

EAST PROVIDENCE SCHOOL DEPARTMENT

East Providence School Committee

East Providence City Hall - Council Chamber

145 Taunton Avenue

East Providence, Rhode Island 02914

April 14, 2015

Open Session

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

Members Present: Nathan Cahoon, Anthony Ferreira, Joel Monteiro, Charles Tsonos Jessica Beauchaine arrived after open call. Also present: Kim Mercer, Superintendent of Schools; Robert Silva, Esq. and Andrew Thomas, Esq.

A motion was made by Mr. Cahoon 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. Monteiro.

Vote 5-0.

The School Committee returned to Public Session. A motion was made by Mr. Cahoon to return to open session and to seal the

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

Report Executive Session Votes ¡V None

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

Community Recognition ¡V Julie Motta, Assistant Superintendent presented the following commendations:

„X Recognition of Outstanding Teaching

„X Shoes that Fit Grant ¡V Orlo Avenue School

„X Recognition of Teacher Assistant

„X Competition Cheerleaders-State Champions

„X All State Athletes-Fall and Winter

Student Liaison Report ¡V William Vanner presented a report on high school events and activities.

PTO/PTA Reports ¡V Jessica Beauchaine reported that she attended a National PTA Convention and that East Providence was recognized for meeting 10% membership mark; however, we need more schools involved to try to get as many members as possible.

Public Comment I ¡V Agenda Items

Fred Rybka asked when repairs to school grounds will occur; Oldham back parking lot needs work. Mr. Cahoon responded that Mr. Ferreira requested that this item be included on the next Facilities Meeting agenda.

Technology Requirement Options ✓ Item on the agenda at the request of Mr. Monteiro who had questions about the half year courses a couple meetings ago and received feedback regarding good merit and value; noted that several districts have flexibility and allow students to test out of technology in order to take advantage of another elective.

who need technology instruction in high school (not provided at the middle school level) in order to be career and college ready; Guidance Department looked at students who might not need a full year of technology and now students can take a half year of technology and half year of physical education, which opens up a block for another elective. Discussion regarding technology at grade 8 and if we get data. Julie Motta, Assistant Superintendent, reported that the data was shared with teachers; it was full year physical education and full year technology; now it is half; test on what is proficient at the middle school; does not include others that take skills to next level; shows what they have done at that level; technology at middle school not the same as level one. Mrs. Almquist explained that last year students only needed .5 technology for four years; down from six; automatically filled to five; they can

chose in a year.

Special Education Program Presentation | Eileen Crudele, Director of Pupil Personnel presented PowerPoint to respond to questions from School Committee regarding programs. Jon Anderson, Esq. present.

Mr. Monteiro said he was getting questions from parents at the Middle School; a grading question from parents regarding inconsistencies; student placed in a regular classroom; should not have been there; concern about elimination of self-contained at high school beyond what parents want or are comfortable with; he is being asked if we are taking them out to fill items on a spreadsheet? Whose agenda does that follow? Least restrictive environment, if not conducive to any child's learning, is restricted; not overly comfortable with how the IEP team generally works.

Eileen Crudele explained that according to the regulations, ten days before an IEP takes effect, it is the parent's right to call a review meeting; the next step is for them to call RI Department of Education to ask for mediation, which is very successful; there are options out there and she recommends all have been successful; it is about goals, objectives and services to meet the needs and to then make a determination of services; all that is done before physical location is decided; a meeting is held within ten school days and then services are provided within ten days; a team looks at multiple pieces of data

and grades are considered as only one piece of data to be considered. In response to a question by Mr. Cahoon,, East Providence is at 22% and East Providence and RI as a whole over identifies. Ms. Crudele ;V continue to build continuum of services; look at reallocation and adjustment of funds.

Attorney Jon Anderson noted this is a non-consent item at this point, not an action item.

Mr. Cahoon stated that Bradley Contract listed under Section T; vote involved; what do we need to do with agenda. Mr. Silva asked for a vote and second to move item up on the agenda. Motion by Mr. Cahoon to move to Item #12 Bradley Contract, seconded by Ms. Beauchaine. Vote 5-0.

Bradley Contract ;VAttorney Jon Anderson present to discuss Bradley contract which is year to year; School Committee needs to act before April 30th; to give notice to Bradley to negotiate; looking for School Committee to give guidance on sending letter to Lifespan Solutions to negotiate a new contract for next school year; district has phased out students not from East Providence; only this year students from East Providence and not rest of state; other districts have students returning back home; least restrictive environment; at 21 out in community; students back in their community; by end of this year we will have none. Mr. Anderson asked if any changes on the contract.

