

# **EAST PROVIDENCE SCHOOL DEPARTMENT**

**East Providence School Committee**

**East Providence City Hall, 145 Taunton Avenue**

**East Providence, Rhode Island 02914**

**June 12, 2012**

## **Open Session**

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

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

## **Student Recognition**

**Mrs. Karen Mellen, Director of the Career & Technical School presented awards to students.**

**Musical Presentation by students from Kent Heights & Hennessey Elementary Schools led by Taylor Temple, music teacher.**

**Andrew Butler was honored for his work as School Committee Student Liaison for the past year.**

**Student Liaison Report – Andrew Butler presented a report on high**

**school events and activities.**

**Report on the City of East Providence Budget Commission - Edward Daft reported that the Commission has been meeting twice monthly and will be negotiating with the teachers' union over the summer; Mr. Catelli is facilitating the moving of administration building staff from Burnside Avenue to City Hall; starting June 25th Attendance and Transportation Departments will be moved to third floor at City Hall. Additional parking spaces may be added near Weaver House in order to accommodate additional employees.**

**Public Comment I – None**

**Interim Superintendent's Report**

**RIDE School Support System Report and Support Plan – Edward Daft requested that Cheryl Ursillo report on the school support visit recently conducted by R.I. Department of Education for compliance monitoring. Ms. Ursillo presented highlights of that report in a PowerPoint Presentation. Areas reviewed were Free and Appropriate Education (FAPE), Least Restrictive Environment, how evaluations were conducted, and age appropriate programs at the HS. Results presented were based on how Special Education is implemented in East Providence. Support Plan developed with corrective action along with a timeline for making corrections; we will have follow up with RIDE at an appropriate time. Entire report available through RI Department of Education.**

**Mrs. Rossi questioned the age of data presented. Ms. Ursillo reported that the special education population has dropped to 19% for various**

**reasons: fewer referrals resulting from RTI, students ageing out of the program or some students no longer needing services.**

**Auditor's Report – Pat Boucher of Bacon & Company LLC presented an overview of the audit report for the year ended October 31, 2011. Particularly noted: Cumulative Deficit (p 15) as of October 31, 2011, of over seven million dollars, which is in non-compliance with RI state law. No new findings in the audit. The report was previously presented to the Budget Commission and will be available on the City's website.**

**Building Committee Report- Edward Daft reported that the starting date for construction work passed without receiving the necessary funds; the City and RIBEC have approved us to receive funds and the focus will be for most of the high school abatement issues to be addressed and will receive a large portion of those funds; most work will be completed in 2013. In response to a question from Mr. Furtado regarding compliance with state inspection, Mr. Catelli stated that he is working with city fire officials, RIDE, and construction manager for the work to begin as soon as school ends. Intercom systems at High School and Martin Middle School will hopefully be addressed at some point in the near future.**

