EPHS**

**(One year only)**

**Jennifer Sawyer English, EPHS**

**Stephan Crawley English, EPHS**

**Sean Trainor English, EPHS**

**Ozlem Lamontagne Math Teacher, EPHS**

**Christine Borrelli Math Teacher, EPHS**

**Gregory Decoteaux Physics, EPHS**

**Marianne Korney Spanish Teacher, EPHS**

**Kimberly Johnson Special Ed, Self Contained, EPHS**

**Cynthia Lachapelle Special Ed, Self Contained, EPHS**

**Angelo Pizzi Special Ed, Resource, EPHS**

**Kimberly Markarian Art, EPHS**

**Jade Sisti Art, EPHS**

**Kathleen Marchetti Nurse-Teacher – 1:1, EPHS**

**Keri Larson Reading, EPHS**

**Sharon Cardin-Prochniak Business – EPHS**

**(One year only)**

**Jessica Poore English, MMS**

**Nicole Martone Math, MMS**

**Caitlin Coulombe Math, MMS**

**Cindy Mello Special Ed, Self Contained, MMS**

**(One year only)**

**Lian Furtado Special Ed, Self Contained, MMS**

**Christie Sullivan English, RMS**

**Frederick Lanz Math, RMS**

**Virginia Miller Social Worker, Sp Ed**

**Demitra Wilder Speech/Language Pathologist, Sp Ed**

**Amy Manchester Speech/Language Pathologist, Sp Ed**

**Meredith Kinash Speech/Language Pathologist, Sp Ed**

**Tara Grabowski Psychologist, Sp Ed**

**Erin Welchman Nurse-Teacher – 1:1, Waddington School**

**Jennifer Lodge Grade 3, Orlo Avenue School**

**(One year only)**

**Erin Sladen Special Ed, Self Contained, Orlo Avenue School**

**Sheri Mancinho Elementary, TBD**

**Melissa O'Neil Reading, Oldham School**

**Tarah Szczepanek Special Ed, Self Contained, Hennessey School**

**Paula Dionisopoulis Special Ed, Elementary**

**Motion: Mr. DeCastro/Second: Mr. Faria. Vote 5-0.**

**\* (Under Discussion: Mr. DeCastro questioned if the person being appointed to the position of Elementary Teacher, Location TBD, had been employed as a long-term sub)**

## **RETIREMENT**

**C. David Carlos (41 yrs) Social Studies, EPHS**

**Linda Harnois (20 yrs) English, EPHS**

**Patricia Hendrickson (34 yrs) Teacher, Grade 2, M.J. Francis**

**Effective close of 2007/2008 School Year**

**Antonio Arruda (14 yrs) Teacher Assistant/Interpreter/Translator**

**Motion: Mr. Faria//Second: Mr. Santos. Vote 5-0.**

## **RESIGNATION**

**James Thomson Vocational Auto Mechanics, CTC**

**Pamela Watson Head Teacher, Oldham School**

**Meghann Kelly Newspaper Advisor, EPHS**

**Kristen Nelson Coach, Soccer Cheerleading, EPHS**

**Effective close of 2007/2008 School Year**

**John Andrade Asst. Coach, Boys' Soccer, EPHS**

**Effective close of 2007/2008 School Year**

**Motion: Mr. Santos/Second: Mr. Faria. Vote 5-0.**

## **LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

**Nancy Cullion    SPED – Resource, M.J. Francis**

**2008-2009 School Year**

**Betty DeCrescenzo    SPED-Diagnostic Prescriptive Consultant, ADM**

**2008-2009 School Year**

**Jason Silveira    Band Director, EPHS**

**2008-2009 School Year**

**William Walker    Culinary Arts, CTC**

**2008-2009 School Year**

**Alissa Tatarian    Special Ed, Self Contained, MMS**

**2008-2009 School Year**

**Robert Traverse    Softball Coach, EPHS (One year)**

**Kevin Monagle    Asst. Softball Coach, EPHS (One year)**

**Amy Moran    Girls' Soccer Coach, MMS (One year)**

**Cristina Carlotti    Dept. Head, World Language**

**Approx. 09/02/2008 (13 weeks)**

**Motion: Mr. Faria/Second: Mr. Santos.**

**Discussion: Mr. DeCastro commented that in the past, the docket listed what city the person was from; he believes that East Providence residents should be given some preference, if highly qualified, and in the future it would be nice to know where the person resides.**

