

EAST PROVIDENCE SCHOOL DEPARTMENT

East Providence School Committee

East Providence City Hall - Council Chamber

145 Taunton Avenue, East Providence, Rhode Island 02914

January 13, 2015

Open Session

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

Members present: Jessica Beauchaine, Nathan Cahoon, Anthony Ferreira, Joel Monteiro, Charles Tsonos. Also Present: Kim Mercer, Superintendent of Schools, Robert M. Silva, Esq., Andrew Thomas, Esq. Members 6:30 PM

Motion 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.

Return to Public Session – Motion by Mr. Cahoon to return to public session and to seal the minutes of the Executive Session, seconded by Ms. Beauchaine. Vote 5-0.

Report Executive Session Votes – No Votes were taken.

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

Election of School Committee Vice-Chair – Motion by Mr. Ferreira to nominate Jessica Beauchaine for the position of Vice Chair, seconded by Mr. Cahoon. Vote 5-0.

Appointment of Policy Subcommittee Members – Motion by Mr. Ferreira to nominate Jessica Beauchaine and Charles Tsonos to the Policy Subcommittee, seconded by Mr. Cahoon. Vote 5-0.

Appointment of Wellness Committee Member – Mr. Tsonos stated that anyone may volunteer to serve on this committee.

Facilities Sub Committee Report - Mr. Cahoon reported that the purpose of this report is to inform the public about what happened at the last meeting on January 5, 2015 held at City Hall; discussion regarding ongoing and upcoming projects: specifically: status of wheelchair lift at Waddington School almost 100% installed; a part coming next day and all set at the time of that meeting; order for wheelchair lift at Riverside Middle School to Garaventa with 6-8 week lead time and February vacation targeted for installation. Bike path at Riverside Middle School completed; Charlie Roberts, Project

Manager; both projects awarded to Burman as the general contractor; had a meeting, submitted shop drawings, in the process of fire permits; Orlo start date 2/17/15, completion March 27, 2015; work during vacation, Saturdays, evenings; will go through systematically; doors start 2/17; will start ordering materials between 2/17 and 3/3/15 at Orlo; then at Whiteknact and finish out at Riverside Middle School third week in March; that is the general plan.

Mr. Ferreira – requested going forward to receive hard copies for every meeting; asked if our staff would be responsible for any of this work

Mr. Roberts - other than really coordinating what rooms are in; no responsibility to staff; will be cleaned to satisfaction of staff; communication should be through Mr. Roberts and the Superintendent of Schools.

Tracy Capobianco – what determines which school is first; she was under the impression that Riverside Middle School would be first due to safety issues.

Mr. Roberts – can shift around; he can talk to the contractor about that.

Discussion regarding salvage value of metal doors. Mr. Roberts stated that the contractor owns it; no room to store for salvage value.

Mr. Ferreira – noted that he had brought this up five months ago that

we own the doors; does not like to be told that changed; doors belong to the district; he was told and he will let it stay at that.

Mr. Cahoon continued report of subcommittee meeting; worked on prioritization of projects; doors, unit ventilators; and Fire Marshall; next meeting on 2/2/15 at 6:30PM.

Student/Staff Recognition

- RI Emergency Management Agency Grant to support the purchase of portable radios - recognized Wayne Barnes, Deputy Director of East Providence EMA for securing the grant for our schools.**
- Oldham School – Verizon Innovate Learning Award – Principal Donna Peluso congratulated for securing a \$20,000 STEM grant.**
- Martin Teacher Assistant – 2015 NEA ESP of the Year Award – Kristin Chase**
- Riverside Middle School – Opportunity Knocks Fundraiser organized by teacher, Michael Solitro**

Public Comment I – Agenda Items

Kimberly Morato – teacher at Riverside Middle School; has two children at Silver Spring; concerned about students taking a large amount of assessments; requested that we take a look at all the assessments.

Fred Rybka – questions about Stem Grant and if Eaton Corp. coming back; top book cases touched up with two different colors; new piece

of conduit different kind of ceiling tile which need to be replaced; library next to the bathroom, drain coming out; these items should be fixed; question about wireless with PARCC.

