

# **EAST PROVIDENCE SCHOOL DEPARTMENT**

**East Providence City Hall**

**145 Taunton Avenue, East Providence, Rhode Island 02914**

**School Committee Meeting**

**March 8, 2010**

## **Open Session**

**The meeting was called 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., Lonnie Barham, Chief Operating Officer, and Sara Rapport, Esq.**

**A motion was made by Mr. Santos that the Committee convene in Executive Session for purposes of discussing: Collective Bargaining: R.I. Gen. Laws § 42-46-5(a) (2): Teachers, Teacher Assistants, Custodians, Secretaries, Principals Litigation: EPSC v. Rocha, seconded by Mr. Faria. Vote: 5-0.**

**The School Committee returned call to order at 7:30PM. A motion was made by Mrs. Abatecola to seal the minutes of the executive session, seconded by Mrs. Barbosa. Roll call vote: Mrs. Abatecola, aye; Mrs. Barbosa, aye; Mr. Faria, aye; Mr. Santos, aye; Mr. Carcieri, aye.**

**The Pledge of Allegiance and Moment of Silence were observed.**

**Report Executive Session Votes: None**

### **Student/Teacher Recognition**

**The Knights of Columbus-Bishop Hickey Council presented a check for \$1,000 to Ms. Jane Sylvia for the Meadowcrest School playground project. Mr. Lonnie Barham recognized and presented a certificate of recognition to Mr. Alan Winter, Deputy Grand Knight along with other representatives of the Knights of Columbus and a coin of excellence was presented by the Superintendent and Chairman of the School Committee.**

### **Reports**

**Sub-Committee Reports – moved to New Business**

**Superintendent's Report- A PowerPoint Presentation by Dr.Cirillo provided information regarding the School Calendar 2010-11, Ride Stage I Application Update, Technology Update, Bradley Partnership Update, Pay for Performance and ELL Staffing.**

**Personnel Report on Retirements/Resignations/Leaves of Absence – Mrs. Patricia Whalen, presented the report:**

**Retirements:**

**Linda Vincent Teacher Assistant – RMS – Date Change: Effective 4-16-10**

**Resignations:**

**Diana Morvillo Girl's Tennis Coach – EPHS**

**Leave of Absence:**

**Patricia Barlow Sumer School Principal; Extended School Year, Waddington-Summer 2010**

**Extended Personal Leaves of Absence:**

**Scott Abrahamson Director of Fine Arts – EPHS; Effective 2/22/2010 to end of school year**

**Parental Leave:**

**Jodie Audet Resource Teacher – MMS; Effective 3/1/2010 to end of school year**

**Family Medical Leave:**

**Holly DaSilveira Reading Specialist – MMS; Effective 4/9/2010**

**Mylissa Moon Resource Teacher – MMS; Effective 4/26/2010**

**Financial Report – Mr. Lonnie Barham presented the monthly report: Revenues at this point at 26.24%; should be at 31.33%; exception is**

property tax allocation; all others below (state and federal aid behind now) on revenue.

Slightly above on expenditures; at 36.99% expended; until we know about money from the state, keeping to bare minimum until we know the financial future.

## **Consent Agenda**

**Personnel Appointments – Mrs. Patricia Whalen presented the report:  
Courtney Teixeira Teacher Assistant – Francis School – effective  
3/8/2010**

**Kathline Levesque Teacher Assistant – High School – effective  
3/15/2010**

**Elizabeth Balasko Girls Lacrosse – High School**

**Paul Karalis Assistant Baseball Coach – High School**

**Motion by Mr. Faria to approve, seconded by Mrs. Barbosa. Vote 5-0.**

## **Requisitions - Bill Lists**

**Warrant #000971 \$ 27,630.75**

**Warrant #000973 \$ 415,432.29**

**Warrant #000974 \$2,505,594.52**

**Motion by Mr. Faria to approve, seconded by Mr. Santos. Vote 5-0.**

## **Awarding of Bids**

## **Johnson Controls Comprehensive Energy Management Services**

**Motion to approve by Mr. Faria, seconded by Mrs. Barbosa. Vote 5-0.**

### **Action Items**

#### **Policy Revisions**

**The Superintendent recommended second passage of amended policy V.A. 11 Transportation (additional language added regarding bus idling). A motion was made 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.**

**The Superintendent recommended second passage of amended policy II.D.5. Use of School Buildings. A motion was made 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.**

**Field Trip Request – Dr. Cirillo recommended approval for the Career & Technical School, DECA Chapter students, to travel to and participate in the International Career Development Conference in Louisville, KY from April 23rd to April 28th. Motion to approve by Mrs. Abatecola, seconded by Mr. Santos. Vote 5-0. (Mr. Faria requested a report on the conference after the students attend)**

**Requests for Home Schooling – None**

## **New Business**

**Energy Star Policy – Dr. Cirillo read the policy and explained that the policy is a prerequisite for the Qualified School Construction Loan project; he recommended first passage.**

