

EAST PROVIDENCE SCHOOL DEPARTMENT

East Providence School Committee

East Providence City Hall - Council Chamber

145 Taunton Avenue

East Providence, Rhode Island 02914

May 10, 2016

Open Session

Mr. Tsonos called the meeting to order at 5:45 PM. Four members present for open call: Jessica Beauchaine, Anthony Ferreira, Joel Monteiro, Charles Tsonos. (Nathan Cahoon not present for open call; arrived later). Also Present: Kathryn Crowley, Superintendent of Schools.

Motion by Ms. Beauchaine that the Committee convene in Executive Session for purposes of discussing: Personnel – R.I. Gen. Laws §42-46-5(a) (1) - Job Performance and Contracts, seconded by Mr. Monteiro. Vote 5-0.

The School Committee returned to Public Session at 7:00PM.

Report Executive Session Votes – No votes taken.

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

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 noted that the School Committee would go to executive session at end of open session; motion to convene in executive session no later than 10:30PM, seconded by Mr. Monteiro. Vote 5-0.

Student Liaison Report – William Vanner presented a report on high school events and activities.

Staff Recognition

Presentation Honoring School Nominees for State Teacher of the Year: Maryann Lasorsa, High School, Kelly Richardson, Martin Middle School, Brian Petsch, Riverside Middle School; Crystal Monteiro, Francis; Donna Fernandes, Hennessey; Kelly Vasey, Kent Heights, Daniel Lynch, Oldham; Stacey Azevedo, Orlo; Michael Kirkutis, Silver Spring; Melanie Murray, Waddington; Colleen Holland, Whiteknact. Crystal Monteiro was chosen as the East Providence Teacher of the Year and her name will be submitted to RI Department of Education for the RI State Teacher of the Year.

Consent Agenda Items: 1. Communications; 2. Correspondence; 3.

Home School Requests;

4. Requisitions- Bill List Items:

Warrant #

1621 4/28/16 \$ 450.00
1623 4/29/16 \$ 14,766.48
1624 4/29/16 \$ 850,183.00
1625 5/6/16 \$ 189,475.47
1626 5/6/16 \$1,499,555.40

5. Approval of Minutes for School Committee meetings held on 4/12/16, 4/18/16, 4/25/16 and Facilities Sub-Committee Meeting held on 4/25/16.

Motion by Mr. Cahoon to approve Consent Agenda (five items listed above); seconded by Mr. Ferreira. Vote 5-0.

PTO/PTA Reports – Katie Santos, Waddington School, expressed thanks to all for helping with the Waddington Playground build, especially business owners.

Chrissy Rossi – Whiteknact School - noted Diversity Night on May 20th and 6/14/16 PTA Elections; Mrs. Avila of Martin Middle School will be addressing Grade 5 students.

Izilda Teves – Orlo Avenue School – Community Night on May 20th and a Pasta Dinner Fundraiser on May 13th at the high school for the

Hennessey Playground Project.

Public Comment I – Agenda Items – None

Motion by Mr. Cahoon to move up Item P on the agenda for Personnel items; seconded by Mr. Monteiro. Vote 5-0.

Personnel Appointments - Cheryl Sylvia, Human Resources Director, presented:

**Vote to approve Assistant Principal of East Providence High School
Shane Messier**

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

**Vote to approve Principal of Silver Spring Elementary School Mike
Kurkutis**

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

**Vote to approve a Transfer of Principal from Whiteknact Elementary
to the Pre-K Program at Martin Middle School and Oldham School
Nadine Lima**

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

Vote to appoint a Principal to Whitekact Elementary School Teresa

Medeiros

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

**Vote to Appoint an Induction Coach for E. Providence School District
Tabitha Watjen**

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

**Vote to approve a transfer of Benefits/Jr. Accountant Position to
Grants and Accounting Toni Akin Transferring to Chris Spagnoli's
non-union transfer;**

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

**Transfer to Benefits Office - Item tabled per motion by Mr. Cahoon,
seconded by Mr. Monteiro.**

Vote 5-0. Position to be posted.

Testing Coordinator Francis School - Laura Laviano

Motion by Mr. Monteiro, Seconded by Mr. Cahoon. Vote 5-0.

**Non-Renewal of an Administrator for a more qualified candidate –
Motion to approve by Mr. Cahoon, seconded by Mr. Monteiro. Vote
3-2. (Mr. Cahoon voted aye; Mr. Monteiro, voted aye; Mr. Tsonos
voted aye; Ms. Beauchaine voted nay, Mr. Ferreira voted nay).**

Resignations

Christine Spagnoli- Budget Analyst-Business Office-Effective 5/12/16

Motion to approve by Mr. Cahoon. Vote 5-0.

Brian Ferguson Special Ed-Therapeutic-Silver Spring – Effective 6/18/16

Motion to approve by Mr. Monteiro, seconded by Ms. Beauchaine.

