

DEPARTMENT OF CITY CLERK

CITY HALL

MARCH 25, 1993

The Committee on Finance meets this day at 5:00 o'clock P.M., in Committee Room "A", City Clerk's Department, City Hall.

PRESENT: Chairman Dillon, Councilwoman Fargnoli and Councilman Igliazzi.

ABSENT: Councilman Glavin and Councilman Fenton.

(Subsequently Councilman Glavin and Councilman Fenton join the Committee).

Also present are Stephen Woerner, City Internal Auditor, Boyce Spinelli, Finance Director, Robert DeRobbio, Assistant Superintendent of Schools, Bob Troiano, Providence Public Building Authority, Councilman Rollins, Councilman Mancini, Councilwoman Nolan, Councilwoman DiRuzzo, Councilwoman Young, Michael R. Clement, City Clerk and Claire E. Brooke-Stewart, Assistant Clerk.

AN ORDINANCE TO ADOPT THE MANCHESTER STREET POWER PLANT TAX INCREMENT PROJECT PLAN, AS AMENDED.

CHAIRMAN DILLON: We invited all the members of the Council at this meeting because it involves the 108 loan involving the Manchester Street Power Plant. The purpose of this is to enable the continuance of the project that has been approved by the Council on more than one occasion, I believe, involving the neighborhood recreation centers. If you could explain what the purpose of this change is.

MR. TROIANO: Thank you Mr. Chairman. The purpose of the requested change in the ordinance is to amend the project plan under the Narragansett Project to include the Community Facilities Projects so that after the projects are built, the city, with the TIF bonds, is dedicating part of the TIF revenue to take out the bonds that the PBA will issue to build the projects with a permanent city bond using the TIF revenue. That is what this does.

At this time Councilman Fenton joins the Committee.

COUNCILWOMAN FARGNOLI: What are the projects?

MR. TROIANO: They are the nine projects that were approved by you and the rest of the City Council. They are all listed here. They include the Mt. Hope Recreation Center, the Silver Lake Recreation Center, the Children's Museum, the Head Start

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Project, the Rion Post Renovations, School One Renovations, the South Providence Community Center, the West End Community Center and the America Street School Project. They are the same projects that you all approved but what this does is dedicate a share of the TIF revenue to insure the banks that loan has the short term money, that you, infact, will dedicate part of your long term TIF revenue to take out the bands with long term bonds.

COUNCILMAN IGLIOZZI: How does this difference from the Ordinance that we already passed?

MR. TROIANO: This just amends the project plan to make the Community Facilities as official part of the Narragansett TIF program.

MR. WOERNER: If you look on page 7, it shows this.

CHAIRMAN DILLON: The original plan was that the city would just lease?

MR. TROIANO: The original plan was just what we are doing here which is, we would build the projects and after three years there would be TIF bonds to take out but the banks noticed that in the project plan, the TIF legislation in these projects was not included and therefore, just as Councilwoman Fagnoli suggested, their might be the possibility that someone would say --- we are not going to do this.

COUNCILMAN FENTON: We need it for the perspective.

MR. TROIANO: That's right.

COUNCILMAN FENTON: This is a technical change just to satisfy the bonds.

On motion of Councilman Fenton, seconded by Councilwoman Fagnoli, it is voted to approve the foregoing Ordinance.

CHAIRMAN DILLON: All those in favor? "Aye". Those opposed? Motion carries.

OVERTIME FOR DPW SUPERVISORS.

CHAIRMAN DILLON: The next item is the overtime for DPW Supervisors.

SNOW REMOVAL OVERTIME - DPW SUPERVISORY PERSONNEL
STORM OF MARCH 4, 1993

<u>NAME</u>	<u>DATES WORKED</u>	<u>HOURS WORKED</u>	<u>OVERTIME</u>
Paul Boccanfusco Highway Supt.	3/4-5	10 1/2	\$335.41

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Pasquale Fiore Dep. High. Supt.	3/4-5	10 1/2	\$259.23
John Melvin Dep. Supt. Env.	3/4-5	10 1/2	\$259.91

SNOW REMOVAL OVERTIME - DPW SUPERVISORY PERSONNEL
STORM OF MARCH 5, 1993

<u>NAME</u>	<u>DATES WORKED</u>	<u>HOURS WORKED</u>	<u>OVERTIME</u>
Paul Boccanfusco Highway Supt.	3/5	14	\$447.22
Pasquale Fiore Dep. High. Supt.	3/5	14	\$345.65
John Melvin Dep. Supt. Env.	3/5	10 1/2	\$259.91

SNOW REMOVAL OVERTIME - DPW SUPERVISORY PERSONNEL
STORM OF MARCH 10-11, 1993

<u>NAME</u>	<u>DATES WORKED</u>	<u>HOURS WORKED</u>	<u>OVERTIME</u>
Paul Boccanfusco Highway Supt.	3/10-11	11 1/2	\$367.36
Pasquale Fiore Dep. High. Supt.	3/10-11	6	\$148.13
John Melvin Dep. Supt. Env.	3/10-11	11 1/4	\$278.47

COUNCILMAN FENTON: It is my understanding that Jerry Florio was given overtime for these storms and he is not allowed overtime.

