

EAST PROVIDENCE SCHOOL DEPARTMENT

East Providence School Committee

East Providence City Hall Council Chamber

145 Taunton Avenue

East Providence, Rhode Island 02914

October 8, 2013

Open Session

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

Members present: Elizabeth Clupny, Anthony Ferreira, Richard Pimentel, Joel Monteiro. (Timothy Conley arrived later). Also

present: Kim Mercer, Superintendent and Andrew Thomas, Esq.

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. Ferreira. Vote 5-0.

Motion by Ms. Clupny to return to Public Session and to seal the minutes of the Executive Session, seconded by Mr. Ferreira. Vote 5-0.

Report Executive Session Votes – None

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

Community/Staff Recognition

Superintendent acknowledged and thanked Josh Pezold and members of the BridgePointe Church for their support of East Providence Students by hosting a Back to School Fair at Kent Heights Elementary School.

Amanda Rapoza was congratulated for being selected the 2013 RIAEA Outstanding Middle School Educator of the Year for her dedication and service to art education.

Ashley Singleton was congratulated for receiving Artsonia's Annual Leadership Award for her commitment to arts education in the 2012-2013 school year.

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

Public Comment I – Agenda Items – None

Superintendent's Report

Facilities Update – Mr. Edward Catelli, Facilities Director provided an update on construction: Waddington 99% completed; fire alarm will be completed over the next weekend; all will be cleaned up within 7 to

10 days. Martin Middle School and the High School public address systems (PA) are just about complete and 40% of the door work at the High School has been completed to date.

Mr. Ferreira thanked Mr. Catelli for arranging to have trees cleared behind Martin Middle School.

Personnel Report on Resignations/Leave of Absence/Retirement

Leave of Absence

Matthew Tsonos-Physical Education Teacher-EPHS-Effective 2013/2014 School Year

Family Medical Leave Act

Kelly Fontaine-Carlos – Physical Education Teacher-EPHS-Effective 12/2/13-2/14/2014

Lori Rush-Speech Therapist-MEAD-Effective approximately 11/3/13 for 13 weeks

Consent Agenda

Approval of Minutes – Motion by Ms. Clupny to approve the minutes of the meetings held on August 22, 2013, August 27, 2013 and September 10, 2013, seconded by Mr. Ferreira. Vote 5-0.

Finance Report – Kim Mercer reported that Expenditures are 90%

expended and Revenues at 86% at this time.

Action Items

Motion was made by Ms. Clupny to approve a Formal Resolution of the National Incident Management System (NIMS), seconded by Mr. Ferreira. Vote 5-0.

Run, Hide, Fight Policy Approval - Lt. Blinn of the East Providence Police Department attended to explain this new strategy developed by Homeland Security in the event of an active shooter in a building; this has been effective in private sector; police think the best approach and recommend approve of this strategy; if adopted, can be put into place fairly quickly; Lt. David of the EPPD has been meeting with faculty for training. Motion by Ms. Clupny to approve, seconded by Mr. Pimentel. Vote 5-0.

Policy III.J.5. Criminal Records Background Checks – Detective David of EPPD attended to explain the implementation of a new law requiring background checks which can be done at the East Providence Police Department (state background check and MA background check); a letter will be sent to applicants and the Office of the Superintendent of Schools specifying that the individual is “qualified” or “unqualified” based on biographical data (not fingerprinting); Office of the Attorney General will complete checks for RI only. Motion by Ms. Clupny to approve second passage of the new policy, seconded by Mr. Ferreira. Vote 5-0.

Motion by Ms. Clupny to move up Item 9 on the agenda, Principals' Employment Agreement, seconded by Mr. Conley. Vote 5-0.

Principals' Employment Agreement – East Providence Association of School Principals – Mr. Monteiro reported that the contract had been worked out with EPASP Attorney Sowa and Mr. Paul Luba and in compliance with the Budget Commission amendment to approve contracts, the date of the contract is October 31, 2012 to 2015. Motion by Ms. Clupny to approve, seconded by Mr. Conley. Vote 5-0.

