

EAST PROVIDENCE SCHOOL DEPARTMENT

East Providence School Committee

East Providence City Hall - Council Chamber

145 Taunton Avenue

East Providence, Rhode Island 02914

May 26, 2015

Open Session

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

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

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

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 Ms. Beauchaine. Vote 4-0.

School Committee returned to Public Session; motion by Mr. Cahoon to return to open session and to seal the minutes of the Executive Session, seconded by Ms. Beauchaine. Vote 5-0.

Report Executive Session Votes ;V Mr. Cahoon reported that one vote was taken regarding a personnel matter; vote was 5-0 to approve.

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

Staff Recognition ;V Mr. Monteiro and School Committee, and members of Martin Middle School staff recognized and thanked Mr. Frank DeVall, Principal of Martin Middle School for his service.

Public Comment I ;V Agenda Items - None

Facilities Report ;V Bill Reynolds reported:

Orlo Fire alarm ;V punch list tomorrow night; Riverside completed; Waddington bathrooms in use with a punch list of minor items to be fixed; door soffits need to be completed; credit from SMMA and Burman to approve the credit; walk through for the door project tonight; Orlo tomorrow night on the punch list; boiler room door; new truck Friday to be registered and put into service right away.

Mr. Ferreira commented that the School Committee requested that they be informed from day one on projects when the project manager was hired. He requested the breakdown on door hardware, the cost of add-ons, and if we are on track with the project; question about the film on the doors. He would like answers on items he asks for: if we

are we on track or over budget; who will pay for doors fabricated for the boiler room; June 3rd is the next facilities meeting; Mr. Ferreira asked that the Project Manager call him about who instructed him to do it; when hired he made it clear that he wanted hard copies on projects; trying to handle in a professional way; he is not comfortable with it.

Ms. Beauchaine went on the walk through at Riverside Middle School last week and there were quite a few items which still need to be done.

Mr. Reynolds ;V when door comes in, Burman will come back and do a punch list; he did a walk through today with Ben from SMMA and Tony Feola.

Ms. Beauchaine asked if a final walk-through had been done at Waddington School; there are still problems with handles, counter tops, holes in walls; doors do not shut properly; who did the work and who did the walk through? She requested that the Special Education Director come on the tour to see if the work is acceptable; she would like to know why we paid for this project when items remain unfinished; we need to be careful about that in the future.

Mr. Ferreira requested that blame be placed on the person paid by the taxpayer; we need to be aggressive with projects going forward so we are not discussing this nine months from now; we have to tell them what to do on behalf of the taxpayer; there are so many issues with the doors; have to support the person 100%, not for blame, but to see

what went wrong.

Report on Bayside Agreement

School Department Legal Counsel, Mr. Robert Silva and Mr. Andrew Thomas, met with Tim Chapman, City Solicitor and the attorney for Bayside; they had a very fruitful meeting regarding issues raised by the Planning Department and City Solicitor's Office, which will be addressed by Bayside's counsel and additional language will be developed. An additional agreement: the nature of the full lease between the city and Bayside; language will be expanded to three party agreement concerns; city has concerns about holding property. Mr. Silva will obtain and explain the changes.

Mr. Cahoon will it come back to the School Committee; Mr. Silva asked them to expedite since time is a factor.

Mr. Monteiro noted that when it comes back, the School Committee needs to be careful with a three party agreement; opens up to ratification of the City Council; Title 16 puts School Committee in charge of the project; he cannot get anyone to verify that; he cautions city control over school property; his concern is about fall sports and time is of the essence; there have been 14 votes of approval up to now; this should not be a three party agreement in his opinion.

Ms. Beauchaine City Council seems in favor of this and assured us

they are moving forward the next day; Barrington School Committee has strict control over the use of their field as of May 21st.

Mr. Monteiro said that he would eliminate the ratification, claim Title 16, and move forward because there are too many hands in the pot; Planning Board said move forward; if legal comfortable with the agreement; it will get ugly in September when fall sports do not go forward.

Mr. Ferreira ¶V remembers two and a half years ago, community like ours cannot get a field built; many successful fundraising projects for playgrounds ; in September, we have to point the finger; when do we instruct the Superintendent to start working on that field on a certain date; why is the city involved.

Mr. Silva ¶V as a result of the meeting this afternoon, he is confident this will get done; their attorney did not see any problems; financing in place; confident we will move ahead and get this done; he cannot guarantee it; there are four lawyers and four different opinions; all say city has to be involved; he will check with Barrington regarding Title 16; the School Committee can manage it; that's why it is called a usage agreement.

Presentation on Schools and Gun Control Legislation ¶VLinda Finn requested that the School Committee sign a resolution in support of a bill co-sponsored by Rep. Amore.