**Personnel Report on Retirements/Resignations/Leaves of Absence – Presented by Edward Daft:**

## **RETIREMENT**

**Raymond Linneman (11 yrs) Approximately 09/01/2012**

**Suzanne O'Neill (24 yrs) Special Education Teacher-Meadowcrest  
Effective end of 2011/2012 School Year**

**Donna Patch (34 yrs) Child Outreach Coordinator-District  
Effective 06/30/2012**

**Elizabeth Graham (24 yrs) Reading Teacher-Francis Elementary  
Effective end of 2011/2012 School Year**

**Lawrence Namerow (11 yrs) Science Teacher – EPHS  
Effective 06/30/2012**

**Francisco Vargas (12 yrs) Custodian-MMS-Nights  
Effective 06/01/2012**

**Elvia Brown (41 yrs) Supervisory Assistant - Whiteknact Elementary  
Effective end of 2011/2012 School Year**

## **RESIGNATION**

**Roger Farmer Conflict Resolution Specialist – EPHS  
Effective 06/28/2012**

**Kelsey Quinones Football Cheerleading Coach - EPHS**

**Effective 05/15/2012**

## **LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

**John Gendron**

**Physical Education Department Head-EPHS-2012/2013 School Year**

**Margaret Furtado**

**Supervisory Assistant – Francis Elementary School –**

**Effective 6/4/2012-6/4/2013**

**Heather Coughlin**

**Summer School English/Language Arts-Effective Summer 2012**

## **FAMILY MEDICAL LEAVE**

**Casey DoVale Grade 3 Teacher – Orlo Elementary- Effective**

**09/04/12-13 weeks**

**Amy Kizzee Biology Teacher – EPHS-Approximately**

**11/26/2012-2/25/2013**

**Marcia Woodside - Effective 09/04/2012-13 weeks**

## **PARENTAL LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

**Delia Nelson Graphic Arts Teacher – CTC- Effective  
06/04/2012-06/20/2012**

## **EDUCATIONAL LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

**Lauren Salzillo Grade 1 Teacher – ORLO  
Effective 2012/2013 School Year**

**Mr. Tsonos thanked all retirees for their service.**

**Mr. Daft presented two additional personnel items:**

### **Resignation**

**Glen Piros, Principal of Martin Middle School, effective June 27, 2012**

### **Leave of Absence**

**Patricia Piros- Business Teacher – High School – 2012-13 School  
Year**

**Mrs. Rossi asked if we will be replacing employees who are leaving.  
Mr. Daft has been given authorization to replace positions (zero  
impact) some to a lower step position; information must go back to  
Budget Commission when filling positions.**

**Mrs. Rossi thanked all retirees for their many years of service.**

## **Consent Agenda**

**Approval of Minutes – Motion by Mrs. Rossi to approve the minutes of the meeting held on May 8, 2012 seconded by Mr. Tellier. Vote 5-0.**

**Finance Report – Ed Daft reviewed report regarding revenues and expenditures as of May 31, 2012.**

**Mr. Furtado asked for information regarding H/R and Finance Positions.**

## **Action Items**

**Personnel Appointments/Recalls**

## **APPOINTMENTS**

**John Gendron - Master Mentor Evaluator - District**

**Darlene Hall - Math Department Head (1yr) - EPHS - 2012/2013 School Year**

**Ellen Will - Science Department Head (1yr) EPHS – 2012/2013 School Year**

**Marianne Walsh - Special Education Department Head MMS Effective 2012/2013 school year**

**Karen Oliveira - Math Department Head-RMS - Effective 2012/2013  
school year**

**RECALLS (21)**

**Joseph Andrade**

**Michael Lefort**

**Alison Bienenfeld**

**Daniel Cabral**

**Kelly Fontaine-Carlos**

**Kelly Reese**

**Arthur Sherman**

**Jessica Vincent**

**Lori Ann Dunn**

**Jessica Pacheco**

**Allison Battis**

**Erin Connors**

**Gretchen Houde**

**Stacey Messier**

**Erin Rupert**

**Alicia Testoni**

**Amanda Holland**

**Marissa Denice**

**Lauren Ferreira**

**Aimee Couto**

**Caitlyn Ahrens**

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

**Requisitions – Bill List**

**Warrant #**

<b>1222</b>	<b>5/11/12</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>160.75</b>
<b>1223</b>	<b>5/30/12</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>254,310.38</b>
<b>1224</b>	<b>6/1/12</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>62,005.73</b>
<b>1225</b>	<b>6/4/12</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>13,110.00</b>
<b>1226</b>	<b>6/4/12</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>1,000.00</b>
<b>1227</b>	<b>6/6/12</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>850,176.07</b>
<b>1228</b>	<b>6/7/12</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>747,848.97</b>
<b>1229</b>	<b>6/7/12</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>252,117.54</b>
<b>1230</b>	<b>6/11/12</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>9,075.00</b>

**Motion by Mrs. Rossi, seconded by Mrs. Abatecola. Vote 5-0.**

**Awarding of Bid (Technology) – Reported by Edward Daft: Bid - Approved by Kelly Ahrens, Chief Information Officer and approved by the Budget Commission:**

**Valley Communications - \$94,358.00 – Smart Boards for Classrooms**

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

**Statewide Bullying Policy – Safe School Act – Second Passage – Motion to approve by Mrs. Rossi, seconded by Mr. Tellier. Vote 5-0.**

**New Business**

**East Providence Local Advisory Committee presented their annual report; Laurie Brown and Jen Enos presented the yearly review. Highlights: Workshops presented for parents and staff; liaison role improving, many attended RIPIN seminars, Special Needs Recognition Program held again this year.**

**The group expressed their concerns about staff reductions, how and when staff will be trained to handle new classrooms, and how the changes will affect students.**

