

**EAST PROVIDENCE SCHOOL DEPARTMENT**

**East Providence City Hall**

**145 Taunton Avenue**

**East Providence, Rhode Island 02914**

**November 19, 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, Lonnie Barham, Chief Operating Officer, and Sara Rapport, Esq.**

**A motion was made by Mr. Santos to convene in Executive Session:**

**Pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws 42-46-5 (a)(1) for purposes of discussing: One individual who was notified in writing that the Committee intended to convene in executive session to discuss his or her performance, and that person declined to have this discussion take place in open session.**

**Also, 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 principal's**

**association contract, and the custodians' contract.**

**Also, move, pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws § 42-46-5(a)(2) to discuss litigation, specifically EPSC v. EPEA (Superior Ct. DJ Action & DOL TA Interest Arbitration); EPEA v. EPSC (DOL); EPSC v. Rocha; and the TA Accretion Petition.**

**To discuss disposition of Public Property. The Grove Avenue School Building, pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws § 42-46-5(a)(5).**

**The motion was seconded by Mrs. Barbosa. Roll call vote: Mrs. Abatecola, aye; Mrs. Barbosa, aye; Mr. Faria, aye; Mr. Santos, aye; Mr. Carcieri, aye. Vote 5-0.**

**The School Committee returned to open session at 7:30PM.**

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

**Report Executive Session Votes - Mr. Barham reported that, on the Superintendent's recommendation, the School Committee ratified a Memorandum of Agreement with Local 2969, Custodial Union. Motion to approve was made by Mr. Faria, seconded by Mrs. Abatecola. The vote was unanimous for a three year extension of the contract. According to City Charter, this agreement will be presented to the City Council for ratification.**

**A vote was taken on an employee's contract: Patricia A. Iannelli, which contract was renewed for three years. Motion was made by Mrs. Barbosa, seconded by Mrs. Abatecola. Roll call vote: Mrs. Abatecola, aye; Mrs. Barbosa, aye; Mr. Faria, aye; Mr. Santos, aye; Mr. Carcieri, aye.**

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

**Student/Teacher Recognition - Students from Whiteknact School attended and read essays regarding the "Just Say No" Project.**

**Mr. Barham presented a Powerpoint to introduce the "Coin of Excellence" which has been created to reward individuals who contribute to a "Culture of Achievement." This coin, which will be given out on rare occasions, was first presented to Mrs. Patti Streit, who has devoted many years to East Providence Schools, as a parent volunteer.**

## **Reports**

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

## **Sub-Committee Reports**

### **Policy Sub-Committee**

**Dr. Cirillo advised that a policy sub-committee has begun to review the policy book, which is outdated and does not serve the department well. One purpose is to recommend new policies;**

**a Home School Policy is being presented tonight for first passage.**

**Dr. Caswell worked closely with a parent advocacy group and a policy was formulated. Highlights are that records would be submitted by August 30th prior to the start of school and an informational orientation will be held to exchange ideas. Mr. DeLuca, a home school parent, was invited to say few words. He thanked everyone for participating in the process; he has been in community for ten years and saw this as a great opportunity to work cooperatively with the School Department in order to establish a policy, which would be beneficial and helpful to the community.**

### **Superintendent's Report**

**Qualified School Construction Bond Program – Mr. Barham related that he, Dr. Cirillo, the Facilities Manager and Business Manager met with Mr. DaSilva at RI Department of Education to discuss requirements in order to qualify for the bond program; we are expecting to request a \$10 million dollar bond referendum next November to fix the most egregious infrastructure problems. School districts with financial difficulty and disrepair as top requirements**

**can compete for stimulus money coming to RI. The Finance Manager is working on the application and an exhaustive study of our buildings will be completed. An RFP has been issued to have a professional engineering company complete the work needed to present to the Board of Regents by February; approval by Board of Regents is needed by May to get a referendum on the ballot in November.**

**Transportation RFP – Although the bus contract does not expire until June, time is needed for submissions for a successor contract in order for a bus company to be ready to serve us in September. East Providence will not be working in conjunction with East Bay on the bid this time as we have established relationships directly with other communities and we are the largest district. The RFP has been sent out early and will be presented to the School Committee at a later date for approval of a bid and contract.**

## **Personnel Report on Retirements/Resignations/Leaves of Absence**

**Ms. Patti Whelan presented the personnel items:**

### **RESIGNATIONS**

**Daniel Tannehill Science Teacher - EPHS**

**Effective 10/13/2009**

**Michael Johnson    Science Teacher-EPHS**

**Effective 10/13/2009**

**Melanie Lane    Social Worker- Elementary**

**Robert Traverse    Head Boys' Cross Country Coach    EPHS**

**Jessica Pasquarelli    Head Girls' Lacrosse Coach    EPHS**

**Michael Lefort    Assistant Baseball Coach    EPHS**

**FAMILY MEDICAL LEAVE (WEEKS)**

**Emilie Joost    School Nurse Teacher-EPHS**

**Approx. 02/01/10-13 weeks**

**LEAVES OF ABSENCE**

**Rebekah Gendron    Robotics Teacher**

**Riverside Middle School**

**2009-2010 School Year**

**Mrs. Abatecola asked if the science positions would be filled with long term substitutes; Ms. Whalen responded that the positions have**

been filled. Mr. Faria asked about the two teacher resignations and if exit interviews were held. Dr. Cirillo responded that the two individuals resigned in lieu of termination due to bad evaluations which did not meet the standards of the district.