**Dr. Forbes explained that we are always looking for highly qualified teachers; residency is not a requirement; it is not a criterion for expertise in teaching and learning. She recommends the candidates which come to her from the screening teams. The screening committee is well rounded with teachers, affirmative action, etc. and is a great process which always puts the best candidates forward. Mrs. Morris thought maybe we could do a point system like the police and fire departments. Mr. DeCastro felt that if we have subs, he would value them more and look at how they performed versus interviews. Mrs. Morris asked to look at another tool for hiring. Dr. Forbes advised there is a protocol and we follow policy and all appropriate statutes. Mr. Faria said we must have seats filled with the best personnel; he is worried about the School Committee getting calls, etc. and we need to be true to the Human Resources process and the Superintendent's recommendations. Mr. DeCastro said that people on screening teams get calls too. Mr. Faria commented that a large amount of positions are being filled early.**

**Dr. Forbes explained that the "to be determined" elementary position is due to the movement of more veteran teachers, etc. Vote Taken: 5-0.**

**Auditors Report – Representatives of Bacon & Company were present to provide an overview of the recent audit and to highlight some of the recommendations, which included a need to address the school lunch fund deficit which was \$75,000 as of October 2007.**

**Mr. DeCastro asked if quarterly reports would satisfy the recommendation in the management letter regarding the interscholastic fund. Mr. Capron explained that the city and schools need to have a similar system. Mr. DeCastro requested follow up with the City Manager to correct the problem. The auditor explained that it is good to have these documents because people leave and with documentation, there would not be any questions. Mr. DeCastro asked about concerns regarding post employment benefits. The auditor reported that it is required under standards that we should have an actuarial study done and they need a figure for the audit report. Mr. Capron said the city went out to bid this year for an actuary and the bid included the school department.**

**Mr. DeCastro asked how the lunch deficit occurred. Mr. Capron said the issue is basically that this is not a true profit; we would have to budget some of the items we cannot fund in the operating budget. Mr. DeCastro's opinion was that everything should be put it in the budget; he asked about the state retirement contributions.**

**The auditor had a discussion with the Superintendent and the City regarding the use of vendors under prior contracts and not using competitive bids for oil, life insurance and others and that it is a better policy to go out to bid. Dr. Forbes and Mr. Capron are working on this. The auditors also noted the National School Lunch audit and observations for improvement. Mr. Faria asked about data for the lunch and breakfast program and if it affected reimbursement? Dr. Forbes explained that this was addressed through the administrators.**

**Mr. Faria said it should be bid over again; Dr. Forbes said she was looking at these items when they become due. In the past, this did not happen; there is a new format this year with the state; takes time to get exact and we are working on it for next year.**

**FY 2007-08 Financial Report – Mr. Capron reported a deficit of \$3.265 million in the May report; special education tuitions and health insurance numbers move up and down. Mr. DeCastro asked about the health insurance numbers; looking at the past eight months, will we spend another five million in five months? Mr. Capron responded that we pay behind and the number must be accrued. Mr. DeCastro thought the number looked high; he asked if any numbers were available on the run-out. Mr. Capron reported about \$300,000, but the projected number will change. We received an invoice from W.B. and will know what we are spending for June and July. Mr. Capron met with WB and Blue Cross and half of the reserve must stay with Blue Cross and the rest is projected for late July. Mr. DeCastro asked about administration rates; Mr. Capron reported that we are credited back to November 1st. Mr. DeCastro asked to take a look at the numbers.**

**Awarding of Bids - Mr. Capron walked through the options on the transportation bid; he explained that three districts collaborated, but because different districts do different things, the prices had to be broken out on all the prices for fuel, bus aides, etc. The School Committee received an analysis of the bid with four different options.**