CHAIRMAN DILLON: I don't remember seeing it.

COUNCILMAN FENTON: It didn't come this way. They just did it.

MR. WOERNER: I can look that up.

CHAIRMAN DILLON: Yes, by all means.

COUNCILMAN FENTON: I would like to move that we continue this until that question is resolved.

CHAIRMAN DILLON: But why keep these guys up?

COUNCILMAN FENTON: It is limited by Ordinance how many people are given overtime. Even a qualified clerk overtime and we would be violating, we would be giving more than what the Ordinance allows for the number of people receiving overtime. Isn't it limited, the number of supervisors, by the Ordinance for 3?

CHAIRMAN DILLON: I don't think it is limited.

COUNCILMAN FENTON: Do we have the Ordinance?

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CHAIRMAN DILLON: Michael, do you have a copy of the Ordinance involving snow removal overtime? "Any permanent management or supervisory personnel, except department of public works supervisory personnel, shall not be entitled to overtime payment; supervisory personnel of the department of public works may be eligible for overtime payments in the event of an emergency for a period not to exceed thirty-six (36) hours per emergency; subject to the approval of the mayor, director of public works and the committee on finance of the city council." It doesn't say the limit of people involved.

COUNCILMAN FENTON: But we will get an answer on the issue?

MR. WOERNER: I do that tomorrow.

COUNCILMAN FENTON: Then I don't have any problem with these.

On motion of Councilman Fenton, seconded by Councilman Igliazzi, it is voted to approve the foregoing Overtime for DPW Supervisors.

CHAIRMAN DILLON: All those in favor? "Aye". Opposed?
Motion carries.

REQUEST OF KAREN FERRI, AN EMPLOYEE IN THE RECORDER OF DEEDS FOR A LEAVE OF ABSENCE STARTING APRIL 19, 1993 AND ENDING APRIL 17, 1994 FOR MATERNITY LEAVE.

CHAIRMAN DILLON: We have a leave of absence which I asked Patricia McLaughlin to look at and everything is fine and in order and is signed by the Personnel Director. It is for Karen Ferri who is a Landrecords Clerk and she is going on Maternity Leave.

On motion of Councilwoman Fagnoli, seconded by Councilman Igliazzi, it is voted to approve the foregoing Leave of Absence for Karen Ferri, an Employee in the Recorder of Deeds, starting April 19, 1993 and ending April 17, 1994, for Maternity Leave.

CHAIRMAN DILLON: All those in favor? "Aye". Opposed?
Motion carries.

PENDING MATTERS.

CHAIRMAN DILLON: Any reports on the Retirement?

MR. WOERNER: No, I checked with them today. They are still going through the list I gave them and making the corrections. They have had to go back in -- files to segregation --- types of buy back but I asked them to hurry that.

CHAIRMAN DILLON: Do you have any ----?

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MR. WOERNER: I wouldn't think by Monday's meeting but it shouldn't take long.

CHAIRMAN DILLON: Mr. DeRobbio had called me today and he wanted to be here because, for one thing, we had invited every Council member here for this matter, the Manchester Street, because as you recall, especially Councilman Glavin, that came up on the floor of the Council when this matter was the Manchester Street matter came up.

COUNCILMAN IGLIOZZI: Is that the one we just passed?

CHAIRMAN DILLON: It is this but we invited all members of the Council to come for this purpose. Mr. DeRobbio called me today and wanted to take advantage of the fact that all the Council members were expected to be here today to answer if there were any specific questions from the members of the Council. They would like to answer them as quickly as possible. The only problem is that I don't see Mr. DeRobbio or any other Council members. It wasn't my impression, I recognize some of you from King School, I think. It was not my understanding, I hate to have people come down without a reason for coming but I told him, because I had spoken with some Council people today who wanted more information and I told him we won't act on this today. I hate to have people come down. If you want to just get comments on the record, that is fine with me.

COUNCILMAN FENTON: Dr. Zarrella had called last week on the issue and said that he was going to ask that it be up today which is I think one of the reasons why so many people have come. We had this thing before the Committee for weeks.

CHAIRMAN DILLON: I know that.

