

**EAST PROVIDENCE SCHOOL DEPARTMENT**

**East Providence School Committee**

**East Providence City Hall - Council Chamber**

**145 Taunton Avenue**

**East Providence, Rhode Island 02914**

**March 25, 2014**

**Open Session**

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

**School Committee Members Present: Elizabeth Clupny, Timothy Conley, Anthony Ferreira, Richard Pimentel, Joel Monteiro. Also present: Kim Mercer, Superintendent of Schools and Andrew Thomas, Esq.**

**A motion was made by Ms. Clupny that the Committee convene in Executive Session for purposes of discussing: Personnel – R.I. Gen. Laws §42-46-5(a) (1); Legal Services; 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. Conley. Vote 5-0.**

**A motion was made by Ms. Clupny that the School Committee return to public session, seconded by Mr. Pimentel. Vote 5-0.**

## **Report Executive Session Votes - None**

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

**Public Comment - None**

## **Superintendent's Report**

**Facilities Update – Mr. Edward Catelli, Facilities Director, reported that work continues at schools; sprinklers being done in-house with plumber; next Monday will put full crew out to work. Painting of the tennis court needs at least 60 degree weather to be able to do it; regarding the bid at the auditorium, Ben from SMMA will be ordering materials from Brooklyn; there is a meeting on Thursday. Mr. Ferreira added that we have to research what was taken out before we place any new boards there.**

**Mr. Catelli reported on some hand dryers he would like to purchase for schools which are 1/10 cost of paper towels; great appearance; moving along he would like to incorporate and would like to buy six to try out at the High School and the Middle Schools; we have an ongoing problem with paper towels cost of the dryer is \$285; the product is durable and has a 5 year warranty; we have them in city buildings with no problems there; would like to see if they survive at the High School first, then put in the Middle Schools. Motion by Mr.**

**Pimentel to approve, seconded by Mr. Ferreira. Vote 5-0.**

## **Action Items**

**Motion by Elizabeth Clupny to move up Item 8 on the agenda – Irons Construction, seconded by Mr. Ferreira. Vote 5-0.**

**Irons Contract - Change Order on High School Science Lab Present: Mike Taber, Jim Farrar, Ben from SMMA - Mr. Taber reported that the cost has been reduced through items on supervision, acid pipe, overlap in project and scope; this brought the cost of the project down to \$90,000 from \$96,000; he provided a handout - agreed with cost of plumbing – deletion of acid pipe; have signed off as fair and accurate number; asking School Committee for approval; lab casework coming in and he would like to get Irons to come in to complete the work. Mr. Monteiro thanked all for getting the information to the School Committee.**

**Mr. Ferreira stated that all agreed to start the work at high school; the work was going on; he asked why did the brakes go on?**

**Mr. Taber stated that it was important to approve the work; did not want to paint walls for no reason; there was an overlap in work.**

**In response to Mr. Monteiro's question about the set-up of acid pipe and if any restrictions to students if eliminated, Mr. Taber responded that this was reviewed by the plumber and the engineer signed off on a \$7000 credit.**

**Mr. Ferreira said the issue is on the change order; he asked Mr. Taber**

if he had signatures for change orders on the lab project; who told the construction people to change things since the cabinets and other items were not on the original plans.

Mr. Farrar handed out information at the last meeting with details on the travel of construction; with change order request; refined over period of time; many COR's over time – into final CCD; now schools and SMMA fine with lab; reconciliation with cost to match final design; School Committee asked to have documents to back up costs; Mr. Farrar satisfied with the document.

Mr. Ferreira thanked everyone, but would like to avoid going through this again next time; we should never have to go through this again; there is a lot simpler way; he will address that later in the meeting.

A motion was made by Ms. Clupny to approve, seconded by Mr. Ferreira. Vote 5-0

(\$74, 576.50-listed on Prime Contract Potential Change Order #054I  
EPHS – Lab 12R2)

Change in Description of High School Courses – Janet Sheehan, Principal, Patricia Almquist, Director of Guidance, Rob Traverse, Guidance Dept. present:

Changes Presented:

Level 1 – These courses are aligned to the Common Core Standards to ensure that students are college and career ready. They are offered at an accelerated pace and require additional independent work outside of the classroom. Courses at this level are designated

**as: Advanced Placement, Early Enrollment Programs or Honors classes.**

**Level 2 – These courses are aligned to the Common Core Standards to ensure that students are college and career ready.**

**Level 3 – These courses are aligned to the Common Core Standards to ensure that students are college and career ready. Additional supports, scaffolding and interventions are offered to students who may need additional instruction in mastery of foundational skills.**

**Mrs. Almquist – The way decisions are made for students; redoing program of studies; will be better access and opportunity for students; puts onus on colleges to decide-look at school profile and what we offer; other high schools are doing this.**

**Janet Sheehan – More criteria to get into a four year college; SAT assessments – changing only one part of criteria that colleges require.**

**Discussion: Mr. Monteiro noted that we are going from four levels to two; Mrs. Almquist – AP will stay**

**Ms. Sheehan – now there is not equal access for students; how can we legitimately have those labels on there for kids; because of the way listed, chance for kid to get into college; we have no right to do**

that; shift in curriculum and instruction to Common Core – gives everyone equal playing field; this will go into effect in September; Ms. Almquist noted that the new administration encouraged us to do this.

