

EAST PROVIDENCE SCHOOL DEPARTMENT

East Providence School Committee

East Providence City Hall – Conference Room 308

145 Taunton Avenue

East Providence, Rhode Island 02914

May 30, 2013

Open Session

Mr. Monteiro, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 6:15 PM.

Members present: Joel Monteiro, Timothy J. Conley, Elizabeth A. Clupny, Anthony Ferreira, and Richard Pimentel. Also present Superintendent Kimberly Mercer and Andrew Thomas, Esq. Motion by Ms. Clupny, seconded by Mr. Pimentel to convene in Executive Session for the purposes of discussing: (1) Personnel – R.I. Gen Laws §42-46-5(a)(1) Personnel Hearing, any persons to be discussed have been notified and advised they may require discussion to take place in an open session; (2) Litigation/Pending Litigation – R.I. Gen Laws §42-46-5(a)(2). Vote 5-0

Motion by Mr. Pimentel, seconded by Ms. Clupny to return to public session at 7:00 PM.

Vote 5-0.

Motion by Ms. Clupny to seal the minutes of the executive session, seconded by Mr. Pimentel. Vote 5-0.

Report Executive Session Votes: Ms. Clupny reported that in the matter concerning Personnel, the School Committee voted 4-1 to approve the Superintendent's recommendation and the Memorandum regarding the same.

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag and Moment of Silence observed.

Bradley Contract-Nullification of Automatic Renewal in Current Contract

Superintendent Mercer explained that under the current contract with Bradley there was an automatic renewal provision that needs to be addressed. If the School Department does not notify Bradley before June 1, 2013 that it elects to terminate the contract, then the contract automatically renews for an additional term of five years beyond the initial term which ends at the close of the 2013-2014 school year. On May 23rd Superintendent Mercer met with Bradley representatives. At the meeting there was a discussion regarding the fact that many provisions in the contract are outdated and need revision. We should negotiate a new contract which would replace the existing one. The Bradley contract with East Providence was the first of its kind, and since the time that our contract was entered into, Bradley now has a new format for contracts. Bradley provided a template of what it

currently uses for a contract. The Superintendent has been working on drafting updates and revisions for a new contract that would replace Bradley's current contract. We should negotiate a new contract with Bradley.

Mr. Conley indicated that the district should do a detailed financial analysis to determine if we can sustain a contract with Bradley. In the past, the district had accumulated a four million dollar deficit to Bradley.

Mr. Monteiro said that Bradley was interested in increasing the spaces that it uses at Martin Middle School. He had concerns about the safety of non-Bradley students sharing facilities with Bradley students; there is a shared bathroom. If Bradley is looking for additional space, then we might want to look at having Bradley pay for installing a dedicated bathroom for Bradley students that would not be shared.

Mr. Ferreira indicated that Bradley was a business, and he was apprehensive about what happens when a business is brought into the school.

Ms. Clupny discussed that someone should be monitoring how much is being paid to Bradley. In the case of an individual student's plan what services are needed, for how long, and how is this being monitored so that we do not overpay.

Motion by Mr. Ferreira, seconded by Mr. Pimentel to send Bradley notice as set forth in the Superintendent's and School Committee Chair's letter so as to stop automatic renewal of the contract. Vote 5-0 to send notice as set forth in the Superintendent's and School Committee Chair's letter.

EP High School Pool

Superintendent Mercer explained that the swimming pool at the High School needed extensive repairs and asked Edward Catelli to provide a report. Mr. Catelli indicated that the repairs needed for the pool would cost in the range of 3.7 million dollars and upwards.

Mr. Conley inquired about where things stood with the pool at this point in time. Mr. Catelli explained that the Building Inspector was probably going to order that the pool be shut down. Mr. Conley expressed that it was a sad day when we have to shut down the pool because of neglect.

Mr. Monteiro requested: 1) a list of everyone who uses the pool and who has been contacted about it being closed; and, 2) to find out what options exist to accommodate our students who use the pool. Mr. Monteiro expects the Superintendent to delegate this task and assign responsibility for gathering the information.

Mr. Ferreira discussed pool closure options. The only viable option is to close the pool. If the cost today of rehabbing the pool is \$3.7 million, then each year that passes the cost will increase significantly.

There are many other problems at the High School that need attention.

Mr. Catelli indicated that tomorrow there was to be a meeting with the committee on school accreditation. Five years ago the accreditation committee had inspected the High School and had come up with a list of deficiencies that needed to be corrected. Mr. Catelli first saw this list just a few weeks ago. In the time since being advised of the deficiencies by the accreditation committee, no one has gone out to obtain estimates as to what it will cost to correct those deficiencies. A serious problem with the plumbing at the High School also exists that will cost millions to address.

Motion by Mr. Ferreira, seconded by Mr. Pimentel to close the pool at the end of the school year. Vote 5-0 to close the pool at the end of the school year.

Public Comment

A Project 106 parent addressed the School Committee regarding her concerns about what accommodations would be made for students who now use the pool.

Chrissy Rossi asked the School Committee to consider not turning

over Oldham just yet because of planned new construction in East Providence that would bring additional students into the district. Additional classroom space would be needed.

Frederick Rybka presented a sign for Oldham School, and was thanked for all of his efforts by the School Committee.

Motion to adjourn by Ms. Clupny, seconded by Mr. Pimentel. Vote: 5-0

Adjourn 7:50 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Andrew A. Thomas, Legal Counsel

Elizabeth Clupny, Clerk of the Committee