COUNCILMAN FENTON: Excluding your issue, but talking about the issues of the merits, I don't think it is even comparable to Veazie Street. I think people identify real reasons why Veazie Street was not a good idea why per square foot cost of addition it was going to cost more than even new addition. I raised the issue about adding on to King and they said it couldn't be done, then and all hosts of issues that were identified the use of buying Catholic Schools that were no longer being used. In this case, we had the Internal Auditor review the subject and he couldn't find

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any discrepancies other than the issue of changing class size and that is not an issue that we can act on.

CHAIRMAN DILLON: I understand your point but there is no sense in having a retreat. Something is going to have to change, there is no sense in bringing this out to the floor again. I was one of the persons that said --- still wants more information. I don't mind giving you a few minutes if you have come down to speak.

MR. PARMAVILLE: My name is Remy Parmaville. I am the Parent/Teacher Organization at the Martin Luther King School and primarily what we are here for is to see if we are infact going to have 5th graders here at the school. Seems the initiative point by most of the parents and our main concern is if the funding is available, if we are infact going to be moving on this situation.

COUNCILMAN FENTON: When do we plan on taking this up if we are not going to take it up today?

CHAIRMAN DILLON: Probably Monday.

MR. GARLAND: I am Russ Garland. I have a daughter who is at King School and I am a little confused as to what the story is here. Can somebody on the Council please explain it to me and the rest of the parents that are here exactly what is going on?

CHAIRMAN DILLON: What has happened?

MR. GARLAND: Yes.

CHAIRMAN DILLON: Okay. This has been before this Committee several times over the past few weeks. Probably two weeks ago, the Committee voted 3-2 to vote this out to full Council. It arrived at the Council floor and there were a number of Council people who had questions about, there were some Council people that didn't think it was a good idea to spend the money in this fiscal crisis that we are in and there were other Council people that wanted more information about whether the district lines for the various schools would be changed given the ad-ons to these schools. So it was referred back to the Committee. I spoke to Dr. Zarrella after, the next day and he said, what do we do and I said, well you probably need some more information. You are going to have to do some more convincing. You are going to have to do some more lobbying with the members. I spoke with Mr. DeRobbio

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today and he wanted to know if we were going to take this up and my point was, again, I don't think that the members of the Council are going to change their minds just on a whim from last Thursday to this Thursday and I suggested that we have more. We are going to have to get a list of what the real questions are here and answer them and he said, because we were having another matter on the docket to which all the members of the Council were invited to this meeting. Since they were all expected to be here, he wanted to make himself available to answer questions. Now why someone asked all you good people to come down here, and Mr. DeRobbio is not here to answer the questions, why that happened? I can't tell you. But that is what happened. If there are people here, I don't want to have you people come down. I know it is not a good time to come down. You rush from school and so forth. I am sorry that that happened but it wasn't my doing. I would have rather had you come when we were really going to discuss this on the merits but since you are here, if you want to make comments for the record, I would be happy to allow that.

MS. KENNER: My name is Maureen Kenner, I am a parent of the Martin Luther King as well as a Providence School Teacher. Besides the money issue, have you looked at the needs to service the kids? Is there a population that needs to be placed?

CHAIRMAN DILLON: We spent a lot of time looking into population because overall, there are concerns that the trends may not indicate that we really need a lot of elementary school classrooms. What Mr. DeRobbio did was kind of show us where in the city these vacancies are and that convinced me that there is a necessity for these classes.

MS. KENNER: Because specifically I have talked about getting kids back to their neighborhood schools. What I find at the school that I teach at, there are children that are being bussed in and out too far. My question is, is there a need to maintain, besides the financial angle of it, isn't there a need for more space to house the kids within the neighborhoods. That is my question really.

COUNCILMAN FENTON: I think the conclusion was, at least for the majority of the Committee was that they proved the point which

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was that there was a need for more additional spaces at the elementary school level to meet the demographic changes that the city is changing, that the focus of the debate was not necessarily over whether or not it would help neighborhood schools, per se, but that once he did show us where the need was, it proved that it did and there is always the hope, although it never comes to fruition that it would save on bussing costs but we have heard the bussing costs savings line a few too many times to ever believe that no matter what were to happen we would eventually save money on bussing.

CHAIRMAN DILLON: In the case of Martin Luther King, I think it is more of an educational argument that was made rather than the space. It was keeping the 5th grade in the Martin Luther King School.

MS. KENNER: I agree. I teach at Fox Point and our elementary school goes up to 6th grade and we just see it as, for that age population, it is really crucial. They are part of an elementary school, they should be maintained with their peers in the elementary population.

MS. VESS: I am Rosalyn Vess. I have a 3rd grader at King. If ---- with Mr. Garland's questions --- the current status is of the Finance Committee.

CHAIRMAN DILLON: This has been referred back to the Committee on Finance.

MS. VESS: Has submitted a list of question for the School Department that has not yet been answered?

