

# **EAST PROVIDENCE SCHOOL DEPARTMENT**

**East Providence City Hall**

**145 Taunton Avenue**

**East Providence, Rhode Island 02914**

**School Committee Meeting**

**October 13, 2009**

**Open Session**

**Mr. Carcieri called the meeting to order at 6:00PM. School Committee members present: Luisa Abatecola, Shannon Barbosa, Robert Faria, Steven Santos, Anthony Carcieri. Also present: Dr. Mario F. Cirillo, Jr., Superintendent of Schools, Mr. Lonnie Barham, Chief Operating Officer, Sara Rapport, Esq.**

**A motion was made by Mr. Santos to: Move , pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws 42-46-5 (a) (1), that the Committee convene in executive session to discuss three individuals. These individuals have been notified in writing that the Committee intends to convene in executive session to discuss their performance, and they have declined to have this discussion take place in open session;**

**Move, pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws 42-46-5 (a)(2), to discuss collective bargaining with respect to the teachers' contract, the teachers'**

**assistant contract, the secretaries' contract, the principals' association contract, and the custodians' contract;**

**Move, pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws 42-46-5 (a)(2), to discuss litigation, specifically EPSC v. EPEA, EPEA v. EPSC, Carlin v. EPSC, the EPEA complaint against EPSC under the OMA, and EPSC v. Rocha.**

**The motion was seconded by Mr. Barbosa. Roll call vote: Mrs. Abatecola, aye; Mrs. Barbosa, aye; Mr. Faria, aye; Mr. Santos, aye; Mr. Carcieri, aye.**

**The School Committee returned to Open Session at 7:30PM.**

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

**A motion was made by Mrs. Abatecola to seal the minutes of the executive session, seconded by Mr. Faria. Roll call vote: Mrs. Abatecola, aye; Mrs. Barbosa, aye; Mr. Faria, aye; Mr. Santos, aye; Mr. Carcieri, aye.**

**Mr. Lonnie Barham reported that a vote was taken in executive session: Superintendent recommended termination of employment of a teacher for lack of certification. Motion by Mr. Faria, seconded by Mrs. Abatecola. Roll call vote: Mrs. Abatecola, aye; Mrs. Barbosa, aye; Mr. Faria, aye; Mr. Santos, aye; Mr. Carcieri, aye.**

## **Student Teacher Recognition**

**A certificate of recognition was presented to Erin Butler, a student at East Providence High School and School Committee Liaison, who was recently named a semifinalist in the annual National Merit Scholarship Program.**

**Dr. Cirillo recognized Mary Ellen Hatch, a teacher at the Career/Technical Center. Ms. Hatch and two of her students were present and congratulated for their work during the recent Commissioner's visit; lunch was prepared by culinary students who also created and presented a special bread sculpture.**

**Student Liaison, Erin Butler, presented a report on high school activities and events.**

## **Sub-Committee Reports**

**Policy Subcommittee - Dr. Cirillo explained the charge of the policy subcommittee, which held the first meeting on September 30th. Mr. Faria, Mrs. Barbosa, Mr. Barham and Patricia Iannelli reviewed the first section of the current policy manual to begin to plan the work.**

**Dr. Cirillo and other administrators will be consulted as needed on individual policies, which would require their input and expertise. Policy I.K. Reviewing and Updating the policy book was discussed; since some of the same language already exists in the School Committee By-laws, it was recommended that Policy IK be eliminated and the language incorporated into the by-laws. The next meeting is scheduled for October 15th; the sub-committee is reviewing 12 policies from Section I; the goal is to update the policy manual and to make it more user efficient.**

**Wellness Subcommittee– Mrs. Abatecola and Mrs. Barbosa requested that parents and teachers contact them if interested in serving on this committee.**

### **Superintendent's Report - Personnel Report**

**Mr. Barham requested that Patricia Whalen, Manager of Human Resources/Benefits, present the personnel items:**

#### **Retirements**

**Sandra Medeiros Teacher Assistant – CTC**

**Effective end of 09-10 school year**

**Linda Vincent Teacher Assistant – RMS**

**Effective end of 09-10 school year**

**Steven Checrallah Teacher Assistant – EPHS**

**Effective 12/23/09**

**Resignations**

**Robert Perry Supervisor – Instructional Technology & Data**

**Michelle Lamothe Nurse/Teacher 1:1**

**Waddington Elementary**

**Judy Hurley Safety Patrol Coordinator**

**Oldham Elementary**

**Kerrie Calabro Testing Coordinator RMS – 09-10 school year**

**Ana Paulo Elementary Art Teacher**

**Whiteknact/Oldham**

**Leaves of Absence**

**Christopher Dante English Teacher – MMS**

**Remainder of 09-10 School Year**

**Irene Miranda Supervisory Assistant – MMS**

**Effective 9/15/09 – 6/21/2010**

**Faith Paradis Occupational Therapist**

**EPHS/MMS**

**Remainder of 09-10 School Year**

**Effective 11/1/09**

**Financial Report - Mr. Barham advised there has been discussion by the City Manager and City Council about changing the budget number, but the City Council has not yet passed the final budget number. If the City Council votes on the budget at the next meeting, we will have thirty days to match our budget to the amount of money allocated to the school department budget.**

