

# **EAST PROVIDENCE SCHOOL DEPARTMENT**

**East Providence City Hall**

**145 Taunton Avenue**

**East Providence, Rhode Island 02914**

**June 8, 2010**

## **Open Session**

**Mr. Carcieri, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 6:00PM. School Committee members present: Luisa Abatecola, Shannon Barbosa, Robert Faria, Stephen Santos, Anthony Carcieri. Also present: Dr. Mario F. Cirillo, Superintendent of Schools, and Daniel Kinder, 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): Principals and Litigation: EPSC v. Rocha; EPSC v. EPEA, seconded by Mrs. Barbosa. Vote 5-0.**

**Mr. Carcieri called the Public Session 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 to the Flag & Moment of Silence were**

observed.

**Report Executive Session Votes - None**

**Student/Teacher Recognition – Martin Middle School Boys’ Track Team was recognized for receiving a State Championship award. Team Coaches, Mr. Almeida and Ms. Barry, attended along with members of the team who were congratulated and awarded certificates of recognition.**

**Student Liaison Report – Erin Butler represented a report. Erin was congratulated as the valedictorian of the Class of 2010.**

**CTC/DECA Report – Mrs. Chrys Caffrey and Mrs. Pat Dionne , DECA advisors, introduced students who competed in the International Career Development Conference in Kentucky in April. All were presented with certificates and congratulated for their accomplishments.**

**Public Comment I – None**

## **Reports**

**Audit Report - Mrs. Pat Boucher of Bacon & Company attended and provided an overview of the school department audit, highlighting the following:**

- **Page 15 – school general operating fund balance as of 10/31/09 indicated a cumulative deficit of \$6,191,830 at year end; a decrease from prior year of about \$950,000**

- **Page 60 – \$1.5 million overall shortfall**
- **Financial Statement Findings: Page 117 – School deficit violation of RI state law reported; policies and procedures for capital assets needs improvement; there is an ongoing process in place for improvement**
- **Other comments: Audited federal programs**

**Mr. Faria commented that the school lunch fund deficit has been a weight that carries us down and he believes we need to do something to reverse the trend because this continues to increase year after year. In response to a question regarding student activities funds, Ms. Boucher indicated that recommendations have been followed and there has been improvement in that area.**

**Mr. Faria commented on reconciliation with the city. Ms. Boucher stated that this would have to be addressed by both the city and the schools; the auditors have made recommendations on how this can be addressed as this has been an issue over the years and takes the most time on the audit. Mr. Faria also expressed concern regarding the lack of a Policies and Procedures Manual.**

**Dr. Cirillo explained that the school department is in the process of interviewing Finance Directors and that some of these issues will be addressed in the near future. Mr. Barham explained that final candidates are being interviewed, and a new Finance Director should be in place soon, which will enable the department to put financial controls in order with the city and also develop a policies and**

procedures manual. Mr. Faria was concerned with turnover; with an average of two years for a Finance Director and Superintendent, he questioned how we could possibly build consistency.

### **Subcommittee Reports – None**

**Superintendent's Report – Dr. Cirillo explained that a PowerPoint presentation would explain the details of the effect of the financial impact of the teachers' contract and how it would impact the schools and start times of the schools. The report addressed:**

- **Agreement on Previously Implemented Terms (Salaries, Educational Increments, Health Insurance)**
- **Additional Changes – 2010 Negotiations (School Year, School Day, Maximum Class Size, sick leave)**
- **Savings & Cost Avoidance**
- **Administrators' Pay Cuts and Co-Pays**
- **Revised Start/End Times for Students & Teachers**
- **Enrollment/Placement Changes for School Year 2010-11**

**Mrs. Barbosa commented that she did not agree with the Superintendent's choice of Dr. Lima for Principal of Whiteknact School, and she would vote nay if she could. Mr. Faria had a concern about the middle schools needing all the administrative assistance possible and that possibly conflict resolution specialists could be used there. Mr. Santos commented that the agreement with the**

**teachers is a contract the community could afford; it provides for an additional three days of professional development and will make improvements in schools and solid changes we can all be proud of.**