CHAIRMAN DILLON: No, the Finance Committee is happy because we voted 3-2. We were satisfied with the answers to the questions. There are other members of the City Council that have questions and we were trying to gather those questions so that we can get them answered.

MS. VESS: So there are written questions.....

CHAIRMAN DILLON: They are not written questions at this point. Mr. DeRobbio had hoped to come here tonight in one means of gathering of questions and we are going to have to do some of this -----.

At this time Councilman Glavin joins the Committee.

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MR. -----: Are the other Council people supposed to come here and listen because normally if referred to go back to Committee, as we all know, is killing something.

COUNCILWOMAN FARGNOLI: No, for more discussion.

MR. -----: Not in this case?

COUNCILMAN FENTON: No.

COUNCILWOMAN FARGNOLI: More discussion and more information gathering by the School Department.

MR. -----: How is this officially conveyed to the other members who don't sit on this board?

MS. KENNER: That was my point. Sometimes when these things are ---- they are still in the air ----. I was just wondering what these documents ----?

COUNCILMAN FENTON: It was certainly referred by me to Dr. Zarrella that they need to do some ---- that they should have done before it came out of Committee the first time to the other members of the Council which is generally what takes place. You don't just talk to the people on the Committee. You have to talk to all 15 members.

MS. KENNER: I understand but sometimes at this stage somebody must have some specific questions and I wondered if they were there, if they were written down and if we can work on whoever it was that needs to answer the questions to answer them. Otherwise, you know, I am not really sure what the question are or who needs to answer them.

COUNCILMAN IGLIOZZI: I can enlighten you with regard to my question. I had a question which, just so you understand, everything we say here is on the record and whenever we take up an issue of the School Department, we send them notice. If they are not here and your problem is with them, not with us. We were here and with this came up, I want to say three or four weeks ago before it went on the floor, I want you to know that the original plan included Laurel Hill School, which is in my ward. I didn't put it in the plan. The School Department, in its infinite wisdom, thought that Laurel Hill School had a need. So I said fine. If you made the determination that Laurel Hill School has a need and you satisfy all the Committee members question, I have no

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problem. Then next meeting when it comes down to be voted on, Laurel Hill School is taken out and I said, why? No response. It seem arbitrary and capricious. I just want you to impress upon. I didn't put Laurel Hill School in. It is one thing if I put it in and they took it out because it wasn't needed. They made the determination that it was needed, just like they made the determination that Martin Luther King needed more space. If they took it out for no undo reason, you would want to know why. Well, I am here on behalf of my constituents, I want to know why. I asked them that at the continued Finance. I don't believe there ever was anything. They came back here with graphs showing there was a need in various parts of the City, including Laurel Hill School and they still didn't answer the question. The basic answer to the question is, we only have 2 million dollars and we have decided that Laurel Hill School is the one that we are going to cut. Well we all know, that I don't think we are going to pass another educational bond in the next few years out. So we all know that this 2 million dollars either has to be spent equally and fairly among those areas at the School Department in the infinite wisdom in determining they are the need or it shouldn't be spent at all. It is either fairly or not at all, in my opinion. Or with some specific plan on how to solve those solutions, specifically Laurel Hill School if you are going to exclude them. If you are going to exclude them but there is going to be a problem next year, tell me how you are going to solve the problem next year. There was no answer on why it was excluded. There was no answer on how they are going to solve the problem. I made that clear in the record three weeks ago, this Committee in its infinite wisdom voted 3-2 against me, on the floor I made my opinion, again, that is on the record. I made that clear and Mr. DeRobbio was present on the floor when it was referred back. So those questions and I am glad to see he is here. If you want to know what my questions were, those were mine. But there are other members on the Council that had other question that were brought up for the first time on the floor that I had not raised and somebody else had not raised. I believe Councilman Glavin raised some questions on the floor. So I just wanted, for the benefit of

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everybody is here, why I am against it. I support, I know there is a need but I just don't think the questions have been answered on how they distribute that need or to solve the needs.

CHAIRMAN DILLON: Any other comments?

MR. MACMANUS: My name is Bob MacManus. I am just following up the questions on where this is at. I was speaking to the principal at Martin Luther King School a couple of weeks ago, how are things, good but I am waiting for the construction company to start digging the hole back. It sounded like this is done.

CHAIRMAN DILLON: Well maybe that is part of the problem. Maybe some people are assuming things are done before they are done.

MR. MACMANUS: In the papers, there were a number of articles in the media saying that it was a done thing.

MS. KENNER: We did receive a letter from the Mayor's Office.

CHAIRMAN DILLON: You got a letter from the Mayor's Office, did you. Isn't that good.

COUNCILMAN IGLIOZZI: Now we know where the problem is. The problem is that the media is reporting inaccurately and the Mayor is jumping the gun.

