

EAST PROVIDENCE SCHOOL DEPARTMENT

East Providence School Committee

East Providence City Hall, 145 Taunton Avenue

East Providence, Rhode Island 02914

May 8, 2012

Open Session

Mr. Tsonos called the meeting to order at 6:30PM. School Committee Members present: Luisa Abatecola, Stephen Furtado, Ryan Tellier, Chrissy Rossi and Charles Tsonos. Also present: Mr. Edward M. Daft, Interim Superintendent, Mr. Robert Silva, Esq. and Andrew Thomas, Esq.

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

Student/Teacher Recognition ¡V Mr. Daft recognized Catherine Browning, ranked #1 in the Class of 2012 at East Providence High School, who was recently appointed to the U.S. Military Academy at West Point and the first student in nearly a decade to be accepted into a military academy.

Recognition of Students Entering Military Service ¡V Mr. Daft congratulated and conveyed good wishes to a number of students being accepted into military service after graduation.

Report on City of East Providence Budget Commission ¶ Ed Daft reported that the Budget Commission continues to meet weekly; discussion is ongoing regarding consolidation; Facilities and IT consolidation has been completed; the Human Resources Director position has been advertised and a number of candidates will be reviewed by a selection committee. The Finance Director position is closing next week and we hope to have those positions filled as soon as possible.

In response to a question from Mr. Tellier regarding other discussions affecting school buildings. Mr. Daft advised that the administration building staff will be moved this summer to City Hall; the Budget Commission has requested cost savings measures and we are looking into consolidations; once the FY 12 budget is approved, the Commission will be looking at 2013-2017 budgets. Mr. Tsonos asked if the positions are temporary or full time.

Mr. Daft stated that the consolidated Finance and H/R positions are full time; the City Manager requested a finance person to fill in temporarily when the City Finance Director leaves next week. In terms of School Department positions, as we see vacancies and retirements, the Budget Commission would like to review those positions and Mr. Daft will be meeting with Budget Commission representative, Ms. Heather Martino, regarding those positions.

Public Comment I ¶ Mary Teixeira, a teacher at Silver Spring School, expressed concerns about the elimination of the elementary guidance position. Mr. Daft stated that the position is not mandated by the

state and will not be filled. Ms. Teixeira thought everyone should know how important that position is; it is sad that it is going by the wayside. She thought money could be saved by making cuts in other areas; she suggested emailing parents when sending messages to save paper expenses; by saving a little here and there we might be able keep a position like that one. She wanted to go on record that this is one more thing that will fall back upon teachers.

Mr. Daft responded that we have qualified social workers and psychologists who can also assist with those issues as well.

Interim Superintendent's Report

Presentation by Teacher Induction Coaches Tabatha Watchen, Crystal Monteiro, and East Providence teachers along with representatives from RI Department of Education presented information on the Induction Project which was funded by Race to the Top.

NECAP Test Scores Presentation ;V Curriculum Coordinator, Beth Salzillo presented district NECAP data for 2011-12 and provided information regarding additional work going on in the district.

Building Committee Report ;V Mr. Daft reported that a meeting will be held this week with RIBEC regarding bonds to fund the construction project; news was received today from Moody's that East Providence has been taken off credit watch and updated to stable, but there is still more work ahead.

Update on Finance and Human Resources Positions ;V Mr. Daft related that he will take on managerial finance duties while Steve Fratiello, controller, will continue with all daily operations; David Eaton from the Budget Commission will be available to assist as well.

Related to Human Resources, Mr. Daft stated that a temporary person is in the position now; Ms. Martino from the Budget Commission is assisting with personnel recalls and filling of positions; he hopes to have a permanent position in place shortly.

Update on Negotiations Sessions ;VMrs. Rossi asked if the School Committee will have a seat at the negotiations table; teachers are still without a signed contract and she learned the Budget Commission will be negotiating with all labor in city. Mr. Daft advised that negotiations will probably not start until after the FY 12 is budget is done; he doesn't know who will be asked to sit at the table, nor was he sure what bargaining unit would be first. Mrs. Rossi was concerned with having input on decisions involving educational policy issues, such as class size. Mr. Daft advised that he shared our concerns with the Budget Commission regarding previous contract concerns on language, etc. and shared the issues from the last negotiations sessions with the Budget Commission.

Personnel Report on Retirements/Resignations/Leaves of Absence ;V Mr. Edward Daft presented the following personnel items:

RETIREMENT

Betty DeCrescenzo (15 years) Director of Special Services - Effective 6/30/2012

Nancy Cullion (24 years) Principal ¡V Silver Spring - End of 2011/2012 School Year

Donna McEnery (25 years) Grade 4 Teacher ¡V Francis Elementary - End of 2011/2012 School Year

**Anneke Frazer (13 years) School Nurse/ Teacher ¡V Hennessey Elementary
End of 2011/2012 School Year**

Antonio Costa (13 years) Custodian - High School Nights - Effective 6/30/2012

RESIGNATION

Stacy Simmons Math Department Head-RMS - Effective End of 2011/2012 School Year

EXTENDED PERSONAL LEAVE

Kimberly Laliberte ¡V Year 2 - Science Department Head ¡V EPHS - 2012/2013 School Year

