

EAST PROVIDENCE SCHOOL DEPARTMENT

East Providence City Hall

145 Taunton Avenue

East Providence, Rhode Island 02914

August 30, 2011

Open Session

Mr. Tsonos called the meeting to order at 6:00PM. Members Present: Luisa Abatecola, Stephen Furtado, Ryan Tellier, Chrissy Rossi, Charles Tsonos. Also Present: Edward Daft, Interim Superintendent, Robert Silva, Esq. and Andrew Thomas, Esq.

A motion was made by Mr. Furtado that the Committee convene in Executive Session for purposes of discussing: Personnel R.I. Gen. Laws §42-46-5(a) (1), Collective Bargaining R.I. Gen. Laws §42-46-5(a) (2) Litigation/Pending Litigation -R.I. Gen. Laws §42-46-5(a)(2, seconded by Mr. Tellier. Vote 5-0.

The School Committee returned to Public Session. A motion was made to seal the minutes of the executive session by Mr. Furtado, seconded by Mrs. Abatecola. Vote 5-0.

Report Executive Session Vote - None

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

Public Comment I

Mr. Frank Sullivan attended to summarize a letter he sent regarding Tides Family Services, a non-profit organization, to volunteer assistance to review special education costs in East Providence which he reported are higher than similar populations (reported in RI Kids Count); they can offer expertise in reviewing information at no cost to identify cost savings. Mr. Sullivan was interested in seeking endorsement from the School Committee; he heard about a report which had been done, but has never seen it; he would work with staff to implement systems. In response to Mr. Tsonos question regarding his recommendations and how they would save money, Mr. Sullivan responded that he would like to review the recommendations in the report to see if the numbers are consistent; 26% of students are being identified.

Mr. Daft stated that the number is actually down to 22% and staff have been working with the recommendations made after a review and report by Mr. John Verre and that East Providence has worked with Tides in the past and their prices have been higher.

Mr. Tsonos reported that facilities issues had been resolved today at the Oldham School and it will be available for the After School with the Arts Program. Mr. Daft met with fire department officials regarding variances and the space used at Oldham by the Riverside

Family Center.

Rev. Dyszlewski, a representative from the Riverside Family Center, attended and thanked everyone for working out whatever arrangements had been made; he invited School Committee members to come by to see the program; they are thrilled to be part of this system and contributing to after school programs.

Mr. Tsonos stated that School Committee members received emails and calls and are glad that this positive program will continue.

Reports:

Interim Superintendent's Report

Mr. Daft reported that despite some weather problems, schools will open on time and he thanked Mr. Ed Catelli, his staff and Johnson Controls; all work is on progress for September 8th opening; Mr. Daft reported on time changes for middle and high school students. Mr. Daft reported that all have schools currently have power except Meadowcrest; principals are back tomorrow; at Watters, the issues with fire officials were rectified and he will speak to all parties concerned to set an opening date for the Watters Program.

Dr. Caswell, Director of Curriculum, Assessment & Instruction, outlined the following Science (Grade K-12), PE (Grade 6-12), and Health (Grade 5-12) Curricula:

„X New Science Curriculum - Written during the 2010-2011 school year by teams of teachers from Newport, Middletown, and East Providence with Consultant Linda Newman. Curricula is written vertically K-12 and horizontally (across each grade) to ensure consistent teaching practices focusing on Grade Span Expectations and the new Common Core. Flash drives were created for all K-12 teachers of science, special educators, and ELL teachers. Rollout to take place on Tuesday, September 6, 2011 PD day. Mission and Philosophy (see attached).

„X Health 5-12 and Physical Education 6-12 - Written during the 2010-2011 school year using state standards. Flash drives provided to all K-12 PE/Health teachers. Rollout to take place on Friday, September 16, 2011.

Health K-4 and PE K-5 is planned to be completed during the spring 2012 with Middletown.

„X We are currently working with Pawtucket, the Dana Center, and Westat to create a K-12 English Language Arts Curriculum.

„X During the fall semester we are collaborating with Middletown to

**revise the mathematics
curriculum to include the Common Core.**

**Personnel Report on Retirements/Resignations/Leaves of Absence ;V
Mary King presented the personnel items:**

RESIGNATIONS

Caroline Caswell Assistant Superintendent-Effective 08/26/2011

**Patricia Whalen Human Resources/Benefits Manager-Effective
08/30/2011**

**Allison Hunt Science Teacher ;VEast Providence High
School;VEffective 08/19/2011**

**Gloria Martin Math Teacher ;VEast Providence High School-Effective
immediately**

**Cheryl Comley Grade 6 Teacher ;V Martin Middle School;VEffective
Immediately**

Bridget Cox3/5 School Nurse;VEffective 08/31/2011

Christopher Dante English Teacher ;VMMS ;VEffective 08/25/2011

**Lisa White Supervisory Assistant iV Silver Spring
Elementary iV Effective 08/26/2011**

**Megan Pace Supervisory Assistant iV Oldham Elementary iV Effective
08/26/2011**

RESCINDED

Ruth Dickinson School Nurse/Teacher

Ruth Donahue Librarian iV Whiteknact/Oldham

Nicole Delanos 2/5 Art Teacher iV East Providence High School

MILITARY LEAVE OF ABSENCE

**Kevin Monagle Math Teacher/Department Coordinator iV EPHS
Effective Sept 6, 2011 to approximately
Jan 17,2011, or when released from military.**

Consent Agenda

**Approval of Minutes iVMotion by Mr. Tellier to approve minutes of
the meeting held on July 28, 2011, seconded by Mrs. Abatecola. Vote**

5-0.

