

EAST PROVIDENCE SCHOOL DEPARTMENT

East Providence School Committee

East Providence City Hall - Council Chamber

145 Taunton Avenue

East Providence, Rhode Island 02914

August 11, 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 – Motion by Mr. Cahoon to depart open session no later than 9:30 PM and return from executive session no later than 11:00PM, seconded by Mr. Monteiro. Vote 5-0.

Motion by Mr. Cahoon to move up item on PTO/PTA Reports, second by Mr. Monteiro. Vote 5-0.

No Reports Presented.

Public Comment I – Agenda Items – Motion by Mr. Cahoon to move up item, seconded by Mr. Ferreira. Vote 5-0.

Facilities Report – Anthony Feola, Interim Director reported that a Facilities Sub-Committee Meeting was held on August 6, 2015; Phase I work about to be inspected; walk through punch list on August 18th at 4:00PM.

Phase II Martin Middle School and Francis will arrive this week; Burman application at Fire Department all set; HVAC status – Chiller CTC rest of the district; two of the five new trucks being painted; 7 box trucks for staff; tennis courts project will start tomorrow painting and will be ready for tennis next week; gym floors done; 3 rooms at Silver Spring and High School Room 101 being painted; outdoor sec key system; five new cameras at MMS

Mr. Ferreira – where are we with soffits

Mr. Feola – waiting for C/O #5; get price on soffit; once that is done, work on final credits

Mr. Ferreira – quote to get lettering on back of trucks with number for ID purposes; once all in, will number them internally

Ms. Beauchaine – RMS curbing; waiting for estimate from company who did side ramp; will go forward if # OK; need to relook at projects; reimbursement purposes – meeting in next couple of days regarding

reimbursement and how projects go and how number fits in the plan; walked MMS; how to break that project up – get worse segments done first; most next year

Mr. Ferreira – requested sealed quote and information from contractor on how will it be broken up;

Mr. Cahoon – look at contracts; wants segments and dollar amount divided up; dollar amount should match work; five parts; five dollar amounts; then totaled up.

Motion by Mr. Cahoon to move back to community recognition item, seconded by Ms. Beauchaine. Vote 5-0.

Student/Teacher/Community Recognition - Students and Parents Recognized for Perfect School Attendance during 2014-2015 School Year.

School Committee Walk-Through Prior to School Opening

Report on Work Camp New England Visit to East Providence - Diana Clarkin reported on students and staff who spent two weeks living at Martin Middle School in order to perform community service work in the RI area; there were 16 work sites; some worked with John Carnevale painting guard rails and the fence at the tennis court; if they come again next year, would do things differently. She said she gave the Work Camp a list of names in city, but was not sure why

they did not participate; disappointed that the City of East Providence did not participate.

Mr. Cahoon – all School Committee would like to get word out

Ms. Clarkin– follow up should have been on the city side and not on School Committee and us.

Ms. Beauchaine asked if they worked on East Providence houses which she thought was their intention; this camp may not necessarily come here again.

Mr. Ferreira– asked if any letter was sent to our City Council; Ms. Clarkin said she did not send a letter but the Work Camp may have; we need to make some changes if we want them to come back next year.

Opening of Schools – Update on Condition of the Buildings

Mr. Feola stated that he walked all buildings and we are on target; some already done with cleaning; will be ready by end of the week; we had a glitch at Martin; it was used this summer for programs, but plan to complete it next week; School Committee can set time and date to walk through; week before school, all will go back just to dust and tidy up; filters, vents, will be looked at. New cleaning equipment made it easier to get work done.

Mr. Ferreira – will walk buildings; if dust on pipes; serious breakdown on what clean is; asked if we are short staffed? Dust there for three years; public will make final say about understaffing; ceiling tiles

cracked for years; pipes; ceiling tiles; same condition three years ago; why does this continue; not prepared for kids/teachers; needs to look at this going forward; he will go through the buildings and will notify principals what he sees as a problem; we should walk through with a list for repairs; i.e. ceiling tiles and when will they be replaced; need to go through each school and make a list with a date next to the item; last three years ceiling tiles with rods hanging, which is a safety issue; when everybody done; he will walk through.

