

# **EAST PROVIDENCE SCHOOL DEPARTMENT**

**East Providence School Committee**

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

**East Providence, Rhode Island 02914**

**March 12, 2013**

## **Open Session**

**Joel Monteiro, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 6:30PM.**

**Members present: Elizabeth Clupny, Timothy Conley, Anthony Ferreira, Richard Pimental, Joel Monteiro. Also present: John DeGoes, Interim Superintendent; Robert Silva, Esq. and Andrew Thomas, Esq. School Committee Counsel.**

**Motion by Ms. Clupny to 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. Pimental. Vote 5-0.**

**Motion by Ms. Clupny to return to Public Session and to seal the minutes of the executive session, seconded by Mr. Pimental. Vote 5-0.**

**Report Executive Session Votes – None**

**Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag & Moment of Silence were observed in memory of Jean Kern, a former librarian, and others who have recently passed.**

**Student/Staff Recognition – John DeGoes reported that as part of Youth Art Month, School Superintendents were asked to endorse art education in our schools; Dr. DeGoes congratulated art teachers who do an outstanding job and add a vital component to students' education.**

**Student Liaison Report – Joshua Conception presented a report on high school activities and events.**

**Report on Budget Commission – John DeGoes reported that at the last meeting on February 28th, the Budget Commission announced they would be wrapping up duties and leaving at the end of March, returning responsibilities to City Council and School Committee. It was reported that a state appointed overseer will be monitoring the five year budget adopted by the city and schools; both will have to manage budgets within that framework.**

**Public Comment – Fred Rybka asked Dr. DeGoes about the schedule for a tour of the Meadowcrest building for Oldham parents. Dr. DeGoes stated that because staff occupy classrooms, the visit would be best on a Saturday before spring break and he will try to set up the**

**visit on the Saturday prior to vacation week.**

**Mr. Ferreira noted that in meeting with the Facilities Director, Mr. Ed Catelli; the plans have been finalized; the School Committee will receive a copy and the plans will be available to the public upon request; no changes will be made to the plans, unless approved by the School Committee and City Council.**

**Interim Superintendent's Report – Dr. DeGoes requested that Anthony Feola, High School Facilities Manager report on how the funds from a School Safety grant will be used.**

**Mr. Feola reported that the department received a grant (UASI \$40,000) through a partnership between the schools and police to be completed by March 31, 2013. As a result, the grant funds will be used as follows: 16 new cameras for the High School, card access at Martin Middle School and Riverside Middle School; and, door access and camera at the Career and Technical Center. A total of \$37,150 will be reimbursed to the department through the grant.**

**Dr. DeGoes reported that all elementary schools have card access systems and cameras except Whiteknact School; however, by the end of March, all elementary schools will be on line with card access Elementary and Middle Schools lock-downs will be completed and work is continuing on security issues at the High School. Discussion regarding doors being propped open and the possibility of instituting**

**a policy for disciplinary action for students, staff.**

**Superintendent recommended that the issue be left with the Principal and administrators at the building level regarding building rules. Ms. Clupny and Mr. Ferreira agreed on having a policy to be enforced harshly about propping doors open. Discussion regarding who has access to the cameras**

**Ms. Clupny reiterated that she has a problem with the door and would like the issue to be looked at.**

**Lt. Blinn spoke regarding the role of the East Providence Police Department; their mission is to look at the schools in a practical sense and make recommendations for change; the intent is to delay the progression of a lethal event; if people in the buildings leave weak spots that should be addressed immediately. Lt. Blinn reported that two schools have School Resource Officers on staff and that police officers are making an effort to be more visible around the schools.**

**Mr. Ferreira was concerned with discussing security practices and procedures at public meetings; faith should be placed in the hands of staff in the schools; he questioned what might be done at Whiteknact to install card access there. Lt. Blinn agreed regarding discussion of security issues in public; however, he would like people to know that procedures are in place in the event of an emergency. Mr. Feola added that there may be opportunities to apply for additional security related grants in the near future.**

**ITT Update – Dr. DeGoes requested that Kelly Ahrens, Chief Information Officer for the city and schools, provide an update on technology. Kelly reported that three new people are now on board with two assigned to schools to begin clearing up work orders; she is working with the Finance Director to plan for additional equipment and staff needed to complete installation of new computers and computer labs in the schools in preparation for state content assessment (PARCC testing) by 2015.**

