

EAST PROVIDENCE SCHOOL DEPARTMENT

East Providence School Committee

East Providence City Hall - Council Chamber

145 Taunton Avenue

East Providence, Rhode Island 02914

March 11, 2014

Open Session

Mr. Monteiro called the meeting to order at 6:15 PM. Members Present: Elizabeth Clupny, Timothy Conley, Anthony Ferreira, Richard Pimentel, Joel Monteiro. Also present: Kim Mercer, Superintendent, Julie Motta, Assistant Superintendent, Robert Silva, Esq. and Andrew Thomas, Esq.

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/Potential/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 open session and to seal the

minutes of the Executive Session, seconded by Mr. Pimentel. Vote 5-0.

Report Executive Session Votes ;V No votes taken

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag & Moment of Silence

Student/Staff Recognition:

„X Hennessey School students were commended by Dr. McWilliams, Principal, for fundraising and donation made to Hasbro Children's Hospital.

„X Two students from the Career and Technical Center were commended by Mrs. Karen Mellen, Principal, and Mr. Baroso, automotive instructor, for their participation in the Ocean State Automotive Technology Competition.

„X Representatives from the Paint Shoppe & Benjamin Moore Paint were commended for a donation made to Riverside Middle School in the amount of \$5,481.

„X Math Night Hosts ;V Tabled to April meeting

Student Liaison Report ;V Joshua Conception ;V Presented a report on high school activities and events; DECA students were recognized for their project, Operation Comfort Pack, which provides backpacks to children entering DCYF placement. As of January, \$1500 was raised for supplies; 50 comfort backpacks were assembled. Students

attending the DECA competition in Atlanta will be fundraising for their trip.

Public Comment | Agenda Items | Fred Rybka showed pictures of problems in school facilities; landscaping and a tree was damaged by the snow plow; he stated that the Oldham School was closed because the roof was leaking and now we have another school with a leaky roof. At Whiteknact, the ceiling is leaking; he asked if any money left for a roof and if an RFP would be done to correct the problem. Superintendent Mercer responded that there are plans to address the roof issues.

Kimberly Morato, a teacher at Riverside Middle School, asked questions regarding the redistricting; will students who elected to stay at RMS be allowed a bus; what about siblings, will they be allowed to attend? Is the plan to reduce staff?

Superintendent's Report

NECAP Presentation - Recognition of Students/Teachers | Julie Motta, Assistant Superintendent and Dawn August, Director of Instruction & Intervention, presented certificates/commendations to the following schools: Kent Heights, Orlo, Silver Spring, Whiteknact, Waddington, Hennessey, Francis, Riverside Middle School, High School and Career and Technical School; East Providence School Department is very proud of the hard work of students, teachers and

principals. A presentation followed on 2013-14 NECAP Test Results for East Providence Schools.

Facilities Update ¶ Mr. Catelli stated that everyone worked diligently last summer to move staff and students to the new Oldham building; the snow plowing over the winter was done for the children to be able to get off the bus and into school safely; the broken tree will be replaced and landscaping issues corrected. Mr. Catelli stated that the safety of children is the #1 priority; he asked that the workers be given some credit for snow removal efforts during this difficult winter.

Request for Proposals will be issued through the bid process to address the roof problems at Whiteknact School. Mr. Catelli explained that CTC administrative offices will be moved back shortly; punch list issues will be addressed; all invited to review; auditorium seating; floors done; painting being done at the High School in ¶ Townie Red; (color selected by the Superintendent and named by the; Paint Store). Auditorium painting of handrails and other areas. Leaking issues in the Whiteknact entry have been addressed and a bid will be put out for the roof shortly.

Personnel Report on Resignation/Leaves of Absence/Retirement:

RESIGNATION

Marianne Scorpio-School Psychologist-Henn-Effective 02/27/2014

Cristina Carlotti -French Club Advisor-EPHS-Effective 2013/2014 School Year

Robin Seel-Supervisory Assistant-WADD-Effective 03/07/2014

Sue Lima-Supervisory Assistant-WADD-Effective 03/14/2014

Consent Agenda

Approval of Minutes ;V Motion by Ms. Clupny to approve the minutes of the meetings held on January 28, 2014, January 29, 2014, February 11, 2014, and February 18, 2014, seconded by Mr. Ferreira. Vote 5-0.

Finance Report

Kim Mercer, Superintendent, reported expenditures as of 2/28/14 of \$24,329,610. and revenues of \$24,866,809. Motion by Ms. Clupny to accept, seconded by Mr. Ferreira. Vote 5-0.