Ms. Beauchaine - certain that custodian job for summer is not washing tops of pipes; need to revise cleaning; look at walls, vents, window sills; not in any ones job description; need to get it done; certain schools understaffed; by policy all five School Committee and Superintendent are to walk through the schools; get volunteers if not enough staff.

Mr. Monteiro said he asked in the past about each building having a to-do list; is there a needs list per building; if staffing needed, we need an accurate list of jobs per building; then information will be clear cut to justify with taxpayers.

Mr. Ferreira – staff down to 47; if needed we could bring in people for summer work with a plan; if we need people; walk through and make a list; he will bring a list to School Committee at each meeting.

Ms. Beauchaine asked for needs list for each school; we need to look

at number of staff going forward;

Mr. Monteiro– need to be notified about daily tasks; what is expected each day, month, year etc.

Motion by Mr. Monteiro that the Superintendent request a check to do list per building provided by union and management; agreeable document with the Facilities Supervisor and the union on what is expected per building; motion that Superintendent start that process, seconded by Mr. Ferreira. Vote 5-0.

Mr. Tsonos – have to tie in an assessment on how many man hours to get school open on time; number of man hours to open schools properly; should be a list of every day priorities and secondary list to chip away at. Mr. Feola suggested taking lists to Facilities Sub-Committee to actually work on that; Mr. Cahoon agreed.

Mr. Ferreira– does not require a meeting; just instruct Superintendent to instruct Mr. Feola; 50-80 hours to open school; Mr. Cahoon requested Facilities will see list; motion by Mr. Ferreira, seconded by Ms. Beauchaine. Vote 5-0

Mr. Monteiro – when there is a manpower issue, School Committee would receive a phone call from the Superintendent.

Policy Sub-Committee Report - None

Superintendent's Report

Update on Elementary Report Cards – Dawn August, Curriculum Coordinator reported no changes since last meeting discussion; the report card was reviewed and approved by the Report Card Committee;

Letter approved by the committee; FAQ document would go home with parents; reason for change needed to align report card to standards; letter to teachers first day back; would have parent night and other events for parents to clarify changes.

Discussion about using letter or number grades.

Mr. Cahoon – why not choose different letter scheme; policy says A, B, C grades.

Dawn August – committee felt this best describes what we are doing; felt new system needed; Committee came up with this; can take this back to committee, but everyone has had an opportunity to share information; half chosen by committee, half by union, people knew the commitment of serving on the committee and were given dates; standards taught and assessed as a whole; done and applied in a variety of settings.

Discussion:

Ms. Beauchaine– other districts are using standards based report cards; every school needs “you” to present this.

Mr. Cahoon – will this data be accessible from Skyward; he wants to be able to see there are no grades which are unattainable

Mr. Monteiro and Mr. Cahoon asked for this to come back to School Committee for a vote.

Mr. Monteiro – requested a list of Report Card Committee members and dates they met.

Mr. Cahoon would like confirmation from technology coordinator that data will be accessible from Skyward.

Update on Silver Spring Special Education Program - Eileen Crudele, Director of Pupil Personnel Services, stated that appointments being made tonight of teaches and teacher assistants; CPI classes open for registration; all have been placed; teachers who have been trained eligible for refresher; additional training coming up; meetings with staff; classroom supplies ordered; teachers should get in classroom next week.

Personnel Report on Resignation/Leaves of Absence/Retirement

Leave of Absence

Tara Grabowski-School Psychologist- Orlo-Effective 2015/2016 School year

Elisy Blanco-Mercado-School Social Worker-Martin Middle School-Effective 2015/2016 School Year

Resignations

William Reynolds, Facilities Director- District – Effective 8/6/15

Kate Lynn Sweeney – Literacy Coach-District-Effective 8/11/15

Kerry Taylor-Assistant Football Coach-High School-Effective 7/1/15

Retirements

Joan Henderson-Secretary-Silver Spring School-Effective August 31, 2015

Finance Report – Linda Dykeman, Deputy Finance Director – reported Revenues of \$54,563,715 and Expenditures of \$54,397,704 for Period ending June 30, 2015.

Motion by Mr. Cahoon to move up bill list; seconded by Ms. Beauchaine. Vote 5-0.