COUNCILWOMAN NOLAN: There seems to be some concern about the number of students, the increase of the number of students in the Providence School system. Has anybody around the table read the PROBE Report? I think it is pretty clear about the increase in a number of students if you read the PROBE Report.

CHAIRMAN DILLON: But that isn't at the elementary level, as I recall. You have a large group of people moving....

COUNCILWOMAN NOLAN: PROBE Report included the entire Providence School system.

CHAIRMAN DILLON: I was already convinced so I am not going to sit here and defend it, however, Mr. DeRobbio, correct me if I am wrong, when we spoke today, our discussion involved you wanted to take an opportunity to inform other members of the City Council that if they had any other questions, get this to you and we will try to get some answers so that when we take this thing on the merits, that the questions that people have on their mind can be answered and we can act on it. Did I misunderstand?

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MR. DEROBPIO: I was hoping for another forum to address the members of the City Council that had voted to send it back to the Finance Committee.

CHAIRMAN DILLON: I don't think I mislead you in telling you, I don't think we are going to act on this tonight because I have other members that have further information. I don't mind, I am happy to have all these people come down here but I hate to waste their time. I did not indicate to you that we were going to act on this tonight. I think I indicated that we are not going to act on it.

MR. DEROBPIO: Well, you said you were looking for an indication from the other members of the Finance Committee as to what....

CHAIRMAN DILLON: And the other members of the Council.

MR. DEROBPIO: But the first action has to be to get this back on the floor of the City Council so that all of the members of the City Council may vote on it.

CHAIRMAN DILLON: Right and I don't think it is wise to have it go back on the floor of the City Council and have other members say, you still have not answered the questions we asked in the first place, here it is back in Committee again.

MR. DEROBPIO: Right and that was what this forum was for because we felt that additional members of the City Council would be present this evening and if they were the ones that had voted to send it back to Committee that they may ask their questions at this point and I can either get back to them with the answers tonight or in the interim, before the next City Council meeting or the next Finance Committee meeting.

MR. -----: You had asked Council members to be here tonight. You said that earlier.

CHAIRMAN DILLON: For another matter. They apparently didn't think that that was worthy of their coming. They did not expect to talk about the schools tonight so if they are not here, you can't hold that against them. It was just as a matter of convenience for anybody that was here rather than making 15 phone calls and trying to find people if they were here. That is all we expected to do tonight.

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MR. -----: Things have fallen out the way they are, what is your game plan from here on out and what is the time schedule as far as you looking out and getting it back to the floor, how long does that take?

CHAIRMAN DILLON: I know Councilwoman DiRuzzo had some questions about the school district lines and we will need to go through the record of the Council meeting to get those things back. I don't see why it could not be taken up like a week from tonight but that is not Council.

COUNCILMAN FENTON: Well we could take it off the docket.

CHAIRMAN DILLON: 5:00 o'clock on the 1st, is that all right? Monday we have the appointments.

COUNCILMAN FENTON: Maybe Bob can start calling Council people before that meeting and start answering some questions.

MR. DEROBIO: I will do that.

COUNCILMAN FENTON: It is not going to do any good to wait for them to hear the question the night you don't have the information, then it gets sent off again.

CHAIRMAN DILLON: All right, 5:00 o'clock Thursday we will do the Schools. All the Council people have to be sent a letter.

COUNCILWOMAN DIRUZZO: I am surprised to see this tonight because we talked about this, this afternoon.

CHAIRMAN DILLON: Yes, would you mind explaining to the gathering assembled, well let me not go through it again.

COUNCILWOMAN DIRUZZO: I want to be sure that they come in the type of information that I would take a little interest in. I know that we need these expansion and that is no problem. I mean, we have to have them. We have to put the kids somewhere but the problem is, while we are doing that, I would like information with regard to your district lines. The district lines have not been redrawn in a long time and I have kids living a street over from me going all the way across the city because of the district lines because they can't go to their neighborhood school and that plays a very important part with regard to the numbers that we are going to be dealing with here. I am not sure of the last time that you did it, whether it was 1985 or ----- but it has to be done. I am saying, give us a clear picture of what we are dealing with here.

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The numbers can't be correct if you haven't redrawn your district lines. One of the comments that was made at the last meeting with regard to these additions is we need the extra space so that neighborhood kids can go to neighborhood schools. Well that is not happening and you know that as well as I. This is not unfamiliar to me. I dealt with this for 10 years, you know, the School Department. You know that in order for us to make an intelligent decision when we are spending this kind of money, that we have to have all the facts and figures before us and we do not have that information, Bobby, and I think it is pertinent to the decisions. I have no problem, I am repeating myself. We need the additional room, the space, especially Reservoir Avenue and the other schools that are involved, that is not the problem. The problem is that this body has to make intelligent decisions with regard to expending 2 million dollars. That is a lot of money and why say yes and make this move if you are going to redraw your district lines and then have to make a different change. It is not addressing the needs of the neighborhood schools.

