
**EAST PROVIDENCE SPECIAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
OPEN SESSION – June 30, 2020**

The East Providence School Committee met for a virtual Special Meeting on Tuesday, June 30, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. Members present were Charles Tsonos, Chair, Jessica Beauchaine, Vice Chair, Karen Oliveira, Clerk, Anthony Ferreira and Joel Monteiro. Also present were Superintendent Kathryn Crowley, Assistant Superintendents Dr. Forand and Dr. Bowler, Craig Enos and Ben Russell.

Call to Order – Open Session

Mr. Tsonos called the meeting to order at 6:09 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance and moment of silence were observed.

Discussion Item – Bus Transportation Contract

Mr. Enos highlighted sections of the Ocean State Transit Contract. The contract is for three years commencing on July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2023. The three-year contract includes two additional one-year extension periods commencing on July 1, 2023. The pricing on the contract for transportation is \$3,859,886.15 and includes a 16.5% increase for transportation to and from school. Year two and three will increase by 3.5%. The \$3.8 mil is already included in this year's budget. The District will be able to use a portion of the \$1.6 mil in COVID related reimbursements and will be applying for grant funding through the CARES ACT to help offset the increase in transportation.

Superintendent Crowley explained that transportation across the State of RI is an issue. The CDC, RIDE and RIDOH have sent mandates related to the bus situation and are asking districts to be flexible because things may change. There were no other bids received for bus transportation and the Committee had no other alternative but to approve this contract by July 1st or risk having students with no transportation to and from school.

Mr. Enos reported that the contract covers thirty-eight school buses. The Committee has the option to negotiate on this contract regarding the number of buses and services. If school is not in session, the district would be able to re-negotiate on paying the 90% of the contract.

Dr. Forand is heading the Task Force for the re-opening of schools. She reported that there are four committees with 60 members on the sub-committees. There are three options for the opening of schools: full in person return; partial in person return; and limited in person return. A survey was sent out to everyone in the district regarding transportation options. The Task

Force is looking at all options to use the buses we already have. The sub-committees are collecting data and a cost analysis with the final plan will be submitted to RIDE by July 17.

Action Item – Ocean State Transit Contract

Motion made by Mr. Monteiro, seconded by Ms. Oliveira and carried by unanimous consent to approve the Ocean State Transit Contract as submitted.

A roll call was taken:

Ms. Beauchaine – aye
Mr. Ferreira – aye
Ms. Oliveira – aye
Mr. Monteiro – aye
Mr. Tsonos – aye

Vote passed 5-0 to approve the contract.

Adjournment

The next School Committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, July 14 and a Budget Workshop on July 21. The next Building Committee is scheduled for Monday, July 13.

Mr. Ferreira stated that going forward meetings should be held so the public can be involved. He is requesting we have public comments on the agenda and that meetings be held both in person and virtually. Mr. Tsonos said after communicating with legal counsel and entering Phase 3 in the State, we will have the next meeting and the Budget Workshop at Martin Middle School and also by virtual platform so not to put anyone at risk.

Motion by Ms. Oliveira, seconded by Ms. Beauchaine and carried by unanimous consent to adjourn the meeting at 7:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Corsi
Administrative Assistant

Karen Oliveira, Clerk