Requisitions – Bill List

Warrant #

1532 7/17/15 \$ 124,038.97

1534 7/29/15 \$ 72,891.64

1535 8/3/15 \$756,454.83

1536 8/6/15 \$1,355,389.86

1537 8/6/15 \$ 92,885.29

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

Construction Invoices:

3 SMMA and 1 SBS totaling \$14,553.88

Ms. Beauchaine questioned number of hours for one day; Linda Dykeman will check on that

Mr. Cahoon – motion to pay four invoices; find out how do they allocate hours; SMMA Invoices 43134, 43139, 43135 and SBS – 13839, seconded by Mr. Monteiro. Vote 4-1; Ms. Beauchaine voted nay.

Action Items

Bradley Contract – Pass on this item per Superintendent.

Approval of Minutes

School Committee Meetings 1/13/15, 2/24/15, 3/10/15, 3/24/15, 4/14/15, 5/12/15, 5/18/15, 5/26/15, 6/30/15 and Facilities Sub-Committee Meetings 6/3/15, 7/8/15

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

Approval of Secretary Job Descriptions – Kim Mercer explained that these were written by Donna Moschetti, H/R Manager and vetted by the secretaries union; EPESA.

Discussion regarding secretaries training on doing websites at school;

Kim Mercer – wanted flexibility to do that rather than in job description

Mr. Monteiro – need accountability should be in someone's job description; Ms. Beauchaine agreed with that.

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

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

Personnel Appointments and Recalls:

APPOINTMENTS

Robert Perry-Assistant Principal-MMS-Effective 08/19/2015

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

Nichole DiFilippo-Guidance Counselor-EPHS-Effective 2015/2016 school year

Pamela Santos-Guidance Counselor-EPHS-Effective 2015/2016 school year

Paula Dionisopoulos-Special Ed Consultative Team-District-Effective 2015/2016 school year

Lucia Frantanaro-School Psychologist/Clinical-District-Effective 2015/2016 school year

Nina Marold-Art Teacher (1yr)-EPHS-Effective August 31, 2015

Kimberly Degnan-School Nurse-EPHS-Effective August 31, 2015

Diane Wallace-School Nurse-WADDINGTON-Effective August 31, 2015

Kortney Braga-3/5 Spanish Teacher-EPHS-Effective August 31, 2015

Sarah Chamberlain-Special Ed/SC-Francis-Effective August 31, 2015

Rebekah Crowell-Special Ed/SC-Hennessey-Effective August 31, 2015

Kelly Baker-Special Ed/SC/Therapeutic Classroom-SS-Effective August 31, 2015

Mia Millea-Special Ed/SC/Therapeutic Classroom-SS-Effective August 31, 2015

Jessica Theriault-Special Ed/SC/Therapeutic Classroom-SS-Effective August 31, 2015

Janette Roy-Social Worker-District-Effective August 31, 2015

John Turbitt-From 2/5 to 3/5 Social Studies Teacher-EPHS Effective 2015/2016 school year

Nancy Sepe-Technical Assistant Culinary Arts-CTC-(1 yr) 19 hours per week (Grant Funded)

Jennifer Grant-Library Media Specialist-Henn/KH-Effective August 31, 2015

Jennifer Small-Numeracy Teacher-MMS-Effective August 31, 2015

Samantha Soares-Special Ed Teacher-Orlo-Effective August 31, 2015

Amy Resnick-Elementary Teacher-Whiteknact-Effective August 31, 2015

Ben Rose-Elementary Teacher-Effective August 31, 2015

Fatima Avila-Elementary Teacher-Kent Heights-Effective August 31, 2015

Tina Shaw-Social Worker-District-Effective August 31, 2015

Heather Johnson-LaFreniere-Social Worker-District-Effective August 31, 2015

Brittany Kobeissi-Speech Pathologist-Effective August 31, 2015

Ian Mutti-Girl's Varsity Head Soccer Coach-EPHS-Effective 2015/2016 school year

Brian Vierra-Girl's Soccer Coach-MMS-Effective 2015/2016 school year

Karissa Bailey-Teacher Assistant-Behavior Specialist-SS-Effective September 1, 2015

Beth Burney-Teacher Assistant -Behavior Specialist-SS-Effective September 1, 2015