**Mr. DeCastro asked if the proposal included new buses. Mr. Capron said this would take time; due to age of our buses, we would need more service; this is not a savings option. Mr. DeCastro asked if it would make any difference if we kept the buses another year. Dr. Forbes answered that they did look at this; but it would cost too much to retro fit them. Mrs. Morris asked if the drivers belong to the bus company; the aides, monitors and fuel to East Providence. Mr. Linneman said in 2009 buses need filters and we would be looking at \$5000 per bus and we would not save any money by holding on to the buses. Mr. DeCastro asked about option #4. Mr. Linneman said it would cost more to have monitors/aides. First Student would offer positions to aides who do have a contract through October 31, this year. Mrs. Morris asked about the benefits they will lose. Mr. Capron related they are six hour a day employees and they are in the state pension; they would not remain in the pension system. Mr. DeCastro asked legal about this question. Mr. Silva said he looked at this very briefly; there is a recognition clause which could create an issue if we deal with them in a different manner; it would be less problematic dealing with the aides after the contract over; he does not know the softest way to do this; we don't prejudice them; the bus company will not maintain this. Mr. DeCastro recommends fuel going to the bus company. (\$307,000 savings for transfer of the aides and \$410,000 for aides and fuel combined). Mr. DeCastro said he was OK with aides on 11/1 and OK with First Student.. Mr. Faria asked if we have estimated what the increased cost would be. Mr. Capron said there is not a fuel escalator with this.**

**Dr. Forbes recommended option #2, which is to transfer the fuel to First Student (estimated cost at \$3,964,738). There was no motion to approve this. Mr. Carcieri asked why option 2. Dr. Forbes said there are bargaining agreements is in effect. Mr. Carcieri asked if option #3 and #4 had contract agreements. Attorney Thomas advised that this was not the forum to discuss potential litigation; if we go with this contract and get embroiled in litigation; there may be arbitration or a judicial ruling to bring back the aides or we could wind up with aides through First Student and the bargaining unit. Mr. Carcieri asked if it can be negotiated. Mr. DeCastro was inclined to go with Option #4; if there is a problem with the aides, we could put provisions in the contract if not successful and this relieves us of the aides. Mr. Flahive would not charge the School Department for services or employees they are not providing; this could be problematic as time is needed to hire people, perform background checks; this does not happen overnight. They need a transition period and this would not work out at the last minute on November 1st; they need time to make it happen.**

**A motion was made by Mr. DeCastro to go with Option #4 (fuel and aides to the bus company) and the contract should be worded not to pay for aides twice, as this is a lot of money on the taxpayer's burden, seconded by Mr. Carcieri. Roll Call vote: Mr. Carcieri, aye; Mr. DeCastro, aye; Mr. Faria, aye; Mr. Santos, aye; Mrs. Morris, nay. Vote 4-1. Mrs. Morris said she cannot strip the aides of what they have**

worked for.

**Medicaid Bid – Arlene Garrison, Director of Special Education, explained that she has worked in a previous position with Medicaid benefits; Mr. Peter Carson and Mr. Fred Orweiller were present from Compu-Claim.**

**The School Committee recessed at 9:20PM. A motion was made to return to open session at 9:35PM, seconded by Mr. Santos. Vote 5-0.**

**Mrs. Garrison continued discussion regarding Medicaid. The School Department has an agreement to review students who are Medicaid eligible for services and this agency would be a tremendous asset to assist with this. Mr. Carson provided an overview of CompuClaim services; they work for most all districts in RI and have been successful; they know how to maximize Medicaid revenues and know about compliance with federal regulations; he believes that category one, case management is estimated at \$20,000 and they could start billing for this year, (this was never billed before). Mr. Carson said they have been very successful and would like the bid with the East Bay to include East Providence; they are paid on a percentage based fee, so the incentive is there to maximize revenue. Mr. DeCastro asked about the 1% for software. Mr. Carson explained this is a web based product; he partners with them and would provide further discussion on this if we contract with them. The system is web based and Central Falls is using it now, which saves time and gives**

