

**EAST PROVIDENCE SCHOOL DEPARTMENT**

**East Providence School Committee**

**East Providence City Hall**

**145 Taunton Avenue**

**East Providence, Rhode Island 02914**

**November 13, 2012**

**Open Session**

**Mr. Tsonos called the meeting to order at 6:00PM. School Committee Members present: Luisa Abatecola, Stephen Furtado, Chrissy Rossi, Ryan Tellier, Charles Tsonos. Also present: Dr. John V. DeGoes, Interim Superintendent, and Robert Silva, Esq.**

**Motion 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); and Litigation/Pending Litigation -R.I. Gen. Laws §42-46-5(a)(2) Motion seconded by Mr. Tellier. Vote 5-0.**

**The School Committee returned to Public Session; motion by Mr. Furtado to return to public session seconded by Mrs. Abatecola. Vote 5-0. Motion by Mr. Furtado to seal the minutes of the executive session, seconded by Mr. Tellier**

**Report Executive Session Votes - No votes were taken**

**Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag & Moment of Silence was observed in memory of Jean Pacheco.**

**Chair's Report & Welcome to New Members**

**Mr. Tsonos introduced the newly elected members of the School Committee.**

**Joel Monteiro stated that he appreciated the opportunity to introduce himself and was looking forward to serving the City of East Providence and its students; he urged all to ask questions, provide feedback, and work together.**

**Elizabeth Klupny thanked everyone for the opportunity and is looking forward to working with everyone for a better school system for our students.**

**Anthony Ferreira hoped that all will help to support the School Committee and is looking forward to working with the new City Council.**

**Richard Pimental thanked everyone for inviting new School Committee members; all will do best they can to get sports back in**

**the schools and the city back in shape.**

**Mr. Conley thanked the School Committee for efforts on behalf of the schools ; he looks forward to assisting the School Department in reaching its potential.**

**Mr. Tsonos thanked all new members for attending; wished God speed to all; over two years it has not been pleasant with what has happened to the city and he would like to see things get back on track.**

**Coach McEnery provided an update on Golf Team fundraising which was up to \$6000 as of August.**

**Student/Staff Recognition – Dr. DeGoes congratulated the following:**

**Waddington School –teacher, Melissa Guillet, who was named Audubon Educator of the Year; the award has brought distinction to Waddington School, the school system, and the City.**

**Whiteknact School – Crayola Grant – Dr. Lima, Principal, related that the school received a \$3,000 grant through the efforts of the parent group, to enhance math learning with the arts and diversity.**

**Special Education Department Commendation –The East Providence Special Education Director/Department and Special Ed Census**

**Personnel received a special commendation letter from RI Department of Education for 100% compliance for 2011-12.**

**East Providence School Department Donation to the RI Community Food Bank - Fatima Avila, Principal at Kent Heights coordinated the collection of food at the Townie Parade through collaboration between the city and schools.**

**Dr. DeGoes stated this is just a small example of what takes place in our schools.**

**Student Liaison Report – Joshua Concepcion- presented a report on high school activities and events**

**Report on City of East Providence Budget Commission - Dr. DeGoes stated that at the last Budget Commission meeting, a public hearing was held on the 2013 budget and the budget was approved following that hearing.**

**Mrs. Rossi noted that the Budget Commission shorted the School Department \$6 million by appropriating less; she questioned maintenance of effort and has not received an answer from RI Department of Education. She did not agree that this is a balanced budget; we could not make it or end up short at end; expenditures as of 10/31 show spent 93% but she was not sure where the money went; there is \$5 million unaccounted for and asked if it was used to pay the deficit off. The new School Committee should make this a**

**priority with the new consolidated Finance Department Director.**

### **Public Comment I**

**Mr. Riley, 3620 Pawtucket Ave, Riverside commented that we are just handing over the \$6 million deficit to the new School Committee.**

**Mrs. Rossi stated that how the year end closing worked out may be fine, but she has not received a response on the \$6 million less appropriated from the city.**

### **Interim Superintendent's Report**

**Personnel Report on Retirements/Resignations/Leaves of Absence reported:**

### **RESIGNATIONS**

**Maria Mansella - Part Time MME-District - Effective 10/26/2012**

**Candace Andrade - RTI Specialist-Francis-Effective 2012/2013 School Year**

**Candace Andrade - RTI Team-Francis-Effective 2012/2013 School Year**

**Santo DiGati Art Teacher-EPHS-Effective 10/11/2012**

**Alison Bienenfeld English Teacher-EPHS-Effective 10/31/2012**

### **LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

**Jennifer Carlson School Nurse-MM-Effective 10/12/2012**

## **RETURN FROM LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

**Leanne Walker-Beard Supervisory Assistant-KH-Effective 10/22/2012**

## **FAMILY MEDICAL LEAVE ACT**

**Jessica Vincent -Special Ed Teacher-Mead-Approximately  
12/17/2012-4/1/2013**

**Cari Pedro-English Teacher-EPHS-Approximately 2/25/2013-13 Weeks**

## **Consent Agenda**

**Approval of Minutes - Motion by Mr. Tellier to approve the minutes of the meetings held on 9/25/12 and 10/9/12, seconded by Mrs. Abatecola. Vote 5-0.**