Mr. Tsonos– Technology update received from Director, Kelly Ahrens; Ms. Beauchaine requested a report from Kelly; concerns about number of computers to be fixed; concerns about kids taking tests on computers; report that wireless was installed, up and running, working well.

Mr. Tsonos – according to Ms. Ahrens, we are in good shape; she will be at next meeting to report on technology status.

PTA/PTO Reports - None

Superintendent's Report

Chartwells Presentation on Cafeteria Renovations – Kim Mercer explained that we awarded the food service to Chartwells in April, which allows for renovations; she had a preliminary meeting with them in September and made some changes.

Melissa Read of Chartwells (attended with Mike Houle, Design Consultant) explained that an update is long overdue and provided a summary of the company and the plan to complete the work when students are out of the building for vacation or to wait for summer; some ADA issues which need to be addressed will be included in the

update; some changes will be made in the type of food served.

Discussion regarding putting money into this project now and in five years, making an investment in other schools; challenges with some of our school cafeterias and the need to address flow for students through the line.

Melissa Read - quality, presentation and speed of service are important, but some challenges are facilities issues. Discussion regarding the \$6800 expenditure for Martin Middle School.

Mr. Ferreira thanked all who worked on this; thanked the Superintendent for going the extra mile; he supported the Superintendent's request for an additional expenditure to complete the project.

Johnson Controls Presentation – Representative from JC provided information through a PowerPoint presentation on the Energy Savings Performance Contract with the School Department including project goals, review of energy savings, year one cost avoidance summary and next steps.

Discussion took place regarding various concerns about thermostats that do not work; heating problems in high school classrooms, lighting, window issues and numerous other problems in our buildings.

Johnson Controls - 15 year contract from time contract executed to completion; \$11.6 million funded up front. Further discussion about funding up front and finding out later if it works and if it does not work, is there a payback from Johnson Controls.

Mr. Cahoon – noted a monetary incentive, which we should be tracking.

Johnson Controls noted an obligation unless deducted from the contract up front; if a building is closed after, count as savings credits; savings accrue; it is hard to see, but districts have a lot of consolidation.

Presentation on Assessments – Julie Motta, Assistant Superintendent, presented a PowerPoint review of a comprehensive assessment system, which is a coordinated plan for monitoring the academic achievement of students from Pre-Kindergarten through Grade 12; the goal is to increase student learning by producing actionable data, to evaluate the effectiveness of programs, and ensure that all students are making progress toward achieving learning goals.

Mr. Cahoon – questioned how do we use all of the assessments and how do we use the data to benefit students, teachers and parents; communication issue in district where educators do not know what to do with the data; assessments do not look like they are going away; and we need to make use of data to see if we are meeting the instructional needs of students.

Kim Mercer – hoped that any data would be used for a purpose; teachers do not go on to a higher level content until students understand what you want them to be able to do; teachers formally assess their students work in the classroom every day.

Discussion about data;

Dawn August – programmatic decisions are made based on data.

Mr. Monteiro –in his opinion, we should minimize the distractions for students; limit them to only the ones we have to do not to lose money; if not impacting a child, we should not do it.

Kim Mercer – NAEP is a state mandated test

Ms. Beauchaine – as a district, we need to look at some of the tests we are using

Mr. Ferreira – if there any policies in the district we are unhappy with and we can't change them, where are we going with this

Mr. Monteiro – hoped to find out what we have to do and what we are choosing to do

Kim Mercer – assessments used for many purposes; in the Basic Education Plan (BEP); we have to know which kids need additional support and assessments give us an idea of all students in our classrooms; measures skills.

Mr. Cahoon – has never received any information from assessments; thinks this is alienating parents

Mr. Ferreira – why are parents not getting results

Mr. Cahoon –we need to call reps to let know we are not happy with the law on this and look at other assessments one at a time.

Mr. Ferreira will support that; put in writing to the Superintendent to demand the cost; for two years he has asked questions and it went nowhere; attack one issue at a time.

