
**EAST PROVIDENCE SPECIAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
OPEN SESSION – September 1, 2020**

The East Providence School Committee met for a virtual special meeting on Tuesday, September 1, 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 Sandra Forand and Celeste Bowler, Craig Enos, Tony Feola, Diana Clarkin, Leslie Anderson, Ben Russell, Julian MacDonnell and Richard Small.

Call to Order – Open Session

Mr. Tsonos called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance and moment of silence were observed.

Discussion Items

1. Re-entry of School – Superintendent Crowley stated that the district is still using the reopening plan that was submitted to the School Committee. On Monday a letter was sent out with the updated school calendar to all families and staff. The district will be running in-person and distance learning. A meeting with the teams that will inspect the schools is scheduled for September 2 at 8:30 a.m. Three teams will be coming with each team inspecting four schools. A mobile testing site has set up in East Providence. Any student suspected of having COVID-19 symptoms can get tested with immediate results.

Dr. Forand gave an update presentation on school reopening. All students who requested distance learning have been assigned distance learning. As of September 1st approximately 2,200 students have chosen the distance learning option. Middle and high schools will follow a set schedule and instruction will occur face to face with an EPSD teacher. Schedules will appear in Skyward and teachers will reach out the week of September 14th with class information. Elementary students will follow the schedule given by the teacher and orientation will take place the week of September 14th. All information is being sent out by school Principals.

In-person learning orientation will take place on September 14th for grades 1, 6 and 9; September 15 for grades 2, 4, 7 and 11; September 16 for grades 3 and 5; September 17 for grades K, special populations, 8 and 10; September 18 for grades K-5, 6, 8 and 12; and on September 21 all students who selected in-person learning will report based on their schedule. Pre-K will begin on September 14.

In-person learning schedule for elementary schools and pre-k will be Monday–Friday

9:15 am to 3:00 p.m. In-person learning schedule for middle schools will be Monday & Tuesday all grade 6 & 7 and special populations; Wednesday all grades distance learning; Thursday & Friday all grade 6, 8 and special populations from 7:45 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. In-person learning schedule for high school will be Monday & Tuesday grades 9 & 11 and special populations; Wednesday all grades distance learning; and Thursday & Friday grade 10, 12 and special populations 7:25 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Teachers will not be in the buildings on Wednesdays. The buildings will be sanitized. Elementary schools will be deep cleaned at night during the week.

Transportation – Mileage distance remained the same. Bus schedules will be online Tuesday, September 8 and in the local paper Thursday, September 10.

2. Need for a Boiler at Hennessey School – Mr. Feola stated that there is a need to replace one of two boilers at Hennessey Elementary School. They went out to state bid and the three quotes were reviewed by Mr. Ferreira. The company recommended was Fleet Plumbing.

3. Movement of Portable Stands at CTC – The School Committee received communication of availability of the stands that were removed from the high school property and stored at the Career & Technical Center. There was a request by the City to use them while they are not in use. City workers will be removing and installing them. There was discussion to have a letter prepared stating that the bleachers/stands are property of the East Providence School Department and are on loan temporarily until they are ready to be used again.

Action Items

1. Boiler Replacement at Hennessey School

Motion by Mr. Ferreira, seconded by Mr. Monteiro and carried by unanimous consent to approve and award the boiler replacement project to Fleet Plumbing for \$34,650.00 as submitted.

2. Movement of Portable Stands at CTC to Support Youth Sports in the City

No vote was taken. The Committee decided that this item did not require a vote. A letter will be sent out instead.

Public Comments

There were four public comments regarding the reopening of schools from Wendy Anctil, Sandra Vieira, Michaela Evans and Holly Farias.

Announcements

Superintendent Crowley announced that the district is waiting for clarification on getting meals for all students which will be taken care of by the Federal Government. A pick-up schedule will be set up.

A Policy Sub-Committee meeting will be scheduled to develop a policy for mask wearing. Dr. Forand said the Governor stated that masks are required.

Mr. Monteiro stated that the delayed start to school is due to cleaning between each grade level. The buses are thoroughly cleaned between bus runs.

Adjournment

Motion made by Ms. Oliveira, seconded by Mr. Monteiro and carried by unanimous consent to adjourn the meeting at 7:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Corsi
Administrative Assistant

Karen Oliveira, Clerk