oversight of the system . East Providence is not ready for it yet. Mrs. Garrison advised that the per-student charge of \$10 could be put in the IDEA grant. Mr. DeCastro asked if this was her plan to implement. Mrs. Garrison said this allows for very efficient management and is a monitoring and management tool. Mr. Carson said it costs approximately \$50,000; a gain of about \$20,000 over for not billing some charges. Dr. Forbes said we do not have the capability now for this software; some districts have gone to a School Max program. We can work with Lori Fox and Mr. Rodericks to make sure before we make that move. Mr. Capron said that 5% of money brought in is in areas where we could benefit; he is not sure it will boost the amount, but would protect what we are getting now; we are still in need of a clerical person in house. Mr. DeCastro said he does not want the late fee of 1%; included. Mr. Silva could look at the terms of the contract now with Mr. Capron quickly. Dr. Forbes asked to award, pending legal review, plus reduction of duration of contract; this could include any School Committee comments. Mr. Carcieri asked for one year also; he had a question about duration; why not one year and then we renew it. Mr. Carson said he could negotiate the time arrangement with East Providence. Mr. Carcieri asked to tie in one year and do it on an annual basis. Mrs. Morris asked about the East Bay affiliation. Mr. Capron advised that East Bay districts worked together to put out the bid A motion was made by Mr. Carcieri to accept this contract with modification on the duration (one year basis; will renew if satisfied) moving forward subject to counsel review; also 1% interest charge to be stricken from contract,

**seconded by Mr. DeCastro. Roll call vote: Mr. Carcieri, aye; Mr. DeCastro, aye; Mr. Faria, aye; Mr. Santos, aye; Mrs. Morris, aye.**

**Lunch Price Increase - Dr. Forbes asked for an increase of .25 cents for lunches in all categories. Discussion: Mr. DeCastro asked about the adult lunch; if we are asking students to pay 10% more; the adult lunch should go up and he suggested .50 cents. Mr. Carcieri asked why not on a percentage basis and round it off. Motion by Mr. Carcieri to increase across the board by 10% and round off to the higher number. Dr. Forbes asked to stay with the increase she recommended to be in line with other districts. Mr. Capron reported that Chartwells recommended .25 cents to allow a break even next year to keep up with rising costs. Mr. Carcieri thinks a percentage is better. Mrs. Morris asked to think about families. Mr. Carcieri made a motion to increase 15% across the board and round up to the next nickel, seconded by Mr. DeCastro. Vote 5-0. aye. Mr. Faria asked Dr. Forbes about any new increase/decrease in universal breakfast; track this for the School Committee.**

**Middle School SALT Recommendation – Dr. Forbes informed the School Committee that based on the recommendation of the visiting SALT team, she proposed a plan to eliminate split teams at Riverside Middle School to create a better middle school model. There is a need to transfer one teacher and 27 students from Kent Heights, Grade 5 to Riverside Middle School; this would create balanced teams. This is the recommendation she has agreed to and Mrs.**

**Forand, Principal of Riverside Middle School was present to answer questions. Mr. Faria asked why not Silver Spring also? Dr. Forbes advised that we only have a need for 27-30 students and these are the bus routes closest to Riverside Middle School. Dr. Forbes advised that the least senior teacher in content area will be transferred and letters will be sent out to parents and students. Mrs. Forand will be on hand to assist with this transition; parents may receive out of district placement which will be determined on a space availability basis with parents providing transportation. Mr. Faria asked if this change would address middle schools in the future. Dr. Forbes advised that it is the will of the city to maintain two separate middle schools. Motion by Mr. Faria to approve, seconded by Mr. Santos. Vote 4-0. Mr. DeCastro voted nay.**

**Administration Move to Union Primary School – Dr. Forbes reported that the School Committee Chair sent a letter to the City Manager informing him that the costs associated with moving to Union School are not in the budget. Mrs. Morris talked to the City Manager last week and he is waiting to hear from the people currently using the building. Dr. Forbes explained that the Watters program is being moved; we will not be able to move administration in time for September opening. Mr. DeCastro would like an answer from the City Manager. Mr. Carcieri requested that the Superintendent call the City Manager for a response.**

**Student Census – Mr. Rodericks supplied an accurate elementary projection for fall 2008. Dr. Forbes was concerned about closed classrooms, since anyone else who registers will be sent to other schools unless we add staff. Mr. DeCastro believes we need to add another Kindergarten class at Francis. Dr. Forbes said the research of 18-20 students per class provides a better start to school, especially for reading. Mr. Faria asked about the elimination of Grade 5 graduations; he felt the message was lost regarding 180 days of instructions and parents came up with issues across the city. Dr. Forbes said that communication is the key; field days were considered; there should be only one graduation at high school level and we will work to get that message out next year.**

