

EAST PROVIDENCE SCHOOL DEPARTMENT

East Providence School Committee

East Providence City Hall

Council Chamber, 145 Taunton Avenue

East Providence, Rhode Island 02914

June 30, 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, Charles Tsonos. Also present: Kim Mercer, Superintendent of Schools, Robert Silva, Esq. and Andrew Thomas, Esq.

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

Motion to Set a Curfew for School Committee Meetings – Mr. Cahoon proposed that tonight's meeting should convene no later than 9:00PM in executive session and that executive session should be adjourned no later than 10:00PM, seconded by Mr. Monteiro. Vote 5-0.

Public Comment I – Agenda Items

Parent (Kelly) of two students at Silver Spring; opined that parents are unaware of the Bradley and Craft programs until something happened in their child's classroom; 9 of 18 students are at Silver Spring School and it is overwhelming with kids in and out; she asked if Craft up for renewal; concerned teachers and staff; Bradley Program works, Craft is a disaster.

Allie Laughlin – parent of three Silver Spring students; lack of transparency was a concern to her; no idea how this effects the school; five teachers left; everyone should have the best education possible; concerned about putting special education classrooms in place when the Bradley Program already has that.

Superintendent's Report

Personnel Report on Resignation/Leaves of Absence/Retirement:

Motion by Mr. Cahoon to move personnel items to end of the agenda after executive session meeting, seconded by Mr. Monteiro. Vote 5-0.

Action Items

Approval of Bradley Contract – Eileen Crudele, Director of Pupil Personnel explained that Craft Program (an acute residential center) is not run by the district; students sent to Bradley by their family and once they become residents, they become East Providence students.

We do not have any control over who goes there. Silver Spring staff came to administration months ago about the amount of time spent and being able to meet the needs of students; we listened to their concerns, tried to plan, and then developed the consultative team – social workers, psychologists, special education teachers and clinical psychologist consulting 3-4 days per week.

Other question was that we had some classrooms now and if we could run those two without Bradley. We looked at what was needed and Mrs. Crudele met with the Director of Bradley; we determined that we would be able to run that with supports. Martin Middle School and the High School would still run Partnership rooms; Bradley was in agreement and we are working through summer; will remain as therapeutic setting and when ready will receive appropriate supports. Mr. Cahoon asked if an informational session was held.

Eileen Crudele – presented slides and what staffing would look like to support those rooms; it was a voluntary meeting; some concerns were expressed; it was more about what is in place now.

Ms. Beauchaine – asked if this is the same contract.

Eileen responded that it was with edits made in green.

Ms. Beauchaine explained that the elimination of Silver Spring is not Craft; Craft staff does not go to the school; can they come and speak about students; when students are placed in our district, it is our responsibility to educate in Silver Spring district.

Eileen Crudele – have spread kids out; not all in the same building; they give us notice and records earlier to share, which makes for better placements; there is better communication in place; they will meet with the principal to address concerns.

Mr. Monteiro – bound by state law to education these students. He had a question regarding two different spots open for out of district students. Eileen responded that language is gone from contract as indicated by strike-through marks.

Mr. Monteiro felt the staffing start point was short.

Eileen responded that the social worker and psychologist are assigned full time; clinical psychologist will be meeting with Eileen (3-4 days week) special educator and ____; OT already working with students; she visited other districts using best practices for therapeutic settings.

Positions will be posted tomorrow if the contract is approved: 3 teacher assistants, 3 teachers, 2 behavior techs; one special educator leader; if we run the program ourselves, first year savings \$30,000; provide staff now to prevent out of district placements; future years, keep kids in district and give staff skills to be able to do that.

Mr. Monteiro – Support not there for Craft students in regular education rooms; the feedback he received from Silver Spring is that we need to do a better job with support and get more information on the Craft program.

Kelly, a parent – asked why the Partnership was started in 2009.

Ms. Beauchaine - students from all RI; Bradley located in East Providence.

Mr. Monteiro –there was a five year contract; we requested changes to the contract to remove out of district students; this was sold as a service for kids and that they would bring in professionals; they used our facilities; this was a good opportunity for them; Bradley was to service kids in out-of-district placements.

Ms. Crudele - improvements were made when she came to the district.

Jon Anderson stated that by law, East Providence is required to educate students who live in East Providence and that Craft kids are residents of East Providence who is responsible for educating them in the least restrictive environment.

Kelly, a parent – kids in group home have supervision – why for six hours can we meet their needs; is Craft not living up to their responsibility; why not take time to make a better program with Bradley instead of cutting ties.