**School Committee members expressed support and asked that Ms. Ahrens continue to communicate with them regarding IT Department needs. Discussion took place regarding the funds to purchase equipment and to hire personnel needed for implementation. Finance Director, Malcolm Moore reported that through ongoing savings, the School Committee can decide how those funds will be allocated.**

**A report was presented on the results of the 2012 NECAP Testing. (Rebekah Gendron) Presented a PowerPoint Presentation. Discussion and questions followed.**

**Dr. DeGoes commented that too many students are leaving high school and are not ready for college; when students are on a standardized curriculum, they will be better able to move successfully from one grade to next. Mr. Ferreira expressed concerns about making sure this is the right way to go and that students are being**

helped. Dr. DeGoes responded that all need to put trust in the professionals who are working to accomplish results by working collectively with Middle School teachers so expectations at the High School are understood at the Middle School level.

**Middle School Sports Update – Dr. DeGoes reported that both Middle Schools will be participating in baseball and softball programs through fundraisers by a number of groups and volunteer efforts by coaches. A meeting with legal counsel to address questions of liability; Middle School Interscholastic League and transportation issues are being worked on. Mr. Monteiro thanked Project 106 and applauds coaches for stepping up. Mr. Conley noted that two organizations have been raising money for the Middle School sports programs; \$106,000 is a big number; everyone needs to thank them for their efforts.**

## **Consent Agenda**

**Finance report - Dr. DeGoes reported that the total budget was \$71,060,251; revenues are at 26.48% and expenditures at 34.49% according to the February 28th report; there are no issues at this time; will continue to consult with the Controller. Mr. Monteiro requested that the School Committee also receive a more detailed report which would be very helpful in reviewing the finances.**

## **Payment of Bills:**

## **Warrants**

**#1298 2/14/13 \$ 512.68**

**#1299 2/21/13 \$52,800.00**

**#1300 3/7/13 \$242,829.40**

**#1301 3/8/13 \$2,384,951.24**

**ERP Financial Management System – Finance Director, Malcom Moore, requested that the School Committee award the bid for a new system to Sungard K-12 Education, the low bidder with the most clients in RI. The City Council has already approved the award. The city has budgeted \$500,000 for the upgrade and there will be savings in future years by decreasing the maintenance fees by \$100,000 to be split between city and schools. Discussion: the new system will allow the city to be on one platform which will result in efficiencies within the consolidated departments of Finance, Human Resources and Information Technology. Additionally, with this this new system, the school district will have online purchasing and allow schools the ability to track purchase orders and receive up to date information. Mr. Monteiro requested a motion to approve the bid award to Sungard Financial Systems; Motion by Mr. Conley, seconded by Mr. Pimental. Vote 5-0.**

**Mr. Ferreira commented on the amount of money to be saved each year; Mr. Moore stated that the \$100,000 savings will be split between the city and schools to be directed toward infrastructure; he will work with the IT Director on technology needs.**

**Appointment of the Superintendent of Schools – Mr. Monteiro stated that he received an official letter from Diane Brennan, Chair of the Budget Commission, expressing clear recommendation of the appointment of Kim Mercer as Superintendent of East Providence Schools, effective March 25, 2013 subject to final vote of the Budget Commission and successful contract negotiations. A motion was made by Mr. Conley to approve the recommendation, seconded by Mr. Ferreira. Roll Call Vote: Mr. Conley, aye; Mr. Ferreira, aye, Ms. Clupny aye; Mr. Pimental, aye; Mr. Monteiro, aye. Vote 5-0. All expressed congratulations to Superintendent Mercer.**

**Mr. Monteiro expressed sincere thanks to Dr. DeGoes for his service as Interim Superintendent and he was given a standing ovation by the School Committee. Mr. Monteiro and the School Committee thanked Dr. DeGoes for stepping in during a difficult time to assist the district and School Committee.**

