

**EAST PROVIDENCE SCHOOL DEPARTMENT**

**East Providence School Committee**

**East Providence City Hall Council Chamber**

**145 Taunton Avenue**

**East Providence, Rhode Island 02914**

**June 11, 2013**

**Open Session**

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

**Members present: Joel Monteiro, Timothy J. Conley, Elizabeth A. Clupny, Anthony Ferreira, and Richard Pimentel. Also present Superintendent Kimberly Mercer, Director of Education Julie Motta, and School Committee Counsels Robert M. Silva, and Andrew Thomas.**

**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. Pimentel.**

**Vote 5-0.**

**Motion by Ms. Clupny to return to Public Session at 7:00PM and to seal the minutes of the Executive Session, seconded by Mr. Pimentel.**

**Vote 5-0.**

**Report Executive Session Votes – None**

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

**Student/Staff Recognition – Julie Motta, Director of Education, presented citations to:**

**Career Technical School Students; Jessica Beauchaine of the Waddington PTA and Izilda Teves of the Orlo Avenue PTA and Playground Committee.**

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

**Report on Budget Commission – Superintendent Kim Mercer reported that on May 23, 2013, the Budget Commission approved a request to post positions for a full time nurse, a 3/5 nurse and a school psychologist.**

### **Public Comment I**

**Fred Rybka asked for information about check boxes on the city tax bills to donate money to the Middle School sports fund. Mr. Monteiro answered that any questions should be addressed to the City Council; he was unsure how that would be worked out and hoped to have a discussion with the Finance Director at another meeting to obtain details.**

**Kathy Conley, Waddington PTA spoke about the fact that the alarm system at Waddington School was not working properly; she wanted**

to know who signed off on it being OK and how do we get the problem corrected. Mr. Catelli, Facilities Director, responded that the Fire Department goes through each school and an outside company tests on a quarterly basis; all of our schools are up to code. The problem at Waddington occurred because the horn was not loud enough; this and others will be corrected over the summer. Hopefully over the next several years we will be making life/safety improvements and prioritizing the items which need to be corrected. We are now in the third phase of construction with quite a lot of work still left to be completed. Mrs. Conley asked for a guarantee that Waddington will be done.

Tim Conley shared the same concerns along with other School Committee members that it is an antiquated system with no plan for infrastructure investment. Mr. Conley noted there will be a greater amount of special needs children at Waddington next year and asked if the work will be done for school opening in September.

Mr. Catelli stated that this is a high priority; these are needs from 20 years ago; the pool, doors, egress issues; these are hard issues when there is no money for infrastructure.

Mrs. Conley stated that disabilities should take precedence; she asked if the Fire Chief tests the system and what is his comfort level with the system. Mr. Catelli responded that it is mandated that the alarm company send reports to the Fire Department. Fire alarms are

**in a specialized field; the Fire Department does not have staff to check all the buildings.**

**Superintendent, Kim Mercer, advised that she and Mr. Catelli met with the staff at Waddington; the alarm is outside of the room and the teacher was playing loud music and did not hear the alarm in that room. The entire PA and alarm systems will have full upgrades which will be completed before school opens.**

**Fred Rybka asked if electricians are pulling permits and stated that the Fire Department does walk-through after installations. Mr. Catelli responded that the Fire Department assists us in getting the help we need and then checks when the system is put in; the high school took a whole day with an army of people checking every device; a legitimate company was hired to do the testing. Mr. Catelli can't say enough about how the Fire Department has fought for systems/alarms in schools in accordance with the law.**

## **Superintendent's Report**

### **Personnel Report on Resignations/Leave of Absence/Retirement**

#### **RETIREMENT**

**Barbara Bell (22 years) Speech Pathologist-Hennessey-End of 2012-2013 School Year**

**James Barron (24 years) Guidance Counselor-EPHS-Effective 06/27/201**

**Sheralyn Neuner (23 years) Special  
Education/Resource-RMS-Effective 07/01/2013**

#### **RESIGNATION**

**Steven Fratiello Controller-District-Effective 06/07/2013**

**Lauren Salzillo Elementary Teacher-Following 2 Year Educational  
Leave of Absence Effective 05/24/2013**

**Margaret Furtado Supervisory Assistant-Effective 06/01/2013**

#### **LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

**Megan King Grade 2 Teacher-Francis (Year 2)-Effective 2013/2014  
School Year**

**David Britto Principal-Hennessey-Effective 2013/2-14 School Year**

**Laurie Marchand Summer School Math Teacher-Effective  
Summer-2013**

#### **PARENTAL LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

**Ann Ackerman- Grade 5 Teacher-Waddington-2013/1014 School Year**

#### **FAMILY MEDICAL LEAVE ACT**

**Mary Snow Resource Teacher-MMS-Effective 06/21/2013-11/18 /2013**

#### **JOB SHARE**

**Darlene Hale and Linda Capone - Math Teachers-EPHS-Effective  
2013/2014 School Year**

**Facilities Update – Mr. Catelli explained that he is in the process of**

putting the priority items out to bid; because the bids are coming in over \$9 million dollars, we have to go back out and re-prioritize items, taking things out in order to land within the \$6 million dollar range.

Mr. Ferreira requested information on the first and second proposals so that the School Committee will know where the \$3 Million was short. Mr. Catelli stated that he, along with the Superintendent and Project Manager, will prioritize the items. Mr. Ferreira asked who determined which life safety items needed to be done with the original \$15 million.