Eileen Crudele ¶ average tuition for a student at the Partnership is \$38,000 plus; if student placed in a similar program, cost would be upwards of \$60-70,000.

Mr. Anderson stated that last year, at the request of the Superintendent and Special Education Director, he communicated with the attorney at Lifespan and provided information to the School Committee for approval before school started.

Mr. Monteiro had concerns about soft cost to maintain space; our resources support that area; what is plan roll out?

Eileen Crudele ¶ there were savings since they serve East Providence students also; we needed a year to determine professional development etc. and we still need the Bradley contract to continue for 2015-16 school year to meet the needs of a population that East Providence cannot; will plan and write IEP's and requesting that the School Committee start the negotiations process.

Discussion regarding planning. **Mr. Ferreira** asked what would be negotiated.

Mr. Anderson explained that the contract would roll over for a year if we do nothing; last year changed out-of-district students; questioned why are we paying services for Cranston; School Committee can say satisfied or can make more changes.

Mr. Monteiro ¶ object was to get an update on this program. **Kim Mercer** asked Eileen if there was a need to enter into conversation

with them; asked Mr. Anderson to write a letter to have the option to make changes. Mr. Anderson read from the letter that East Providence giving notice that we are willing to sit down and talk.

Kim Mercer ¡V we can save significant amount by entering into a partnership.

Mr. Ferreira ¡V if we save money, it has to go back to program; money should go to build programs on year to year.

Motion by Mr. Cahoon to accept forwarding letter to Bradley, seconded by Mr. Ferreira. Vote 5-0.

YMCA Presentation on Summer Programs - Mike Squadrito of the YMCA, Karen Rebello and Rebecca Chase, Recreation Department presented information on the Summer Loss Prevention Programs. Ms. Beauchaine asked who can get into the program. Karen Rebello stated that it is open to the district; she obtains a list from Dawn August, Curriculum Office and then seeks out families. In response to a question about the financial aspect of the program, Mr. Squadrito responded that program is dependent on a \$35,000 grant to YMCA; three years; fully funded first year \$30; \$20; \$10 in third year; at this point they are trying to fill gap and are looking for support. Mr. Ferreira will make a \$500 donation for next year.

Technology Presentation ¡V Motion by Mr. Cahoon to pass over this

item, seconded by Mr. Monteiro. Vote 5-0.

Mr. Monteiro requested that Curriculum Director (Dawn August) provide requirements for Item J - Technology Requirement Options.

Charter School Attendance iV passed on.

Resolution Promoting State Legislation to Opt Out of Standardized Testing iV Motion by Mr. Cahoon to adopt, seconded by Mr. Monteiro.

Vote 5-0. Discussion: Ms. Beauchaine concerned with wording i§or similar assessments.i” Mr. Cahoon - parents not having choice concern; he supports the bill but has no say on final bill.

Roll call vote: Ms. Beauchaine, aye; Mr. Ferreira, aye; Mr. Tsonos, aye; Mr. Monteiro, aye; Mr. Cahoon, aye.

Facilities Report - Report of the Facilities Sub-Committee iV Mr. Cahoon provided update on meeting.

Ms. Beauchaine noted potholes, sinkholes around schools; parking lot across from Waddington needs repair; is that the responsibility of the city or schools; parents use for pick up. Oldham School has similar issues; someone tripped.

Peter Barilla, Facilities Department iV Waddington will be worked on next week by the city; Oldham needs to be addressed since it is best to rip out the whole parking lot.

Mr. Ferreira;V Charlie Roberts, Project Manager meets with them every Monday to address concerns; there were mis-measured handles; doors were on property three weeks and it should have been known then that the doors do not fit right; they should have taken inventory of doors and measured right away; should have been focused on by SMMA; it could add money to cost of doors; are we going to be billed by SMMA again; when door handles delivered; how much to install; we could be over on project; he needs answers as to why it happened; someone not doing their job tracking.

Mr. Ferreira;V when doors being replaced, they were going to rip down soffits; he wants a letter why they deemed it necessary to rip down soffits; when will we have a painter on staff. He questioned what qualifications they had to pull ceilings down; he and Charlie looked at Monday and could not find any cracks; needs Ben to explain how to add up all these things; lights T5 most expensive bulb LED lights; architects should sit with this Committee; should not do without School Committee input; work with Bill Reynolds going forward.

Policy Sub-Committee Report ;V Pass

Legal Counsel Advice on School Committee Communications ;V Mr. Monteiro placed this on the agenda; he will put together a list of questions to legal and School Committee.