Action Items

Iron Construction Contract/Change Order ;V Discussion: Mr. Monteiro stated that the School Committee requested justification and listing of changes - \$175,000 approved, clarity on that portion of the job. Mike Taber and Jim Farrar attended and reported on the chronology and status of the science lab project to date. Iron Construction broke out the \$96,000; SMMA reviewed it and did not agree with all; some overlap from base to new work; SMMA issued a response; they needed to vet the report; \$96,000 was last case scenario; Iron ready to start this weekend; some of cost offset; paint to just cover up, ceiling; need clarification on direction to proceed. Mr. Farrar ;Vprocess is change directive in pricing from the architect; they tell you to proceed while looking at your pricing; look for

comments back and value of items.

Farrar iV negotiate cost of supervisor; consultant; if acid waste pipe needed to continue after - \$6000 change iV asked SMMA and if they provide, will be back to school department; need feedback from engineer; want to finish the work; agree with price; look at ways to reduce the cost; means for project to get started while vetting this out.

Mr. Ferreira questioned why acid pipe in the plan and what happens if it is rejected and if we did not relocate the cabinets, would it not be part of that ?

Mr. Farrar iV change order; require finishing PVC for all acid waste pipe; that is why included as a change; now part of approved design; not sure if the other side of tank will need to be acid wastepipe; have to get engineers opinion to approve. Mr. Ferreira questioned how we designed a science lab without that; where would that leave us if not approved.

SMMA still looking at that and reviewing with engineers; when back with a decision if acid pipe not needed, there will be a credit; other items being vetted by SMMA with Iron; working hard to drive number down and get the work initiated.

Mr. Ferreira stated that he wanted an exact number; what will the exact cost be; this is a small size project and we should be able to figure it out.

Farrar iV SMMA will be presenting those numbers; cost of supervision; reduced to half (\$6000); if engineer agrees with acid waste, another \$6,000; Farrar can only provide those two items.

Mr. Monteiro stated that three meetings back we had the number at \$90,000; not close; in at \$96,000.

Dan Ruiz ;V SMMA ;V asked to back track; when the bids went out, the science lab in design documents; there was a desire to upgrade the science lab which had some fairly dangerous conditions; hood was antiquated; there were problems beyond life safety; added work in science lab; limited money; replace hood in same location; then changed the hood put in different part of the room to allow access to more students; other minor improvements to make; design submitted and School Department approved changes; (work benches and hood); after bid, there was a desire by school department representatives in the science department.

Mr. Ferreira asked who took the job and ran with it; tax payers; money; who in the School Department approved it. Mr. Ruiz ;V not sure he could provide that information; reconfiguring lab benches which were going to be in different locations.

Mr. Ferreira asked about plumbing charges. Mr. Ruiz stated that it was better delivery of the space; revisions to design; proposal request to do additional improvements; key space in High School; put in hoods, cabinets; walls in bad shape; ceiling sagging from age; it did not make sense to not make the whole area presentable; they elicited prices from Iron; interest from science department to bring room to acceptable level; CCD change order; Irons provided prices for it; agree and disagree with prices; some overlaps in document; Ruiz explained that the work of CCD is to continue timelines; contractor back and forth on price; uncertainly if School Department

wanted to proceed with the work; all parties at impasse. Mr. Ruiz provided this commentary, but does not know if Irons agrees with it; asked if the School Department agrees to it before they proceed with it.

Mr. Monteiro asked about the revised scope of work \$90,000-96,000; what is the number aligned to; School Committee thought they would know what number we started at, plus changes; instead, we are no further along.

Tony asked to wait for Irons to get back; he could disagree with some items and they need time to go through the process; since the last meeting, he did that; Irons working with subs and will let us know what that number is.

Mr. Conley - This does not go line by line; assumptions vendors make; School Committee wants to do have a quality science lab; if decisions were made in the science department; this should have been presented back to the School Committee; this is where projects fall down; how efficient are our projects; the School Committee has to approve to pay the bills so the changes should go before the School Committee first.

Mr. Farrar - SMMA responsible for design - base design did not include complete review of science lab; plan/program requirements are being met; out of respect - pushed plans out, did the due diligence; I's dotted and T's crossed; they cost items and continue to meet with individuals to make sure plan meets the program.

Mr. Conley - should have been brought to the School Committee; he has never seen more finger pointing; what can be done now and what

can we do to fix this in the future.