**Finance Report – Dr. DeGoes indicated that projected revenue spent 93 ½%; books not closed for the year as there are purchases in the pipeline; will end the year in a balanced manner since less spent than appropriated.**

**Discussion: Mr. Furtado asked about tuitions; Mrs. Rossi noted there are many one time savings in this budget, which was constructed by the Budget Commission. Dr. DeGoes noted that he had no input so he does not know what it is based on.**

## **Action Items**

**Personnel Appointments**

**SUPERINTENDENT’S PERSONNEL RECOMMENDATIONS: Presented**

by Mr. Furtado, Clerk:

## APPOINTMENTS

**Karen Higbie Severe/Profound Teacher-EPHS-Effective 10/12/2012**

**Linda Humphey Science Teacher-RMS-Effective 10/29/2012**

**Katharine Barker ELL Teacher-MMS-Effective 10/22/2012**

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

## Requisitions – Bill List

### Warrant #

**1263 10/11/12 \$ 1,237,793.54**

**1264 10/11/12 \$ 746,776.32**

**1265 10/18/12 \$ 655.77**

**1266 10/18/12 \$ 2,269.84**

**1267 10/23/12 \$ 1,659.35**

**1268 10/31/12 \$ 434,382.91**

**1269 11/1/12 \$ 1,330.00**

**1270 11/1/12 \$ 68,757.51**

**1271 11/2/12 \$ 86,947.78**

**1272 11/7/12 \$ 952,742.17**

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

**Requests for Home Schooling – Motion to approve by Mrs. Rossi,**

**seconded by Mrs. Abatecola.**

**Vote 5-0.**

**Field Trip Requests Career/Technical School – DECA Students–  
Motion by Mrs. Rossi to approve, seconded by Mr. Tellier. Vote 5-0;  
Martin Middle School Eighth Grade Students – Motion by Mrs. Rossi  
to approve, seconded by Mr. Tellier. Vote 5-0.**

### **Old Business**

**Visual Support Classroom at Meadowcrest - Mrs. Abatecola questioned if the program was being kept; although this was discussed at another meeting, but she heard again that it was being changed. Dr. DeGoes responded that similar to his report last month, he spoke to staff when visiting the building ; it is an outstanding program we can be proud of. The program involves 3-4 year old children with varying degrees of difficulty and the amount of time depends on their needs and is decided by teacher /team through meetings with parents. It has been suggested that the change generated at Central Office but the idea originated at the school. These decisions were never made to save the city money; the program is in place and will continue serving those in both programs.**

### **New Business**

**PTA Reports – Izilda Teves – Orlo Avenue School reported that the playground project is almost complete; she thanked everyone who**

**supported it, including volunteers and city employees.**

**Mr. Tellier congratulated parents who raised \$4200 at the Kent Heights Fun Run which will be split between the music and physical education departments. Mr. Tellier was congratulated on his appointment as the new President of Kent Heights PTA.**

**Pupil Personnel Newsletter – Dr. DeGoes commented on the newsletter sent to parents regarding the special needs program, and wished to bring to the attention of the School Committee regarding the good work generated at the School Department for students and parents.**

## **Public Comment II**

**Jen, parent, commented about the Visual support class; she had a child in the program.**

**Steve Prew offered thanks to all personally and professionally and looks forward to working with the new School Committee.**

**Mr. Riley – Budget Commission was quoted in the newspaper they would not allow the School Department to benefit from the \$6 million forked over for the previous mess to dis-incentivize any effort to repeat it. Mrs. Rossi commented that federal dollars are riding on it; she had a concern with a decrease from the city; maintenance of**

effort should be 90% or we will lose federal money. Mr. Riley felt that \$6 million had been dragged around for years and this was an effort to clear up past due bills. Mrs. Rossi answered that the \$6 million was not part of that; \$1.8 was set aside for the deficit; this will jeopardize federal funding. Mr. Riley answered there should not be increase in the budget for money spent ten years ago and the department should stay within the money allocated in the budget.

Izilda Teves of Orlo Avenue School notified police this morning that a crossing guard was not present; there are more parents coming to pick up students and getting ticketed by the police in the afternoon.

Announcements – Fundraiser for Taylor Marshall on December 2nd - Pasta Dinner at Brightridge- \$15 tickets available through Mrs. Rossi, Mrs. Abatecola and Mr. Ferreira.

Mr. Furtado announced the Citizens Scholarship Breakfast on 11/24/12.

Mr. Tellier expressed thanks to the School Committee and to the writer.

Mrs. Rossi thanked teachers, staff and principals for an amazing School Department; she has found it heartwarming to see the progress in the schools; she is leaving schools in good hands and will ask to be the City Council liaison to the new School Committee

**and continue to work together.**

**Mrs. Abatecola wished Good Luck to new School Committee members; Mr. Furtado thanked Dr. DeGoes and the writer; wished the best to new School Committee members.**

**Mr. Tsonos expressed thanks to the writer, Mr. Silva and partners for all continued success; thanks to Dr. DeGoes for helping to steady the ship; thanks to teachers who keep the schools going.**

**John DeGoes thanked the School Committee for work, time, and effort on behalf of the city and schools.**

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

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Patricia A. Iannelli, Administrative Assistant**

**Stephen Furtado, Clerk of the Committee**

---

**Elizabeth Clupny, Clerk of the Committee**

**Accepted by School Committee January 10, 2013**