

EAST PROVIDENCE SCHOOL DEPARTMENT

East Providence School Committee

East Providence City Hall Council Chamber

145 Taunton Avenue

East Providence, Rhode Island 02914

August 26, 2014

Open Session

Mr. Monteiro called the Public Session to order at 8:00 PM. Members Present: Timothy Conley, Elizabeth Clupny, Anthony Ferreira, Joel Monteiro. Also present: Kim Mercer, Superintendent of Schools.

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

Swearing in of New School Committee Member – Nate Cahoon by Assistant Mayor Thomas Rose to fill Ward 3 seat held by Richard Pimentel.

Public Comment I – Agenda Items – Jessica Beauchaine spoke regarding the playground build at Waddington School on Friday and Saturday; more playgrounds need to be built in the city; a community build can save money and as much as 25% more equipment can be purchased if we do not pay for assembly/build. She suggested more

community builds; this is the second build at Waddington and the third in the city; thanks to all who came out; wanted playground for the preschool before but could not raise the funds for it.

Superintendent's Report - Kim Mercer, Superintendent, provided reports requested by the School Committee on Home School Students, the Private School Textbook Procedure, and data on Summer School Results.

Facilities Report – Ed Catelli, Facilities Director, reported that the Waddington Playground build was very successful; thanks to Mr. Ferreira and Mr. Rybka. A fence is needed around that area and we will be putting in a pad where handicapped ramp is, enlarging the fenced area; fence company will need ten days to complete that project. He originally thought that the city could do the work on the basketball courts but is now soliciting bids because the city could not do an area that large; once bids are in, the city engineer will review it; John Carnevale also involved in that project.

Whiteknact School Project – Mike Bahry from Bahry Construction attended to report on the progress: project 99% complete; doing the gutters and asphalt patch to be completed tomorrow.

Mr. Ferreira asked if starting flashing and downspouts Monday; Mr. Bahry estimated about a week; they cannot work days at the school after school opening and will need to work on Saturday or after school hours. Bahry said landscaping will be done by Saturday. All

asbestos tests came back negative; will move forward with all the tile work; will be completed tomorrow; wax and seal by Friday afternoon; hoping teachers can go in on Monday and Tuesday; library rugs are in, walls painted and shelves on walls; everything moved back. Science lab – Irons there few hours here and there; expect to be done tomorrow; test at 10AM Tuesday for the teachers to use equipment in science lab; monitoring will continue; still have counter top issues and Mr. Catelli does not want to grind counter down; need to discuss with Irons and Farrar to see what can be done.

Mr. Ferreira asked who will sign off on Science Lab counter tops as far as safety issues.

Mr. Catelli will pose that question to them and to Building Inspector; the other option is to grind them down and see what happens on Saturday, then we can say not acceptable if not level for people to work on; company looked at it; they say it is man-made industry standard; company will grind them but not guaranteed. Mr. Ferreira asked to try the grinding and if that does not work, not acceptable to us.

Personnel Report on Resignation/Leaves of Absence/Retirement:

Leave of Absence

Julie Zeng-Music Teacher-Waddington-Effective 2014/2015 School Year

Robert Zeng-Music Teacher-Francis- Effective 2014/2015 School Year

Kristine Ricci-Business Teacher-High School - Effective 2014/2015 School Year

Anne Marie Scott-Grade 3 Teacher-Waddington- Effective 2014/2015 School Year

Resignations:

Holly DaSilveira-Literacy Coach-District-Effective 8/18/2014

Katherine Barker-Grade 4 Teacher-Francis-Effective 8/18/14

Allison Battis-Science Teacher-High School-Effective 8/15/2014

Samantha Scocchi-Special Ed/Pre K-Waddington-Effective 8/14/2014

Jennifer Preiss-Social Worker-RMS/Oldham-Effective 8/12/2014

Allison Gontero-Kindergarten Teacher-Orlo-Effective 8/18/2014

Lisa Goulden-Secretary-Kent Heights-Effective 8/19/2014

Leanne Ayotte-Teacher Assistant 1:1 – Whiteknact-Effective 8/19/2014

Margarita Moreira-Supervisory Assistant-Kent Heights-Effective 8/26/2014

Action Items

Personnel Appointments: Superintendent's Recommendations:

