

# **EAST PROVIDENCE SCHOOL DEPARTMENT**

**East Providence School Committee**

**East Providence City Hall – Room 306**

**145 Taunton Avenue**

**East Providence, Rhode Island 02914**

**September 6, 2016**

## **Open Session**

**Mr. Tsonos, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.**

**Members present: Jessica Beauchaine, Nathan Cahoon, Anthony Ferreira, Joel Monteiro, Charles Tsonos. Also present: Kathryn Crowley, Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Celeste Bowler, Assistant Superintendent, Dr. Sandra Forand, Assistant Superintendent, Lucy Maddock, Finance Director, Anthony Feola, Director of Facilities.**

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

**Public Comment I – Agenda Items - None**

**Action Items:**

**Personnel Appointments**

**Vote to Approve Appointment of Social Studies Teacher at Martin Middle School Effective 8/31/16 Nicholas Sulham**

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

**Vote to Approve Appointment of Spanish Teacher at EP High School Effective 8/31/16 Kortney Braga**

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

**Vote to Approve Appointment of Coach-Girls Soccer at Riverside Middle School – Effective 2016-2017 School Year Carlos DaPonte**

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

**Vote to Approve Appointment of Assistant Coach-Girls Soccer at Riverside Middle School – Effective 2016-2017 School Year Catherine Bruno**

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

**Resignation (1) Brooke Burke Math Teacher – Martin Middle School – Effective 8/29/16**

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

## **Budget Workshop III – Discussion of 2016-2017 School Department Budget.**

**Lucy Maddock, Finance Director, explained that during first work session, discussion was about staff, which was listed school by school; this second session about how we calculate pension and benefits; names have been redacted; listed by bargaining unit position/title. Mr. Cahoon would like to see this in the city budget.**

**Lucy Maddock – information will be put on the website; blue column is information presented tonight; Superintendent’s proposal; she gave brief recap of last week’s discussion; column on what was spent in 2015 and column with projected figures.**

**Mr. Cahoon reviewed draft and compared proposed budget to 2015; had some questions, but in his opinion, budget sound and tight.**

**Lucy Maddock – talked about projected increases in health care; based on what is contractually arranged.**

**Ms. Beauchaine asked about getting information on athletics; asked for summary of \$111,000 - Line 56116**

**Mr. Shattuck, Assistant Athletic Director – discussion on Line # 56116 – bills coming in past due; five and ten a day; three weeks to spring sports; nothing ordered; had to purchase supplies; fields not playable; when developing the athletic budget; they did not have**

**anything to go by; next year, we will have actual numbers.**

**Discussion took place. Mr. Tsonos asked for reassurance that these numbers are as true to course as we think they are; where is reassurance for School Committee that we are looking at best numbers going forward.**

**Mr. Monteiro noted a better accounting system and driver; School Committee should be tracking themselves; hopes this is a trustworthy baseline; School Committee needs a quarterly report.**

**Kathryn Crowley – principals looking for a part in this and they will be held to the budget they receive; no hold backs; they are responsible for instructional supplies and materials; just things they have control over; books, technology; principals have discretion to move line items; have to allocate by UCOA number in operating budget.**

**Mr. Cahoon was confident that we can execute a budget, get together and look at it every six weeks.**

**Mr. Ferreira agreed with tracking every six weeks or so.**

**Mr. Monteiro – we get reports at meetings; we can tag any items with questions; we need to be mindful about putting time aside for budget tracking.**

**Kathryn Crowley –can have a workshop; we can send in packet and Finance Director can answer questions by email.**

**Mr. Cahoon – \$1 million is not a lot to ask for this School Department.**

**Ms. Beauchaine – includes Workers Comp figure; very important for the public to know that.**

**Mr. Monteiro – felt there is no reason for this to be paid for by a tax increase and we need to stop talking about tax increases; School Department only 42% funded by the City; School Committee needs to send that message; thanks for administrative team for putting this together.**

**Mr. Luba – if your budget passes, we will have a tax increase, which does not take hold until next July; max tax next year; his concern would be next year; \$2 million more this year; no plans next year; whatever this year, state will give next year; lot of union contracts coming up next year; he has concerns about sustainability city and schools.**

**Mr. Monteiro – how to explain/justify that allocation of city funds at 42% - lowest in state to schools; should be appalling to any one at the table;**

**Mr. Luba – the way it is constructed now, increase would be from**

**taxpayers.**

**Ms. Beauchaine – we did go to carpet last year without this copy of the budget.**

**Mr. Monteiro – schools got half of the tax increase.**

**Mr. Cahoon - plan for failure; decrepit buildings, etc. need to fund schools, fire and police.**

**Bev Lefort – money for band; kids not getting uniforms, etc.**

**Kathryn Crowley – have not called in all accounts yet; will call them in and check to see what is there; Finance Director will report back on it.**

**Ms. Beauchaine – accountability of money from kids and taxpayers and we never see it; every year, fund raisers; does not know where money goes; lot of money in those accounts; different personnel; need tightening up on these accounts; should be accountability for fund raisers; lot of questions out there.**

**Kathryn Crowley – should be extra-curricular activities account for clubs, etc. and they should be under our control, auditors do not like outside accounts; we need to have accountability; usually athletics and extra-curricular with full time athletic director.**

**Mr. Monteiro – School Committee should review PTA accounts.**

## **Public Comment II – Non Agenda Items - None**

**Mrs. Rossi – asked about police details; SRO at attendance at athletic events.**

**Bev Lefort – people check a box on their tax bills; some money there; Mr. Luba keeps track.**

**Mr. Cahoon– leverage those funds to do what we have to.**

**Discussion about the capital fund; we would have \$4-5 million and then get 49% reimbursement; by year five, would be rolling \$6 million reimbursement.**

**Lucy Maddock – going forward we will have capital expenses and capital revenue; we have paid for projects out of the operating budget. Kathryn Crowley - we can move that money to the capital fund strictly for facilities.**

**Motion by Mr. Cahoon to adjourn at 8:50PM, seconded by Mr. Monteiro. Vote 5-0.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Patricia A. Iannelli, Administrative Assistant**

**Nathan Cahoon, Clerk of the Committee**