

EAST PROVIDENCE SCHOOL DEPARTMENT

East Providence School Committee

East Providence City Hall - Council Chamber

145 Taunton Avenue

East Providence, Rhode Island 02914

October 13, 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, 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 Mr. Monteiro. Vote 5-0

Return to Public Session - 7:30PM

Report Executive Session Votes – Mr. Cahoon reported two votes taken in executive session: one regarding personnel Vote 5-0 to approve; and one regarding litigation Vote 5-0 to approve.

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

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Motion to Set a Curfew for School Committee Meetings – Motion by Mr. Cahoon to seek to adjourn no later than 11:30PM, seconded by Mr. Monteiro. Vote 4-1. Jessica Beauchaine voted nay.

Student Liaison Report – William Vanner presented a report on his background and school events and activities. He announced the new website for the East Providence Career and Technical School: eastprovidencectc.com.

PTO/PTA Reports - None

Public Comment I – Agenda Items - None

Presentations

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Whole Child Initiative – presented by Rosemary Reilly-Chammat;

RIASCD's work; she requested that East Providence adopt a Whole Child Resolution. Raymond Pouliot and Cynthia Joyce were also in attendance.

City Manager, Richard Kirby, attended the meeting; he stated that he looked forward to working with the School Committee and City Council on issues in East Providence including the budget; he presented correspondence which he received from RI College Upward Bound Program, recruiting students in grades 9-11 to attend an assembly.

Facilities Report

Update on Current Projects - Mr. Feola, Interim Facilities Director, provided a handout of an outline of the door project set up; doors arrived late today; Martin Middle School had two doors replaced last week; 14 doors painted along with all frames; Francis will be painted next; sidewalk project 90% completed; handrails will be done as separate phase; last Friday, dug up sidewalk on right side of Riverside Middle School, will take approximately two and one half weeks; at same time this weekend back asphalt walkway will be completed over next couple Saturdays (back walk way).

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Policy Sub-Committee Report – no action

Superintendent's Report

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Personnel Report on Resignation/Leaves of Absence/Retirement:

RETIREMENT

Janet Sheehan-Principal-East Providence High School-Effective December 19, 2015

RESIGNATIONS

Dawn August-Director of Instruction and Intervention-Effective

October 16, 2015

Mary Ellen Hatch-Culinary Instructor-CTC-Effective October 16, 2015

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Finance Report – Linda Dykeman, Deputy Finance Director, reported Revenues of \$60,671,245 and Expenditures of \$58,901,445.

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Mr. Monteiro further stated that Dr. Forand is certified, experienced, has worked at RIDE, and the top performing candidate in our district who applied for the position.

Ms. Beauchaine stated that at the last meeting in public, she expected to work with the School Committee and the Superintendent to come up with the best answer; she never thought that Dr. Forand was not capable; with the departure of the Curriculum Coordinator, we need someone; she reached out to legal to ask about legal ramifications.

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Mr. Monteiro – the Dean Position at Martin Middle School was posted and closes on October 16th; top internal candidate; she is more than qualified; we agreed to leave vacant, but not aware of Curriculum Coordinator not having certification; if Superintendent not in town, chain of command issue.

Mr. Ferreira asked whose recommendation were we following.

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Mr. Monteiro felt that was not best for this district; changed his mind; his phone call to bring it to a permanent position.

Mr. Ferreira said he received a call on it two weeks ago.

Motion by Mr. Monteiro to approve, seconded by Mr. Cahoon. Roll call vote: Ms. Beauchaine, aye; Mr. Cahoon, aye; Mr. Ferreira, nay; Mr. Monteiro, aye; Mr. Tsonos, aye; Vote 4-1.

