

EAST PROVIDENCE SCHOOL DEPARTMENT

East Providence School Committee

East Providence City Hall – Council Chamber

145 Taunton Avenue

East Providence, Rhode Island 02914

Special Meeting

April 20, 2015

Open Session

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

Members Present: Jessica Beauchaine, Nathan Cahoon, Anthony Ferreira, Joel Monteiro and Charles Tsonos. Also Present: Kim Mercer, Superintendent of Schools and Andrew Thomas, Esq.

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

Public Comment I – Agenda Items- None

Action Items

Approval to Amend Project Manager Contract to include Fire Department Deficiency Planning

Motion by Mr. Cahoon to approve, seconded by Mr. Ferreira.

Discussion: Mr. Ferreira asked if the new Facilities Director, Mr. William Reynolds, could oversee this project and requested that in the future, he would like Mr. Reynolds' opinion first if would be able to oversee a project before we go out to hire someone else to do it.

Door Project - Request to Approve Inclusion of Additional Doors at Martin Middle School Superintendent Mercer explained the request for approval of an additional six sets of doors; total increase at \$24,030; includes five sets of Type B and one set of Type F doors.

Mr. Cahoon stated that this is basically a debit/credit with Burman Company. Mr. Feola explained that the glass in the doors will be changed from one large piece of glass to less glass for safety/security purposes; locking mechanism will be included on all the doors. Mr. Ferreira asked which opinions should the School Committee consider and if Mr. Reynolds should go through all the projects to double check; he thinks jobs are padded with no accountability from the firm; this is taxpayer money and all need to get more involved.

Mr. Tsonos stated that the School Committee would like a plan to move forward and will leave it in Mr. Reynold's hands whether or not we need the architect to be involved.

Mr. Ferreira questioned why five soffits were scheduled for demolition rather than just caulk, scrape, and paint them to save

some money; if there was a legitimate reason, he would like to hear it; requested that Mr. Reynolds meet with them about it.

Motion by Ms. Beauchaine to approve door project, seconded by Mr. Cahoon. Vote 5-0.

Approval of Agreement with Bayside - Soccer/Lacrosse Field Complex – Mr. Cahoon reported that an agreement had been signed by Bayside who agreed to the terms negotiated over past few months; the deal break down presented from last fall is that we would provide the land, they would provide the turf and share the complex according to terms in the agreement; also carved out agreement for those groups like AYSO; the issues brought up the last time we discussed the agreement had been worked out. Mr. Cahoon stated that he and Mr. Monteiro had worked with Bayside over the last two weeks and felt this is best for the city, School Department and all who will use the facility.

Mr. Monteiro gave credit to the School Committee as a whole; all excited to provide field to students; this is new ground and we had to be careful with handling; sticking point was in a buy-out term; what was done, first ten years, they need stability; agreement is that we will be responsible for and finance for first ten years if we buy them out we would pay off balance of the loan, provided they are current; after year ten, any buy out reverts back to the schedule on amortization; all care and maintenance lies with Bayside inside the

fenced area; soccer and lacrosse will have a field; they all want it to happen. Mr. Monteiro thanked Mr. Cahoon and legal counsel for working on this. Mr. Cahoon also thanked Attorney Thomas; this is a much better agreement than similar ones throughout state; lot of shared risk and value.

Ms. Beauchaine thanked Mr. Cahoon and Mr. Monteiro for the time commitment; great opportunity for the city.

Mr. Ferreira – asked Bayside to commit to the statement that “we (East Providence) will not contribute one dime” especially for utility work.

Christopher Mulhearn, Esq. from Bayside LLC responded that they were under agreement with the School Committee and they are responsible for any upgrade lighting and meter allocation; Bayside has already checked and will use existing electrical service.

Mr. Ferreira – it could cost \$50-60,000 dollars to run tower lights; that is the reason why we should know it will not cost the city any money.

