

**EAST PROVIDENCE SCHOOL DEPARTMENT**

**East Providence School Committee**

**East Providence City Hall Council Chamber**

**145 Taunton Avenue**

**East Providence, Rhode Island 02914**

**June 28, 2013**

**Open Session**

**Mr. Joel Monteiro, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM. School Committee Members Present: Elizabeth Clupny, Timothy J. Conley, Anthony Ferreira, Richard Pimentel, Joel Monteiro. Also Present: Kim Mercer, Superintendent of Schools.**

**Motion by Ms. Clupny 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 Mr. Pimentel. Vote 5-0.**

**Return to Public Session – Motion by Ms. Clupny to return to public session 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 for Estelle Machon, a retired secretary, who passed away.**

**Student/Staff Recognition – Julie Motta, Director of Education, presented the awards:**

**High School Boys' Track Team and coaches were commended and received citations for winning the State Championship.**

**Maria Mansella and the ESL Department recognized for achieving AMO - Annual Measurable Achievement Objectives (AMO).**

**Public Comment I – None**

## **Superintendent's Report**

### **Personnel Report on Leave of Absence Requests**

#### **RETIREMENT**

**Joanne Walker - Grade 5 Teacher-Hennessey-Effective 06/27/2013**

#### **RESIGNATION**

**Corey Masse-Boys Asst. Soccer Coach-EPHS-Effective 05/15/2013**

#### **LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

**Cornelia McCarthy-Grade 1 Teacher-Francis-Effective 2013/2014  
School Year -To resume as Induction Coach for RIDE**

**Karen Diehl-Occupational Therapist-Waddington-Effective 2013/2014  
School Year**

**Heather Coughlin- (Year 2) English Teacher-Summer School-Effective  
Summer 2013**

**Melissa Natusch-Special Ed/Pre-K Teacher- Mead-Effective 2013-2014  
School Year**

**Susan Libutti-Special Ed Teacher-RMS-Effective 2013-2014 School  
Year**

**Jennifer Marcello-Occupational Therapist-Whiteknact-Effective  
2013/2014 School Year**

**David Britto-Principal-Hennessey-Effective 2013/2014 School Year  
FAMILY MEDICAL LEAVE ACT**

**Danika Hallam -English Teacher-EPHS-Effective 09/03/13-13 weeks**

**Kathie Riethimer-Grade 4 Teacher-Orlo-Effective 09/03/13-13 weeks**

**Facilities Update – Ed Catelli, Facilities Manager, explained that RFP’s  
(Request for Proposals) were sent out twice and since there is only  
about \$7 million left to spend and the bids came in at approximately  
\$9.7 and \$9.2 million, the work will be bid out again for the third time.**

**He continues to meet with the architects and hopes to continue the  
process with construction throughout the summer months. The work  
will include PA (public address) systems for Martin Middle School,  
High School and CTC, along with construction at Waddington,**

**Meadowcrest, and the High School. If funds are available, we will continue with fire upgrades at the schools.**

**Mr. Monteiro expressed concerns about the bid specifications being accurate from contractors and his concern on this project and any going forward would be to eliminate change orders.**

**Mr. Catelli stated that everyone wants to get the best value for the money that we have available and he will try to curtail change orders. The bids are due this Friday, will be reviewed on Monday, July 8, 2013 and will be presented to the School Committee at a meeting that evening. Mr. Ferreira added that they have reviewed the work, item by item, and he was comfortable with the process.**

**High School Pool – Superintendent, Kim Mercer, reported that the School Committee voted at the last meeting to close the pool based on the engineering reports. The cost to repair the pool is approximately \$3-4 million dollars and a company, Envious Swimming, has offered a proposal to do the work. Marshall Muir of Envious Swimming presented a report on his company's offer to make repairs to the pool.**

**Report on High School Accreditation – Superintendent Mercer reported that the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) visited the high school in 2008 and generated a report which communicated and recommended work to be completed over ten**

years. The School Committee and the Superintendent met with NEASC at the five year mark to see how the items in the report were being addressed. The Teaching and Learning recommendations have been addressed and are now where they need to be; however, many areas of the physical plant have not been addressed, such as non-compliance with the ADA for accessibility in the area of the pool and boys' locker room. Other areas which still need to be addressed include the upgrade of science labs and asbestos abatement. We have not yet received a report back but wanted the public to know about the Teaching and Learning and how we can best address items in the report for correction so that students have 100% of what they need.

Mr. Monteiro stated that a plan was presented, but promises were not kept and the School Committee wanted to inform the public that this is a priority to all five members of the current School Committee. He hopes that the School Committee will be able to discuss this at an upcoming meeting with other city representatives. He did not think there was a level of concern in the past that the high school can't move beyond warning status; he does not want it to move down to probation level.