Requisitions – Bill List

Warrant #

1549 9/29/15 \$ 51,315.39

1550 10/8/15 \$ 103,916.63

1551 10/8/15 \$ 978,547.55

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1553 10/9/15 \$ 5,057.24

Discussion: questions on Houghton item – grant funded professional development; Barrington Books- ELA Curriculum;

Mr. Cahoon noted \$165,000 designated for ELA; he requested that Linda Dykeman group all the charges related to ELA so he can review and understand the entire expenditure.

Motion by Mr. Cahoon to approve Warrant #1549, 1550, 1551, 1552, and 1553, seconded by Mr. Ferreira. Vote 5-0.

Construction Payment Request \$60,355.20

Linda Dykeman recommended approval of \$44,060.05; motion by Mr. Cahoon to approve Invoice #6 for Burman – District Wide Door Project, seconded by Mr. Ferreira. Vote 5-0.

Linda Dykeman noted 4 invoices for SMMA – total \$3399.14 – July and August, \$12,896.01; July and August invoices for Egress Door Repair Phase II and Sidewalk Replacement which she believes is completed 100%

Mr. Cahoon noted that Facilities Sub Committee will work on getting a

date for a meeting; may not be able to do that until December.

Motion by Mr. Cahoon to approve, Invoice 4325, 43487. 43366, 43488, seconded by Mr. Ferreira. Vote 5-0.

Request by Chartwells Food Service for Reduction of the 2015 Contract Guarantee

Barbara Cohen, Melissa Read and Bill Lambert, district chef, talked about the guarantee and participation; \$165,000 based on assumptions and conditions; revenue was for full implementation of breakfast in the classroom; discussion about delays in implementation; contract language Section 7 – guarantee reduced to amount change and conditions; they were not allowed to implement as planned and that had an impact on revenue in the district. Discussion about what caused the delay.

Melissa worked with the Assistant Superintendent to get support of building principals; she sent out a survey; Hennessey first; then Oldham, Orlo, Kent Heights and Whiteknact. Mr. Cahoon asked if the Superintendent and Deputy Finance Director considered this to be an accurate representation of what happened.

Mr. Monteiro - lost opportunity for revenue; Martin Middle School discussion was about moving students through the line; we made an investment of \$11,000; his understanding is that productivity has not significantly changed; his child will not buy lunch; he thinks it's a staff issue; losing revenue because kids cannot get food and sit

down with time to eat it.

Melissa Reed – 8% increase at Martin on three lunch periods; record number pumped through; adding positions does not increase revenue.

Mr. Monteiro – why did we invest \$11,000?

Melissa Read – that was an investment; increase in enrollment at Martin Middle School; look at when building scheduled; Mr. Monteiro – last contract – rationale layout – log jam;

Ms. Beauchaine – 9th graders do not have enough time to eat

Melissa Read will discuss that with the Principal, Ms. Wallace.

Mr. Monteiro – compelling case; we have a good relationship; he proposed (motion) to reduce credit by \$10,000;

Mr. Ferreira- numbers based on opening certain doors; if restaurant is not open, why would we send the financial burden to the business; if proven their fault.

Melissa – we were recognized for Healthy Schools; commended East Providence for putting in this breakfast program.

Barbara Cohen - \$15,000 is conservative based on doubling elementary count; could have been far more than that; she provided Linda Dykeman with numbers; could not use four snow days; based on contract language (at least 175 days).

Mr. Monteiro– felt that all this was speculation; “I think I would have made more....”...no hard data; we put money in the program; OK share in loss; assured risk for all involved.

In response to Mr. Ferreira’s question, Ms. Cohen stated that the guaranteed return was \$165,000 and they are asking for credit of

\$15,000; profit for year under \$67,000; difference \$98,000; based on what was proposed.

Motion on table by Mr. Monteiro to reduce the credit by \$10,000, seconded by Mr. Cahoon.

Roll call vote: Mr. Ferreira, nay; Ms. Beauchaine, aye; Mr. Tsonos, nay; Mr. Monteiro, aye; Mr. Cahoon, aye. Vote 3-2.