Lisa Winn-School Nurse-Whiteknact Elementary-Effective 8/26/14

Kelly Giorgi-Kindergarten Teacher-Orlo-Effective 8/26/14

Julie Benson-Grade 2 Teacher Silver Spring-Effective 8/26/14

Jennifer McKinnon-School Nurse-Hennessey-Effective 8/26/14

Karen Weber-Speech Language Pathologist-Waddington-From 4/5 to

5/5 Effective 2014-2015 School Year

Danielle Beaudoin-Parsons-Speech Language Pathologist-Whiteknact-From 4/5 to 5/5 Effective 2014-2015 School Year

Jennifer Cook-Special Ed Teacher – MMS – Effective 2014/2015 School Year

Elizabeth Donahue-Grade 3 Teacher-Waddington- Effective 2014/2015 School Year

Kathryn Davey-Music Teacher-Waddington- Effective 2014/2015 School Year

Amanda Betchy-Music Teacher-Francis- Effective 2014/2015 School Year

Cynthia Joseph-Teacher Assistant 1:1-ELC- Effective 2014/2015 School Year

Anna Maria Nysio-Teacher Assistant-Effective 2014/2015 School Year

Beverly Pendrak-From Supervisory Assistant to Teacher Assistant-Effective 2014/2015 School Year

Karen Greene- From Supervisory Assistant to Teacher Assistant-Effective 2014/2015 School Year

Amanda Lord-Teacher Assistant Braille Materials Prep Specialist-MMS- Effective 2014/2015 School Year

Helena Jorge-Supervisory Assistant-Whiteknact- Effective 2014/2015 School Year

Virgina Keneally-Supervisory Assistant-Orlo- Effective 2014/2015 School Year

Nicolena Corey-Supervisory Assistant-Hennessey- Effective

2014/2015 School Year

Nancy Telford-Supervisory Assistant-Hennessey- Effective 2014/2015 School Year

Lisa Rayner- Supervisory Assistant-Hennessey- Effective 2014/2015 School Year

Amanda Claus-Social Worker-Orlo/ALC- Effective 2014/2015 School Year

Tarah Wilson-Teacher Assistant-Whiteknact- Effective 2014/2015 School Year

Stacie Delos-Teacher Assistant-TBD- Effective 2014/2015 School Year

Requisitions – Bill List

Warrant #1431 8/21/14 \$59,660.63

Warrant #1432 8/26/14 \$683,349.34

Motion by Ms. Clupny to approve, seconded by Mr. Conley. Vote 4-0.

Awarding of Bids/Change Orders

Bahry Soffitt Coverings

Mr. Ferreira – just cosmetic; if \$36,000 for one school, why not another; voting against this; we could use this money to fix the sidewalks at elementary schools; Silver Spring sidewalk needs work; with curbing non-existent, how can we spend these funds on cosmetic work. Mr. Conley agreed there are many life/safety issues which need to be taken care of.

Mr. Ferreira said the architects never brought up soffits; the roofing company brought it up; he is offended when the architect went out and no one saw soffits until 7 days before school?

Mr. Catelli believes it is just an option;

Mr. Ferreira felt that we could get 2-4 maintenance men to do some of this work in house; we should spend \$36,000 better than that; we need to fill staff and start doing work in house; a business cannot run the way we do things; for two years he has been asking what does it take to get Mr. Catelli some help; he would like a discussion on it.

Motion by Ms. Clupny to amend motion to reject proposal for the roof soffits, seconded by Mr. Cahoon. Vote 5-0.

Bahry Repair of Existing Gymnasium Wall on back side of building-recondition

Mr. Ferreira – would like to reject this job also; he explained how it could be fixed for less money and we could save \$3700; we now have staff skilled enough to do the job; we need more guys to try to build up staff to maintain work on the buildings we have.

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

Amended Policies for Second Passage:

II.J.5. Criminal Records Background Checks

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

IV.D.1 Placement, Promotion, Retention and Grading – Mr. Cahoon had a question on accumulated credits; 24 hours community service

is graduation requirement – 6 hours; later in document accumulation or 6 hours per year; 3 pages later - H5 – what are ramifications; first page #7 – general requirements on another page, 6 per year.

Tabitha Watchen explained that students cannot pay forward, if not six in freshman and sophomore year, can do all at the end, but if you do 24 in freshmen year; still have to do other years; discussion about student can do 24 at last minute.

Ms. Clupny– motion to reject second passage of amended policy; first passage and amended seconded passage; School Committee can reject 2nd passage; looking for amendment or does it have to start from scratch. Mr. Silva, legal counsel explained that a second passage allows amendment and adoption; can do second passage now or defer until appropriate amendment completed; everyone will have a chance to look at it and understand it; can do now or defer; if no second, it does not pass.