Dawn August added we are at full implementation of the Common Core.

Ms. Sheehan - students have not been able to go to college; that is why we are asking to change it

Discussion about combining classes; Ms. Almquist explained that four honor students are taking AP – they are getting benefit of that instruction; we can't run a class with just four kids, that is why classes are combined.

Mr. Rob Traverse stated that the issue was well vetted, this is a good policy, and he believes we should move forward. Motion to approve by Mr. Conley, seconded by Mr. Pimentel. Vote 5-0.

Food Service RFP Request of Language – Mr. Monteiro explained that an RFP for food services has been put out; Chartwells retained same employees of Ararmark; he supports the 45 employees; (40 of which are East Providence residents) and expects they would be retained anyway; the School Committee listened to their concerns as residents of the city. Under the current contract (which is expiring) through the collaborative, we are losing a significant amount of money and we wanted to find out if there is an opportunity to save

money by switching or continuing to lose money in the current situation.

Linda Dykeman, Deputy Finance Director and Malcolm Moore, Finance Director added that losses average \$40-\$50,000 per year with a cumulative deficit of \$200,000 – the deficit eliminated thru FY 12; another loss of \$40,000; could go out with East Bay Collaborative or by ourselves; either way, we need to go out; how do we eliminate or completely reduce deficit; employees would have preferential treatment; does not think it possible to hire all; some language cannot be written in the contract; they would have to renegotiate; the plan would be to keep staff – Five year contract with Chartwells may be for people here- not shared. Mr. Conley: free and reduced lunch – at 47%; kids do not find the menu attractive; we need to see what others have for students to purchase lunch.

Mr. Moore pointed out that a lot of the food items are dictated by state choices; i.e. chips eliminated.

Mr. Ferreira questioned how/where did we lose \$40-50 thousand dollars?

Mr. Moore explained that revenues do not cover expenses; there are a lot of reasons why we lose money; increase sales, prices, etc.

Mr. Conley – expectation is that if independent, we would do better.

Mr. Moore – we are a credible pool; we think we can reduce some expenses; most programs break even or make money.

**Mr. Monteiro asked for options.**

**Linda Dykeman – explained that RIDE requires that we use their template; she discussed this with RIDE and they shied away from using union (language); we could encourage hiring city employees and need to disclose in the RFP that it is important for the district, but it has to be reviewed by Ride before it goes out.**

**Mr. Ferreira – does not think anyone from RIDE lives in our community; for \$40 thousand; 50 people from the community in the position of serving kids; this city loses that probably on a weekly basis; we will not know until bids come in. We cannot stay quiet on this for \$40,000; what is the decision based on?**

**Mr. Monteiro explained that the current contract costs us \$40-50 thousand dollars in the hole; employees wanted to be considered in that process; want the School Committee to make that a strong factor when making that decision and to make sure we consider that.**

**Mr. Ferreira how do we recover this money; money owed to city? Are we doing our part to recover that money?**

**Mr. Monteiro stated that we can make sure that is a factor in the School Committee's decision going forward.**

**Mr. Moore - probable they could win the bid again; when consolidate;**

**need clerical staff**

**Lori Feroli –presented a petition with 40 signatures; group here to request that the reappointment of Chartwells and its workers be considered.**

**Patricia Abrams – 64 Sheridan – lunch program worker - \$15 hour when contract changed hands, they didn't need certain people; some rehired, lost seniority; this changes the rules –loss of all stability; if worded in the bid just to retain where they are; food industry losing money – have to meet all the guidelines; Chartwells already there – thanks for considering us; they want to be sure to have jobs.**

**Vice President representing 217 Union – working relationship with Aramark, Sedexho, Chartwells; recognize commitment to workers; hiring us for less money; others would come out of their paychecks; both issues important.**

**Ms. Clupny that the School Committee would do the best they can to keep all working.**

**Mr. Monteiro – we cannot afford, not to do this as a community; we will all do whatever we can.**

**Motion by Ms. Clupny that the RFP contain the strongest language possible regarding the retention of employees; current employees at current status; with RIDE approval, seconded by Mr. Ferreira. Vote**

**5-0.**

**Mr. Ferreira - elected officials are responsible –he wants a comparison across the board in writing; he doesn't buy it; we need more research on the RFP.**

**AYSO Proposal- Ms. Clupny read the proposal: \$10,000 cash supplement immediately to East Providence School Department earmarked specifically for the update and maintenance of the high school fields. In return, they requested that the player fee of \$2.00/per player be waived for ten years.**