**Public Comment Policy – Mr. Carcieri reported that at last month’s meeting, students attended and wanted to speak on an issue and there was no provision in the policy to allow it. He felt it was a difficult situation and students were upset about it. The School Committee requested to make a revision to the policy so that individuals who have an interest in a special item on the agenda may be able to speak about it (similar to the procedure used by the City Council). Attorney Sara Rapport advised that the School Committee can grant or deny public comment; many others in the state do not have public comment at all, but East Providence has attempted to follow a protocol which they have now decided to revise in order to allow public comment. This was implemented because of concerns that the public may not have time to submit a request to speak on an agenda item because of the open meeting requirement for posting the agenda. The new policy is an opportunity for people to make comments about items on the agenda and does not require School Committee consensus. Discussion took place regarding the policy. Mr. Faria favors the model used by North Providence which allows public comment at various times during the meeting. Mrs. Barbosa**

**felt that the public should be allowed to speak on any item on the agenda. Mr. Santos said the incident last month involving the students was unfortunate, but that the policy can be changed to a workable framework to allow individuals to speak while maintaining decorum. Mr. Carcieri said there was no suppression of any comments, the School Committee just wants an orderly meeting. It was decided to adjust the policy to allow multiple opportunities for the public to speak and to present the amended policy at the next meeting for first passage.**

### **Public Comment-Communications**

**Sandy Barone had a series of questions about speaking at meetings, but the School Committee revisited their policy and made changes which she appreciated. She agreed with Mr. Faria's suggested format for the agenda.**

**Lois Winslet spoke about the impact of cancelling the Bio-med program; she supported the students because she felt the program should be preserved and that the environmental life sciences program is not geared to the same level of students. She was concerned that students on track to graduate with CNA certification will be left in the lurch. She talked about the importance of the program and urged East Providence to keep the program in place in order to have a competent pool of Certified Nursing Assistants.**

**Christine Cinquegrana thanked the Superintendent for holding a**

meeting to explain the changes, but still had some questions after discussion with a guidance counselor that unless the student takes environmental science, they cannot be recommended for college. Dr. Cirillo explained that he met with bio-med students and parents after the last meeting to answer their questions; he was disappointed there were not a lot of parents there, but provisions have been made for students in the program now to be able to finish the program.

Stephanie LoBello has a student in the program and had concerns with what will happen to students who already have credits in the program; she hoped that all can work together to keep the program.

Antonia Guglimetti and Mariah LoBello – They felt that students were left confused and upset about this program; even after attending all the meetings, guidance did not have answers about the credits; scheduling is not done for next year and they were not able to tell their parents about this first; there was confusion about how the credits would work; if they had been given more information given, they may not have had as many problems.

Shannon Neves has a student at the high school and questioned why the environmental science class was not offered to high school students; she wanted her son to have an opportunity to take this class, as it would make high school students more marketable.

Jennifer Bairos and Hailey Olbrych presented a slide show about the

**CNA program they are now in.**

**Jessica Jordan said that CNA is a stepping stone to other goals and the first introduction to the medical profession; some students cannot enroll in evening classes to finish the program because it involves money and transportation to get to the night program; she asked to keep the bio-med program in place at the CTC.**

**Dr. Cirillo thanked all for commenting. Dr. Cirillo spoke about making the changes at the CTC which are necessary for a world class education; he found that opportunities had been taken away from the children in that school, morale was low and the whole situation was not good; he took immediate action to provide educational opportunities that students need to progress according to the data and opinions from higher education officials. He was told that the CTC was shockingly deficient and skills in science, math and technology were needed in order for students to be prepared. The discussion regarding the bio-med program was necessary because it was not the quality program that the kids deserve. The Superintendent and School Committee were not happy about the students not being able to speak at the last meeting. He met with the students later to answer questions and the pervasive thought was that we were taking something away, which we are not. The CNA program is still there and he had a meeting for parents to address their concerns; he listened and apologized for not giving information to them in a timely fashion. They drilled down to the concerns and a**

**course outline for the 45 students will be developed to see the program through. He thought people left the meeting with their concerns satisfied and said he intends to continue to restore opportunities for students at the CTC by embarking on a new direction for the school for further plans for a world class education for students.**

**Mrs. Karen Mellen, Director of the Career & Technical School and Mrs. Kim Laliberte, Science Department Chair at East Providence High School provided information regarding the changes to the program and they reiterated that additional opportunities for students are being provided, not taken away.**

**Dr. Cirillo felt the school was moving in the right direction, as he was not satisfied with the class the way it is now and he has the utmost confidence in the science department, the Chair, and the director of the CTC, as this is only the beginning of changes at the CTC. He recommended that parents or students with additional questions should contact the school.**

**Mrs. Laliberte explained (in answer to question by Mrs. Neves) that the program is open to all students at the high school; however, priority will be given to 45 CTC students; this would be an additional science credit.**

**Mr. Barbosa thanked the students for getting up to speak; she likes**

**making the program work for students and thought that change could be a good thing.**

**Dr. Cirillo explained that an affiliation with colleges has begun whereby we will enter into an agreement for job shadowing and internships which will help with senior projects and opportunities for credits.**

**Announcements – Mr. Faria made several; mentioned fundraiser for post prom party.**

**A motion was made by Mrs. Abatecola to adjourn, seconded by Mrs. Barbosa. Vote 5-0.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Patricia A. Iannelli, Administrative Assistant**

**Shannon Barbosa, Clerk of the Committee**