Superintendent's Report

Personnel Report on Resignation/Leaves of Absence/Retirement

Leave of Absence

**Michael Solitro-Girl's Assistant Volleyball Coach-High School ;V
Effective 2015/2016 School Year**

**Finance Report ;V Linda Dykeman, Deputy Finance Director reported
as of March 31, 2015: Revenues of \$74,844,650; Surplus Noted;
Auditors still on site.**

Action Items

**East Providence Local Advisory Committee (EPLAC) Board Approval
;V Motion to approve by Mr. Cahoon, seconded by Mr. Ferreira. Vote
5-0.**

**Agreement on Soccer/Lacrosse Field Complex ;V Mr. Cahoon stated
that he anticipated having a signed agreement from Bayside to be
signed by the School Committee; however, at start of this meeting
did not have an agreement and will continue to iron details out or
move on; did not agree with lease, final terms and final buyout
clause. Mr. Cahoon asked legal if any problem discussing this now.
Mr. Silva ;V usually negotiations are done in executive session; Mr.
Andrade can identify progress.**

Mr. Andrade iV financing in place; buy out issue; update on project; go off lease iV our best interest on terms; last piece was buyout; School Committee, if new school construction, would not pay off lease; they not comfortable with that (\$1.4 million); he and legal not comfortable with that; final balance on loan to be paid by School Committee to remove and relocate elsewhere (20 years mentioned).

Discussion: Mr. Ferreira iV we pay remaining interest if we buy you out for construction or add i§educational purposesi” more specific; would be looking for payoff; he had issues with it; should note while they could make money in 5-7 years; state does not have money to build; has issue with interest after 15 years; at certain point business for profit; how can we pay interest; they should have good idea of profit margin.

Mr. Andrade iV not agreed upon

Attorney Thomas iV in negotiations; team fully aware of what was negotiated.

Mr. Monteiro iV no risk ten years, collect profits at that point plus pay interest; too messy iV we are not in business of financing front or back loaded; seems like non-issues that piece bad precedent for municipality; if more conversations to be had.

Mr. Andrade iV we are investing \$1.4 mill; turf \$2 mill upkeep iV field done in four months - turf cost; use of field for few months; concern about Mr. Monteiro saying no risk.

Mr. Monteiro iV Year 15 & 17 only expenses; not reimbursed for operational costs; as far as investment in property; no risk; costs operational only; good business venture covered by revenue already;

would walk away with time and energy spent; they would walk out the door debt free.

Ms. Beauchaine ¶ wants this to be a win-win for kids; asked if other districts doing this; would go with high school priority; does not know what we need to do to make this happen; School Committee taking risk.

Mr. Ferreira ¶ legal; table indefinitely and move on to other things; neither legal side can move.

Mr. Andrade ¶ willing to continue nonstop to make it work,

Mr. Tsonos ¶ continue talking; this not the time or place for negotiations.

Personnel Appointments

Richard Small-Girl ¶ is Track Coach ¶ Martin Middle School ¶ One Year

Angelo Pizzi-Assistant Varsity Football Coach ¶ One Year

Motion by Mr. Cahoon to approve, seconded by Mr. Ferreira. Vote 5-0.

Home School Requests ¶ Motion by Mr. Cahoon to approve three requests, seconded by Mr. Ferreira. Vote 5-0.

Approval of Field Trips:

Kim Mercer reported that information on the High School Wind Ensemble trip to California is only preliminary at this point and will come back to School Committee at a later date with formal request if

interest is there.

Track and Field ꝑ High School ꝑ Mr. Duarte ꝑ Pen Relays ꝑ requested School Committee permission to go based on fundraising; need about \$3000 but fairly confident the fundraising goal will be met. Motion by Ms. Beauchaine to approve, seconded by Mr. Ferreira

Motion by Mr. Cahoon to amend the motion to approve additional three requests:

Riverside Middle School ꝑ Grant Funded Trip to Washington D.C.; EP High School Music Department Tour of Italy; CTC/DECA Students to National Conference; seconded by Ms. Beauchaine. Vote 5-0

Requisitions ꝑ Bill List ꝑ Linda Dykeman, Deputy Finance Director presented items for payment:

Warrant #

| | | | |
|------|--------|----|--------------|
| 1489 | 4/1/15 | \$ | 707,288.39 |
| 1490 | 4/1/15 | \$ | 126,297.06 |
| 1491 | 4/9/15 | \$ | 1,295,387.30 |
| 1492 | 4/9/15 | \$ | 132,752.05 |

Motion by Mr. Cahoon to approve, seconded by Mr. Ferreira. Vote 4-0.