EDUCATIONAL LEAVE OF ABSENCE

**Crystal Monteiro ¡V Year 2 - Grade 3 Teacher- Francis Elementary -
Effective 2012/2013 School Year**

**Tabitha Watjen - Year 2 - Special Ed Teacher ¡V East Providence High
- Effective 2012/2013 School Year**

Consent Agenda

**Approval of Minutes ¡V A motion was made by Mr. Tellier to approve
the minutes of the meeting held on April 10, 2012, seconded by Mrs.
Abatecola. Vote 5-0.**

Action Items

Requisitions ¡V Bill List

Warrant #

1209	4/11/12	\$	672.00
1212	4/29/12	\$	857,957.75
1213	4/17/12	\$	2,022.06
1214	4/30/12	\$	780.00
1215	5/2/12	\$	350,507.10
1216	5/2/12	\$	857,884.13
1217	5/2/12	\$	9,000.00
1218	5/2/12	\$	40,874.00
1219	5/3/12	\$	108,309.47

1220 5/3/12 \$ 11,115.00

1221 5/3/12 \$ 520,871.13

Motion to approve by Mr. Furtado, seconded by Mrs. Abatecola. Vote 5-0.

Home School Request ;V Motion by Mr. Furtado to approve, seconded by Mrs. Abatecola. Vote 5-0.

Approval of Payroll Calendar 2012-13 ;V Motion to approve by Mr. Tellier, seconded by Mrs. Abatecola. Vote 5-0.

Change School Start Times and Bus/Walking Distance ;V Mr. Daft advised that after the Budget Commission met with all departments regarding cost savings, it was decided that changes would be made regarding bus eligibility and walking distances; using a new four-tiered system for buses would save money. Mr. Raymond Linneman, Director Transportation, presented information regarding this proposal which will save \$463,320 per year. A motion was made to approve by Mr. Tellier, seconded by Mr. Furtado. Vote 5-0.

School Breakfast/Lunch Price Increases - Mr. Daft recommended approval of a proposed increase in breakfast and lunch prices; elementary breakfast will increase to \$1.20; secondary to \$1.25; elementary lunch will increase to \$2.35 and secondary lunch to \$2.60;

adult lunch will increase to \$3.60. A motion was made by Mr. Furtado to approve the increases, seconded by Mr. Tellier. Vote 5-0.

New Business

Statewide Bullying Policy ;V Safe School Act ;V First Passage ;V Mr. Daft recommended approval. A motion was made by Mr. Tellier to approve, seconded by Mrs. Abatecola. Vote 5-0.

Fire Department Details ;V Item withdrawn by Mrs. Rossi.

Proposed Cuts from Budget Commission ;V In response to a request by Mrs. Rossi, Mr. Daft stated that at a meeting with the Budget Commission all departments were asked to come up with budget cuts; although he was not comfortable with the cuts, we can live with them; he did not believe that transportation and start time changes would affect the quality of education.

Mrs. Rossi asked if anyone on the Budget Commission had any educational background and why were these cuts not made a year ago when the School Committee was trying to make cuts. Mr. Daft stated that we now have to make some tough decisions due to the economy and our financial situation.

Mr. Furtado asked about the status of the \$7.3 million deficit. Mr. Daft stated that the old deficit was \$3.4 million and it is expected that the total deficit would be paid down by 7/1/12.

Summer Supply Drive - Mrs. Rossi is collecting supplies for students all summer; teachers may send classroom needs/requests to her via email.

Project 106 - Mrs. Rossi explained that Project 106 is a community effort to save middle school sports and to keep children involved in school based athletics; all donations collected will be utilized for that purpose; check www.project106.org for information.

Bradley Hospital iV Balance Owed and Property Taxes - Mrs. Rossi stated that their land and buildings in East Providence are valued at \$34M and they pay zero property taxes; she looked at city tax rolls through Vision appraisals; East Providence is kicking in \$300,000/year; all of the School Departments have students at Bradley; she asked legislators for help on this.

School Redistricting iV Mrs. Rossi asked where this is headed; Mr. Daft explained that the Budget Commission has been looking at school consolidation and those issues are not off the table; all day K, high school and middle schools not full boat; after meeting with Ride our numbers bare out consolidation; if we don't a directive can be imposed by the Budget Commission. It may not be ideal but will not impact students; he does not want to discuss it now; 8th grade at HS; these are administrative team decisions and any changes will be announced at least six months in advance.

Public Comment II ¶V Mary Teixeira ¶V start time changes are being changed to save money; elementary start time is not going to be good for people who work; High School and Middle School could start later; all tests show that older kids do better a later start time; parents will have to pay people to watch kids; she does not understand how this city is under a BC; while Providence has a larger deficit; \$26 mill in deficit; something is wrong with that

Announcements

„X Graduation Date and Last Day of School ¶V Graduation is June 15th and the last day is June 20th.

„X Mr. Tsonos expressed his thanks to all who turned out on April 14th to assist with the Orlo Avenue Playground project.

„X Concerts being held at four schools

„X Mrs. Abatecola recognized all teachers during Teacher Appreciation Week

„X Mrs. Rossi noted that volunteers are still needed for revamp at Oldham School

„X Mr. Furtado announced the EPLAC recognition program on May 10th at 6:30PM

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.

Motion to Return to Public Session and to seal the minutes of the exec session by Mr. Tellier, seconded by Mrs. Abatecola. Vote 5-0.

Report Executive Session Votes ¶ No votes were taken

Motion to adjourn by Mr. Tellier, seconded by Mrs. Abatecola. Vote 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia A. Iannelli, Administrative Assistant

Stephen Furtado, Clerk of the Committee