Mr. Tim Duffy of the Rhode Island Association of School Committees attended and explained the benefits of membership in the association; dues would be pro-rated. Motion by Ms. Clupny to table for further discussion, seconded by Mr. Conley. Vote 5-0.

Personnel Appointments/Termination

Mary Beth Maloney – School Nurse –East Providence High School – Effective TBD

Eric Matlock – Head Freshman Football Coach – East Providence High School-Effective Fall 2013

Darlene Hall-Math Department Head-East Providence High School-Effective 2013/2014 School Year

Termination

Colleen Kinder – Teacher Assistant-Effective 9/5/13

Motion by Ms. Clupny to approve recommendations of the Superintendent, seconded by Mr. Pimentel. Vote 5-0.

Requisitions – Bill List

Warrant #

1333 9/16/13 \$ 23,219.70

1336 10/3/13 \$ 176,005.61

1337 10/3/13 \$2,017,038.07

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

Home School Request – Motion by Ms. Clupny to approve, seconded by Mr. Ferreira. Vote 5-0.

Field Trip Request – Motion by Ms. Clupny to approve a request from Martin Middle School students to travel to Philadelphia, PA, June 10-12, 2014, seconded by Mr. Pimentel. Vote 5-0.

FY 2013-14 Budget presented by Superintendent Mercer for second passage; no changes since last meeting; middle schools have been expanded throughout the budget, but same bottom line as first passage. Mr. Monteiro noted the expectation that all sports previously had will be covered in the budget. Motion by Ms. Clupny to approve the second passage of the FY 2013-14 Budget, seconded by Mr. Pimentel. Vote 5-0.

Title Change - Superintendent Mercer requested that the change in title be approved from Director of Education to Assistant Superintendent; duties and job description are already in place; the Assistant Superintendent is certified as a Superintendent and a member of RIASA; in the absence of the Superintendent would take on that role and since the majority of those who hold the second position are titled Assistant Superintendent, people better understand that role under that title. Motion by Mr. Pimentel to accept the change, seconded by Mr. Ferreira. Vote 5-0.

Assistant Director of Special Education – Superintendent requested approval to post this position. After discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Clupny to approve the request, seconded by Mr. Pimentel. Vote 5-0.

Superintendent requested approval to combine two positions (the Curriculum Coordinator and RTI Coordinator) into the Director of Instruction and Intervention; no one is currently filling the RTI position; this would be a 12-month position with \$10,000 increase and is federally funded. Motion to approve by Ms. Clupny, seconded by Mr. Pimentel. Vote 5-0. (Effective 10/8/13)

Old Business

PTA Reports

Fred Rybka spoke about a meeting space for the Riverside Girl Scout

Troop 417; requested a possible sharing of space with Boys and Girls Club at Oldham School. Superintendent Mercer will discuss with Oldham School Principal regarding the request. Mr. Rybka had questions about the NIMS resolution and how it would work in emergency situations; he also asked about appointing a School Committee Liaison to the City Council.

IzildaTeves of Orlo Avenue School asked if parents and the public will be notified once the Run, Hide, Fight Policy is finalized.

Public Comment II – Non agenda items

Announcements – Mr. Conley noted that Riverside Middle School will hold a walk/run event on October 27, 2013.

Jessica Beauchaine of Project 106 attended a recent cross country meet, noting that approximately 85 middle schools students participated; congratulated and thanked the School Committee for supporting middle school sports.

Bev Laforte announced an event at the Carousel on October 20, 2017; proceeds will benefit Project 106.

Mr. Ferreira asked if the Girl Scouts had used Oldham School before it was moved; he was guaranteed that the students would not lose out on anything and he does not understand why they were denied use of the building now. Discussion about the building use.

8th Annual Townie Pride Parade – Pierce Field – Friday, October 25, 2013 at 6:15PM.

Joint School Committee and City Council Meeting – November 13, 2013 at 7:00PM.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia A. Iannelli, Administrative Assistant

Elizabeth Clupny, Clerk of the Committee