Mr. Conley stated that academics is most important; but he was concerned that information was not passed on about the warning status since 2008 and that it is now up to this School Committee to finish it; although he does not think we will lose accreditation, he

**agreed that the School Committee needs to be responsible for it. There is no money allocated in the five year plan and it is incumbent on this School Committee to inform people about this and to decide how we are going to fix the problems; the city needs to do this.**

**Mr. Ferreira stated that Mrs. Rossi did a presentation on this when she was on the School Committee and everyone knew about the condition of the high school and the other school buildings. He stated that every month another issue comes up and the city needs to prepare for this. He requested that the Superintendent provide a list of items that need to be fixed and what is wrong with the building. Mr. Conley replied that unless a bond is passed to obtain the funds, this will be ongoing; the City Council and the state should be involved because it is that important.**

**Mr. Ferreira agreed that all need to know what we are doing about it; the public is tired of hearing about it; the School Committee needs to fight for this money and everyone needs to pull together on this.**

**Discussion: Mr. Conley felt that the work done in the past was just a band-aid and that previous administrations never thought the accreditation would be pulled. The teachers should be commended for the conditions they have been working under and in spite of that, teachers and students manage to do well. This is now in the lap of the School Committee and we need to make multi-million dollar improvements in that building. If East Providence wants to be a**

**member of NEASC, we need to have a five to ten year facility plan.**

**Mr. Ferreira agreed that the School Committee cannot solve this problem and that other elected officials should be involved. We should have a list of items which need to be done and then go out and fight for the money; until we do this, we won't get the money; we are just doing the same thing as other School Committee's have done.**

**Mr. Conley stated that it has been a culture of past administrations to hold back on the facts and give out information only when they had to; no one knew about this because previous administrations were reluctant to disclose it. This School Committee will be advocates by being honest about it, putting the tasks out in front of us, and then asking for the help we need.**

**Mr. Ferreira stated that the public believes in doing the right thing, but people do not have confidence in the School Committee; they want a list of what needs to be done and then they will provide the support.**

**Mr. Conley answered that it costs money to do things; we do what we can with the resources we have, but all School Committee were elected to change things; we should have full public disclosure about what is going on. All School Committee members are aware of the ramifications of losing high school accreditation.**

**Mr. Monteiro agreed that the School Committee will take ownership, but will need supporters in order to get funding. The School Committee is in favor of having a meeting with the City Council and will consider it a priority. Further, Mr. Monteiro stated that voters elected all officials and there should be full disclosure on the NEASC report.**

**Ms. Clupny stated that she will have a conversation at the state level and urged all to send emails and make calls, to get state representatives to focus on the NEASC accreditation. Mr. Ferreira asked to bring up the joint meeting again, since all need to work together on funding.**

### **Consent Agenda**

**Approval of Minutes –Motion by Ms. Clupny to approve the minutes of the meetings held on May 2nd, 14th, 29th, and 30, 2013, seconded by Mr. Ferreira. Vote 5-0.**

### **Action Items**

**Personnel Appointments/Recalls/Layoffs**

### **APPOINTMENTS**

**Eileen Crudele - Director of Pupil Personnel-Effective 07/15/2013**

### **RECALLS**

**Louise Swanger Elementary Teacher**

**Amanda Giudice Elementary Teacher**

**Laura Messore Elementary Teacher**

**Courtney Neves Elementary Teacher**

**Sarah Martin Elementary Teacher**

## **LAYOFFS - 180 Day Custodians**

**Jeff Gouveia**

**Richard Pacheco**

**Miguel Lopes**

**Paul Mello**

**Kenneth Foley**

**Steven Buckley**

**Augustinho Linhares**

**Jose Aguiar**

**Motion to approve by Ms. Clupny, seconded by Mr. Pimental. Vote 5-0. Discussion: Mr. Conley requested that information be received in advance of the meeting; Mr. Ferreira agreed.**

**Kim Mercer explained that an interview committee was headed by Human Resources and made up of appropriate stakeholders; parent, nurse, principals, Director of Education, teachers, and union representation and that the candidate chosen has 11 years experience.**

**Home School Request – A motion was made by Ms. Clupny to approve a home school request, seconded by Mr. Pimentel. Vote 5-0.**

**New Business**

## **Discussion of School Committee Sub-Committees - Hold**

**Public Comment II – Mr. Monteiro commented that the meetings are often a little too informal; however, discussions with the public can sometimes be challenging.**

**Jessica Beauchaine stated that she has still not received an answer on the question regarding buses to transport students for middle school sports. Superintendent Mercer responded that she did receive advice from RI Department of Education that students must be transported in a yellow bus or an alternate form of same and will provide a copy of the criteria to Ms. Beauchaine.**

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

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Patricia A. Iannelli, Administrative Assistant**

**Elizabeth Clupny, Clerk of the Committee**