
EAST PROVIDENCE SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING OPEN SESSION – December 8, 2020

I. Call to Order Open Session

The East Providence School Committee met virtually in Open Session on Tuesday, December 8, 2020. Mr. Tsonos called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Members present were Charles Tsonos, Chair, Jessica Beauchaine, Vice Chair, Karen Oliveira, Clerk and Joel Monteiro. Anthony Ferreira was absent. Also present were Superintendent Kathryn Crowley, Assistant Superintendents Sandra Forand and Celeste Bowler, Ben Russell, Anthony Feola, Leslie Anderson, Cheryl Mammone, Julian MacDonnell, Craig Enos and Diana Clarkin.

II. Executive Session

Motion by Ms. Oliveira, seconded by Mr. Monteiro and carried unanimously to move into Executive Session for the purpose of: Appointment and Salary Range of Sr. Systems Manager Pursuant to RIGL §42-46-5(a)(1); and Consider & Vote on Motion to Adjourn and Convene into Public Session. Appropriate disclosure was made by the Chair concerning compliance with RIGL 42-46-(5)(a)(1) indicating that any person to be discussed had been appropriately notified in advance in writing. No request had been made.

III. Re-Convene in Open Session (Regular Meeting)

Mr. Tsonos called the meeting to order at 6:47 pm. The Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence were observed. The Chair reported that no votes were taken in executive session. Motion by Ms. Oliveira, seconded by Ms. Beauchaine and carried by unanimous consent to seal the minutes.

IV. Student Liaison – EPHS student, Grant Wosencroft, highlighted events that are happening at the high school. Students are adapting to the new environment due to the coronavirus and they have all the tools they need to succeed.

V. Consent Agenda

Communications; Correspondence; Four Homeschool Requests; and Approval of Minutes:

- November 10, 2020 School Committee Meeting
- November 9, 2020 Building Committee Meeting

Motion by Mr. Monteiro, seconded by Ms. Oliveira and carried by unanimous consent to approve the consent agenda.

VI. Public Comments I – Agenda Items – The new EPHS student liaison is Grant Wosencroft who is a junior and class of 2022. No public comments were received on agenda items.

VII. Superintendent's Report

1. School Improvement Plans – The plans were delivered to each School Committee member and will be worked on over the course of the year.
2. COVID Update – The EPSD will be going to virtual learning starting December 14 - January 4, 2021. The reason for going in this direction is due to staffing and quarantine issues and because of the uptick in the number of cases that the district has - 9.8 positivity rate. All students will be on their regular schedules. All staff will be on distance learning. Custodians will be taking care of the schools with repairs and deep cleaning. Letters notifying parents and staff will be going out.
3. Swearing In of New Committee Members – January 5, 2021 is the date for swearing in new Committee members and will be a virtual meeting. There will be a School Committee meeting right after for election of officers. January 12 will be a regular School Committee meeting.
4. Update on Distance Learners pertaining to Special Education Services – Leslie Anderson stated that a small group was formed as a subcommittee to talk about core beliefs, review the district mission and values and define beliefs of special education in the district. They are working with members of EPLAC and will be sharing information. Another subcommittee will look at programming across the district to implement that philosophy around staffing, instruction and special development. There are 425 students who are on distance learning. Paraprofessionals will continue to support students.
5. Update on Special Education Committee to Support Parents – Leslie gave an update explaining social supports. A parent engagement or community outreach need will be developed.
6. Social Emotional Learning within the Classrooms – Ms. Beauchaine asked if social emotional learning can be brought to the classroom. Tabitha Watjen, SEL Coordinator, does have an open schedule available to teachers to work with students in the classroom. Principals will be encouraged to have teachers reach out to her. Meetings are hosted monthly and are helpful reaching out to schools.
7. Absenteeism Rate – All elementary and middle schools are using the Attendance Nudge. The district is continually working on attendance which has been a struggle. The attendance policy has been revised just a bit if a student has been late. Principals are working on attendance which is a goal to improve.
8. Grant for Purposes of Increasing Substitute Pool – Dr. Bowler reported that the district applied for the substitute grant which was put out by RIDE. The district was awarded \$52,631.58. These are funds to support and supplement our funds in the current budget for substitutes. The grant is used for recruitment of and day to day substitutes. All funds need to be expended by the end

of December. The grant is helpful for paying extra subs in the buildings and keeping schools running.

9. Re-entry Plan – Dr. Forand reported that a survey was sent out last Wednesday asking parents if they are electing distance learning for the second semester. They are asked to make a decision by January 6. There are currently 950 students on distance learning. If the survey is not filled out students would be assigned as in-person learners. If the numbers are so large that the CDC mandate can't be met then a hybrid model will be looked at for the elementary level. The goal is to bring back all students.

10. Superintendent Crowley thanked Mr. Ferreira for his dedication to the children of East Providence and the school buildings. She thanked Ms. Oliveira for her dedication to the children and for being a fierce advocate of the children and teachers.

VIII. Director of Human Services Report

Leave of Absences – Ms. Mammone read the leave of absence as follows: Social Studies Teacher at EPHS, effective 12/15/2020.

Resignations – None

Retirements – None

Non-Renewals – None

Recalls - None

Motion by Mr. Monteiro, seconded by Ms. Oliveira and carried by unanimous consent to approve the leave of absence as submitted.