Julie Motta – the only assessment with a cost is Deibels at \$1 per student; approximately \$5600; high school does not take it

3333Ms. Beauchaine – have received calls from people not happy with assessments; the public wants this to change; may not be answer now, but issue is out there.

Mr. Tsonos noted that Mr. Cahoon will continue to take part in the discussion regarding assessments.

Mary Teixeira, teacher, commented that the conversation does not include teachers; may not want to go against assessments, but way too many; three days of not teaching anything new; she understands Ms. Motta and Superintendent Mercer; if a problem, we should try to fix it and that should begin with conversations with teachers to resolve the problem together.

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Highlights of PowerPoint Presentation on STEM Program Initiatives (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) by Julie Motta, Assistant and Dawn August, Curriculum Coordinator:

ه STEM encourages a curriculum driven by problem-solving,

discovery, exploratory learning and requires students to actively engage in a situation in order to find its solution

• Goals for STEM Initiatives include current: expanding existing K-12 STEM activities within our current curriculum units; Future: Implementing K-12 Professional Development on STEM initiatives, which will be starting at Oldham with Verizon Grant and modeling appropriate STEM learning activities at each level.

• Provide opportunities for staff and students to foster 21st century skills; provides enrichment STEM activities outside of the school day; form additional community partnerships that enhance STEM exposure to our students.

• Action: Provide professional development to teachers to enhance their ability to integrate STEM into their curriculum; develop an NGSS aligned science curriculum

• Next Steps: expand upon existing STEM activities at all grade levels; integrate STEM concepts into the Common Core Curriculum Units; evaluate the new Next Generation Science Standards; increase access to technology at all levels; focus on cross-disciplinary lessons/projects that promote problem solving.

Presentation on Accelerated Learning Community – Principal, Steve Prew explained the program and hoped to be able to refine and expand the program creating opportunities for kids to learn. Mr. Prew felt that the program is showing success.

Graduation Rate – Superintendent Mercer has not received information from RI Department of Education yet and needs an opportunity to review the data to determine possible discrepancies in coding.

Facilities Update and the Status of the Following:

High School Soccer/Lacrosse Field – Next meeting

Whiteknact Roof AF –only issue – taper inside gutter – hold gutter – 99% done might be final payment

Curbing at Riverside Middle and Oldham Schools – Nate – RMS and MMS on list neither prioritized yet due to weather issues

High School Scoreboard – hired a company to put it in

High School Science Lab – Mr. Ferreira would like to open up the lab for public walk through when completed.

Kim Mercer – in response to Mr. Ferreira’s question about the panels in the auditorium, will be done during vacation; we paid for the panels and they are doing it no charge.

Finance Report - Linda Dykeman, Deputy Finance Director provided and explanation and examples of the Uniform Chart of Accounts Categories (UCOA) and the finance report as of December 31, 2014 showing revenues of \$12,908,486.87 (17.25%) and expenditures of \$11,589,891.88 (15.49%). Auditors working on audit; nothing to report at this time.

Update on Status of the 2013-14 Audit – Kim Mercer advised that as soon as it comes out, we have an opportunity to review and respond; when finalized, copies will be available for School Committee.

Personnel Report on Resignation/Leaves of Absence/Retirement

Resignation

Diane Macedo-Teacher Assistant-Effective 12/11/14

Leave of Absence

Rosemary Driscoll-Library Media Specialist – Martin Middle School

Nicholas Shattuck-Girls Lacrosse Coach-High School – One Year

Lasbat Waheed-Head Boy's Track Coach-Riverside Middle School-Effective 1/12/15

Consent Agenda

Approval of Minutes – School Committee Meetings held on 10/14/14, 11/10/14, 12/9/14, 12/22/14 and Facilities Subcommittee Minutes held on 12/4/14 and 12/22/14. Motion by Mr. Monteiro to approve, seconded by Mr. Cahoon. Vote 5-0.

