

# **EAST PROVIDENCE SCHOOL DEPARTMENT**

**East Providence School Committee**

**East Providence City Hall – Room 306**

**145 Taunton Avenue**

**East Providence, Rhode Island 02914**

## **Special Meeting**

**June 2, 2016**

### **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: Cheryl Sylvia, Director of Human Resources.**

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

**Motion to set a curfew for School Committee Meeting – None**

**Process of RFP – Mr. Tsonos explained that the School Committee hires the Superintendent and Attorneys.**

**Ms. Beauchaine was concerned that the RFP went out prior to the committee seeing it first.**

**Mr. Cahoon – School Committee voted on drafting an RFP or sending out an RFP.**

**Mr. Tsonos – concerned about time frame for the RFP; believes there**

**was so much information that still needed to be discussed, which is why the meeting was planned for tonight.**

**Mr. Monteiro – Believed that if the process of the RFP was compromised then it would warrant a meeting; if there was an issue with the RFP, it should not have been voted to have the Superintendent send out an RFP. The 3 year contract was not something that needed to be decided yet; the School Committee can vote on that once the legal firm is chosen.**

**Ms. Beauchaine – Concerned because it was never done; this is a School Committee hire. It should not have gone out without School Committee viewing it first; there were things in the RFP that she did not expect.**

**Mr. Cahoon – Spoke about how RFP's work and explained that the longer you go out for a contract, the better terms you can get; the School Committee would approve the final details of the contract.**

**Mr. Tsonos – we can do an RFP at any time; he does not like the three year contract idea, nor did he agree with the fact that there was such a short period of time for response; it was then extended to the 8th.**

**Mr. Monteiro said the request should have gone to the whole committee; the RFP was amended by one individual. Mr. Tsonos said he did not demand the change. Ms. Beauchaine asked if anyone had seen the RFP.**

**Mr. Cahoon said he wrote the RFP and sent it to Human Resources, but never saw the RFP after when it was changed to the June 8th date.**

**Mr. Monteiro explained that we are looking for services for the whole**

**district; they could decide to only bid on one or the other or both.**

**Mr. Ferreira said he never agreed to go out for Special Education portion on the RFP.**

**Mr. Monteiro – School Committee decided to look at everything because there was a question about what we were paying for legal services; the RFP is only to gather information.**

**Mr. Ferreira - Superintendent never mentioned Special Education; there was no discussion on going out for special education services.**

**Mr. Monteiro – Why not evaluate everything for legal services and not single out one piece because the Superintendent wants a certain firm.**

**Mr. Ferreira said he was fine with Mr. Cahoon helping to write up RFP but believed we should have had the opportunity to review it since the legal firm will also be representing the School Committee.**

**Mr. Monteiro – at the meeting when discussing an RFP, our current firm should not have been present; the opportunity to discuss was not available.**

**Mr. Cahoon – we put out a lot of RFP's that the School Committee doesn't see.**

**Mr. Ferreira and Ms. Beauchaine said that was true, but this is an RFP that represents the School Committee.**

**Mr. Tsonos – we can do an RFP at any time; he does not like the three year contract; did not like that the response time was such a short period of time and then extended it to the 8th.**

**Mr. Monteiro said the request should have gone to the whole Committee; the RFP was amended by one individual. Mr. Tsonos –**

**said he did not demand the change.**

**Ms. Beauchaine asked if anyone had seen the RFP.**

**Mr. Cahoon – said he wrote the RFP and sent it to the HR Director; never saw the RFP after when it was changed to the June 8th date.**

**Mr. Monteiro explained that we are looking for services to service the whole district; they could decide to only bid on one or the other or both.**

**Mr. Ferreira – never agreed to go out for special education portion to the RFP.**

**Mr. Cahoon – three year pricing can be addressed after the RFP is received.**

**Mr. Tsonos asked how the June 1st date came about.**

**Mr. Cahoon – said he put that date in because he thought it was an urgent matter.**

**Mr. Ferreira – Does not want a 3 year contract; he would like two years.**

**Mr. Monteiro – indicated that when a contract is in place, it makes you look at the end of the term and gives you a chance to make changes if they want.**

**Mr. Cahoon – currently our legal has no guidelines on what services or how long they have to work on things.**

**Mr. Tsonos-The Committee did not make Superintendent Mercer set guidelines for the Anderson firm.**

**Ms. Beauchaine – if she would have received it prior, she would have been able to ask questions. What is going to happen with the person currently doing special education?**

**Mr. Monteiro – it has been said that the Superintendent is bringing in her own legal firm. She did not have confidence with the firm we were using.**

**Mr. Ferreira – Superintendent indicated that this is her personal lawyer.**

**Mr. Monteiro – when Attorney Anderson did work here, there was no RFP; Superintendent's first choice; she had what was not done due to the choices made in the past; the first choice for Superintendent Mercer was the same choice as Superintendent Crowley.**

**Nate Cahoon – If there is something not in the RFP, then let's continue discussion; if not, we should adjourn.**

**Mr. Ferreira – Would support a two year contract; thinks it is wrong to do this during elections; becomes political.**

**Mr. Monteiro – opposed to wait for next elections; he doesn't need political advisors.**

**Motion by Mr. Ferreira to adjourn at 7:20PM, seconded by Ms. Beauchaine.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Patricia A. Iannelli, Administrative Assistant**

**Nathan Cahoon, Clerk of the Committee**

**\*Notes by Cheryl Sylvia**