Passage of Resolution regarding HPV Vaccine – Mr. Monteiro requested to bring this topic up again; trusted we would not turn students away from school who had not received the vaccine; two NY cases enforced the importance to make a statement that we should not deal with a parents decision regarding sexually transmitted disease; Coventry School Committee resolution fashioned from that; Mr. Cahoon– resolution carefully worded; urged General Assembly to not make this mandatory for our kids attending schools;

Motion by Mr. Cahoon to approve, seconded by Mr. Monteiro. Roll call vote: Mr. Ferreira, aye; Ms. Beauchaine, nay; Mr. Tsonos, aye; Mr. Monteiro, aye; Mr. Cahoon, aye. Vote 4-1.

II.D.5. Use of School Buildings/Grounds – Amended Policy – Second Passage – Mr. Cahoon– question on language about the right to deny the use of school facilities and grounds and if we have to provide a reason why; Motion by Ms. Beauchaine to approve second passage, seconded by Mr. Monteiro. Vote 5-0.

Public Comment II – Non Agenda Items -None

Old Business

Elementary Standards Based Grading Report Cards - Mr. Monteiro stated that he had hoped for answers on the report card roll out; concerns are present at all schools about something of this magnitude;

Ms. Beauchaine was under the assumption all schools would have parent night.

Mr. Monteiro questioned why go through parent group; why would principal not schedule something that effects the whole school; he does not feel requests were taken seriously and he requested a copy of what was sent out.

Rebekah Gendron, Instructional Technology, reported that it was advertised on our website and that any parent could go to any school; it is on the front page news and events about an informational program regarding report cards.

Discussion about when the information was published.

Ms. Beauchaine said she never saw her schools come up and she did not know parents could go to any school; she will push to have other events until parents understand the report card.

Rebekah Gendron reported that all teachers were informed; one at every school; 10 sessions – can go to any session; posted today; instruction and supplies on tabs; samples of what the report card will

look like; teachers saw this the first day of school; almost nothing has changed; knew what skills are; not anything they have not seen; help by coaches to make it easier to grade. Discussion regarding the roll out of the report cards.

Announcements

October Dyslexia Month - wear red on 10/13/15 - World Dyslexia Day

October at Orlo – please contribute new socks

10/15/15 at 5:30PM City Council Budget Workshop; 10/21/15 School Committee and City Council workshop at 6:30PM; 10/27/15 School Committee Meeting

Mr. Tsonos – having a meeting with City Council prior to 10/15/15 Meeting; small group with City Manager and Superintendent.

Mr. Monteiro– reminded City Council of five year facilities plan details and what we needed funding for; that was used to secure \$10 million from RIDE.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia A. Iannelli, Administrative Assistant

Nathan Cahoon, Clerk of the Committee

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amount change and conditions; they were not allowed to implement as planned and that had an impact on revenue in the district. Discussion about what caused the delay.

Melissa worked with the Assistant Superintendent to get support of building principals; she sent out a survey; Hennessey first; then Oldham, Orlo, Kent Heights and Whiteknact. Mr. Cahoon asked if the Superintendent and Deputy Finance Director considered this to be an accurate representation of what happened.

Mr. Monteiro - lost opportunity for revenue; Martin Middle School discussion was about moving students through the line; we made an investment of \$11,000; his understanding is that productivity has not significantly changed; his child will not buy lunch; he thinks it's a staff issue; losing revenue because kids cannot get food and sit down with time to eat it.

Melissa Reed – 8% increase at Martin on three lunch periods; record number pumped through; adding positions does not increase revenue.

Mr. Monteiro – why did we invest \$11,000?

Melissa Read – that was an investment; increase in enrollment at Martin Middle School; look at when building scheduled; Mr. Monteiro – last contract – rationale layout – log jam;

Ms. Beauchaine – 9th graders do not have enough time to eat

Melissa Read will discuss that with the Principal, Ms. Wallace.