Action Items

Personnel Appointments:

Kate Sweeney-Literacy Coach-District-Effective TBD

Erin Maccarone-Reading Specialist-Oldham-Effective TBD

**Kathleen Mullin-Special Education Teacher-Silver Spring-Effective
1/14/15**

**Deborah Bellamy-Asst. Girl's Outdoor Track Coach-High
School-Effective 2014/15 School Year**

**Deborah Bellamy-Asst. Girl's Indoor Track Coach-High
School-Effective 2014/15 School Year**

Stephanie Faioli-Supervisory Assistant – Hennessey-Effective 1/14/15

Motion to approve by Mr. Cahoon, seconded by Ms. Beauchaine.

Vote 5-0

Approval of Contracts:

**Deputy Finance Director – Motion to approve by Ms. Beauchaine,
seconded by Mr. Ferreira. Roll Call Vote: Mr. Ferreira, aye; Ms.
Beauchaine, aye; Mr. Tsonos, aye; Mr. Monteiro, aye; Mr. Cahoon,
aye.**

**Administrative Assistant – Motion by Ms. Beauchaine to approve,
seconded by Mr. Ferreira. Roll Call Vote: Mr. Ferreira, aye; Ms.
Beauchaine, aye; Mr. Tsonos, aye; Mr. Monteiro, aye; Mr. Cahoon,
aye.**

**Director of Operations – Motion to approve by Mr. Monteiro,
seconded by Ms. Beauchaine. Roll call vote: Mr. Ferreira, nay; Ms.
Beauchaine, aye; Mr. Tsonos, aye; Mr. Monteiro, aye; Mr. Cahoon,
aye.**

**Security and Energy Manager – Motion to approve by Mr. Monteiro,
seconded by Mr. Ferreira. Roll call vote: Mr. Ferreira, aye; Ms.**

Beauchaine, aye; Mr. Tsonos, aye; Mr. Monteiro, aye; Mr. Cahoon, aye.

Technology Coordinator – Motion to approve by Mr. Cahoon, seconded by Mr. Ferreira. Roll call vote: Mr. Ferreira, aye; Ms. Beauchaine, aye; Mr. Tsonos, aye; Mr. Monteiro, aye; Mr. Cahoon, aye.

Night Supervisor – Motion to approve by Mr. Ferreira, seconded by Ms. Beauchaine. Roll call vote: Mr. Ferreira, aye; Ms. Beauchaine, aye; Mr. Tsonos, aye; Mr. Monteiro, nay; Mr. Cahoon, aye.

Mr. Monteiro noted that contracts were tabled for new the School Committee to discuss; each an individual asset to district; requested job descriptions and other terms.

Chartwells Cafeteria Renovation – Kim Mercer recommended allocation of \$35,994.80; Motion by Mr. Ferreira to approve, seconded by Mr. Monteiro. Vote 5-0.

Home School Requests – Motion to approve by Mr. Monteiro, seconded by Mr. Cahoon. Vote 5-0.

Requisitions – Bill List- Linda Dykeman – In addition to the warrants listed, an addendum listed the following bill:

Barhy Construction – Balance of Requisition #2 owed: \$100,000 (with \$34,001.08 retainage owed)

Mr. Ferreira motioned to pay the \$100,000 until gutters tapered, seconded by Mr. Cahoon. Vote 5-0.

Summary of Requisitions – Bill Lists

Warrant #

1463 12/23/14 \$ 765,655.13

1465 12/5/14 \$1,458,326.25

1466 1/9/15 \$ 207,433.44

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

Old Business

School Committee Vice-Chair - Mr. Monteiro passed on this item.

Public Comment II – Non Agenda Items – Izilda Teves - Orlo attendance 96%; Oldham does not have a custodian, paid out of PTA funds; Ms. Beauchaine – only school without night custodian; they are coming for a dance; night supervisor go to event at Oldham. Mr. Ferreira– if assigned, someone can work there. Question about a door at Orlo; response that a work order is in with Maintenance; need walk thru at Orlo; missing shop vac.

Motion by Mr. Cahoon to adjourn at 12:42PM, seconded by Ms. Beauchaine. Vote 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia A. Iannelli, Administrative Assistant

Mr. Cahoon, Clerk of the Committee