MR. DEROBPIO: That is not the case.

COUNCILWOMAN DIRUZZO: You haven't given us that information to this point that I am aware of.

MR. DEROBPIO: I addressed this group also that the purpose of these additional classroom spaces was to get the students back into their neighborhood schools and because of the location of where they were placed, it allowed us to do this in turning the students back to the neighborhood schools in a number of elementary ----.

COUNCILWOMAN DIRUZZO: Are you going to do that city wide?

MR. DEROBPIO: Yes.

COUNCILWOMAN DIRUZZO: Because you have to. I can't understand how you can do that for the life of me, Bobby because this ---- when it comes to this, without a full clear picture before this Council, this body with regard to numbers and district lines for all of the schools in the City of Providence have to be involved.

MR. DEROBPIO: We have the numbers of those students that are being bussed out of schools into other districts and the number of

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students being bussed into schools and that is what we are trying to bring into balance and this additional classroom space will allow us to do that.

COUNCILWOMAN DIRUZZO: Have you made that presentation of numbers to these people?

MR. DEROBIO: That has been mentioned, yes.

COUNCILWOMAN DIRUZZO: When was that? Because I have spoken to the Chairman and he doesn't seem to have what I am looking for.

CHAIRMAN DILLON: Well we asked about slots in the various parts of the schools. We did not get into the district lines.

COUNCILWOMAN DIRUZZO: That is different.

COUNCILWOMAN NOLAN: With all do respect, Bob, you know I support the portable classrooms, but, since I was elected I have talked about redrawing the district lines and my predecessor also talked constantly about redrawing the district lines and I think it would eliminate. So few children in my neighborhood get to go to their neighborhood schools and are bussed all the way across town and I think that it is something that you should make number one priority for the school system.

MR. DEROBIO: I think that what you finally have is a person that is looking at the additional classroom space and a person in charge of the registration and a person that is in charge of transportation being the same person so that when one makes a decision about the placement of students, it is based on three specific areas rather than just finding a seat for all the students and that would be, in effect beginning with the registration process in July. It will not be a helter skelter type of placement with the students and the invitation will go out to those parents who have students in schools other than their neighborhood schools that we have spaces available to pull those students back in and we expect that to take place, or I expect that to take place, particularly in grades 1, 2 and 3. Not to disrupt the child's educational program in grades 4, 5 and 6 unless the parent agrees to that type of placement.

CHAIRMAN DILLON: There was one other gentleman who wanted to speak.

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MR. -----: If you have 2 million dollars to spread throughout the schools, what is the cost for a portable classroom?

MR. DEROBPIO: These are not portable classrooms.

MR. -----: Does anybody have that costed out?

COUNCILMAN FENTON: It has all been broken up.

MR. DEROBPIO: We know that these three sites should come in within the 2 million dollar restrictions. That three out of four. You were originally going with four sites and because of the projected costs, we felt that one of the sites had to be eliminated but should the bids come in at a lower level than what we are expecting to come in at that that fourth site would also be accommodated but we are making improvements to that fourth site in addition to this regular program.

MR. RIFFLE: My name is Sam Riffle. I am a parent of a King student. My concern is going from the standpoint of the city, there seems to be a lot of ---- and what I am hearing in this room and ----- the information that this School Department would furnish to the people that are going to look at redistricting would not be available until July since the person that makes that decision, is essentially doing three different jobs at a time.

MR. DEROBPIO: ----- for the need for classrooms but also --- the children are going.

MR. RIFFLE: I clearly understand you are saying that the information that they have, the City Council members are looking for, is information that you will not determine until July.

MR. DEROBPIO: That is a little bit incorrect. What I am trying to convince the City Council is that all of our efforts are going into pulling back students into their neighborhood schools and by this additional classroom construction, in the area that it is going will allow us to bring the students back into these schools.

MR. RIFFLE: Would it satisfy members of the Council if they had gotten the ---- of considerations that ----- not for his own ---. Is that going to be accurate for addressing the needs for the City Council?