Mr. Monteiro – compelling case; we have a good relationship; he

proposed (motion) to reduce credit by \$10,000;

Mr. Ferreira- numbers based on opening certain doors; if restaurant is not open, why would we send the financial burden to the business; if proven their fault.

Melissa – we were recognized for Healthy Schools; commended East Providence for putting in this breakfast program.

Barbara Cohen - \$15,000 is conservative based on doubling elementary count; could have been far more than that; she provided Linda Dykeman with numbers; could not use four snow days; based on contract language (at least 175 days).

Mr. Monteiro– felt that all this was speculation; “I think I would have made more....”...no hard data; we put money in the program; OK share in loss; assured risk for all involved.

In response to Mr. Ferreira’s question, Ms. Cohen stated that the guaranteed return was \$165,000 and they are asking for credit of \$15,000; profit for year under \$67,000; difference \$98,000; based on what was proposed.

Motion on table by Mr. Monteiro to reduce the credit by \$10,000, seconded by Mr. Cahoon.

Roll call vote: Mr. Ferreira, nay; Ms. Beauchaine, aye; Mr. Tsonos, nay; Mr. Monteiro, aye; Mr. Cahoon, aye. Vote 3-2.

Passage of Resolution regarding HPV Vaccine – Mr. Monteiro requested to bring this topic up again; trusted we would not turn students away from school who had not received the vaccine; two NY

cases enforced the importance to make a statement that we should not deal with a parents decision regarding sexually transmitted disease; Coventry School Committee resolution fashioned from that; Mr. Cahoon– resolution carefully worded; urged General Assembly to not make this mandatory for our kids attending schools; Motion by Mr. Cahoon to approve, seconded by Mr. Monteiro. Roll call vote: Mr. Ferreira, aye; Ms. Beauchaine, nay; Mr. Tsonos, aye; Mr. Monteiro, aye; Mr. Cahoon, aye. Vote 4-1.

II.D.5. Use of School Buildings/Grounds – Amended Policy – Second Passage – Mr. Cahoon– question on language about the right to deny the use of school facilities and grounds and if we have to provide a reason why; Motion by Ms. Beauchaine to approve second passage, seconded by Mr. Monteiro. Vote 5-0.

Public Comment II – Non Agenda Items -None

Old Business

Elementary Standards Based Grading Report Cards - Mr. Monteiro stated that he had hoped for answers on the report card roll out; concerns are present at all schools about something of this magnitude;

Ms. Beauchaine was under the assumption all schools would have parent night.

Mr. Monteiro questioned why go through parent group; why would

principal not schedule something that effects the whole school; he does not feel requests were taken seriously and he requested a copy of what was sent out.

Rebekah Gendron, Instructional Technology, reported that it was advertised on our website and that any parent could go to any school; it is on the front page news and events about an informational program regarding report cards.

Discussion about when the information was published.

Ms. Beauchaine said she never saw her schools come up and she did not know parents could go to any school; she will push to have other events until parents understand the report card.

Rebekah Gendron reported that all teachers were informed; one at every school; 10 sessions – can go to any session; posted today; instruction and supplies on tabs; samples of what the report card will look like; teachers saw this the first day of school; almost nothing has changed; knew what skills are; not anything they have not seen; help by coaches to make it easier to grade. Discussion regarding the roll out of the report cards.

Announcements

October Dyslexia Month - wear red on 10/13/15 - World Dyslexia Day

October at Orlo – please contribute new socks

10/15/15 at 5:30PM City Council Budget Workshop; 10/21/15 School Committee and City Council workshop at 6:30PM; 10/27/15 School

Committee Meeting

Mr. Tsonos – having a meeting with City Council prior to 10/15/15 Meeting; small group with City Manager and Superintendent.

Mr. Monteiro– reminded City Council of five year facilities plan details and what we needed funding for; that was used to secure \$10 million from RIDE.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia A. Iannelli, Administrative Assistant

Nathan Cahoon, Clerk of the Committee