Leann Walker-Beard-From Supervisory Assistant to Teacher Assistant-Therapeutic Classroom-SS Effective September 1, 2015

Laurel Ptaszek-From Supervisory Assistant to Teacher Assistant-Therapeutic Classroom-SS Effective September 1, 2015

Lynn MacDonald-Teacher Assistant-Therapeutic Classroom-SS-Effective September 1, 2015

Tina Motta-From Supervisory Assistant to Teacher Assistant-1:1-Whiteknact-Effective September 1, 2015

Virginia Keneally-From Supervisory Assistant to Teacher Assistant-1:1-Orlo-Effective September 1, 2015

Patrick Holmes-Teacher Assistant- 2:1 MMS-Effective September 1, 2015

Steven Buckley-Custodian-TBD-Effective 08/11/2015

Jeffrey Gouveia-Custodian-TBD-Effective 08/31/2015

Motion to approve by Mr. Monteiro, seconded by Mr. Cahoon. Vote 4-1; Mr. Ferreira voted nay.

Set Date for additional August School Committee Meeting - August 18, 2015 at 6:30PM.

New Business – Policy II.D.5. Use of School Buildings/School Grounds

Discussion re: Groups Eligible for the Use of School Facilities and Grounds – Category III Business and Organizations inside City Limits and Category IV Business and Organizations outside City Limits

Mr. Monteiro – in light of situation with Bayside, change policy, which is out of compliance; organizations use our facility for monetary gain; i.e. dance competitions, strike from policy to be consistent.

Diana Clarkin – yes, in contradiction to what she thought; should have been rectified, but was not.

Ms. Beauchaine agreed that it should come out.

Mr. Monteiro –motion to strike those two descriptions listed above;

seconded by Ms. Beauchaine.

Mr. Silva, legal counsel, suggested looking at statement of policy “EP School Committee encourages” no mention of business organizations; change it to add business and organizations inside city limits and outside city limits; Mr. Silva questioned license requirement; superfluous; both III and IV should have license; strike it to be consistent. Vote 5-0.

Motion by Ms. Beauchaine to strike out maintain business license, seconded by Mr. Monteiro. Vote 5-0.

Public Comment II – Non Agenda Items

Kelly, parent, questioned hires for Silver Spring.

Eileen Crudele– consultative coordinator lateral move; parent asked about Craft program; she spoke to Dr. Gillen about dispersing students through the district.

Eileen Crudele– has regular contact with Dr. Gillen; she gets two week lead time when students are coming in; five leave; two come in; students have been equally distributed.

Mr. Cahoon – parents should contact Mrs. Crudele with any questions; information should be channeled through her; then if issues, let him know.

Izilda Teves– looking for bus schedules; also looking for August 2014 meeting minutes; asked her to contact Superintendent’s office.

Diana Clarkin – bus schedules to be published end of next week.

Mr. Monteiro – fall team will not have a field; at about 70 days

8/27 Back to School Night at Orlo for families

8/15 Bridgepoint Church School Fair and Francis Back to School Fair

9/12/15.

Chuck Michaels – 8/23 Fundraiser 1-6PM at Carousel \$10.

Mrs. Barlow – painting project at Waddington with a team of volunteers; thanked all.

Ali Laughlin – job description for secretaries; she agreed someone should be designated; Silver Spring Playground project is a city project through a grant. Discussion about completion date.

Mr. Feola to check this out.

Diana Clarkin – road trip on a new propane bus; ready to roll on September 1st.

Mr. Monteiro – Friends of Townie Athletics on 9/12/15

Mr. Ferreira – thanks to staff to get in buildings and support the community

Announcements

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.

Will return to public session no later than 90 minutes.

School Committee returned to Public Session

Mr. Cahoon reported that one vote was taken in Executive Session; vote 5-0 to appoint Interim Facilities Director, Anthony Feola thru 10/13/15; compensation during interim period to be adjusted to pro-rate to prior Facilities Director.

Motion by Mr. Cahoon to seal the minutes of the executive session, seconded by Mr. Monteiro. Vote 5-0.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia A. Iannelli, Administrative Assistant

Nathan Cahoon, Clerk of the Committee