Additional Construction Payments:

Iron Construction - \$30,474.00

Motion to approve by Mr. Cahoon, seconded by Mr. Ferreira. Vote 4-0.

SMMA - \$7,804.30 ;V Mr. Cahoon requested itemization; move to defer pending receipt of information from SMMA, seconded by Mr. Ferreira. Vote 4-0.

SMMMA - \$217.33 ;V Motion by Mr. Cahoon to approve, seconded by Mr. Ferreira. Vote 4-0.

SMMA - \$4,238.32 ;V Motion by Mr. Cahoon to approve, seconded by Ms. Beauchaine. Vote 4-0.

Farrar - \$2,850.00 ;V Motion by Mr. Cahoon to approve, seconded by Mr. Ferreira. Vote 4-0.

Johnson Controls - \$19,981.00 ;V part of the Audit Update performance aspect; Mr. Cahoon ;V consensus was to make this payment and then take a look at additional audits and payments. Motion by Mr. Cahoon to pay this invoice, seconded by Mr. Ferreira. Vote 4-0.

E.W. Burman - \$156,736.70 ;V Motion by Mr. Cahoon to pay, seconded by Mr. Ferreira. Vote 5-0.

Approval to Amend Project Manager Contract to include Fire

Department Deficiency Planning T7 ;V Mr. Cahoon ;V Mr. Roberts involved to get buildings fire coded over the next couple years; SBS lent expertise (40 hours max); fairly nominal; important for the district. Motion by Mr. Cahoon to approve amendment to contract \$5500 for 40 hours based on current rate; motion seconded by Ms. Beauchaine. Motion and second withdrawn; table it pending clarification of date at next meeting.

Approval of Increase - School Lunch Price - Linda Dykeman recommended approval; after discussion, motion to approve by Mr. Cahoon, seconded by Mr. Ferreira. Vote 5-0.

Approval for Replacement of Dish Machine at Martin Middle School ;VAfter discussion, motion to approve by Mr. Cahoon, seconded by Mr. Ferreira. Vote 5-0.

Amended Policies for First Passage:

V.A.8 Attendance Policy and Procedures ;V Ms. Beauchaine;V drafted numerous times over years; noted changes, discussion ensued; motion to table by Mr. Monteiro, seconded by Mr. Cahoon. Vote 5-0.

V.A. 19 Anti-Bullying District Policy ;V Motion by Mr. Monteiro for first passage, seconded by Mr. Ferreira. Vote 5-0.

III.J.3. Interview Process & Procedures for Selection of Principals and Certified Administrators ;V Motion by Mr. Monteiro first passage,

seconded by Mr. Cahoon. Vote 5-0.

Amended Policies for Second Passage:

III.J.1. Staff Vacancies ¡V Motion by Mr. Monteiro, seconded by Ms. Beauchaine. Vote 5-0.

III.J.2. Consultants- Motion by Mr. Cahoon, seconded by Ms. Beauchaine. Vote 5-0.

III.J.4. Comparability ¡V Motion by Mr. Cahoon, seconded by Ms. Beauchaine. Vote 5-0.

III.J.7. Special Education Staffing Policy ¡V Motion by Mr. Monteiro, seconded by Mr. Cahoon. Vote 5-0.

III.J.8. English Language (ELL) Instructional Program Staffing ¡V Motion by Mr. Monteiro, seconded by Mr. Cahoon. Vote 5-0.

Old Business ¡V None

Public Comment II ¡V Non Agenda Items ¡V Izilda Teves of Orlo Avenue School asked about posting policies on line; asked to email Jessica Beauchaine or Pat Iannelli to obtain information/copies of policies which are being worked on.

Parent ¡V expressed concern about parental rights; had some special

education concerns; inclusion class at Waddington disappeared. She could not find the School Committee information on the website. Jessica is working on getting the master calendar on website.

Announcements

Beginning April 16, 2015- New Time Schedule ¡V Extra half hour - 15 minutes added to beginning and end of school day.

Waddington Pasta Dinner on 4/17/15

Jessica Beauchaine praised Oldham students who participated in a concert with the RI Philharmonic to benefit residents of the Hattie Ide Chaffee Home.

Joel Monteiro wanted to publicly thank Rick Lawson from Brown University for the computers donated to East Providence schools.

Mr. Ferreira ¡V Governor's Task Force hiring students for summer jobs; half the salary amount reimbursed by the state; additional information provided at City Hall, Room 305.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia A. Iannelli, Administrative Assistant

Nathan Cahoon, Clerk of the Committee