

EAST PROVIDENCE SCHOOL DEPARTMENT

East Providence School Committee

East Providence City Hall - Council Chamber

145 Taunton Avenue

East Providence, Rhode Island 02914

March 10, 2015

Open Session

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

Members present: Jessica Beauchaine, Anthony Ferreira, Joel Monteiro, Charles Tsonos (Nathan Cahoon arrived later after open call).

Also present: Kim Mercer, Superintendent; Robert Silva, Esq. and Andrew Thomas, Esq.

A motion was made by Ms. Beauchaine 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. Ferreira. (Mr. Tsonos read the citation) Vote 5-0.

The School Committee returned to Public Session.

Report Executive Session Votes – one vote taken regarding a personnel matter; vote 4-1. School Committee Members Ms. Beauchaine, Mr. Ferreira, Mr. Monteiro and Mr. Tsonos voted aye: Mr. Cahoon voted nay.

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

Motion by Mr. Cahoon to allow student liaison, William Vanner, to present a report on high school activities and events, seconded by Mr. Monteiro. Vote 5-0.

Facilities Sub-Committee Report - Mr. Cahoon – last meeting on March 3, 2015; updates on fire alarm at Orlo; door replacements; update by Charlie Roberts report today; Orlo finished up today.

Mr. Roberts – Orlo Fire alarm installed; inspection next couple days; all in ceiling, another week new panel in lobby. Double doors to break corridors in smaller parts; emergency lights being replaced with new LED lights. Door replacement at Riverside, Orlo, Whiteknact. Overall permit took longer (CR) couple weeks lead time on hardware; should have started 2/17; will be starting March 17th; hope to make up time by getting contractors to put on more people.

NC – excellent reports; discussion of outcome of Facilities Meeting looked at prioritization of items and decided on agenda re:

prioritization of remaining doors. Next meeting April 7th at 6:30PM.

Policy Sub-Committee Report - Jessica Beauchaine reported that meetings have been held once a week; will have more updates next time; getting into policies this week.

Student/Staff Recognition – Julie Motta presided over the following awards:

Division III Boys' Championship Swim Team

Girls' State Championship Basketball Team

All State Award Winners

Marine Technology for High School Teachers and Students (MaTTs) Project

Golden Apple Awards

Career & Technical Center Partnership

Martin Middle School State Championship Wrestling Team will be in attendance at the April meeting.

Public Comment I – Agenda Items

Parent, Lynn Clark, spoke regarding refusal letters for PARCC testing; appreciated School Committee taking a stand; she received acknowledgement from the middle school but not elementary yet; expressed appreciation for parents to be able to make their own decisions.

Mr. Tsonos noted that a copy of the letter can be distributed to anyone who requests it; can contact Mr. Cahoon for a copy.

Mrs. Rossi requested that we have a testing policy; noted that some schools are not doing the opt-out.

Mr. Rybka asked if the district would lose money because of the opt-out from PARCC.

Kim Mercer stated that they are in touch with RI Department of Education; unsure of the consequences at this time if we drop below 95% participation rate. If a parent calls or emails the Principal and/or the Superintendent of Schools; student will be taken out of testing.

Mary Teixeira expressed concern about calendar makeup schedule; last year calendar had three snow days; options have to be provided to teachers first about working conditions; concerned that only one plan presented to teachers; extending days presents hardship for parents

PTO / PTA Reports – Izilda Teves – Orlo Avenue School – lack of parents coming to help at schools; \$5.00 fee; asked every parent to help at their child’s school; need to find a way to get more parents involved.

Ms. Beauchaine - parents and PTA’s dwindling; always the same

parents; good opportunities in fundraising; need to get the word out that we need help from parents with events.

Superintendent's Report

Calendar/Make-Up Day Schedule – Kim Mercer - Survey on-line asked parents, employees to vote; results were sent to a committee (unions included); came down to four draft calendars; CBA stated that teachers cannot start school until after Labor Day. Make up days now up to June 30th and there was a concern about making up that many days in June; Labor Day is late next school year and we would not be starting until September 10th. The EPEA met today and the decision down to one calendar starting school on August 31st; union will vote next Tuesday to approve the change and calendar will be ready for approval. We have sent a request to RIDE about adding time on to the school day; we have to describe to them how we will use the time.

