

**EAST PROVIDENCE SCHOOL DEPARTMENT**

**East Providence School Committee**

**East Providence City Hall - Council Chamber**

**145 Taunton Avenue**

**East Providence, Rhode Island 02914**

**June 10, 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, Julie Motta, and 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//Pending Litigation-R.I. Gen. Laws §42-46-5(a) (2), seconded by Mr. Pimentel. Vote 5-0.**

**Motion by Ms. Clupny that the School Committee return to public session and seal the minutes of the executive session, seconded by Mr. Conley. Vote 5-0.**

**Report Executive Session Votes - None**

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

**Student Liaison Report - None**

**Motion by Ms. Clupny to move to Item H on the agenda – public comment, seconded by Mr. Pimentel. Vote 5-0.**

**Public Comment I – Agenda Items**

**Kelly, a parent, had concerns about losing a Kindergarten class at Silver Spring since there are 34 students as of today and 26 is the maximum; she felt that low class size is best for Grades K-2 and parents are concerned about kids being moved.**

**Superintendent Kim Mercer explained the time frame; as classrooms are opened, the kids will be brought back in; in a few weeks we will have actual numbers and will watch the numbers and make decisions at that time.**

**Another parent expressed great concerns about displacing students and the anxiety level this causes for parents; she wants to continue at Silver Spring; this does not create a good feeling for parents or teachers; she felt it was not OK to displace a Kindergarten teacher; she wants East Providence to be the best for young families to stay here; she has been impressed with Silver Spring and knows the teachers and the school.**

**Kim Mercer stated that more classrooms were added last year at Francis; the bubble is at K-1-2; we do not have space to keep opening classrooms; we are almost at the point where art rooms are going; we are watching the room counts daily. Displacement letters had to be sent out at the time.**

**Fred Rybka – 6 Cousins Avenue – stated there is no room in the classrooms, Superintendent watching numbers and Oldham is full; it is not right to move kids from school to school; kids should be able to bond with other kids; there is no space; we have art on a cart; the writing is on the wall; he can see where this is going.**

**Mr. Ferreira suggested meeting with City Council and legislators to reopen a school; if we know the school is full, where is the plan for this; the educational system has been taken apart for money; can't raise taxes; he wants to be in the loop on this.**

**Kim Morato – she has five year old twins going to school this fall; Silver Spring has an outstanding staff; she has concerns about cutting classrooms; she has an anxious child and worries about being bounced around; she asked that the numbers be looked at and to keep the second classroom open.**

**Kim Mercer explained that teacher hiring is in the contract; if a teacher cannot be going back, it was agreed with the union for that teacher to go back to another school.**

**Patti DosReis – has a child at Silver Spring and asked how kids would get to other schools; transportation is expensive; her nephew's route was changed and he could not get a bus; there is a reason why schools are rated low, because there is not enough money; she settled here because she loved Silver Spring.**

**Kim Mercer explained that displacement letters had to be sent out; at that time there were only 22 students which did not warrant a second classroom; in the event we need the second class, the teacher will go back. The Superintendent agreed that we have wonderful teachers in the district.**

**Councilwoman, Chrissy Rossi , stated that overcrowding is a problem; School Committee said we had declining numbers in enrollment; there would be great savings by closing Oldham School ; kids bussed out of district; we were lied to by the Budget**

**Commission and former Superintendent and School Committee; we closed a school and now there is nowhere to put the kids.**

**Mr. Conley stated those were Budget Commission and RIDE numbers; he did not support closing Oldham; it was about the city not spending \$3 million; now we have to deal with where to put kids; we need to ask legislators to lift the moratorium on reimbursement for construction.**

**Mr. Monteiro stated that the school was closed because the matter which was discussed by the Budget Commission with the former Superintendent was about which school to close and overcrowding was not part of the discussion. The decision was to close a school in the district and both he and the Interim Superintendent, Dr. DeGoes, knew the numbers were wrong.**

**Mr. Ferreira asked what the present Committee has done; it has been over 15 months and we can't keep blaming the Budget Commission; we should be correcting it; what are we doing about it; a band-aid approach will not work.**

**Mr. Monteiro felt that serious programs are needed from the state and in the larger picture working with City Council; the situation with lifting the moratorium needs to happen.**