Mr. Monteiro heard that the contractor is ready to go; opportunity to make more money; whatever case; stop, not clear on pricing; three meetings later; ready to go; not sure what we are buying and what will it cost us; we heard \$90,000 and work details out later; worse-case scenario of \$40,000 and work out differences after; does not understand why they did not receive the numbers asked for; no better off after three meetings; the School Committee still does not have answers.

Mr. Ruiz jV shared the same frustrations; waiting for Irons to review MMO; not making any additional money on additional options; part of SMMA base.

Mr. Monteiro asked for clarification of the \$96,000; we need to get work done but need documentation to show the best science lab we could; he finds it insulting to be asked to give a blanket approval.

Mr. Ferreira - all professionals involved; he does not think they faced this before; \$15 million, now only \$9,000 thousand; are we going back on some of the issues from months ago. Plumbing scope; he sees in original base bid, back and forth now; SMMA does not feel satisfied with the response; originally \$175,000; alternative for fume hood and new counter top; two accepted; sink mentioned; he knew they asked for underneath; not at comfort level yet; what is the \$8 million; kids deserve the science lab but taxpayers have to be comfortable also; what is the sticking point of getting the numbers; told \$90,000 and in 7-9 weeks the number grew by \$6,000; to continue to go forward, what is the breakdown; where is the happy medium; if not, comfort

level not there; he wants hard numbers going forward and information as to how it grew by \$6,000. Mr. Monteiro is contractors ready to go; we keep asking the same things; not nickel and diming over a thousand; when he looked at the report, plumbing was part of the base bid.

Steve DePasquale of Irons is majority was cost enhancement of the room, new ceiling, walls, chalk boards; do not have to do those things; after PCO, got responses back; major subs were there; part of the change order process; monitor work daily and costs; take piece off the wall; does not know how to reconnect; PCO enhances the room. Mr. Farrar- when will we get responses from the sub-contractors?

Irons is goal is to work on Saturday; big portion ready to go; rebuild walls, ceilings going in; demolition; is it efficient; no money in this for him; no money making venture; can work out the details.

Mr. Monteiro asked how far apart from SMMA on this part of the project.

Mr. Ruiz is more focused on electrical and plumbing; not part of PCO for beautification of the room is all one PCO.

Mr. Monteiro is School Committee is trying to move forward with some level of confidence; confusion about the delay of the fume hood and the fact that it would be sent with the cabinets; School Committee trying to get information to make a decision, but it changes from week to week.

Mr. Farrar said he can appreciate everything School Committee stated; they want hard numbers, through continued meetings with

Irons, SMMA will vet out prices through the CCD; he would ask \$96,000 be reduced by \$12,000 while we continue to vet this out; look at major scope items only; plumbing and electrical items not a big amount; the big numbers are for room enhancement. Mr. Monteiro is now down to about \$73,400.

Mr. Ferreira had questions about the auditorium peg board and carpet; respect and confidence level only goes so far; he does not want science lab the same way; wants numbers and when the work can get done. He cannot agree with \$96,000; bring number down with agreement it could fluctuate; OK with that, but not with an open check book. Irons is the auditorium floor will be taken care of under warranty issue; peg board is a custom item. Mr. Conley wanted to revisit this issue at the next School Committee meeting.

Mr. Ferreira asked what is time frame to come back.

Mr. Monteiro asked if subs can come in with reasonable numbers; School Committee needs more information; can they get it within a week to review and take action on a final figure. Mr. Farrar agreed.

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

Mr. Ferreira requested a walk-through of the Science lab with Mr. Catelli.

Motion by Ms. Clupny to move to Item 8 on the agenda, seconded by Mr. Pimentel. Vote 5-0.

Reduction of Split Teams at Middle Schools/Redistricting ;V Julie Motta, Assistant Superintendent, presented a report.

Questions regarding transportation, size of the two middle schools, teacher and parent concerns, future planning, specialist and intervention classes, IEP meetings and other concerns.

Val Lawson, President of the EP Education Association stated that a teacher expressed concerns earlier about equitable teams; all agree about changing split teams; special subjects impacted; how resolved important to staff; she encouraged adding staff; filed grievance and want to be part of the process. Budget Commission cut staff; financial decisions are not always educationally sound; everyone needs to work on it. Kim Mercer, Superintendent, agreed that everyone is working cooperatively on this issue.

Mr. Monteiro stated that class size has to be at the top of list at both schools. Mr. Conley stated that the next two years would be challenging because we will not have equal distribution of students; then it should work out. Motion by Mr. Conley to put a full proposal together; seconded by Mr. Ferreira.