**Mr. Edward Donoghue, Finance Director, provided a summary; revenues are still on track; state payments due in October; there are some shortfalls, but we should stay on track with Medicare funds coming in and e-rate money in route; we should be very close to target on revenues. With two payrolls left, he anticipated being in line with salary and benefits. Overall expenditures are at 92% through the eleventh month and we are working toward the goal to be on target.**

**October Enrollment - Mr. Edward Daft provided enrollment numbers for the 2009-10 school year, reporting the number of students attending school at 5717. He detailed the numbers at each school, which have continued to change since the summer, as parents are**

**still registering students for school and updating is constant.**

**In response to Mrs. Barbosa's question regarding significant numbers of students at the High School who did not belong there, Mr. Daft explained that a new Truant Officer is in place and we are re-establishing the truancy court. Mrs. Barbosa felt attention should also be given to the elementary schools. Dr. Cirillo explained that we are moving forward with the high school; there were a number of students who did not reside in East Providence and that work will be continued and expanded out.**

**Bradley Program Update – Dr. Cirillo read a letter received from Commissioner Gist dated October 5, 2009 regarding the status of the partnership at Martin Middle School. A meeting was held with general counsel at Ride and a request sent to the Commissioner, and this response indicates that they basically support us in this effort; we are in the midst of doing this now and we have assured the Commissioner that we will provide updates. Dr. Cirillo reported that we had successful opening of our partnership schools, open houses were well attended, and parents complimented Bradley staff and classrooms. We are looking forward to professional development for staff; Bradley staff has meshed well with East Providence staff and all are working together in this effort.**

**Commissioner of Education Visit - Dr. Cirillo advised that Commissioner Gist visited East Providence on October 7th meeting**

with principals, students, teachers, and School Committee members, as part of her five point plan moving forward for quality teaching in every classroom. Students at the Career/Technical School hosted a luncheon for the Commissioner, School Committee and other school officials. Parents shared comments about the graduation requirements. The Commissioner did not anticipate any changes; she expressed interest in the children and the challenges East Providence faces regarding facilities, budget, and various other issues. The Commissioner pledged her support and asked to be kept updated on East Providence Schools.

Update on H1N1 Flu - Mr. Edward Daft provided an update on the H1N1 virus ; he and others have been in discussion with the state regarding the vaccinations and the scheduling of school-based clinics by Department of Health, RIDE and the Wellness Company. They are planning to vaccinate children in grades K-5 after school hours and secondary students at school. Our job is to host the clinics at which Wellness Company personnel will administer the vaccine to students. In addition to school based clinics, clinics are being planned for first responders and emergency personnel (medical licensed individuals) on two weekends in November. The state plans student clinics to run for 25 days and will be releasing a schedule soon.

Approval of Minutes - A motion was made by Mr. Faria to approve the minutes of the September 8, 2009 meeting, seconded by Mrs.

**Barbosa. Roll call vote: Mrs. Abatecola, aye; Mrs. Barbosa, aye; Mr. Faria, aye; Mr. Santos, aye; Mr. Carcieri, aye.**

**Personnel Recommendations – Presented by Ms. Whalen, Human Resources/Benefits Manager:**

## **APPOINTMENTS**

**Rebekah Gendron Supervisor – Instructional**

**Technology and Data**

**Anthony Feola Facilities Supervisor**

**East Providence High School**

**Kenneth Lopardo 3/5 Truant Officer - District**

**Tracey Raposo**

**.5 Grade 3 Teacher**

**Hennessey Elementary School**

**Anabela Olsen 3/5 Spanish Teacher**

**East Providence High School**

**Sandhya Beldona Math (1Year) – EPHS**

**Cory Howland-Provost Social Worker  
East Providence/Bradley Program**

**Megan David .5 Occupational Therapist  
Silver Spring Elementary**

**Amy Duggan .5 Occupational Therapist  
Orlo Elementary School**

**Hope Caparco  
Whiteknact Elementary School**

**Teacher Assistant -**

**Effective November 2, 2009**

**Jennifer Pennachia  
Oldham**

**Supervisory Assistant -**

**Laurel Ptascek**

**Supervisory Assistant - Orlo**

**Deborah D'Arezzo Head Teacher  
Silver Spring Elementary**

**Sarah Yassine Safety Patrol Coordinator  
Silver Spring Elementary**



**Motion: Mr. Santos/Second: Mrs. Barbosa. Discussion: Mrs. Abatecola asked about the appointment of a truant officer. Mr. Barham explained that the elimination of the Director of Attendance position did not include the Truant Officer position, which is a necessity.**