**Mr. Ferreira said we need to meet with the City Council and deal with**

**our issues; it is our responsibility; he wants the weight on him; 15 months went by and we did nothing; we should be planning for the hundreds of housing units coming; we should be starting to fix these problems.**

**Mary Teixeira felt there was a lot of blame to go around; the School Committee can only can do what they can; up to the City Council to pass the budget; have not been able to get that done; the city should address the funding of schools which is less than 50% and therein lies the problem; the passion is missing; she talked about students who came out of East Providence; cannot fund at less than 50%; you should be able to tell community that the Kindergarten will open; these parents deserve to know where their kids are going. There is not one place in her building to work with a student and it is a shame we are in this position; parents and kids are apprehensive about schools; we constantly have to choose the lesser of two evils; all work really hard; why does the City Council have to wait for you to tell them; they know it is going on; does not see the City Council stepping up; schools need more money; this is about commitment to education.**

**Jessica Beauchaine stated that Waddington will have 570 students plus next year and Riverside Middle School is at 500; Waddington has one room; Riverside auditorium separate from gym and cafeteria; there is a population issue at Waddington; maybe just not at Silver Spring; Waddington has more kids than Riverside Middle School.**

**Amy Tavares – has two kids at Silver Spring; she heard that all elementary schools are at maximum; why displace classrooms of kids; not definite there will be two classrooms; she asked to keep two teachers at Silver Spring for students.**

**Mr. Ferreira asked how many children are at Silver Spring for first grade. A teacher asked why three first grades next year, when only sending up 50 kids; we have upset parents and teachers; before the school year ends, we should be able to do screening; the sooner we find out the better for kids. Parent commented that none of the kids have ever been in a classroom; get the kids situated now; issue is that the numbers keep growing. Parent impressed with Silver Spring; she knows teachers and school.**

### **Student/Staff Recognition**

**Julie Motta, Assistant Superintendent presided over the following student, staff and community member recognition:**

**Martin Principal, Frank DeVall, recognized outstanding eighth grade students who were named Scholar Leaders by the RI Middle Level Educators and the New England League of Middle Schools for excellence and students recognized for Arts Scholarships 2014.**

**Jessica Beauchaine, a community member was recognized for her**

**outstanding work with Project 106 for Middle School Sports and her recent efforts to obtain a legislative grant in the amount of \$5000.**

**Rebekah Gendron, Coordinator of Instructional Technology, assisted the district with implementation of field tests; Skyward setup; NECAP testing and flawless implementation of the PARCC testing.**

**Motion by Ms. Clupny to move Item I.2. up on the agenda—Presentation on school safety plan, seconded by Mr. Conley. Vote 5-0.**

**Presentation on School Safety – Lt. Blinn, EPPD Chief Elmasian, Chief of EPFD, Mr. Feola, Security Manager for the School Department. This report is an overview on what has been done over the past year: Changing school safety in our buildings; every building locked; visitors buzzed in; cameras in place; card swipes for doors, high school added 18 new cameras and will be adding two more. Every elementary school has front door and a second door with swipe cards on camera; Technology Department has now tied cameras in with police and fire on I-Pads; will look to continue to put money into cameras at the two middle schools; this the Superintendent has authorized kits; we are working on classroom backpacks; color-coded card system to account for children in the event of an emergency; hope to have up and running soon.**

**Chief Elmasian of East Providence Fire Department – Department in**

**the process of auto response in an active shooter incident; cameras have cut down on alarms; public assembly areas at Middle schools now have sprinklers; stand pipes updated; inadequate water pressure issues corrected; drills conducted; we have to be on guard; he will address with his command staff; whatever the situation, the command staff has instant system in many instances. The Chief stressed that, as a city, we need to all work together so that the city operates under a unified command; police, fire, incident dependent on who Incident Command will be and all will work together for the greatest amount of safety.**

**Lt. Blinn has 24 year's experience and in the last year and a half strides have been made with the School Department and Chief Elmasian of the Fire Department; all are efficient, professional, and capable to handle events; drill held last week inside and out; had all students come out; practiced lock down drills; Last year at the high school, we learned about issues with lock down; within short period of time, police will be in any building; parents happy this is being done; there were no negative comments.**

**Mr. Monteiro said he was present at the drill and all officers acted in a professional manner; this is a learning process for all involved; he thanked the Police Department. Lt. Blinn explained that even though statistically it will not happen here, we need to be prepared.**

