

EAST PROVIDENCE SCHOOL DEPARTMENT

East Providence City Hall

145 Taunton Avenue

East Providence, Rhode Island 02914

January 13, 2009

Open Session

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Carcieri at 6:00PM. School Committee Members Present: Luisa Abatecola, Shannon Barbosa, Robert Faria, Steven Santos and Anthony Carcieri. Also present: Dr. Mario Cirillo, Superintendent of Schools, Edward Daft, Assistant Superintendent of Schools, Lonnie Barham, Director of Human Resources, Jerome Baron, Finance Director, Sara Rapport, Esq. A motion was made by Mr. Faria, seconded by Mr. Santos to convene in Executive Session for purposes of discussing: Personnel: Four Individuals - R.I. Gen. Laws § Section 42-46-5– (a) (1), Collective Bargaining: Teachers' Contract, Teacher Assistants' Contract and Custodians', Contract - R.I. Gen. Laws § Section 42-46-5 (a) (2), Litigation: R.I. Gen. Laws § Section 42-46-5 (a) (2). Vote 5-0.

Public Session reconvened at 7:35PM. A motion was made by Mr. Santos to return to open session and to seal the minutes of the executive session, seconded by Mr. Faria. Vote 5-0.

Mr. Lonnie Barham reported out on a vote which had been taken at the December 30, 2008 meeting as follows: A motion was made by Mr. Faria to unilaterally implement (on January 5, 2009) cost-savings measures proposed to the East Providence Education Association but rejected by Arbitrator Ryan, seconded by Mrs. Barbosa. The roll call vote taken: Mr. Santos, aye; Mrs. Barbosa, aye; Mr. Faria, aye; Mr. Carcieri, aye; Mrs. Abatecola, nay. Motion passed 4-1.

A motion was made to move the meeting to East Providence High School Auditorium in order to accommodate the large group present and to comply with the fire code regulations. Attorney Rapport advised regarding a legal obligation to open the meeting at the posted facility and report out any vote at the earliest opportunity and that the School Committee was trying to be compliant with the fire code and the directive from the Fire Marshall. The vote can be reported again when the School Committee reconvenes the meeting at the high school. Motion was made by Mrs. Abatecola, seconded by Mr. Faria. 5-0.

The meeting re-opened at 8:50PM at East Providence High School. Mr. Barham, Human Resources Director, reported on a vote which had been taken at the December 30, 2008 School Committee meeting as follows:

A motion was made by Mr. Faria to unilaterally implement cost savings measures on January 5, 2009 proposed to the East

Providence Education Association, but rejected by Arbitrator Ryan, seconded by Mrs. Barbosa. Roll call vote: Mr. Santos, aye; Mrs. Barbosa, aye; Mr. Faria, aye; Mr. Carcieri, aye; Mrs. Abatecola, nay.”

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

Minutes of Previous Meetings – A motion was made by Mr. Santos to approve the minutes of the meetings held on October 27, 2008, October 29, 2008 and December 9, 2008, seconded by Mr. Faria. Vote 5-0.

Chair’ s Report - Student Liaison Erin Butler presented a report.

School Committee Comments

Communications – Mr. Carcieri received correspondence from Mr. Robert Enos requesting answers to questions he had about the budget. Dr. Cirillo responded publicly to those questions.

Sub-Committee Reports – None

Report of Superintendent and Staff

Personnel Recommendations

Mr. Barham, Director of Human Resources, presented the following personnel items:

Appointments

Marcia Cady Reading Specialist

East Providence High School

Remainder of 08-09 school year

Bridget Parsons Special Education Teacher/Self Contained

Orlo Ave School

Remainder of 08-09 school year

Debra Branco Supervisory Assistant

Myron J. Francis Elementary School

Motion: Mr. Faria/Second: Mrs. Abatecola. Vote 5-0.

Resignation

Elizabeth Quirini Supervisory Assistant

Myron J. Francis Elementary School

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

The Financial Report was presented by the Finance Director, Mr. Baron. A motion was made by Mr. Faria to accept the report, seconded by Mr. Santos. Vote 5-0.

School Budget Amendment – Dr. Cirillo, Superintendent requested that the School Committee approve the amendment as presented. A motion was made by Mr. Santos to approve, seconded by Mr. Faria.

Vote 5-0.

Field Trip Request – Dr. Cirillo reported and recommended approval of the following field trip requests: Riverside Middle School – 8th Grade Whitewater Rafting Class Trip on June 18, 2008, Martin Middle School – 8th Grade Student Trip to Philadelphia on April 14-16, 2009, and

Dr. Cirillo recommended approval of two Home School Requests.

Motion: Mr. Faria/Seconded by Mrs. Barbosa. Vote 5-0.

Educational Program Report - Mr. Edward Daft advised that NECAP scores would be reported out on January 20th and that he will be attending a meeting to analyze the data. Mr. Daft sent out an email to principals regarding the issue of Cyber Bullying, which was added to the district policy.

Dr. Caswell, Principal of East Providence High School reported on the NEASC Warning Status of the High School Accreditation. Information received from NEASC included some recommendations.

Restructuring Plan – Dr. Cirillo requested that this item be tabled to a future date.

Unfinished Business - None

New Business

I.E. School Committee By-Laws – Amended Policy

Committee Assignments – Dr. Cirillo presented recommendations for four (2 members each) sub- committees. A motion was made by Mr. Faria to accept the recommendations, seconded by Mr. Santos.

Dr. Cirillo recommended agenda changes to the Order of Business at Regular Meetings.

IV.D.1. Placement, Promotion and Retention – Amended Policy – Second Passage – Motion by Ms. Barbosa, seconded by Mr. Faria.

V.A.19 Anti-Bullying – Amended Policy – Second Passage – Motion by Ms. Barbosa, seconded by Mr. Faria.

Payment of Bills

Federal Grants

Warrant #000885 1/8/09 \$ 55,017.33

General Fund

Warrant #000884 1/8/09 \$ 1,863,772.16

Motion by Ms. Barbosa, seconded by Mr. Faria. Vote 5-0.

Public Comment

Valerie Lawson, Wood Hollow Lane, President EPEA – teachers accepted the arbitration award and School Committee should accept it also; teachers would like to put it behind and get back to educating students

Mike Johnson, Science Teacher, technology in high school is there because of voluntary work by teachers, not money from the school department.

Mary Texeira – a teacher commented that when we talked about closing schools two years ago, she said we could solve problems with reasonable people and a common goal; we should be able to solve our problems; the School Committee was never supported by the City Council and this has built up for many years; we need to keep our word on bargaining, because that's what she teachers the kids every day.

Tom Reilly, Pawtucket Avenue –a taxpayer – During the meeting, mismanagement was mentioned, but the union and teachers have benefited from it; the point is that last year's budget is \$4.2 million over the top and he understands that if there is no money in the kitty and payments to vendors are in arrears, the money will have to come from somewhere; such as a cut in payroll; the union wants junior teachers to lose their jobs instead of a 5% spread across all teachers equitably.

A motion was made by Mr. Faria to adjourn at 8:50PM, seconded by Mr. Santos.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia A. Iannelli, Administrative Assistant

Shannon Barbosa, Clerk of the Committee