**Superintendent Mercer stated that with ongoing renovations at the high school, she was not in favor or looking at two years, never mind ten and was hesitant to support an outside vendor for that amount of time.**

**Mr. Monteiro agreed that the concern would be to make a commitment and limit high school activities; he asked the Superintendent to respond to this request; also someone on the city side; he does not see that it works for schools.**

**Mr. Ferreira was also against it; would like Mr. Catelli to poll some ideas for next year. Project can go forward with no commitment; he does not want to see it go by wayside; can make it happen without ten year commitment.**

**Mr. Monteiro - sees city public space – we don't want to turn our backs on it, but pull in other side of the house.**

**Mr. Conley - this shows the need for a dedicated home for soccer; a facility in the city; high enrollments; numerous parks that were utilized are vacant now.**

**Ms. Clupny made a motion to reject the proposal as written but to look into other options and to engage other areas in the city for assistance in finding another venue to for kids to play, seconded by Mr. Ferreira. Vote 5-0. It was agreed to respond back to AYSO in writing with more detailed information on the \$10,000 and to have further discussion with other bodies in city, seconded by Mr. Pimentel. Vote 5-0.**

**Employment Contract – Chief Information Officer – Motion by Ms. Clupny to table the item, seconded by Mr. Conley. Vote 5-0.**

**Local 2969 - Change in Probationary Term-Memorandum –Local 2969 – 120 days reduced to 30 days; one year; language was not clear in the original MOA. . Motion by Ms. Clupny to accept the language change in the probationary term, seconded by Mr. Pimentel. Vote 5-0.**

**Awarding of Bids**

**Legal Services – Motion by Ms. Clupny to table until further study, seconded by Mr. Pimentel. Vote 5-0.**

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**High School Auditorium Painting – Facilities Director, Mr. Ed Catelli, requested that the auditorium painting bid be awarded to Certa Pro; he met with staff from this company and was very pleased with the meeting results; variance in bid price may be due to reluctance of companies to want to do the job, because it is an overwhelming job.**

**Mr. Ferreira asked if we have scale and color; Mr. Catelli responded that work was done by Ben from SMMA. Mr. Ferreira had the plans; he does not want to have an open checkbook for this job and will not agree paying one penny more unless School Committee signs off on it. Mr. Catelli stated that we will have dollar amount on the contract.**

**Award bid to Certa Pro in the amount of \$25,375.00**

**Mr. Ferreira - company should have investigated what they were bidding on; it's a nightmare room; this is one heck of a deal; how long will it take; they should be held to the specs; pegboard and rugs at the end**

**Discussion about the walls at the high school and who will be fronting that bill.**

**Mr. Catelli – that is between Irons and SMMA to work it out at no cost to East Providence; discussion of the bid requirements.**

**Mr. Catelli – Irons will be willing to give a credit for not painting the wall; he will get the cost.**

**Mr. Monteiro agreed. Motion by Mr. Conley to award the painting bid to Certa Pro, seconded by Ms. Clupny. Vote 5-0.**

### **Extension of Contract – Copier Vendor**

**Contract for Copiers – Linda Dykeman, Deputy Finance Director, reviewed the contract we have with Core, in East Providence (maintenance for copiers) and it is her recommendation to purchase 11 new copy machines; one for each school; Core did an excellent job; came in several times; maintenance and cost of new machines – 36 month lease instead of five years; saves \$20,000 in interest.**

**Plan is: high school will get three; other schools one; this will make sure schools have the ability to do the work they need to do.**

**Mr. Ferreira asked about interest amount?**

**Linda Dykeman - fair reduced per copy rate blended- .06 rate; Core has served the city for years; we are interested in keeping that relationship going.**

**Mr. Monteiro – ages of the machines**

**Linda – they will be staggered; could go out to bid; they could buy out the leases; average age 7 years; range from 1-13. Savings started at \$89,000; now \$78,000; headed in right direction; requested vote on extension. Motion by Ms. Clupny to extend the contract with CORE, seconded by RP. Vote 5-0.**

### **Payment of Invoice – Sugrue & Associates (CTC)**

**Superintendent Mercer recommended approval; Mr. Ferreira asked if this is the final payment; Mr. Catelli answered no.**

**Ben – SMMA – balance \$34,000; punch lists to do; will meet Thursday at 1PM.**

**Mr. Ferreira thought project in good shape; all minor things to be fixed.**

**Ben – walk-through with Sugrue tomorrow**

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

**Discussion about new district website, read, but needs to be loaded.**

**Fred Rybka asked about the RFP for the Whiteknact roof. May 1st we will know the bid amount;**

**Mr. Ferreira asked to be notified of the bid opening.**

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

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Patricia A. Iannelli, Administrative Assistant**

**Elizabeth Clupny, Clerk of the Committee**