**Informational E-Backpack Presentation - Mrs. Rossi requested information from the Technology Department about the district purchasing Nook or Kindles for high school students which could hold all their textbooks. Kelly Ahrens, Chief Information Officer, presented a PowerPoint presentation on what it would look like to go digital in the school district.**

**Kelly explained that East Providence is using digital resources as much as possible; SmartBoards have been in use in many classrooms. E-books will be considered in the second level of technology, since all books are not yet available from publishers in that format. We have had a new technology infrastructure since 2009 and there is a commitment from East Providence to continue updating technology in the district. If the Kindle becomes available for our books, we will take a look at it. Kelly pointed out we are using Google for Education's online collaboration tools and talked about**

how we would move forward when we are ready to purchase e-text books and the variety of devices and costs. Kelly suggested a pilot program as a model to move forward when possible. Mrs. Rossi asked to explore grants to fund this type of program.

**Response to Intervention (RTI)** Mrs. Rossi presented a PowerPoint presentation explaining RTI program used to fill in gaps for children who need extra help; the program is proactive and preventative for students who are struggling. The levels of support available were reviewed. Ellen Reinhart, School Psychologist, assisted with the presentation. Discussion regarding the challenges involved in meeting students' needs within the new schedule.

## **Public Comment II**

Anthony Ferrera asked about School Committee members' opinion about moving the administration staff to City Hall and if they had received any figures on savings. All agreed that collaboration and consolidation were necessary to save money. He felt the public should be more informed; he asked if an analysis had been done on what the savings would be over five or more years. Mrs. Rossi explained that closing the Burnside Avenue building would save operating expenses; she pointed out that the decision was made by the Budget Commission and the School Committee did not have authority to override their decision.

**Lori Brown asked Mr. Daft to give more details about a program at Waddington as she was informed by parents and staff that classrooms would be closed at Waddington. Mr. Daft stated that the plan is to maintain inclusion in the classes we have; he did not have details on classrooms for next year.**

**Heather Correira spoke regarding her child who attends Meeting Street School and the fact that the district wants to move their child back to a contained classroom in East Providence Schools. They expressed disapproval and have engaged an attorney since they feel the placement is not acceptable to them and they were not consulted about the decision. They feel there is no reason for it except budgetary. Victor Correira spoke about the challenges and burden of raising a special needs child; he expects elected officials to advocate for them; their daughter does very well at Meeting Street School; he believed that regulations were broken and the School Department has little compassion; for them. They want their child to stay in the self-contained classroom as the IEP states.**

**Mr. Daft stated that the district advocates for all children; if issues, there are avenues to address them through RI Department of Education and he asked that they work through that process.**

**Mitzi Page spoke regarding her son; she is frustrated with special education services; she feels her son's health and academic needs are not being met because of a loss of services. Her son requires**

**one on one help and she has informed administration about this. She felt that responses are inaccurate or incomplete. There are nursing and busing issues and she asked the School Committee to take hard look at what is happening to her family.**

**Mrs. Kocon spoke about her child and the importance of inclusion and training of the staff; she read from the School Department mission statement; East Providence is in financial crisis but children continue to need support systems and the school district will be held accountable.**

**Keri Verdone spoke about her child at Meeting Street School; she was advised that her child would be brought back to East Providence Schools and she disagreed with that decision. She has contacted a lawyer and wanted everyone to know how much this will cost East Providence; she understands the financial crisis, but surprised that the city has come to this.**

**Tracy Raposo, Teacher at Whiteknact, School, hosted a diversity event on June 1st through an arts grant; thanked School Committee members, community members, and families who attended with their children and brought food; thanks to all for helping out.**

**Announcements – Edward Daft reminded all that Graduation will be held on Friday, June 15, 2012 at 6:30PM. Everyone is welcome to attend at Pierce Field.**

**Motion 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 Mrs. Abatecola.**

**Return to Public Session – Motion by Mr. Furtado to seal the minutes of the Executive Session, seconded by Mr. Tellier. Vote 5-0. Motion by Mr. Furtado to return to open session, seconded by Mr. Tellier. Vote 5-0.**

**Report Executive Session Votes – No Votes taken.**

**Motion to adjourn by Mr. Furtado, seconded by Mr. Tellier. Vote 5-0.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Patricia A. Iannelli, Administrative Assistant**

**Stephen Furtado, Clerk of the Committee**