The choice is to either go to school until June 30th or add time to school day (15 minutes in morning and 15 minutes at end of school day); on Thursday will vote on two options; April vacation and Saturdays already ruled out; either end of June or extended day. Hope to have answers by the next School Committee meeting; we have submitted a request to waive two snow days, which would also have an impact on makeup days.

Facilities Report

Director of Facilities – Update – Kim Mercer advised that we have interviewed the top candidates; will have second interviews and hope

to have more information at the next School Committee meeting.

Science Lab Walk-through Open to the Public – Kim Mercer will set a date and get it out to the public.

Personnel Report on Resignation/Leaves of Absence/Retirement:

RESIGNATION

Richard Small-Assistant Varsity Football Coach-EPHS-Effective 02/23/2015

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Tricia Barry-(1 year)-Girl's Track Coach-MMS-Effective 2014/2015 school year

Finance Report – Linda Dykeman presented the Finance Report as of 2/28/15: YTD Revenues: \$23,754,566.00 and Expenditures: \$22,939,398.79. In response to Mr. Cahoon's question regarding adding to capital account, Ms. Dykeman advised that there is already money earmarked for projects. Mr. Monteiro asked about the audit; Ms. Dykeman stated the auditors are working on city and schools and should be finished by the end of April.

Consent Agenda Approval of Minutes – School Committee Meeting 2/10/15 and Facilities Sub-Committee Meeting 2/5/15 – Motion by Mr. Cahoon to table until the next meeting, seconded by Mr. Monteiro. Vote 5-0.

Action Items

Elementary Start Time – Diana Clarkin, Director of Operations, requested consideration and approval of a change in start time for all elementary schools (8:40AM); summary of costs provided; change effective in 2015-16 school year. Mr. Ferreira requested that we look into lowering the hourly rate for field trips; cost outrageous to contract a bus. Motion to approve by Mr. Cahoon, seconded by Mr. Monteiro. Vote 4-1. Mr. Ferreira voted nay. Discussion about how parents will accept a change in the start time again. Chair requested a Roll Call vote: Ms. Beauchaine, nay; Mr. Cahoon, aye; Mr. Ferreria, nay; Mr. Monteiro, aye; Mr. Tsonos, aye. Vote 3-2 in favor.

Request Waiver for Oldham Emergency – One Day due to boiler issues. Motion to approve by Mr. Monteiro, seconded by Ms. Beauchaine. Vote 5-0.

High School Programs – Ms. Karen Cardillo, presented new classes for Business Department: Information Security; Internet Marketing and Cyber Security and Computer Literacy- financial. Mrs. Almquist, Guidance Department Chair, explained that the class of 2019 requires financial literacy; four year requirement; this would satisfy one half year technology and one half year financial literacy.

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

Personnel Appointments/Layoffs:

APPOINTMENT

**Christine Lilley-Supervisory Assistant-Whiteknact-Effective
03/10/2015**

**Ana Carvalho-Supervisory Assistant-Silver Spring-Effective
03/10/2015**

**Stacie Delos-(1 year)-Girl's Lacrosse Coach-EPHS-Effective 2014/2015
school year**

Motion to approve by Mr. Monteiro, seconded by Mr. Cahoon. Vote

Requisitions – Bill List

Warrant #

1478 2/23/15 \$ 410.00

1480 3/4/15 \$ 101,883.33

1481 3/4/15 \$ 62,958.97

1482 3/6/15 \$ 129,540.76

1483 3/6/15 \$1,288,134.56

Discussion regarding funds going out of district to charter schools

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

**Field Trip Request – Martin Middle School – Sixth Grade students
visit to Alton Jones Campus on April 6-9, 2015. Motion to approve by
Mr. Monteiro, seconded by Mr. Cahoon. Vote 5-0.**

Home School Request – Motion by Mr. Monteiro to approve one request, seconded by Mr. Cahoon.

Vote 5-0.

Appointment of Soccer Field Sub-Committee – Mr. Ferreira nominated Mr. Monteiro and Mr. Cahoon to a subcommittee to discuss the Bayside Lease, land behind the high school and installation of fields. Mr. Ferreira noted that Bayside has a timeline to start; if we have to take the field back, we need time to get field ready; he requested that we research the start date to expedite; this has been out there for a year or more. All voted in favor of nominations.