Discussion: Gather input from all staff, consider busing issues and new housing developments coming up. Vote 5-0.

Awarding of Bid #V High School Auditorium #V Superintendent Mercer recommended that the bid for painting be awarded to Certa Pro, of Cumberland, RI. Mr. Catelli stated that he spoke with Iron Construction about the need to fix the walls first. Mr. Monteiro stated that if proper board work not completed by April, how long will the painting bid hold for. Mr. Ferreira did not want to vote on the bid; he asked if the bid would include all the new walls. Motion by Ms. Clupny to table for further study, seconded by Mr. Pimentel. Vote 5-0.

Personnel Appointments/Recalls - Superintendent recommended approval of the following:

APPOINTMENTS

Bill McEnery-Golf Coach-EPHS-Effective 2104/2015 School year

Amanda Shattuck-Assistant Softball Coach-EPHS-Effective 2104/2015 School year

Robert Hanlon-Baseball Coach- RMS-Effective 2104/2015 School year

Patricia Piros-Girls' Track Coach-RMS-Effective 2104/2015 School year

Lazbat Waheed-Boys; Track Coach-RMS-Effective 2104/2015 School year

RECALLS 2014/2015 School Year

Katherine Barker, Tara Mollo, Kate Sweeney, Micaela Folan, Bethany Thayer, Stefanie Edwards, Ashley Jamieson, Linda Humphrey, Kaitlyn Moynihan, Courtney Neves, Laura Messore, Amanda Batista, Sara Martin, Daniel Lynch, Louise Silva-Swanger.

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

Home School Request(s) ;V Motion to approve by Ms. Clupny, seconded by Mr. Conley. Vote 5-0.

School Calendar 2014-2015 ;V Superintendent Mercer recommended approval. Motion to approve by Mr. Conley, seconded by Ms. Clupny. Vote 5-0.

Requisitions ;V Bill List

Warrant #

1362	2/24/14	\$	85.00
1363	2/27/14	\$	1,054,570.58
1364	2/28/14	\$	61,650.00
1365	3/7/14	\$	152,395.81

1366 3/7/14 \$ 1,389,864.62

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

Stipend for Art Club Facilitator at High School ;V Superintendent Mercer recommended approval;

Club requested by students; facilitator should be paid around \$600;

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

Local 2969 ;V Change in Probationary Term- 180 day employees; reduce probation from 180 to 30 days;

They will receive all benefits; does not pertain to new personnel.

Mr. Monteiro had a concern with probationary period; hoped it would read 120 days from date of hire.

Superintendent responded it is only for those employed for one year.

Motion by Ms. Clupny to hold voting on this change, seconded by Mr. Pimental. Vote 5-0.

New Policy - Travel and Business Expense Reimbursement Policy ;V

Second Passage ;V Mr. Monteiro

questioned when employees travel, are they covered; is it double coverage when rental insurance pays; if

covered for school work are they covered under SD insurance? Mr.

**Silva did not think they are covered;
individual has insurance coverage not the school department. Motion
by Ms. Clupny to accept, seconded
by Mr. Ferreira. Vote 5-0**

**New Policy on Children Left at School ¡V Second Passage ¡V Motion
by Ms. Clupny to approve, seconded
by Mr. Conley. Vote 5-0.**

Old Business

**PTA Reports ¡V Judy Lopes, Whiteknact PTA, asked for clarification
of the numbers in the CO2 reports;
numbers were high yesterday; how do we move forward to correct
that.**

**Mr. Monteiro stated that the building plan has to be clear so that
everyone in the building knows how to
keep it safe for students and teachers; there is a need to go over the
course of action regarding dampers,
and windows. Ms. Lopes stated there is a need to do reports for a
few weeks to be able to see what is
happening there.**

**Project 106 Update/Report ¡V Jessica Beauchaine provided an update
on the middle school sports program:
still considered non-profit; supporting sports program; middle school**

sports back in the school department

budget; the program is supplementary; \$8,000 spent on transportation and umpires; baseball and softballs

She reviewed the budget items and expenditures for basketballs, baseball uniforms, softball uniforms,

track shirts and shorts for students. The Project was commended by the state and received a legislative

grant; soccer coming up and uniforms are needed; working through the Athletic Director to determine

what will be needed.

Public Comment II ;V Non Agenda Items - None

Announcements

Motion by Ms. Clupny to adjourn at 10:59PM, seconded by Mr. Pimentel. Vote 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia A. Iannelli, Administrative Assistant

Elizabeth Clupny, Clerk of the Committee