Motion by Ms. Clupny to defer for further study; the committee who put this together can consider the change, seconded by Mr. Cahoon. Vote 5-0.

Amended Policies for First Passage:

Health and Wellness Policy - Discussion about the policy and restrictions.

Motion by Mr. Conley for first passage; seconded by Mr. Ferreira.

Roll Call Vote: Mr. Cahoon, aye; Mr. Conley, aye; Mr. Ferreira, aye; Ms. Clupny, nay; Mr. Monteiro, aye. Vote 4-1.

New Policies for First Passage

Policy for Student Teacher Interns and Cooperating Teachers -

Motion by Ms. Clupny to accept first passage, seconded by Mr. Cahoon. Vote 5-0.

Policy for Data Privacy – Motion by Ms. Clupny to accept first passage, seconded by Mr. Ferreira.

Vote 5-0

Policy and Protocol for School Response to Teen Dating Violence and Sexual Violence- Motion by Ms. Clupny to defer policy, seconded by Mr. Cahoon. Vote 5-0

Old Business – None

Public Comment II – Non Agenda Items

Fred Rybka –felt the agenda should not be set up like this; parents should be able to come to the meeting with problems at beginning of the meeting.

Mr. Monteiro– can revise the agenda to have first public comment to be agenda and non-agenda items.

Mr. Rybka asked about how long to install sprinklers; ridiculous if we have to wait until 2016.

Karen Doucette – AYSO President – very surprised to hear that Bayside (a for profit) put money into a field; she offered \$10,000 for sprinkler; they have 7000 plus city players; area set aside for lacrosse too small; 60 yards wide only 30 now; not large enough; need loam to seed in addition to work needed, she did not see as viable option; AYSO willing to meet with School Committee; playing for 24 years and they are the largest group and insulted not part of discussion; she and the Oceaneers have been on committees which have gone

nowhere.

Mr. Conley - no formal proposal for any plans, aspirations

Mr. Ferreira – totally against paying one person; we need a city plan and have a meeting with the public involved.

Mr. Monteiro agreed; his first conversation with them before anything goes forward, sit down with AYSO for benefit to everyone.

Mr. Souza – many kids being left out; Bayside looking for own interest; we are here for East Providence kids; has been here for 19 years; 3 children he coached; Oceaneers would have to bounce around; we are the only city without a soccer home field; he asked to be on the task force; he wants to present to City Council also; we have baseball, football; city should look at soccer fields; fastest growing, like lacrosse; need to work out something with them; AYSO should have known this months ago; the Oceaneers need a complex.

Parent spoke regarding holding band camp during hot weather and concerned they do not have water or cold drinks in place; where do the kids go for drinks; non-school sponsored; he wanted to make sure kids are looked after.

Mr. Ferreira checked with Superintendent; thanked him for bringing that concern forward; need more input from the community; have the right to call the Superintendent with questions.

Kim Mercer stated that the students are in and out of the school and they have access to water fountains (hose hooked up outside).

Chrissy Rossi – asked if the about cheese sandwich lunch policy is a

city policy or a Food Service Company policy? She went to a couple of schools this week with the Superintendent and quality of cleanliness good; also asked to put Oldham back to the city if no plans for building.

Jessica Beauchaine - in September 2014 Chartwells will no longer allow a balance; alternative lunch provided if qualified for free and reduced lunch; on front page of the high school website.

Mr. Monteiro requested clarification on this by the Superintendent.

Jessica Beauchaine - transportation question; she applied for an appeal on a bus stop, but they are not reviewed until October.

Speaker – asked if there is money in the budget for uniforms; kids fundraising; Boys and Girls soccer uniforms. Superintendent Mercer will look into it.

Discussion about the transportation policy; students have to walk a mile to school; policy one mile or less; School Committed requested clarification.

Mr. Ferreira would like to be on record to have two regularly scheduled meetings announced in advance.

Mr. Monteiro requested this be placed on the next agenda for discussion and vote to make a standard schedule.

Announcements - Opening of School – September 4, 2014; September

19th gym court dedication ceremony planned between JV and Varsity games.

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. Conley. Vote 5-0.

School Committee returned to Public Session; Motion by Ms. Clupny to return to public session and to seal minutes of the executive session, seconded by Mr. Ferreira. Vote 5-0.

Report Executive Session Votes - None

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Patricia A. Iannelli, Administrative Assistant

Nathan Cahoon, Clerk of the Committee