**Mr. Feola – incident command; all administrators, principals taking**

**ICS training classes so everyone will understand style of leadership; classes ongoing; the Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent are trained and training will continue.**

**Mr. Ferreira thanked the Police and Fire Departments for their expertise and assistance.**

## **Superintendent's Report**

### **Budget Presentation 2012-13**

**Malcolm Moore, Director of Finance - reported on the FY 2013 audit - budget to actual second year in a row; very good results; \$2,471,642 ending fund balance; approximately \$600,000 reserve to OPEB to fund pensions going forward; will be fully funded; \$1.8 million left; unanticipated savings; Budget Commission; Superintendent stuck with funding last year and we had a very good year.**

**Kim Mercer, Superintendent requested that the School Committee approve placing of surplus into line items as follows: \$200 stipend for every teacher and administrator in the city to reimburse them for classroom supplies; another area of concern – Eureka work books \$113,000 to purchase work books; less copying; \$25,000 for Waddington ELC playground; two laptop carts for MMS which hold 24 laptops; (asking for two which will benefit us with PARCC testing); Curriculum change for textbooks at MMS \$29,443 social studies; OPEB – Post Employment Benefits; Capital Improvements – Total**

**\$2,471,642.00.**

**NEASC Presentation – Kim Mercer provided an update on the status of high school accreditation. She stated that Janet Allison of NEASC was impressed with the changes and the work we have completed at the high school; however, additional items need to be addressed in areas of concern; science lab, lack of sufficient labs; School Committee voted for a beautiful state-of-the-art lab; guidance area, SRO's office; nursing office; physical education concerns – weight, cardio, aerobic rooms refurbished; tried to put money back into instructional areas; improvements in technology; two new labs; wireless access in all schools; new laptop for teachers for instruction; wall projectors to connect to laptops and other constraints; ADA water fountains, cleanliness; general repairs, floor tiles; door frames painted; HVAC person working; we have come a long way since hiring the right people; new signage; new furniture and added chairs; Mr. Catelli working on donations of six classrooms of furniture. A PowerPoint update has been sent to NEASC; we are hoping for full accreditation and should know sometime this summer; Ms. Allison has asked the person from the original visit committee to view all the changes we have made.**

**Personnel Report on Resignation/Leaves of Absence/Retirement:**

**JOB SHARE**

**Michelle Chamberlin/Dena Francescon-Special Education-Kent**

## **Heights-2014/2015 School Year**

### **RETIREMENT**

**Paula Agresti-Physical Education Teacher-Elem-Effective End of 2013/2014 School Year**

### **RESIGNATION**

**John Gorham-Head Football Coach-EPHS-Effective 05/16/2014**

**Darlene Hale-Math Teacher-EPHS-Effective End of 2013/2014 School Year**

**Erin Hynes-Summer School Science Teacher-MMS-Effective 05/19/2014**

**Lisa Lehmuller-Library/Media-Hennessey/Kent Heights-Effective End of 2013/2014 School Year**

### **Consent Agenda**

**Finance Report – Superintendent Mercer presented the finance report and requested that the surplus of \$2,471,642.00 (excess of revenues over expenditures) be allocated to line items for salaries, textbooks, technology, equipment, and capital as discussed earlier in the meeting. Motion by Ms. Clupny to approve the finance report with surplus expenditures appropriated to line items designated by the Superintendent, seconded by Mr. Pimentel. Vote 5-0.**

### **Approval of Minutes**

**Motion by Ms. Clupny to approve the minutes of the meetings held on**

**March 5, 2014, March 11, 2014, March 25, 2014, April 8, 2014 and April 14, 2014, seconded by Mr. Ferreira. Vote 5-0.**

### **Action Items**

**Bradley Partnership Contract – Motion by Ms. Clupny to authorize Attorney Jon Anderson to begin negotiations with Bradley, seconded by Mr. Pimentel. Vote 5-0.**