Mr. Catelli answered that the Department of Health required that all asbestos be removed at the high school. The Department of Health and the State Fire Marshall prioritized the worst Life Safety items and the high school asbestos removal. Waddington has an obsolete fire system which needs to be updated; PA systems at the high school, Martin Middle School and Waddington are major and big dollar issues.

Mr. Ferreira would like the deleted items to be identified because he wants to be clear on what is not getting done; we need a plan going forward; everyone has to know what we are not doing and how to fund it over the next two to three years; if the professionals say we have to do it, it is not on the back burner. Mr. Catelli agreed that we need a capital fund and a five year plan. Mr. Ferreira felt that the public should know the plan going forward and be assured that their

tax dollars will go toward those particular projects. Mr. Catelli responded that the architects and consultants have a very good idea of capital improvements going forward; it is up to the School Committee to get the City Council to provide funds in the budget to bring the schools up to par.

**Volunteer Background Checks – Attorney Andrew Thomas advised the School Committee regarding a new law enacted in May (16-2-18.4) related to individuals who volunteer in schools which states that: “any person who is a current or perspective volunteer of a private school or public school department and who may have direct and unmonitored contact with children and/or students on school premises, shall undergo a state criminal background check to be initiated prior to or within one week of commencement of such volunteer work.” Criminal background checks are done at the Office of the Attorney General, which will notify the school department if any disqualifying information is revealed (23-17-37). Attorney Thomas explained that the operative words which cause him to be cautious are “if volunteer may have direct or unmonitored contact; “may” causes concern; the question is what is the nature of the volunteer’s work on school premises.**

## **Consent Agenda**

**Approval of Minutes - Motion by Ms. Clupny to approve the minutes of the meetings held on March 12, and April 9, 2013, seconded by Mr.**

**Pimentel. Vote 5-0.**

**Finance Report – Kim Mercer reported Revenues of \$43,586,396 and expenditures of \$43,285,510.**

### **Action Items**

#### **Personnel Appointments**

#### **APPOINTMENTS**

**Karen Johnson School Psychologist-Effective 06/03/2013**

**Tracey Bradley 3/5-5/5 School Nurse-MMS-Effective 5/24/2013**

**Sue Mungovan 3/5 School Nurse-Private Schools-Effective 5/24/2013\**

**Motion to approve by Ms. Clupny, seconded by Mr. Pimentel. Vote 5-0.**

#### **Requisitions – Bill List**

#### **Warrant #**

**1311 5/16/13 \$ 673.32**

**1312 5/22/13 \$ 26.91**

**1315 6/4/13 880.00**

**1316 6/5/13 \$ 2,170,689.02**

**1317 6/7/13 \$ 368,495.40**

**Motion to approve by Ms. Clupny, seconded by Mr. Pimentel. Vote 5-0.**

## **Old Business**

**PTA Reports – Orlo Avenue School will hold an Appreciation Cookout on June 15th.**

## **New Business**

**YMCA Summer Learning Program –Jeanine Achin, District Executive Director of the YMCA, addressed the School Committee regarding a grant funded summer learning program taking place in East Providence. The program concept, featuring hands-on experiential learning within a traditional camp day, was created through a collaborative effort between the School Department, Recreation Department and the Newman YMCA, with East Bay Community Action Program, Books are Wings, the Public Library and the Boys and Girls Club providing additional support.**

**Julie Motta, Director of Education informed the School Committee that two students at Martin Middle School were recently named Middle Level Scholars, for their record of high achievement.**

**On behalf of the School Department, Mr. Conley thanked Jessica Beauchaine of the Waddington PTA for her volunteer efforts at Waddington School and thanked the Orlo Ave Playground Committee for an outstanding job and a beautiful facility.**

## **Public Comment II**

**Michelle Savory thanked Jessica Beauchaine for her involvement in the PTA group and for all of her efforts at Waddington School.**

**Mr. Monteiro spoke about all the actions of the PTA groups; he was encouraged to see the effect on the community. He felt there is too much negativity on what we need, and we should continue to focus on what we have. More work is needed and he asked that the PTA groups continue their good work in the schools.**

**Jessica Beauchaine thanked the School Committee for working with her on various projects; Project 106 continues to get strong support for middle school sports; the issue of kids needing activities in the afternoon hours should still be in the forefront.**

**Izilda Teves asked for additional information regarding background checks for school volunteers.**

**Superintendent Kim Mercer advised to start with the principal and the Superintendent's Office.**

**Ms. Clupny asked if we can also obtain clarification from the Police Department.**

## **Announcements**

**Special School Committee Meeting June 28, 2013 at 6:30PM – open**

**session at 7PM.**

**Mr. Monteiro reminded everyone about the upcoming fundraisers in support of the high school gym project to be held at the Whiskey Republic and Bowl-a-thon at the Bowling Academy.**

**Coach Rob Traverse attended and was recognized for his efforts to renovate the Girls' Softball Field at the high school. Mr. Traverse stated that this was a labor of love and his hope to bring the community back to where it was. Mr. Monteiro thanked Mr. Traverse for his efforts.**

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

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Patricia A. Iannelli, Administrative Assistant**

**Elizabeth Clupny, Clerk of the Committee**