Action Items

Personnel Appointments/Recalls ¡V Mary King presented the personnel items:

APPOINTMENTS

Robert Anastasi Guidance Counselor/Coordinator ¡V Riverside Middle School

Aimee Couto Grade 4 ¡V Francis Elementary (pending approval of Oldham Principal Appointment)

Lauren Ferreira Grade 3 Teacher ¡V Whiteknact (1year) (result of Transfer)

Dana Vasconcelos Special Education Teacher ¡V EPHS

Melissa Aniello Speech Language Pathologist ¡V Mead

Melissa Alshuler 2/5 Speech Language Pathologist ¡V EPHS

Susan Caldwell 2/5 Speech Pathologist - TBD

Thomas Galligan Assistant Freshman Football Coach- EPHS

Leann Dunn Supervisory Assistant

Jennifer Pennacchia Supervisory Assistant

Lisa Hawkins Supervisory Assistant

Mary Katherine Johnston Supervisory Assistant

RECALLS

**Jennifer Carney English Teacher iV East Providence High School
(Due to Retirement)**

Julie Braga Spanish Teacher iV EPHS (due to resignation)

**Motion to approve appointments and recalls by Mr. Furtado,
seconded by Mr. Tellier. Vote 5-0.**

Requisitions iV Bill List

Warrant #1123 8/25/11 \$114,749.16

Warrant #1126 8/25/11 \$815,464.87

Warrant #1127 8/25/11 \$ 29,305.46

Warrant #1128 8/25/11 \$ 13,818.92

Motion to approve by Mrs. Rossi, seconded by Mr. Tellier. Vote 5-0.

**Request(s) for Home Schooling iV Motion by Mrs. Rossi to approve
requests for home schooling recommended by Superintendent,
seconded by Mrs. Abatecola. Vote 5-0.**

**Revised Policy I.E. School Committee By-Laws (Second Passage) iV
Motion to approve by Mr. Tellier, seconded by Mrs. Rossi. Vote 5-0.**

**Revised Policy V.A. 11 Transportation (Second Passage) iV Motion to
approve by Mr. Tellier, seconded by Mrs. Rossi. Vote 5-0.**

IV.C.4. Telecommunications and Networked Services -Acceptable Use

Policy Students and Employees (Revised Policy - Second Passage)

Motion to approve by Mr. Tellier, seconded by Mrs. Rossi. Vote 5-0.

AYSO iV Motion to table by Mrs. Rossi, seconded by Mrs. Abatecola. Vote 5-0.

High School Softball Field - Mrs. Abatecola announced that the Lundstrom family organization would like to donate the money and services to have baseball dugouts built in honor of Brian Lundstrom.

Mr. Daft spoke to one of the coaches, Mr. Travers, about his ideas for the dugouts which should include storage; however, it is unsure how much money would be available, since the Lundstrom organization usually only gives out scholarship money. Our Athletic Director, Mr. Paul Amaral, would like to meet with all concerned before making a decision. Motion by Mrs. Abatecola to direct the Superintendent to follow up, seconded by Mr. Furtado. Vote 5-0.

High School Fields - Mr. Tsonos stated that the City Council recently had a discussion regarding the high school athletic fields, the use of the fields, and how they are allocated for use; Alba Curti from the city department will be presenting a policy for the use of fields and how many East Providence residents would be using the fields. Mr. Tsonos would like to wait for the city report. Discussion took place. Mr. Daft advised that he and Mary King have been working on a policy for all school buildings which will be ready shortly and will be sent to

the School Committee. Mr. Furtado asked to email Alba tomorrow so that we are all moving in the same direction. Mr. Daft explained there has always been delineation on the fields; the high school has always been responsible for their fields. Mrs. Rossi as the School Committee liaison to the City Council will look into the city's policy.

RFP for Performance Audit - Mr. Tsonos explained that the last time done an audit was discussed; it was uncovered that the School Department was under funded by the city; he would like to have a performance audit completed to see where we are at now. Mr. Furtado would agree, but it is an expensive process; he would ask for approval with city council paying for it and would put that in his motion. Mr. Tsonos explained that our department would do the RFP for the audit. A motion was made by Mr. Furtado to complete an RFP for a performance audit to be paid for by the City Council, seconded by Mrs. Rossi. Mr. Daft stated that a thorough performance audit top to bottom will find that the school department is operating efficiently and will prove to the city we are doing all we can. Vote 5-0.

Advertising - Mr. Tsonos explained that we need to establish a committee to take public comment and asked Mrs. Rossi to head up that committee; Mrs. Rossi will start the process of advertising and asked anyone interested in serving on the subcommittee to contact her.

Old Business

Human Resources - Mr. Tsonos announced that the position of Human Resources Director was posted to help strengthen that department.

New Business

Public Comment II ¶V Fred Ripken, 9 Cousins Avenue, advised that there are cables/wires hanging in the playground at Oldham which need to be fixed. Mr. Daft and Mr. Catelli will look into it.

Mr. Daft recommended the appointment of Mrs. Kathleen Caffrey to the position of Principal at Oldham School. Mrs. Caffrey spoke regarding her career and her experience with school change; she is very excited about joining the Oldham community. Motion to approve by Mr. Furtado, seconded by Mr. Tellier. Vote 5-0.

Announcements

Mrs. Rossi thanked all who donated school supplies. Mrs. Abatecola, Mr. Tsonos and the Committee wished all a great school year.

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The School Committee returned to open session. A motion was made to seal the minutes of the executive session by Mr. Furtado, seconded by Mr. Furtado.

A motion was made to adjourn by Mr. Furtado, seconded by Mrs. Abatecola. Vote 5-0. 10:30PM

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia A. Iannelli, Administrative Assistant

Stephen Furtado, Clerk of the Committee