

# **EAST PROVIDENCE SCHOOL DEPARTMENT**

**East Providence City Hall**

**145 Taunton Avenue**

**East Providence, Rhode Island 02914**

**October 27, 2011**

## **Open Session**

**Mr. Tsonos, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 7:00PM. School Committee members present: Luisa Abatecola, Stephen Furtado, Ryan Tellier, Chrissy Rossi, Charles Tsonos. Also present: Robert M. Silva, Esq. and Andrew Thomas, Esq.**

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

**School attorney, Mr. Robert Silva advised the School Committee that one item on the docket in Executive Session is consideration of the status of Dr. Mario F. Cirillo, Superintendent of Schools' paid leave. To discuss that matter as required under the Open Meetings Act, it is necessary to place on record that his office, on behalf of the School Committee, on October 4, 2011, sent notification to Dr. Cirillo and his attorney Stephen Robinson, Esq. advising them of the meeting in executive session scheduled for October 11, 2011 and that he could attend with counsel and present evidence and witnesses and that the**

**matter would be heard in executive session unless a public meeting was requested by Dr. Cirillo. Mr. Robinson was not available for October 4, 2011 meeting; an extension and continuance was granted to October 27, 2011; through an October 18, 2011 letter to Dr. Cirillo and copied to Mr. Robinson it was stated that the School Committee would be considering this matter in executive session unless Dr. Cirillo wanted the meeting in open session. Mr. Silva received a notification from Attorney Michael McAtee by an email dated October 25, 2011 indicating that in the event the request for a stay was not successful (in court this morning), Mr. McAtee indicated in this email that the meeting could be held in executive session. The Open Meeting Act requires that this information be part of the public record; therefore, the hearing on Dr. Cirillo's contract and performance will be held tonight in executive session.**

**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) (Superintendent's Contract); Collective Bargaining R.I. Gen. Laws §42-46-5(a) (2); and Litigation/Pending Litigation -R.I. Gen. Laws §42-46-5(a) (2), seconded by Mr. Tellier. Vote 5-0 Unanimous vote.**

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

## **Report Executive Session Votes**

**Mr. Silva announced one vote was taken in Executive Session; after a due process hearing in connection with the employment contract of Superintendent Mario F. Cirillo, executed August 10, 2010 and effective August 11, 2010, the School Committee, after discussion and consideration, voted unanimously, pursuant to Clause 5 in the contract, to terminate Dr. Cirillo's employment as Superintendent of Schools; this was the only vote taken by the School Committee in executive session.**

**Mr. Silva further advised that there was a question about whether the School Committee could go beyond the items listed on the agenda for that evening, and if the docket format would allow the School Committee to discuss budget and deficit reduction issues and possible further cuts in open session. The agenda was prepared just for purposes of the Superintendent's contract and some other issues, not a discussion of the budget or deficit reduction, and therefore that must be done at the next meeting on November 8, 2011.**

**Mr. Furtado explained to the public present that because of the 48 hour notice requirement of meetings, the agenda for this meeting was already posted Tuesday, October 25, 2011, prior to the City Council meeting on Tuesday evening and there would not have been enough time if this meeting had been posted on Wednesday, after the City Council meeting.**

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

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Patricia A. Iannelli, Administrative Assistant**

**Stephen Furtado, Clerk of the Committee**