## **Action Items**

### **Personnel Appointments**

**Kimberly Mercer – Superintendent of Schools - Effective 3/25/13**

**Kristen Cobb – 1:1 Teacher Assistant – Whiteknact – Effective 2/25/13  
– (Emergency Hire) from PT-FT**

**Mylissa Moon – Early Childhood Coordinator – Effective 3/5/13 – End of School Year**

## **Retirements**

**Jeanne Osmanski – Grade 3 Teacher-Waddington – Effective end of 12/13 school year**

**Patricia McKenney-Resource Teacher-Francis-Effective end of 12/13 school year**

## **Resignations**

**Kristin Trahan – Yearbook Advisor-High School – Effective 6/28/13**

**Kathy Dias- Boys Tennis Head Coach-High School-Effective 1/31/13**

**Deb Bellamy-Boys Outdoor Tack Asst. Coach-High School-Effective 1/31/13**

**Richard Silva-National Honor Society Advisor-High School-Effective 7/1/13**

**Jane Sylvia-Supervisor of Early Childhood-Meadowcrest-Effective 7/1/13**

**Julianne Socci-Business Teacher-High School-Effective 3/31/13**

## **Leaves of Absence**

**Amy Kizzee-Science Teacher-High School-3/4/13-End of School Year**

**Patricia Piros-Business Teacher-High School-Effective 13-14 School Year (Year 2)**

**Mylissa Moon-Kindergarten-Oldham-Effective 3/5/13**

**Tracey Raposo-ELL Teacher-Whiteknact-Effective 13/14 School Year**

**Ellen Reinhardt-School Psychologist-Silver Spring-Effective 3/25/13 – End of School Year**

**Summer School Proposal – Janet Sheehan, High School Principal, outlined the details of a proposal for a NECAP Summer Math Intervention Camp to be held from July 22nd to August 23, 2013 in fulfillment of RIDE regulations. The goal of the camp is to improve the knowledge and skills of the juniors in specific math areas so they are better prepared to show growth on the NECAP assessment in the fall as seniors. The cost is estimated at \$17,200; Ms. Sheehan requested that the School Committee approve the funds from the operating budget and not from the High School budget. Discussion took place; there were concerns about putting guidelines in place to ensure that students attend and how the program would be funded. Ms. Sheehan was confident that the students accept their responsibility to actively participate in order to meet the requirements for graduation. Dr. DeGoes recommended that the School Committee support this program; he has identified funds in the operating budget which can be directed toward this summer math program. Mr. Ferreira wished to donate funds toward this cause. A motion was made by Mr. Pimental to approve, seconded by Mr. Ferreira. Vote 5-0.**

**Mr. Monteiro asked for more information regarding setting up a program for Middle School students; both Middle School Principal, Mr. DeVall and Mr. Prew, spoke in favor of setting up a program at that level. Mr. DeVall commented that we have to help students meet their needs and they have already identified students at his school**

**who will need help.**

## **Home School Requests - None**

### **PTA Reports**

**Jessica Beauchaine of the Waddington PTA stated that last year the PTA purchased four SmartBoards for Waddington School with proceeds from a pasta fundraiser; this year the pasta fundraiser will be held on April 5th at Riverside Middle School. She thanked Dr. DeGoes for his service.**

**Ryan Tellier congratulated Superintendent Mercer on her appointment and thanked Dr. DeGoes for his service. He explained that Kent Heights School will hold a silent auction to benefit the gym and invited all attend.**

### **Public Comments**

**Valarie Lawson, President, EPEA, and Fatima Avila, Vice President of the Principals' Association, expressed thanks to Dr. DeGoes and welcomed Kim Mercer as the new Superintendent.**

**Fred Rybka thanked Dr. DeGoes for his service. In response to his question regarding where the funds came from for the summer program, Dr. DeGoes responded funds were from an administrative position which was not filled.**

**Izilda Teves, Orlo Avenue PTA requested an update as to when teachers would have cards for entry to the school.**

**Announcements – Mr. Monteiro noted that a Spring Fair would be held at Martin Middle School on March 23rd; and an Easter Egg Hunt on March 23rd.**

**Interim Superintendent Remarks – Dr. DeGoes thanked everyone for their support and the trust placed in him. During the time he was here, he worked with great people working toward one goal. He congratulated Kim Mercer on her appointment as Superintendent.**

**A motion was made by Mr. Pimental to adjourn, seconded by Ms. Clupny. Vote 5-0.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Patricia A. Iannelli, Administrative Assistant**

**Elizabeth Clupny, Clerk of the Committee**