Mr. Ferreira felt this is against people having a right to carry and he would not support this bill.

Mr. Cahoon requested additional time to read the bill before taking any action; he requested that the item be placed on the June 15, 2015 agenda for a vote at that time.

Superintendent's Report

Presentations: Rock the Park

John Carnevale, founder of D¡Amours Step, spoke regarding a Fitness Fest on Sunday, May 31st from 9:00AM to 5:00PM to celebrate the restoration of Pierce Field; everyone is invited to come: elementary, middle and high school to support physical fitness and mental well-being. He thanked everyone who participated in the Pierce Field restoration project; everyone put egos aside and all worked on the same page to help bring the city back.

Summer Programs - Assistant Superintendent, Julie Motta, presented information on summer programs at the request of Mr. Cahoon.

Summer Program Presentation included:

„X Extended School Year

„X Traditional Summer School ¡V Credit Recovery for Secondary Students

„X YMCA Grant Funded Programs

„X The 21st Century Grant Boys and Girls Club Scholar Camp at Hennessy

„X Jump Start to Kindergarten at Oldham

„X Summer Learning packet on paper and posted on the website

„X Library Summer Reading Program.

Discussion took place regarding funding for the programs. Mr. Cahoon requested that, if there were no summer learning opportunities for middle school and high school level, that we look into setting and put lists at the library.

Proficiency Based Graduation Requirements (PBGR) ¡V Janet Sheehan, Principal of East Providence High School, requested a waiver for one year only to allow a review of PBGR requirements and in preparation for the 2016 NEASC progress report, the self-study for the high school will begin. Mr. Cahoon requested a follow up regarding the PBGR review; he felt that conversation with teachers and feedback long overdue. Motion by Mr. Cahoon to approve, seconded by Ms. Beauchaine. Mr. Monteiro added that it should be for one year; he felt it was imperative to come back with a presentation to retain senior projects, he would like to see that on the table when this comes back for discussion. Vote 5-0.

Personnel Report on Resignation/Leaves of Absence/Retirement

RETIREMENT

Joao Silva-(10 years) Custodian Nights-MMS-Effective 08/28/2015

RESIGNATION

Lauren DiAmbra-Elementary Teacher Grade 3-Whiteknact-Effective

06/19/2015

RECINDED LEAVE OF ABSENCE 2015/2016 SCHOOL YEAR

Robert Anastasi-Guidance Counselor-EPHS

Action Items

Purchase of Trucks for Maintenance Department ;V Budget Transfer ;V Superintendent Mercer requested approval of the purchase of five used Box Trucks for use in the facilities department in the amount of \$80,000; painting exterior of 7 (five purchased and two existing) Lettering of all seven trucks with School Department logo in the amount of \$12,950.00 total; transferring from account 58206 to 57301. Discussion regarding the bids; Motion by Mr. Cahoon to accept the recommendation of Anderson, seconded by Mr. Ferreira. Vote 5-0.

Mr. Cahoon asked about preventative maintenance; Mr. Reynolds responded that monthly reports are set; in place already with city.

Mr. Ferreira ;V asked for ballpark charges on all snow removal companies we hired and if we could do it in-house.

Riverside Middle School Curbing ;V Kim Mercer requested a bid from Duarte to continue work at Middle School; complete ADA ramp and one side of it falling apart; front stairs; would be pending engineer's design approval and new railings not in plan.

Mr. Ferreira had an issue with approving this based on engineer's drawings and could not go forward with \$145,000 job without

engineer's design; have no idea how to bid without drawings; need engineer's specs to hold liable.

Superintendent Mercer recommended going forward with engineering design; motion by Mr. Monteiro, seconded by Mr. Ferreira. Vote 5-0

Awarding of Bid 14 Unit Ventilators at High School 14 School Committee passed on this item.

Post Position Changed from Carpenter to HVAC 14 Kim Mercer explained there are two new positions; painter tonight, one carpenter; request from Facilities Department to change to HVAC.

Mr. Ferreira requested to move this to the next meeting; he requested figures on overtime and if any savings and would like to discuss this with the Facilities Manager. Motion by Mr. Ferreira to table to next meeting. Discussion: Mr. Reynolds, Facilities Manager explained that the systems are not being maintained as they should be and there is too much equipment for one person; we are trying to do this work in-house to save money.

Discussion: Motion by Mr. Ferreira; would support but would like to wait to review in two weeks, seconded by Mr. Monteiro to table in order to get the numbers to make sure fiscally OK. Vote 5-0 to table to next meeting.

Approval of New Elementary ELA Curriculum for 2015-16 Implementation

Assistant Superintendent, Julie Motta, provided updated information; during pilot most agreed to adopt this program; teachers were present to comment:

Jen Clark ¡V Grade 5 Hennessey ¡V materials biggest concern and would like class sets

Kathy Weitheimer Grade 4 ¡V Orlo ¡V there is a difference with whole class sets

Stacy Azevedo sent a letter of support.