**Personnel Report on Retirements/Resignations/Leaves of Absence – Mrs. Patti Whalen, H/R Director presented the following items:**

### **Resignations**

**Lorraine Martell School Nurse/Teacher – High School**

**Effective End of 2009-10 School Year**

### **Leave of Absence**

**Terry Allard ESY Summer School Teacher**

**(one year leave) 2010-11**

**Revised Budget FY2010 – Mr. Barham presented a draft of the revised budget for FY 2010; he explained that it has not been clear on revenue cuts coming down from the state level, but we recently found that we would be cut substantially more than we thought. Also pension reform never passed; it is not likely that any reform would impact this fiscal year or next year. Highlights:**

- Revenue deficit is over \$1.5 million this year**
- Expenditures have been cut about \$2 million this year; when offset with revenue loss, it amounts to only about a half million in cuts**
- Even with all the cuts, we are \$477,800 below what we budgeted for expenditures; not even close to offsetting cuts**

- **\$1.5 million revenue deficit this year; still working toward providing a balanced budget**
- **Will continue to work on spending cuts and other sources of revenue**

### **Consent Agenda**

**Approval of Minutes — Motion by Mrs. Barbosa to approve the minutes of the meetings held on 3/8/10, 5/17/10, and 6/1/10, seconded by Mr. Santos. Vote 5-0.**

**Personnel Appointments – Mrs. Patti Whalen, H/R Director presented the report:**

#### **Appointments**

**Darlene Hall Math Dept. Coordinator- High School**

**2010-11 School Year**

**One Year-Effective Date 7/1/10**

**(Replaces Kevin Monagle while on military leave)**

**Jonathan Maxwell Network Technician – Effective Date 6/7/10**

**Patrick Costa Night Custodian – High School – Effective Date 6/7/10**

**Joao Souza Night Custodian – High School – Effective Date 6/7/10**

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

#### **Requisitions – Bill Lists**

**Warrant #000991 5/25/10 \$ 25,596.00**

**Warrant #000992 6/2/10 \$ 500,000.00**

**Warrant #000994 6/3/10 \$ 500,000.00**

**Warrant #000995 6/3/10 \$ 733,577.39**

**Warrant #000996 6/4/10 \$1,288,716.90**

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

### **Action Items**

**Payroll Calendar 2010-11- Motion by Mr. Faria to approve, seconded by Mrs. Abatecola. Vote 5-0.**

**Racial Harassment Policy – The Superintendent recommended second passage; as requested by Mrs. Barbosa, an addition was made on page two “on annual basis for training.” Motion by Mr. Faria to approve, seconded by Mrs. Barbosa. Vote 5-0.**

**Policy - Placement, Promotion and Retention – Amended (Second Passage) – Motion by Mr. Faria to approve, seconded by Mrs. Santos. Vote 5-0.**

**EP Local Advisory Committee Presentation – Presentation made by Laurie Brown and Richard Moore, Co-Chairs. A new member list was presented to the School Committee and a motion was made by Mr. Faria to approve, seconded by Mrs. Barbosa. Vote 5-0.**

**New Business - None**

### **Public Comment II**

**Our Mission/Class Size – Mary Teixeira spoke regarding the settlement of the teacher’s contract and the fact that the School Committee has a mission statement and strategic plan to guide them;**

**28 students in a class is not acceptable; managing money trumps best practice; this will take away attention to students. The decision to alter class size must be about students and the School Committee should not be the champion of the children, not of the taxpayers. East Providence now has the lowest paid teachers in the state and has increased class size, which is not educationally sound. She believes the School Committee should adhere to the mission statement and encourage the city to step up and honor its obligations, as the School Committee is the last line of defense for school children.**

**Mr. Carcieri hoped that all can work together from this point forward to make good things happen in the School Department.**

**A motion was made by Mr. Faria to adjourn at 9:35AM, seconded by Mrs. Barbosa. Vote 5-0.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Patricia A. Iannelli**

**Shannon Barbosa, Clerk of the Committee**