RFP Bus Transportation – Diana Clarkin, Director of Operations, requested approval to put out an RFP to Request Proposals for Transportation Contract as soon as possible. Bid open 4/15/15; need to make a decision in June; tight time line. Mr. Cahoon requested time to review the bids. Motion by Mr. Cahoon to approve, seconded by Mr. Monteiro. Vote 5-0.

Continue Door Replacement Project in Remaining Schools – Kim Mercer requested approval.

Mr. Cahoon – doors at Riverside Middle School not safe; this item should move to the top of list.

Kim Mercer recommended that the Project Manager handle it; discussion regarding a Project Manager.

Linda Dykeman– SBS contract - can add projects to it at your

discretion; clause to extend it.

Mr. Cahoon – looking at an increase in work; he thinks SBS can continue working; would not see that as a problem; when issues, Mr. Roberts needs to notify us.

A motion was made by Mr. Cahoon to continue the door replacement project on remaining schools;

Mr. Ferreira had concerns about getting the job done before school opens; put on next agenda; he needs a time line. Mr. Cahoon did not want to hold the project up.

Motion seconded by Mr. Ferreira. Vote 5-0.

Motion by Mr. Cahoon to allow the district to modify the contract for SBS to remain project manager for the rest of the door project (as approved to go out RFP) Seconded by Mr. Ferreira. Vote 5-0.

Solar Panel Project – Clean Economy Development, LLC – Update – The Superintendent requested that the School Committee pass on the item at this time. Motion to table by Mr. Monteiro, seconded by Mr. Cahoon. Vote 5-0.

Motion by Mr. Monteiro to approve a second meeting this month on March 24, 2015, seconded by Mr. Cahoon. Vote 5-0. (Requested that Mr. Roberts of SBS present a report).

Old Business

Existing Policies on Testing - Ms. Beauchaine - Beginning in 2017; previous policy 2020 would begin as a requirement.

Status of CTC Repair Bill on Fiber Optic Cable - Mr. Ferreira – Reimbursed by contractor; did not cost the taxpayers any money.

New Business

Status of School Department Nurses - Mr. Cahoon requested information on nurses; wanted to get an idea of turnover rate and why filling spots with agency nurses. Kim Mercer explained that we have two nurses on leave-one extended; since she arrived here, two have left; nurses working in our schools are part of the CBA nurse/teachers; nurses do not want to take a one year position; the pay depends on the step nurse teacher is on. Mr. Cahoon noted that salary is the primary reason to leave and we have to pay attention to that.

Curriculum Grade by Grade/Website - Mr. Cahoon requested that Dawn August, Curriculum Director be present at another meeting; technical issue; table to next meeting. He requested information and Dawn explained how to access the science and social studies curriculum under Review listed under Teacher Resources; will place this under Superintendent's Report on Curriculum.

Agenda Workshop - Ms. Beauchaine requested to table this item.

Building Permit Locations - Mr. Ferreira – Completed

Public Comment II – Non Agenda

Fred Rybka – objected to the way the change in start times to the elementary schools was placed on the agenda; he felt it should be made public first and given more time. Mr. Monteiro said he continues to hear negative responses to the decision made two years ago and that this will address the needs of parents who wanted one start time because it is hard for them to get to work; he believes the change will address concerns of a majority of parents. Ms. Beauchaine would have preferred to put the change out tonight and then one more time to allow people to have an opportunity to speak about it. Mr. Ferreira agreed that the start time directly effects parents and individuals should have an opportunity to comment on it.

Chrissy Rossi – noted that the teachers’ contract is not on the website.

Announcements:

Izilda Teves-PTA on Wednesday, March 11th at 6:00PM.

Mr. Ferreira – would like to keep the pool issue on the radar and discuss it quarterly.

Motion by Mr. Cahoon to move back to Executive Session for purposes of finishing discussion on agenda items, seconded by Mr. Monteiro. Vote 5-0.

The School Committee returned to open session; Motion by Ms. Beauchaine to seal the minutes of the executive session, seconded by Mr. Cahoon. Vote 5-0. No votes were taken in Executive Session.

Motion by Ms. Beauchaine to adjourn at 11:40PM, seconded by Mr. Cahoon. Vote 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia A. Iannelli, Administrative Assistant

Nathan Cahoon, Clerk of the Committee