IX. Director of Finance Report – Mr. Enos presented the financial report as of December 4, 2020. There were updates with FY ending on October 31 and they continue to make adjustments as invoices come in. They are in the process of reviewing open purchase orders for out of district students. In January he will report on a number. The January meeting will have an audit report for review. The window replacement at RMS was put on hold last year and he met with project manager and architect firm to finalize those plans. In January will present the RFP to go out in either January or February so the project can be started when school is out in June. Also working on SBA capital fund agreement to spend on capital projects related to COVID and will be presenting to the School Committee.

X. Policy Committee Report – Ms. Beauchaine stated the committee is working on the building usage policy for January and looking at a new policy for the new high school. Ms. Oliveira will be staying on as part of the Policy Committee. Also, looking into an honesty policy for working online.

XI. Building Committee Report – Mr. Monteiro gave an update on the high school building project and highlighted the OPM report from the December 7 Building Committee meeting. Mr. Monteiro stated that the Building Committee doesn't make that recommendation for the discussion and action item on the agenda "Building Committee recommendations for transferral of dedicated areas of new EPHS from the existing building".

Mr. Monteiro presented the signage package review at the new high school and will send the presentation and OPM report to the Committee.

He spoke about the maintenance at the new high school and is working with the Peregrine Group. The proposal/contract for the Facilities Plan Development is an action item to approve on the agenda. The cost is \$9,500.

Mr. Tsonos requested a presentation of an overview from the OPM and A13 to update the School Committee and the new School Committee members. Mr. Monteiro will ask Mr. Bradner to attend the next meeting.

XII. Discussion Items

1. 2021 Schedule of Monthly School Committee Meetings – Every January the schedule of monthly School Committee meetings is updated on the Secretary of State website. Ms. Beauchaine suggested meeting at a school instead of at City Hall. The meetings could be held at the new high school when completed. Virtual meetings will be added to the location on the notice and advertised in January 2021.

2. Building Committee Recommendations for Transferral of Dedicated Areas of New EPHS from the Existing Building – Mr. Tsonos

Motion by Ms. Oliveira, seconded by Mr. Monteiro and carried by unanimous consent to table this discussion item and action item number 4 as well.

XIII. Action Items

1. Bill List:

Motion by Ms. Oliveira seconded by Mr. Monteiro and carried by unanimous consent to approve the following warrants as submitted.

Voucher No. 1046 for \$80,921.54

Voucher No. 1047 for \$1,071,134.72

Voucher No. 1001 for \$85,292.00

Voucher No. 1003 for \$701,732.00

2. 2021 Schedule of Monthly School Committee Meeting

Motion by Ms. Oliveira, seconded by Ms. Beauchaine and carried by unanimous consent to approve the 2021 schedule of monthly School Committee meetings as submitted.

3. Sr. Systems Manager IT Contract

Motion by Mr. Monteiro, seconded by Ms. Oliveira and carried by unanimous consent to table this item.

4. Building Committee Recommendations for Transferral of Dedicated Areas of New EPHS from the Existing Building

Motion by Ms. Oliveira, seconded by Mr. Monteiro and carried by unanimous consent to table this item.

5. 2021 EPLAC Members

Motion by Ms. Beauchaine, seconded by Ms. Oliveira and carried by unanimous consent to approve the 2021 EPLAC members as submitted.

Mr. Monteiro reported that the following invoices, which total \$7,764,533.48, have been reviewed and approved by the Building Committee.

6. Ai3 Invoices for Services

Motion by Mr. Monteiro, seconded by Ms. Oliveira and carried by unanimous consent to approve the Ai3 November 2020 Invoice for Basic Services in the amount of \$122,474.84 as submitted.

7. Peregrine Invoice for Services

Motion by Mr. Monteiro, seconded by Ms. Oliveira and carried by unanimous consent to approve the Peregrine Group, LLC November 2020 Invoice for services in the amount of \$59,000.00 as submitted.

8. Gilbane Invoice for Services

Motion by Mr. Monteiro, seconded by Ms. Oliveira and carried by unanimous consent to approve the Gilbane Construction Co. November 2020 invoice for services in the amount of \$7,571,212.01 as submitted.

9. Stephen Turner, Inc. Invoice for Services

Motion by Mr. Monteiro, seconded by Ms. Oliveira and carried by unanimous consent to approve the Stephen Turner, Inc. November 2020 invoice for services in the amount of \$3,110.25 as submitted.

10. Thielsch Engineering Invoice for Services

Motion by Mr. Monteiro, seconded by Ms. Oliveira and carried by unanimous consent to approve the Thielsch Engineering October and November 2020 invoice for services in the amount of \$8,736.38 as submitted.

11. Contract for Facilities Plan Development

Motion by Mr. Monteiro, seconded by Ms. Oliveira and carried by unanimous consent to approve the contract for the Facilities Plan Development.

XIV. Public Comments II – Non-Agenda Items – No public comments received for non-agenda items.

XV. Announcements – Ms. Beauchaine and Mr. Monteiro thanked Mr. Ferreira and Ms. Oliveira for all they have done for the community and the children of East Providence.

Superintendent Crowley wished everyone on behalf of central office a happy and safe holiday season and a better 2021.

XVI. Adjournment

Motion by Ms. Oliveira, seconded by Ms. Beauchaine and carried by unanimous consent to adjourn the meeting at 8:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Corsi
Administrative Assistant

Max Brandle
School Committee Clerk