Mary Teixeira, a teacher at Silver Spring for 27 years, wanted to advocate for Craft and the Partnership; we do not have the proper training and support to help these students; part of the responsibility falls on Bradley; she felt that kids are set up for failure and one huge

problem, which has nothing to do with the Partnership, is the distribution of students throughout the district; Bradley is a good neighbor for us; if she has 25 students and I Craft student, the other students are losing time; there are issues in the building; it is a good idea but we need to get people involved; she has to go to meetings every week and she does not want to be out of her classroom.

Kim Morato has children at Silver Spring and as a parent she is concerned about turnover at the school; if students are going into regular classrooms is someone in there from therapeutic model; special educators?

Eileen Crudele responded that would help implement the plans to design materials and be a support for the room; there are five to six students per classroom now; she described what a classroom would look like.

Ms. Beauchaine – The Bradley contract here for discussion, versus the Craft Program; students in our schools will remain in our schools, no matter what we do; administration is responsible for putting in supports and parents are responsible to let the School Committee know that administration is not doing what they said they would; the Bradley contract is different from the Craft Program.

Amy Tavares has two students at Silver Spring and does not feel there is enough support; she wants kids to be supported in class so the regular education teacher can teach; she felt that teachers would

continue to be burned out without support.

Kim Mercer explained that two to three months ago, she met with a significant portion of the faculty about concerns regarding supports and the education of children; that was taken into consideration and Eileen Crudele put together a plan to address those needs; Eileen talked to other districts and put in the best of the best in the plan, not only for regular education needs but also for the Bradley partnership. Superintendent said she was a special educator and that teachers have the skills to do it; they need the support now and we need to do this now; it is a wonderful opportunity for kids in East Providence.

Ms. Beauchaine agreed that something needs to get done; teachers need help now.

Motion by Mr. Cahoon to reject Bradley contract in front of us; he felt this was not the right way to go; we are not servicing kids there, seconded by Mr. Ferreira. Discussion about what the alternative would be.

Mr. Cahoon amended his motion to reject the Bradley contract before the School Committee pending resumption of current services for next year, seconded by Mr. Ferreira. Roll call vote: Ms. Beauchaine, aye; Mr. Cahoon, aye; Mr. Ferreira, aye; Mr. Monteiro, aye; Mr. Tsonos, aye.

Vote 5-0.

Ms. Beauchaine - teachers need support; if Bradley expires, what do we have in place.

Kim Mercer – negotiations

Mr. Monteiro – PowerPoint is what we have with qualifications of staff etc.

Ms. Beauchaine – still need to keep going with postings for staff

Ratification of Revised Soccer/Lacrosse Agreement with Bayside F.C. Realty, LLC – Motion to approve by Mr. Cahoon, seconded by Mr. Monteiro. Vote 5-0. Mr. Monteiro requested that the School Committee receive a revised usage policy on a future agenda; get from the city request to attorney.

Approval of the Phase II Door Project Change Orders – William Reynolds presented additional documentation on change orders. Ben Williams from SMMA Architects explained change orders #1-2-3. Mr. Cahoon asked how much above the original \$90,000; Ben said about \$125,000.

Mr. Ferreira concerned about open check book; this has to be put to bed to go forward with other projects.

Motion to approve by Mr. Cahoon.

Mr. Ferreira – doors in courtyard – hardware on?

Mr. Reynolds – yes, change order; odds for September are slim to none; project bigger and probably will not be done; nights again after school starts.

Mr. Ferreira – time factor not there; needed something from the Project Manager; have not had up to date punch lists from previous jobs; \$90,000 more and not getting answers; asked Bill to work with Project Manager Phase I and II – next week; start punch list tomorrow; will support you 110%.

Mr. Reynolds – walk through tomorrow

Ms. Beauchaine – Phase II completion; change or take it out

Mr. Reynolds – will do the best to get a project list.

Riverside Middle School door not in yet.

Ms. Beauchaine – going forward we need a penalty clause.

Motion previously made by Mr. Cahoon to approve, seconded by Ms. Beauchaine. Vote 5-0.

Approval of Proposals for School Door Asbestos Abatement at Hennessey & Silver Spring Schools – Mr. Reynolds recommended; Motion by Mr. Monteiro to approve, seconded by Mr. Ferreira. Vote 5-0.

Approval of Proposal for Auditorium Painting – Mr. Reynolds recommended; Motion by Mr. Ferreira, seconded by Mr. Monteiro. Vote 5-0.