**Mrs. Barbosa asked if the .5 position is to job share. Mr. Barham explained that a teacher needed to return to a full time position and the other half time person went to another school to a job share position. Mrs. Barbosa questioned if there had been parental complaints regarding job-share positions.**

**Mr. Faria asked how many facilities supervisors we presently have. Mr. Barham answered that with this appointment, we will have two; we previously had a director and three supervisors and are now down to two. The Facilities Manager cannot keep up with the supervisory position and all that is required at the high school. Roll call vote: Mrs. Abatecola, aye; Mrs. Barbosa, aye; Mr. Faria, aye; Mr. Santos, aye; Mr. Carcieri, aye.**

**Requisitions – Bill Lists**

**Warrant #933 10/8/09 \$1,077,794.29**

**Motion: Mrs. Barbosa/Second: Mr. Faria. Roll Call Vote: Mrs. Abatecola, aye; Mrs. Barbosa, aye; Mr. Faria, aye; Mr. Santos, aye; Mr. Carcieri.**

**Warrant #932 10/8/09 \$ 356,096.65**

**Motion: Mrs. Barbosa/Second: Mr. Santos**

**Roll Call Vote: Mrs. Abatecola, aye; Mrs. Barbosa, aye; Mr. Faria, aye; Mr. Santos, aye; Mr. Carcieri.**

**Request for Home Schooling - Dr. Cirillo recommended approval of the requests submitted to the School Committee. The policy regarding home schooling is being reviewed and the School Committee will receive a draft policy at the next meeting. Dr. Caswell has met with parents to ensure that home schooling requests meet state law and School Department policy. Motion to approve by Mrs. Abatecola, seconded by Mrs. Barbosa. Roll call vote: Mrs. Abatecola, aye; Mrs. Barbosa, aye; Mr. Faria, aye; Mr. Santos, aye; Mr. Carcieri, aye.**

**Resolution: Mr. Barham read the Resolution of the East Providence School Committee which resolved that “the East Providence School Committee respectfully requests the Rhode Island General Assembly to reject any and all binding arbitration legislation currently being considered for teacher contracts.” A copy of the resolution will be forwarded to every RI Municipality, School Committee, State Senator, State Representative and the Governor. The Superintendent**

**recommended adoption of the resolution. A motion was made by Mr. Faria, seconded by Mr. Santos to pass the resolution. Roll call vote: Mrs. Abatecola, nay; Mrs. Barbosa, aye; Mr. Faria, aye; Mr. Santos, aye; Mr. Carcieri, aye. Vote 4-1 to approve.**

**Policy IK – Reviewing and Updating the Policy Book - Dr. Cirillo recommended elimination of this policy as requested by the policy subcommittee (discussed earlier in the meeting) The first passage was agreed; no vote required.**

### **Public Comment**

**Valerie Lawson, President of the East Providence Education Association, Hoyt Ave, stated that actions by the School Committee such as 5% salary reductions of approximately \$6000 per teacher, were taken while the same School Committee increased the size of staff and granted excessive raises to staff. She felt that teachers are not valued; a unilateral action terminating health care to teachers who were denied access because a spouse had health care; they believe this is unlawful. Building principals have not had the same salary cuts or changes to health plans when their contract expired at the same time one year ago. She said it is unfortunate for East**

**Providence that morale is at a low point and there is no trust; teachers have left and more will be doing the same. Regarding the vote on a resolution on binding arbitration, the School Committee has chosen a path of resistance again; she commended Mrs. Abatecola for voting against the resolution; she does not feel this action and others have been in the best interest of the community.**

**Announcements - Mr. Carcieri advised that the next School Committee meeting will be held on November 19, 2009 at 7:30PM**

**Mrs. Abatecola, on behalf of our head nurse, Kathy Casano, thanked the Rumford Lions for their assistance with vision screenings recently held in the schools.**

**Dr. Cirillo noted that the meeting tonight was not videotaped, since Mr. George Donovan and other volunteers are not able to continue with the taping; we will be looking into using the same person who tapes the City Council meetings.**

**A motion was made by Mr. Faria to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Santos. Vote 5-0 at 8:30PM.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Patricia A. Iannelli, Administrative Assistant**

**Shannon Barbosa, Clerk of the Committee**