COUNCILWOMAN DIRUZZO: I would suggest that you have to put more effort to that effect ----- . You know the way it goes. From

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this end --- amount of money educating students --- I am not saying it is enough. There are so many questions that people ask us about education and when we address a situation like this, we know we need extra classrooms in certain areas and I know the School Department is trying to address that ---- but I like, before I make a decision, to have the true picture before me addressing that and I think that those numbers are critical to the move that you want to make here. Please correct me if I am wrong. That is the way it all summed up to myself when I was Chairwoman of the School Committee and we spent long arduous hours in making those determinations. I know that you are trying to do three jobs in one, but Bob, this information should be before this Committee in making a decision of this nature. What happens if the district lines are drawn and they are not accommodating the neighborhood kids. Half of those students can't get a seat in the school around the block from where they live. They are transported, and you know how I feel about that, clear across the city and these are 7 year old children and we should afford them the opportunity to walk around the corner to their own school. It is the same all over the city, South End, East Side, Fox Point Area. We all have the same complaints and I am saying to make a decision here, that all the information should be here for this Committee as well as before the School Board. They should have ---- in order for us to expend this money in an appropriate manner. What happens if you find out that you don't have any room at the school ---- you are making some improvements there but suppose they don't have that school. Are you going to ship them over to Federal Hill or Martin Luther King because they have the room? And what happens, do they ---- we don't have any room. Where do you put those kids? Do you send them to Silver Lake? Because that is what is happening. It doesn't make any sense to me. If we are trying to improve the community and the neighborhoods, we should be trying to do the same thing with the school system.

COUNCILWOMAN YOUNG: I was one of the people that voted against this proposal and the reason I did was I want more information. My great concern about my area, the South Side, that historically has had the most young people being bussed out of

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their neighborhoods. My major concern, we have been --- for a whole lot of years, is that when you build these expansions, they cannot only equal, we have more kids being bussed out. I think my neighborhood should have more. The expansion should be in greater number than other communities because what you still have is drills of my kids being bussed out of the neighborhoods, other neighborhoods that are just starting some bussing and that ---- eliminate in the community while we still have a line ---- of kids being bussed for the last 20 some odd years out of my community and that is one of the reasons I voted against it. I want a lot more information because everything is not always equal and I just don't think we should settle for a few more class spaces in my neighborhood when the need is a lot greater than that and that was one of my concerns. Is everything going to be balanced? Are we saying ----- kids in Fogarty School as opposed to 100 some place else or are we looking at equality across the border and I think if we look at the numbers of who is being bussed out of what community, you will see that the South Side has historically been bussed the most and if you don't believe me, come to Prairie Avenue any morning. That is my concern. If we are going to start letting kids go to their neighborhood schools, how are we going to balance that out so that the people who are hit the hardest are being put back in the community.

COUNCILWOMAN FARGNOLI: May I ask a question to Mr. DeRobbio. Where do you expect the largest influx of new students come next September? In which area of the city do you expect the largest number of new students or transfer students or whatever?

MR. DEROBPIO: We expect two areas. One is the Fogarty/Reservoir Broad/Sackett area and the other is the Veazie/Windmill area. We do have at the last meeting I showed you some diagrams where we do have some additional space for students in the Veazie/Windmill area but that was because of the foresight that the Finance Committee had in approving the construction of the Veazie School. Now we are looking for some relief in the Fogarty/Reservoir, Broad/Sackett area for expansion. There will be growth across all our areas of the city, naturally.

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COUNCILWOMAN FARGNOLI: And you are going to include the 5th grade as part of the King School?

MR. DEROBIO: Part of the King School, correct.

COUNCILWOMAN FARGNOLI: Will all of the other elementary schools have that 5th grade available to the students?

MR. DEROBIO: At present, there will be two that will not, Asa Messer and Laurel Hill because those are on the plans to try to accommodate those. We are also working on some plans to make those K-5 schools. We wanted the structure of the City of Providence to be K-5, 6-8 and 9-12.

COUNCILWOMAN FARGNOLI: Back to the old ways again.

COUNCILWOMAN NOLAN: I just want to say that, if some of the Council members seem a little doubtful, you will have to recall the last time that we did portable classrooms, the growth and population was on the South Side, yet you put the portable classrooms on the other side of the city which meant that the kids on my side of town had to be bussed over, while the parents from Kennedy were screaming, they didn't want their kids bussed, my kids are being bussed all along. So if we are a little skeptical that is the reason.

MR. DEROBIO: I think the conditions were a little bit different at that point and probably a different emphasis.

COUNCILMAN FENTON: Just to pick up on that point, I think you are suffering from the presentation that was given last time where when the questions we asked, many of them are now being answered in this proposal like when we asked, could King be expanded and we were told there was no possible way because there was no room on the site despite the fact that on three sides of the building there is obviously ---- structure.

MR. DEROBIO: Also our presentation at that point saying that the additional classroom space was going to be done in three phases and that was the first phase, the Veazie Street was the second phase and this will be the third phase.

COUNCILMAN FENTON: We were told, I asked specifically about Martin Luther King and we were told time and time again, we had that thing here for probably 10 meetings and we were continued to be told time and time again that there was no possible way to add

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on to Martin Luther King because there was not the space available to add on classrooms and that I think is part of the problem which was there was a lot of misinformation or lack of information being presented the last time.