Vote 5-0.

Ms. Beauchaine requested exit interviews be held.

Retirements

Richard Aldrich Custodian-Francis School - Effective 5/30/16

Motion to approve by Mr. Cahoon, seconded by Ms. Beauchaine.

Vote 5-0.

Discussion: Mr. Ferreira asked when this job will be posted; Mr. Feola stated that the internal position would be posted by end of May; H/R Director, Cheryl Sylvia, will post this week now that retirement has been voted on.

Leave of Absence

Anthony Pedulla-Maintenance B - One Year – Effective 5/2/16

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

Peter Barilla-Carpenter C-1 - One Year – Effective 4/12/16

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

5-0.

Geoffrey Higginbotham - English Teacher-High School - Effective 4/22/16

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

Laura Smith - Teacher Assistant-High School-Effective 4/27/16

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

Layoffs – Total 13 - High School – 1 position, Martin M/S – 2 positions, Kent Heights – 2, Oldham – 1, Orlo – 1 position; Waddington – 2 positions; Whiteknact- 4 positions; all have received notifications; Superintendent, Kathryn Crowley, explained that this is sometimes just a reorganization of staff in buildings for the following school year; she anticipates that most if not all, will be called back for next year.

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

Displacements from current positions (17); High School – Nina Marold, Keith Anderson, Brooke Burke, Jen Dunay, Sara Duarte, Stephanie Edwards, Erin Rupert, Laura Moretti; Martin M/S – Danielle LaVoie, Jen Small, Jeanne Burdett; Riverside M/S – Jenna Mendonsa; Francis – Emily Rendine, Sarah Chamberland; Kent Heights – Heather Osborne-Roach; Oldham – Dan Lynch; Orlo Ave – Samantha Soares;

most guaranteed a placement for next year; 5/16/16 is date for job fair; will post all available positions and teachers will bid into jobs; based on seniority; length of time in district; once displaced for position; go to layoff and recall; for any positions left, we will go out early to get a jump on any additional hiring.

Returning from Leave of Absence – Displaced – Martha Soderlund, Fritz Lance

Kathryn Crowley thanked the EPEA President, Mr. Shattuck, who was part of the process; thanks to union for collaboration.

Report on Substitutes – Cheryl Sylvia reported that building based subs have made an impact and are working out very well; School Committee received a permanent substitute teacher analysis. Superintendent Crowley stated that this item would be budgeted for next year also. Mr. Cahoon requested to review the numbers on this next year. Discussion regarding being proactive with teacher assistant training.

Back to Item L on the Agenda – Superintendent's Report

Superintendent's Report

Kathryn Crowley offered congratulations to the Early Learning Program at Waddington which received Accreditation by the National

Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC).

Pupil Personnel Director Report - Julian MacDonnell – requested that the School Committee move forward with the plan for Therapeutic Classrooms; he provided updated financial figures on the program.

Kathryn Crowley stated there will be job placements, if not filled, will go out to advertising. Mr. Monteiro noted savings of half a million dollars in the first year.

Informational Report on Elementary and Pre-K Schools - Dr. Celeste Bowler

Kathryn Crowley noted that East Providence received a Pre-Kindergarten grant from RIDE; thanked all who were involved with the process; there will be an official announcement and information on the registration process. There will be five classrooms at Martin Middle and two classrooms at Oldham School; flyers will be sent out; Connect-Ed message; approximately 126 students are needed for the program; age 4 by September 1st; encourage all to fill out an application which will be on our website; applications will be selected by lottery. Celeste Bowler – required to have minimum and maximum number; required to fill open spots, recruit and have a list to fill open seats; required to have a very long wait list.

Finance Report

Director of Finance – Lucy Maddock and Joe Crowley, Interim Finance Director, presented the Finance report; they have been looking at how to put the budget together for next year; projecting out; looking at the way items are spent; new software on a trial run; working with Principals regarding their participation to have them know their budget; how much is in it and what they can spend; planning to make a better budget and to allow the School Committee to be able to understand it.

Mr. Cahoon – will be on the agenda next time; consider Facilities/Budget Meeting to work on these items.

Director of Facilities Report

Update on Facilities – Mr. Feola, Facilities Director reported:

Meeting at RIDE with Mr. DaSilva; East Providence was being reimbursed 48% ; now up to 52% base on all projects; ADA projects will get an additional 4%; up to 56%.

Aspen Group proposal – would like to discuss at the Facilities Sub Committee Meeting.

East Providence applied for two grants for cameras at Martin Middle School

Power installed – Bayside done; water at Francis School done; information from parents;

Graduation on Friday, June 3rd; at Pierce Field; if rain, contingency plan will be to use the high school gymnasium.