### **Awarding of Bids**

**Foodservice Contract - Malcolm Moore, Finance Director and Linda Dykeman, Deputy Finance Director reported that three bids were received for the food service contract: Chartwells, Sedexo, and Aramark presented; all guaranteed fees in varying degrees; one year contract for four additional years; Superintendent brought attention to lunch pricing; this is a USDA requirement and has nothing to do with Chartwells specifically. Discussion took place; questions regarding retention of employees. Linda Dykeman explained that Chartwells is negotiating with employees; Aramark has a national contract; Sedexo has been discussing the potential and does not anticipate any problems; all salary and benefits would remain in place; manager designated by the company and it is expected that it will be consistent with what they have now; they all want to retain expertise of employees.**

**In response to questions about management fees, Mr. Moore**

explained that the increase is due to breakfast and reduced lunch; guaranteed at least \$100,000; Chartwells new management; year after year losing money; all three did very good presentations. Mr. Conley felt that projections of 20% with no more customers is very ambitious in his opinion. Ms. Clupny added that the School Committee said they would do best they could with saving jobs; not saying anything about jobs; would like to see what people will get. Mr. Monteiro said it was a concern, not a heavy commitment; he asked about the deadline on making a decision. Linda Dykeman responded that a vendor would need to be in place by July 1st . Mr. Ferreira said that he emailed the Superintendent about this; he just received the information Friday night and the amount of the contract is \$10-12 million dollars; he needs more information; this is time sensitive, but he just received Friday to vote by July 1st; he needs information on some of the issues; the total package is 180 pages to review. Mr. Monteiro asked that this matter be tabled to the next meeting.

Mr. Moore said he can bring vendors in for a presentation. Mr. Conley did not believe the projections; they are basing profit on increased sales and guessing the approximate sales. Mr. Moore said he gave them all our numbers. Motion made by Ms. Clupny to table the food service contract for further study, seconded by Mr. Pimentel. Vote 5-0.

Discussion regarding playground bid – three companies bid; teachers were presented with about five different options and they selected

**American Parks Company. Mr. Catelli advised that the lead time is about four to six weeks for delivery and the coordinator will put it together; estimated that it would come in second or third week in August. The Superintendent advised they would send detailed plans and the coordinator.**

**Izilda Teves – requested that the playground project be awarded to Mike from Ultiplay who has done every playground in the city. Superintendent Mercer advised that teachers were given the proposals and they liked that product; someone else could do it.**

**Mr. Ferreira said he would like to meet with Mike. The Superintendent will ask him to come back in to meet with the teachers.**

**Jessica Beauchine added that in her experience with the other playgrounds, they were advised not to use tunnels because of some issues; she asked to keep that under consideration when deciding.**

**Motion by Ms. Clupny to table for further study and to have vendor come out, seconded by Mr. Ferreira. Vote 5-0**

**Wireless Grant – Motion by Ms. Clupny to accept wireless grant, seconded by Mr. Ferreira. Vote 5-0. Vendors proposed to complete wireless in every classroom; selected and recommended Jacobs Technology; successful dealings for over ten years; this is a grant from the state which we facilitate; they will invoice East Providence**

**and the state will reimburse us.**

**Personnel Appointments/Recalls – Superintendent's  
Recommendations:**

## **APPOINTMENTS**

**Joseph Monteiro-Head Football Coach-EPHS-Effective 2014/2015  
School Year**

## **RECALLS**

**Daniel Cabral**

**Kelly Fontaine Carlos**

**Keith Daniels**

**Sean McBride**

**Edward DeArruda**

**Marilyn Cabral**

**Jennifer Dunay**

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

**Request for Field Trip Approval for Career and Technical School  
students – Motion by Ms. Clupny to approve, seconded by Mr.  
Ferreira. Vote 5-0.**

**Home School Request(s) – Motion by Ms. Clupny to approve**

requests, seconded by Mr. Conley.

Vote 5-0.

### Requisitions – Bill Lists

#### Warrant #

1396 5/21/14 \$ 779,400.93

1397 5/22/14 51,240.00

1399 5/29/14 \$ 6,234.62

1401 6/4/14 \$ 33,800.70

1403 6/5/14 \$ 273,836.39

1404 6/5/14 \$1,639,377.95

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

Request to Name EPHS Gym/Court – Mr. Rodericks of East Providence Alumni Association, requested that the high school gym be dedicated to Dr. Isadore Ramos and the court to Luis Carvalho. A motion was made by Mr. Pimentel to name the gym after both individuals: Dr. Isadore Ramos and Luis Carvalho; with nothing on the court. Mr. Monteiro had a concern that the double name would lose the identity of each person. Mr. Ferreira liked the idea of putting a name on the court. No second to the motion; motion failed.