MR. RIFFLE: I hear, there is a lot of discussion going on here and from a business standpoint, my concern is that there isn't any actual item being committed to paper. Council members saying I want this, this, this. There is five different things that he can go back and do his homework on and give you five things that you want and from his standpoint, he has the information that he is trying to give to you that apparently is done communicative orally and is not written down and he can't digest something like that and it floats out of this room and the meeting is over and people don't remember it. It seems to me that the School Department needs to write explicit information that is going to support the ----- and it seems to me that the City Council needs to write specifically their objections so that he will have an actual item that way a third party, such as a parent, which is supposedly ----- and watching what is going on can sit down and say, here are two ---- and they are actually able to make decisions ---- the basis on which the decisions were being made. I don't see that process here. What I see tonight is a verbal exchange and as a business person, I can tell you that that is not going to result in something which is ----.

CHAIRMAN DILLON: You make a good point. I would say for the record though that we have gone through this more than one time. There has been a lot of paper transferred to the Finance Committee and you make a good point and it was not transferred to the other members of the City Council.

COUNCILWOMAN DIRUZZO: I wanted to put this in writing but ----- meeting scheduled.

MR. RIFFLE: Is there any problem if it is in writing? It seems that is the first step. He has to have a list of items and you have a list of things to say and if something comes up in the interim, that is something you can work out at the next meeting.

CHAIRMAN DILLON: Why don't we do this. Why don't we send to all the members of the City Council, a letter inviting them to

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next Thursday's meeting, also indicating in the letter, if they have any questions, they should convey them to Mr. DeRobbio and Mr. Woerner. You can send that out to all of them. You have the records and the papers that were passed out in the previous times that we discussed this. He can get copies. You can do this by tomorrow, all this stuff that has been passed out to us?

MR. DEROBPIO: Yes.

CHAIRMAN DILLON: And construction costs, that document. Any other questions or comments?

MR. -----: At what point do the parents, I mean, I am here because I have children in Martin Luther King School but I also have children in the Providence Schools and I don't feel comfortable being here fighting for something for my school when this woman, the school in her district needs things too. I am not informed enough to know. So at what point do the parents ---- does the populous get this paper work or this ----.

MR. DEROBPIO: I can supply Mr. ---- with the information. We felt, the School Department felt as though we wanted to go through a process. We did not want to address the parent groups or the ---- until it was passed by the Finance Committee and the City Council. Unfortunately, the parents have to be here or are speaking on behalf without having the information and this time it worked the reverse of the last time, we did everything first and then came here. We were trying to go the right way and it has backfired. I think the Finance Committee has the information that didn't get out to the full Council, nor did it get out to the individual schools, you know, what actually the --- were.

COUNCILWOMAN DIRUZZO: Mr. Chairman, I hope that you address that, Mr. DeRobbio, this is not a matter to be taken personally but I understand the reasoning behind ---- but I feel that we should have more information because we don't want you coming back next year saying you need another 2 million to do the other schools ----- . It is an important component to making this decision and you know as well as I do ---- the numbers are very critical. You are saying the Finance Committee has enough information. I don't feel that I do to make an intelligent decision because I was on the School Board and I am a City

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Councilwoman who has the same problems --- and a lot of other Council people with regard to neighborhood kids being shifted around when you are saying that you are trying to accommodate -----.

MR. DEROBIO: Can we read back the record as to what I said about where I presented the information on where the short coming was?

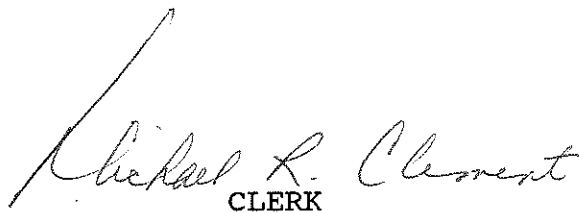
CHAIRMAN DILLON: We are not getting anywhere at this point in time. You are going to send a letter tomorrow, Claire, you are going to get this information over to us and if we can get something written then we can send it to all the members and perhaps you can summarize the questions that we went through and get it out to them before next Thursday and invite them all here and we will take it from there.

MR. -----: Councilman, I have one question, if the Finance Committee were to approve this again on Thursday, April 1st, how soon could it go back to the full Council.

COUNCILWOMAN FARGNOLI: April 15th.

MR. ----: If that happens, the whole Council okays it. I am looking, I mean, if all this stuff is even okayed come September, for the building. It just doesn't happen like that. There is questions about that stuff too. If in fact, if the City Council okays it, it is done.

ADJOURNMENT: On motion of Councilman Fenton, seconded by Councilwoman Fagnoli, it is voted to adjourn the meeting at 6:00 o'clock P.M.


CLERK


Assistant Clerk