Mr. Mulhearn– the city should know if there is sufficient electrical service for what will be installed and would want sufficient electrical service to support installation.

Mr. Cahoon remembered that when this discussion started in February; a representative of Gail Architects attended a School Committee meeting and provided an architectural plan (Exhibit A) which included lighting, turf, bleachers, etc. When that plan was presented, he would have done due diligence on that. Mr. Mulhearn was comfortable that the electrical service will support installation.

Mr. Cahoon – they have done fields throughout the state; he pointed out that Mr. Ferreira made a good point; this has been challenged from the beginning, but he felt they have reduced all possible risks, reached a sound agreement and will get us what we wanted from the beginning.

Mr. Ferreira – will support electrical engineer on that; asked Superintendent if we could work on the tennis courts, which are in rough shape, now that we are not spending money on the field. Kim Mercer responded that we have an estimate for work on the tennis courts.

Mr. Cahoon – Bayside has signed off on the agreement; we will sign off on the agreement; then a signed agreement will go to the City Council for ratification at which point it will move forward,

A motion was made by Mr. Cahoon to approve the agreement as written and submit to the City Council for ratification, seconded by Mr. Monteiro. Mr. Monteiro did not agree that the ratification by the city was necessary; we do have a great deal on record but it differs

whether a necessity for the Council's vote, but gives the city the opportunity to bless the project. Vote 5-0.

Approval of Field Trip – East Providence High School Wind Ensemble

Motion by Mr. Monteiro to approve a request for the High School Band to travel to southern California to perform in April 2016, seconded by Mr. Cahoon. Vote 5-0.

Awarding of Bid for Student Transportation Services

Operations Manager, Diana Clarkin explained that the Ocean State contract expires on June 30th new contract covers the next five years; level funded for next year slight increase second to fifth year; we will receive a new fleet of propane buses; city will receive excise tax \$21,000; we have worked with them before; brand new initiative – no one else has; no additional cost to the city.

Mr. Monteiro thought it was good to be first with a green initiative.

Mr. Ferreira requested that notify the Fire Department for advice from the Chief.

Mr. Murgio – Fire Department will be involved with all the storage, etc.

Ms. Beauchaine asked if we will have new buses in the fall.

Mr. Cahoon – asked if any problems with having propane buses close to the schools. Mr. Murgio advised that RIPTA is using them now;

also in use in Omaha.

Mr. Ferreira requested this be held until the next meeting; he would feel better if this was run by the Fire Chief first for approval.

Mr. Murgo stated this was already two weeks late now; could it be approved subject to Fire Department approval; this is not new, there is a tank on Wampanoag Trail now; would have to go before the Fire Department anyway before anything goes in.

Mr. Ferreira thought it should have been done already.

Mr. Murgo – they tell us what to do; the Fire Department has to approve this and we have to do whatever they say; he will talk to the Fire Marshall; they have not had any problems before.

Motion by Mr. Ferreira to approve subject to Fire Marshall approval, seconded by Ms. Beauchaine. Vote 5-0.

The School Committee would like to ride the new buses when they arrive and would like to receive an update on would like an update regarding Fire Department approval.

Public Comment II – Non Agenda Items – Jessica Beauchine reported that the Waddington Pasta Dinner was a great success again.

Ryan Tellier – currently has a daughter attending Riverside Middle

School and will have a son going there next year; he received a letter saying his son was being administratively transferred to Riverside Middle School and that transportation would not be provided.

Diana Clarkin responded that a letter was sent out to four or five families asking if parent(s) wanted it to happen or not; will offer it going forward; this is the last year for siblings; this is still considered an administrative transfer; only parental requests do not get bus provided for the transfer; administrative transfer, we do provide bus; does not get bus automatically every year.

Motion to adjourn by Mr. Cahoon, Seconded by Ms. Beauchaine. Vote 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia A. Iannelli, Administrative Assistant

Nathan Cahoon, Clerk of the Committee