Motion by Ms. Clupny to name the gym after Dr. Ramos and the court after Mr. Carvalho, seconded by Mr. Ferreira. Roll call vote: Ms. Clupny, aye; Mr. Conley, aye; Mr. Ferreira, aye; Mr. Pimentel, nay; Mr. Monteiro, aye. Motion carried 4-1.

## **Revised Policies – Second Passage of the following:**

**III.A. Line Staff Operation**

**III.B. Administrative Organization**

**III.C. Organization in Terms of Function**

**III.D. Administrative Areas of Responsibility - Delete**

**III.E. Supervisory Principal ship**

**III.F. Administrative Council**

**II.G. Administrators Attendance at School Committee Meetings**

**III.H. Evaluation of the Superintendent**

**Motion by Ms. Clupny to accept second passage, seconded by Mr. Conley. Vote 5-0. Mr. Monteiro noted that in Policy III H – review of administrators; he was advised by legal there is some protection over those evaluations.**

## **Old Business**

**PTA Reports – Izilda Teves –Orlo Avenue School - first annual zoo fundraiser;**

**Jessica Beauchaine – Riverside Middle School PTA – pasta dinner in the gym on June 18th at 5:30PM; proceeds will go to gym renovation projects for Martin and Riverside Middle Schools.**

## **Public Comment II – Non Agenda Items**

**Mr. Souza noted that the parking situation is not very good at Kent Heights; he had a conversation with the Principal about it; the police have been there; the street should be shut down every afternoon between 2:30 and 3:30PM; he said Mr. Monteiro called City Council members about it.**

**Mr. Monteiro noted that for the immediate future he asked Ed Catelli to get a “Do Not Enter” tripod sign. Mr. Catelli commented that this matter needs to go before the City Council; the City Engineer can look into the problems there. Mr. Catelli also working with the school on adding parking; the PTA raised money for additional parking there.**

**Diana Clarkin, Operations Manager said she spoke with Mr. Coutu who went out there; not as easy to do as everyone thinks; he did not think we could do a change; the issue at Orlo can be raised as a concern again.**

**Izilda Teves – Orlo has traffic issues; last year Mr. Catelli met with the City Engineer; plans were never done; it needs to go before the City Council to get approved for next year.**

**Mr. Ferreira commented that two meetings prove to him we are spinning our wheels; 50 tickets issued one year ago; nothing has been done; city traffic engineer and police need to go to schools to be able to plan before school starts in September,**

**Mary Teixeira stated that Silver Spring has the same problems; bus pickup on the side. Also, a mistake about money; \$2 million surplus answer sooner than later; workbooks; \$200 stipend; \$100,000 teacher position; spend ton money on supplies. Kim Mercer – one shot hire; someone year after year.**

**Chrissy Rossi does believe City Council will and can do what is needed; she believes people need to get together; get City Council and School Committee together; we need an answer about a teacher position.**

**Kim Mercer - will need one somewhere.**

**Izilda Teves – evacuation at Orlo; feedback great; thank you . Do we offer free breakfast for all students? Upset and stressed out about Orlo and Hennessey priority schools; why were schools not notified.**

**Kim Mercer said she met with faculty three times now and again tomorrow; next Tuesday will be meeting with parents at Orlo; embargoed until Monday; met with teachers; plan in place last year; rankings for 2013 school year – 6PM Tuesday June 17th will post meeting, send out notices as soon as possible.**

**Julie Motta added that information is on RIDE website which gives explanation how schools are scored.**

**Heather Foley – PTA member - will information be posted if you can attend meeting; whatever plan, will it take teachers out of the classroom?**

**Mr. Ferreira thanked everyone for allowing all speakers the opportunity to speak; moved up Public Comment on the agenda for more input.**

**Mr. Conley thanked Project 106 group for providing uniforms to our teams.**

#### **Announcements**

**Graduation Date (June 13, 2014) and Last Day of School (June 25, 2014)**

**Motion by Ms. Clupny to adjourn at 11:00PM, seconded by Mr. Ferreira. Vote 5-0.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Patricia A. Iannelli, Administrative Assistant**

**Elizabeth Clupny, Clerk of the Committee**