Jessica Beauchaine ¡V had question about writing

Julie Motta ¡V we know we need pieces at K-2 level.

Mr. Cahoon heard concerns coming back about not looking at other programs.

Julie Motta - have not come across any we could afford; this had all the pieces based on what teachers were asking for and all materials.

Ms. Beauchaine would like numbers from all teachers who were piloting with all supplies; we need a program.

Mr. Cahoon asked if we could pilot for an entire school year.

Julie Motta ¡V large investment in materials

Mr. Ferreira ¡V Orlo teachers worked on this; he talked to them; dedicated staff; school turned around; has to support them; they would offer assistance to other schools

Motion by Ms. Beauchaine to allow three schools to have what they want so teachers who want to do it can, seconded by Mr. Ferreira.

Vote 5-0. Mr. Monteiro asked to amend the motion; if we do not increase exposure to other schools, we would not get better sampling.

Mary Texeira ¡V Grade 3 at Silver Spring ¡V usually more than one in a pilot; when presented they did not know that; her school said they did not know enough about it; maybe would have liked another choice; is there something else out there; teachers do not know enough about it; they did not understand only curriculum and would be adopted; mistake to have all three schools do it.

Chair asked to restate motion; Mr. Monteiro asked if any legal issue with implementing curriculum; Mr. Silva was not aware of any; it is up to the School Committee to implement. Ms. Beauchaine rescinded her motion.

Motion by Mr. Cahoon to extend the pilot for 2015-16 school year; get all materials; come back at end of the year to get a sample in order to make an informed decision (\$160,000) seconded by Ms. Beauchaine. Vote 5-0.

Approval of Stem Scopes Science Curriculum (Grades 6-12) for 2015-16 Implementation

After discussion, motion by Mr. Cahoon to approve implementation, seconded by Mr. Monteiro.

Vote 5-0.

Motion by Ms. Beauchaine to move to Item N. High School Science Lab, seconded by Mr. Ferreira.

Vote 5-0. Walk Through for the public will be held on May 27th at 6PM. Mr. Joel Swan will be available to point out features and answer any questions.

Job Description for Parent Involvement Coordinator ;V Assistant Superintendent, Julie Motta, advised that the Department of Education upped the allocation, reallocated funds and we will be able to fund four positions; two each at Whiteknact and Kent Heights; job description already approved; will negotiate rate based on experience (\$34,000 year). Motion by Mr. Cahoon to approve, seconded by Ms. Beauchaine. Vote 5-0.

Personnel Appointments:

Monica deSouza-Secretary-Hennessey Elementary School-Effective 05/27/2015

Paul Cahir-Painter/Building Maintenance 2nd Shift-District-Effective TBD

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

Amended Policies for First Passage:

III.J.6. Anti-Nepotism Policy ;V Mr. Cahoon had objections to the policy; after discussion a motion was made by Ms. Beauchaine to table, seconded by Mr. Cahoon. Vote 5-0.

Dual Enrollment Policy ;V Motion by Ms. Beauchaine to approve, no second. Motion failed.

After discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Cahoon to table to next meeting, seconded by Ms. Beauchaine. Vote 5-0.

IV.D.1. Placement, Promotion, Retention and Grading ;V Ms. Beauchaine stated that Item #3 on Page one should be eliminated, Mr. Cahoon supported that change; further discussion on other changes (homework page 6 change; page 6 ;V Page 7 ;V ABCD grading not used; levels ;V page 7) Mr. Monteiro added: change on page 6 - plagiarism ;V should be zero). Motion by Ms. Beauchaine to table policy, seconded by Mr. Cahoon. Vote 5-0.

Amended Policy for Second Passage: - V.A.8. Attendance Policy and Procedures- Motion to approve by Mr. Cahoon, seconded by Ms. Beauchaine. Vote 5-0.

Public Comment II ;V Non Agenda Items

Izilda Teves ;V Orlo ;V event on Friday for end of the year from 6-8PM.; Oldham Spring Fair Saturday ;V 11-2PM.

Ms. Beauchaine ;V Riverside Middle School - cyber bullying speaker

on June 2 parents, June 3 students;

June 2 EP Chorus 6-8PM.

June 3 iV Facilities Sub-Committee Meeting; Mr. Cahoon will request that Bayside come with revised agreement; city can attend and raise issues; try to keep the September date; issues should have been addressed before; bring in city to talk about it.

Motion by Mr. Cahoon to adjourn at 11:43PM, seconded by Ms. Beauchaine. Vote 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia A. Iannelli, Administrative Assistant

Nathan Cahoon, Clerk of the Committee