Approval of Job Description for C1 Maintenance Mechanic Position – Mr. Reynolds; last meeting approved position; motion by Mr. Cahoon to approve, seconded by Mr. Ferreira. Vote 5-0.

Approval of Job Description for Part-time Grants Bookkeeper – KM – request by Director of the CTC; motion by Mr. Monteiro to table in order get an understanding of what the roles are; seconded by Mr. Cahoon; contingent on next meeting.

Food Service Management Company Agreement Renewal – Linda Dykeman, Deputy Finance Director had further discussions with Chartwells; analysis presented;

Mr. Cahoon – asked to negotiate better deal

Motion by Mr. Monteiro to approve, seconded by Mr. Cahoon. Vote 5-0. Discussion about getting the cheese sandwich off the website; and, number of employees they have?

Requisitions – Bill Lists

Warrant #

1523 6/17/15 \$ 500.00

1524 6/17/15 \$ 51,148.14

1526 6/18/15 \$ 17,879.00 (Previously Approved)

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

Payroll Calendar 2015-2016 School Year – Motion by Ms. Beauchaine, seconded by Mr. Cahoon.

Vote 5-0.

Home School Request(s) – Motion by Mr. Cahoon to approve, seconded by Mr. Monteiro. Vote 5-0.

Ms. Beauchaine – first ones coming for approval for new school year; clarify that we are verifying correct program, they do not receive an East Providence diploma; we receive attendance and grades (Julie Motta).

Personnel Appointments and Recalls:

APPOINTMENT

Nicole Cram-Math Intervention Teacher-Orlo

Nicole Monte-Math Intervention Teacher-Hennessey

Shaaron DeBlois-Math Intervention Teacher-Whiteknact

Donna Ferrucci-Math Intervention Teacher-Kent Heights

Robert Anastasi-Guidance Coordinator-MMS-Effective 2015/2016 school year

Kathryn Newman-Guidance Coordinator-EPHS-Effective 2015/2016 school year

RECALLS 2015/2016 School Year

Emily Rendine-Elementary Teacher –TBD

Jacqueline Denault-Elementary Teacher –TBD

John Turbitt-2/5 Social Studies Teacher-EPHS

Danielle Lavoie -Literacy Teacher-MMS (1 yr.)

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

Substitute Teachers – Increase in Costs – Kim Mercer explained that the shortage is not just in East Providence, but nationwide; School Committee requested information on total cost if we increased the rate of pay (\$80-\$100per day range). Discussion: Mr. Cahoon asked about number of classes not covered last year; if severe last year, would want to address that. Supt. will obtain that information. Mr. Ferreira – have to figure in stacking classes also.

Motion by Mr. Monteiro to table for full discussion with additional data, seconded by Mr. Cahoon. Vote 5-0.

Public Comment II – Non Agenda Items

Chrissy Rossi followed up on a complaint about a space under the courtyard door at Whiteknact and the fact that the door cannot be opened to go out to the courtyard. Mr. Reynolds noted that it had been fixed.

Motion 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. Ferreira. Vote 5-0.**

**The School Committee returned to Public Session; No votes were
taken in Executive 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.**

Personnel Report on Resignation/Leaves of Absence/Retirement:

LEAVE OF ABSENCE REQUESTS

**Dawn Donahue (1yr)-Teacher Assistant-Francis-Effective 2015/2016
School Year**

Tony Vieira (1yr)-Boys Head Soccer Coach-EPHS

Joseph Andrade-(1yr)-Assistant Boys Basketball Coach-EPHS

RESIGNATIONS

Carrie McWilliams-Principal-Hennessey-Effective 07/31/2015

Fatima Avila-Principal-Kent Heights-Effective 7/01/2015

Gregory McCarthy-Summer School Principal-Effective 06/17/2015

Keith Daniels-Pre-Engineering Teacher-CTC-Effective 06/26/2015

Keith Daniels-Girls Soccer Coach-MMS

REFUSED RECALL

Robert Perry-1/5 Latin Teacher-EPHS

RESCINDED APPOINTMENT

Paul Cahir-Painter/Maintenance-District

Mr. Cahoon noted the resignation of Mrs. Fatima Avila as a loss for the district and thanked her for her service to East Providence Schools.

Motion by Mr. Cahoon to adjourn at 9:40PM, seconded by Mrs. Beauchaine. Vote 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia A. Iannelli, Administrative Assistant

Nathan Cahoon, Clerk of the Committee