**Report of Sub-Committees – Mr. Faria asked about negotiations. Dr. Forbes advised that the EPEA will speak with her after the arbitration hearing tomorrow. Mr. Faria asked about meetings of the sub committee in July. Mr. DeCastro mentioned that the Unfair Labor Practice filed by the teachers' union was dismissed.**

### **Unfinished Business**

**Mr. Santos moved for second passage of the Nepotism Policy. Dr. Forbes had a concern with the policy going forward; leaving “friendship” in the policy will cause a problem as an administrative policy; she asked Mr. Barham to provide an opinion. Dr. Forbes asked for the policy to be called an Anti Nepotism Policy. Mr.**

**DeCastro said he voted against it and will again; being related to someone is not necessarily a bad thing; he works for a publicly held company and they hire many relatives. This whole concept about hiring people is bad; they find the exact opposite at his company where people network to look for a job and the whole industry is built on it. Companies hire family and he does not think it is a bad thing. He asked what is the standard for this policy and read from the ACLU letter “such ban would not pass constitutional muster” etc and preempts ethics commission.” Mr. DeCastro asked how the Superintendent will be able to implement this; Mr. DeCastro said we will spend money to defend this. Mr. Carcieri seconded the motion; amended motion to include “Anti Nepotism Policy” seconded by Mr. Faria. Mrs. Morris agrees with Mr. DeCastro that this will cost money and is a ridiculous policy; an anti-nepotism policy will discourage kids from applying here.**

**Dr. Forbes asked the School Committee to consider the anti nepotism policy submitted by the Human Resources administrator, as she thinks it would pass constitutional muster; she requested that the School Committee look at it one final time before passing a policy. Mr. Silva noted that it drops the friendship wording, but calls for reasons to be publicly discussed. Mr. Barham’s policy carries out the essence of public debate, but still does not provide a process for determining what is or isn’t good. The question regarding this policy withstanding constitutional muster will be answered by the opinion of the court who will decide that. Roll call vote: Mr. Carcieri, aye; Mr.**

**DeCastro, nay; Mr. Faria, aye; Mr. Santos, aye; Mrs. Morris, nay. Vote 3-2 to approve.**

**Amended Policy – I.E. School Committee By-Laws – Second Passage – Added Student/Teacher recognition to the School Committee agenda format. Blue Cross wire transfer wording is no longer necessary and wording was added about payment of utility bills. Dr. Forbes asked for second passage with changes. Motion by Mr. Faria to approve, seconded by Mr. DeCastro. Roll call vote: Mr. Carcieri, aye; Mr. DeCastro, aye; Mr. Faria, aye; Mr. Santos, aye; Mrs. Morris, aye.**

**Legal Counsel Review - Mr. Faria asked for a subcommittee to look at the value of our legal representation, but no information has been presented. Mr. Faria asked the School Committee to put out a Request for Proposals. Mr. Faria made a motion to send out an RFP for legal counsel, seconded by Mr. Santos. Mr. DeCastro said he is comfortable with the person we have and he views this more as the Superintendent's opinion; he wanted to hear from the Superintendent on this. Dr. Forbes said she works with legal counsel on a daily basis and they help make decisions which benefit the district. They have never given any advice which was not in the best interest of our students; she has had a good working relationship with Mr. Silva's office and they hold historical information about the district. Also longevity is essential with collective bargaining and other areas. They are fine gentlemen from a wonderful firm and she recommended**

continuing with them. We can look into a bid process, but many districts continue without a bid process. Mr. Faria asked to separate the person from the issue; we need to look under every rock for the best value and he believes in the RFP process where all can bid. Mr. Silva said this issue was never spoken about with the School Committee and he felt privileged to represent his own East Providence district, which he feels he owes a lot to. He asked if it is a financial concern, how would an RFP be a benefit. For 13-14 years, they have not increased their rates for at least twelve years and rates have not changed for the period they have been engaged. Mr. Faria stated that it is strictly about value. Mr. Silva hopes the concern is that and not something else; he will stand on his record of serving five different Superintendents for recommendations. Dr. Forbes has worked with Mr. Silva and company and they are always available 24/7, even on Friday afternoons; they have saved the district money on several occasions. She supports the work of Mr. Silva's office and appreciates all of the work done for the Superintendent.