Committee Reports

Facilities Sub-Committee – Nate Cahoon reported that the group met on April 25th; Jr. Townies requested that a plot of wooded land at Riverside Middle School be released to the city to become part of a grant project for improvements to the field there; parcel would become a parking area; additionally, discussed bills; bids for the chiller at Waddington; on-going roof issues and discussion to engage legal to review Hennessey roof project; Next meeting on June 6, 2016 at 6:00PM.

Mr. Ferreira said he is done battling the roof issue; why \$1.2 million spent and the roof has serious issues; he has been waiting three years for an answer on Kent Heights gym; wants answers every two weeks; instructing Superintendent to do that.

Mr. Feola –sent the contract package and warranty for the roof.

Mr. Silva said he did not get the email from Mr. Feola about the roof warranty and documents.

Policy Sub-Committee – No report

Wellness Committee Report – No report

Discussion Items - School Water Fountains – discussion about why we are installing these; Ms. Beauchaine said she looked into this two years ago because at least half of them do not work; while doing walk-throughs at schools, it was noted that the fountains did not work; because other things took priority; we now have a chance to

put in a new one at Martin Middle School and Oldham School; she will work to get one for every school; part of the Wellness policy is to have access to free drinking water during the day; \$1,000 each to install; amazing plumber; PTA will buy; kids need drinking water during the day and cannot get it at Oldham and that is not the only school; this is great for the district, not a problem; she has been put through the social media wringer about water fountains to help kids for \$1,000 and illegal if we do not have it; there is no law if kids have water bottles; hopes to find money in our budget for every school to get one; apologize for anyone criticized.

Mr. Feola – it is the cost differential to fix vs. buy new ones.

Mr. Ferreira – they will be fixed in each building; hot water in one school this September.

Mr. Monteiro – expectations of guys out there working; happy to see installed before broken complaint.

Kathryn Crowley – asked Mr. Feola to check all bubblers and she will get to School Committee with information; district should be budgeting to replace so many a year; there is a disparity between schools; only make progress on what School Committee does; does not understand that; have to support Superintendent and Facilities Director; go to our city if we need money for it.

Mr. Ferreira – Superintendent should be notified to bring to School Committee's attention regarding funding.

Action Items

Awarding of Bids:

Hennessey Fire Alarm-AFA Protective Systems, Inc. - \$83,600.00-(with penalty clause)

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

High School Univents-Automatic Temperature Controls, Inc. - \$175,420.00

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

Waddington Chiller-Affirm approval of vote: Sarra Corporation-\$151,696.00

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

Increase in School Lunch Prices-Motion to approve by Mr. Cahoon, seconded by Mr. Ferreira. Vote 5-0.

Approval of funds for Hennessey Playground - \$25,000

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

Approval of funds for completion of Waddington Playground - \$2,000-to complete the playground; Motion to approve by Mr. Monteiro, seconded by Mr. Cahoon. Vote 5-0.

To accept the recommendation of the Pupil Personnel Director re:

Establishing our own special education programs at the Middle School and High School;

Motion by Mr. Monteiro to approve and accept; currently at about \$1.5 million; seconded by Mr. Cahoon, who asked that the School Committee be kept informed. Vote 5-0.

Revision of Policy III.I.4. Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 – Second Passage

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

Revision of Policy II.F.3. Health and Wellness – Second Passage

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

Revision of Policy V.A.17. Medication Administration – Second Passage-Mr. Cahoon asked to amend/change the reference to not being able to self-administer an epi-pen.

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

New Policy – Diabetes Care Management – Second Passage

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

New Policy – Food Allergies – Second Passage

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

New Policy on Concussion/Head Injury (Procedures/Protocol approved 10/27/16) Second Passage

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

Public Comment II – Non Agenda Items – None

Announcements

Ms. Beauchaine – Zaremka Fundraiser on 6/4/16 at 6:30PM at High School; Pasta Fundraiser for Hennessey Playground on Thursday 5/13/16 5-8 at the high school.

School Nurse Teacher Award will be at June meeting.

Mr. Ferreira – requested information on the sidewalk repair project; Mr. Feola noted that this would be on the agenda for the Facilities Sub-Committee – discussion regarding which ones to start with and bring them in this summer to do the work; worse ones on dates they are available Mr. Ferreira would like to approve a list; wants to commit to this project.

Motion by Mr. Cahoon to reconvene in Executive Session for purposes of discussing: Personnel – R.I. Gen. Laws §42-46-5(a) (1) Personnel - Job Performance and Contracts, seconded

by Mr. Monteiro. Vote 5-0. (9:30PM).

The School Committee returned to public session;

Mr. Cahoon reported that one vote was taken in executive session under contracts to release an RFP for legal services. Vote was 3-2 in favor; Mr. Ferreira and Mr. Tsonos voted nay; Ms. Beauchaine, Mr. Cahoon and Mr. Monteiro voted aye.

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

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

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia A. Iannelli, Administrative Assistant

Nathan Cahoon, Clerk of the Committee