**Financial Report – Mr. Donoghue, Finance Director, explained that all expected revenues had not been received yet (meals tax, state funds, Medicare); expenditures are pretty much on track. He plans to have firm numbers by the December meeting.**

**Update on H1N1 Flu – Mr. Edward Daft reported that vaccination clinics are being conducted by the RI Department of Health; 89% vaccination rate at six schools; high school had a lower percentage of students vaccinated. Three additional clinics are scheduled on November 23rd, one on December 7 and one on December 9th. Students who reside in RI, but attend school out of RI, can pre-register for a clinic to be held on December 12th at a time to be announced on the Department of Health website.**

**School bus enforcement camera program – A presentation was made by Mr. Cardi of Smart Bus Live, proposing to place cameras on the outside of school buses , which would provide live video feed to monitor violators passing school buses along with an automatic ticket issuance system. The cameras are provided free to the municipality, with Smart Bus picking up the tab with revenue from the fines. Legislation passed in 2007, provides that municipalities**

receive a percentage of the fines paid by violators.

## **Consent Agenda**

**Approval of Minutes –A motion was made by Mrs. Barbosa to approve the minutes of the October 13, 2009 and November 3, 2009 meetings, seconded by Mr. Faria. Roll call vote: Mrs. Abatecola, aye; Mrs. Barbosa, aye; Mr. Faria, aye; Mr. Santos, aye; Mr. Carcieri, aye.**

## **Personnel Appointments**

**Ms. Whalen, HR/Benefits Manager, presented one appointment:**

**Danielle Reis Teacher of Computer Technology –MMS**

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

## **Requisitions - Bill Lists**

**Warrant #946 11/16/09 \$704,185.22**

**Warrant #947 11/17/09 \$102,306.89**

**Warrant #943 11/6/09 \$ 3,755.09**

**Warrant #948 11/19/09 \$ 24,365.60**

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

## **Action Items**

**Revised FY 2009-10 Budget – A motion was made by Mr. Santos to approve, seconded by Mr. Faria for discussion. Mr. Barham explained that the School Department is required to reconcile the school budget with the amount of money allocated by the city. The City has allocated about \$1 million dollars less than requested by the School Department. Mr. Barham reviewed revenues and expenditures; the total operating budget for the School Department is \$73,813,338; the School Department finished last year with close to a balanced budget. Roll call vote: Mrs. Abatecola, aye; Mrs. Barbosa, aye; Mr. Faria, aye; Mr. Santos, aye; Mr. Carcieri, aye.**

**Awarding of Bid - Fire Alarm Systems Testing and Preventative Maintenance of fire alarms and sprinkler systems - \$25,800. Mr. Edward Donoghue, Director of Finance, presented a recommendation to award the bid to Home & Commercial Security based on advice and recommendations from the Facilities Manager, Mr. Joseph Tavares. A motion was made by Mr. Faria/seconded by Mrs. Barbosa. Roll call vote: Mrs. Abatecola, aye; Mrs. Barbosa, aye; Mr. Faria, aye; Mr. Santos, aye; Mr. Carcieri, aye.**

**Requests for Home Schooling – A motion by was made by Mrs. Abatecola to approve the request for three students, seconded by Mrs. Barbosa. Vote 5-0.**

**Formation of a Building Committee – Dr. Cirillo referred to an earlier discussion regarding the Qualified School Construction Bond Program and a possible bond referendum in November. The Committee will consist of Dr. Cirillo, Lonnie Barham, Edward Daft, the Finance Director, the Facilities Manager, school principals and Mr. Lance Bay, an architect. The Committee is subject to additions; an addendum will be provided. Motion by Mr. Faria to approve, seconded by Mrs. Barbosa. Roll call vote: Mrs. Abatecola, aye; Mrs. Barbosa, aye; Mr. Faria, aye; Mr. Santos, aye; Mr. Carcieri, aye.**

**Policy I.K. - Reviewing and Updating the Policy Book –A motion was made by Mr. Faria for second passage to eliminate this policy , seconded by Mrs. Barbosa. Roll call vote: Mrs. Abatecola, aye; Mrs. Barbosa, aye; Mr. Faria, aye; Mr. Santos, aye; Mr. Carcieri, aye.**

## **New Business**

**Dr. Cirillo recommended first passage for the elimination of Policy I.B. Accountability Statement, I.I. Board-O-Gram, and Policy I.J. Athletic Passes.**

**Home School Policy - Dr. Cirillo recommended first passage of the proposed policy.**

## **Public Comment-Communications**

**Valerie Lawson, President of the East Providence Education Association, 122 Hoyt Avenue, voiced concern regarding treatment by School Committee and administration; examples are unilateral implementation and pay for performance, which she felt reinforce the claim that the School Committee is not interested in bargaining in good faith. She mentioned exorbitant legal fees and the only winners being the lawyers.**

**A motion was made by Mr. Faria to adjourn at 9:30PM, seconded by Mr. Santos. Vote 5-0.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Patricia A. Iannelli, Administrative Assistant**

**Shannon Barbosa, Clerk of the Committee**