Mrs. Morris said they already know who they want and Mr. Carcieri said he would not let Mr. Silva go this year. Mr. Carcieri said he was asked about replacing the lawyer with Mr. Larisa and he thinks these are terrible allegations from Mrs. Morris. Mr. DeCastro does not think he would be shopping for legal counsel; if your life is on trial, would you ask for proposals; he wants legal counsel he would be comfortable with knowing they have done a good job; is it a question of quality? If it's a better deal, it is a mistake. Mr. Silva's rate is more

than competitive. Mr. Santos asked to advertise the RFP for about a week. Roll call vote: Mr. Carcieri, aye; Mr. DeCastro, nay; Mr. Faria, aye; Mr. Santos, aye; Mrs. Morris, nay. Vote 3-2 to approve.

**Update on School Committee Benefits - Mr. DeCastro referenced a letter questioning the percentage of health care he pays; he said he does not get it free; he authorized the Superintendent to disclose his School Committee pay stub which indicates that he receives \$875 per quarter and \$351.83 of that is deducted for medical benefits. He voted to change the plan and there is an arbitration tomorrow regarding the cost of that health plan; he had to pay \$250 for a colonoscopy. It was a mistake to change benefits for School Committee members. Mr. Santos made a request to the Superintendent to find out when medical benefits were made available to the School Committee and no record can be found of when benefits were established, apparently since the 1970's. It is shocking that no one knows how, when or how much for medical payments or premiums; it is all lumped in and there is no way of knowing how much over the years and no record of where it came from. Mr. DeCastro said a letter referred to 1971 when he was still in High school. When he was on the School Committee, pay changes were voted on and he thinks there should be full disclosure on School Committee benefits.**

**New Business**

**Special Ed Advisory Committee Report - -Dr. Forbes introduced Mrs. Rebello and Mrs. Brown who provided a report and read the goals for next year . Mr. Santos and Mr. Faria commended the Committee for their work**

**Superintendent Search - Mr. Carcieri made a motion that any School Committee member who would like to submit a name of a candidate should do so by June 27th to Pat; those candidates will be invited to the July meeting and a process similar to the principal selection will be used. A Superintendent will be selected from that process and he would like that person to work with Dr. Forbes who is leaving the 1st of August. Once the interim is in, we can work to find a permanent person. Mr. Carcieri would like an interim Superintendent next week if possible. Mrs. Morris felt the pick would not be good and wanted to work on a Superintendent search immediately. The motion was seconded by Mr. Faria for discussion. Mr. DeCastro asked if the rate of pay would be negotiated; the process is to interview, select a person, then negotiate rate of pay with that person. Mr. Faria thought it more important to get a full time person and if need be get an interim; he thinks we should get the best qualified now, as minimal as possible into the school year . Mr. Barham could oversee the process. All voted aye.**

**Payment of Bills**

**Local Operating Bill List:**

**Warrant #000832 6/5/08 \$ 2,065,007.35**

**Motion: Mr. Faria/Second: Mr. Santos. Vote 5-0.**

**Federal Bill List:**

**Warrant #000831 6/2/08 \$ 302,296.32**

**Motion: Mr. Faria/Second: Mr. DeCastro. Vote 5-0.**

**Question and Answer Period – Mr. Arthur Elmasian asked about the process for a person to be interviewed. He takes offense that a resident of the city is not given the courtesy of an interview, as it is an insult to any East Providence kid to be denied an interview; he thinks they should be given preferential treatment and asked the School Committee to make a policy that any resident should get an interview.**

**A motion was made by Mr. Santos to adjourn at 12:00 Midnight, seconded by Mr. DeCastro. Vote 5-0.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Patricia A. Iannelli, Administrative Assistant**

**Steven Santos, Clerk of the Committee**