EAST PROVIDENCE SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
OPEN SESSION – February 9, 2021

I. Call to Order Open Session

The East Providence School Committee met both virtually and at East Providence High School in Open Session on Tuesday, February 9, 2021. Mr. Monteiro called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m. Members present were Joel Monteiro, Chair, Jessica Beauchaine, Vice Chair, Max Brandle, Clerk, Jenni Azanero and Charles Tsonos. Also present were Superintendent Kathryn Crowley, Assistant Superintendents Celeste Bowler and Sandra Forand, Ben Russell, Anthony Feola, Leslie Anderson, Julian MacDonnell, Craig Enos, and Diana Clarkin.

The Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence were observed.

II. Student Liaison – Grant Wosencroft highlighted events from the last month at the high school.

III. Consent Agenda

Communications/Correspondence: Superintendent Crowley read a letter from the East Bay Superintendents regarding their School Committees and how grateful they are for their dedication and leadership. The letter was submitted to the editor and published in the Post.

Appointments: Caitlyn DeSanto, Pre-K Teacher at Oldham School, effective 11/2/2020.

Approval of Minutes:

- January 5, 2021 Special School Committee Meeting
- January 12, 2021 School Committee Meeting
- January 19, 2021 Special School Committee Meeting
- January 11, 2021 Building Committee Meeting

Motion by Mr. Tsonos, seconded by Ms. Azanero and carried by unanimous consent to approve the minutes and consent agenda as submitted.

IV. PTO/PTA/EPLAC Reports – Ms. Beauchaine reported that starting in January she is part of the East Providence Local Advisory Committee (EPLAC) as a liaison. February 24 will be a workshop for transition to work services. Meetings are held on the last Wednesday of each month. Recognition night will be held in May. Nominations are due in March and applications are online. Waddington had a winter wonderland drive thru on Saturday. Restaurant night fundraisers are being held for several schools this month.

V. Public Comments I – Agenda Items – No public comments were received on agenda items.

VI. Superintendent's Report

1. EPHS Proposed Schedule – A block schedule has been put in place which will put the district into the 21st century. Ms. Carlotti spoke about the new schedule for next year which puts together a schedule that best utilizes the building and their time.

2. EPHS Program of Studies 2021-2022 – The program of studies for 2021-22 was put together by both students and faculty at the high school. Students from all grades were on the committee. New courses and pathways have been included such as a green house and dental program. Principal Toby Gibbons presented the program of studies. Superintendent Crowley thanked Mr. Gibbons and the leadership team and students who participated on this committee.

3. Update on School Activities/Programs – The update on school activities and programs for February was is included in the packet and listed by school.

4. Re-entry Plan for 2nd Semester – Dr. Forand gave a summary of the re-entry plan for the 2nd semester. Monday was the first day of the 2nd semester. 550 students are back in the classroom. A deep cleaning of the buildings are done every night. Looking at rotating the schedules to bring students in for more instruction time. Hoping for all students to return in September 2021. Scheduling for the middle school students to attend the high school will start in March.

5. BINAX Testing Update – All schools have been doing testing. Positivity rates for students was less than 1%. BINAX testing will run again the week after February vacation. Evening testing for all schools, faculty and students will be on Sunday, February 21st at 6-7 p.m. During the week the schools will run testing for students and faculty. Permission slips will be sent out and forms will be available on location as well.

6. Facilities Update – Tony Feola gave an update on facilities for February. Security work is being done at some of the elementary schools. Cleaning and disinfecting the buildings daily. There is a surplus of COVID supplies. The Riverside Middle School window project is going out for an RFP by the end of the month. Superintendent Crowley thanked the maintenance team, custodians, faculty and staff for all they are doing to keep everyone safe in the buildings. Ms. Beauchaine asked if the playground equipment could be used. Dr. Forand will look into it.

VII. Director of Human Services Report

Resignations – Supt. Crowley read the resignations as follows: Robin Janczura, Paraprofessional at Riverside Middle School, effective 2/3/2021; and Michelle Pearson, Administrative Assistant at the CTC, effective 2/8/2021.

Motion by Ms. Beauchaine, seconded by Mr. Tsonos and carried by unanimous consent to approve the resignations as submitted.

Retirements – Supt. Crowley read the retirements as follows: Carole Rego, Resource Teacher at Hennessey, effective 10/3/2021; Linda Jackson, Teacher, Cosmetology at the CTC, effective the end of 2020-2021 school year; and Judith Clifton, Kindergarten Teacher at Waddington Elementary School, effective end of the 2020-2021 school year.

Motion by Mr. Tsonos, seconded by Ms. Azanero and carried by unanimous consent to accept the retirements as submitted.

Leaves of Absence – Supt. Crowley read the leave of absences as follows: Paraprofessional at EPHS, effective 1/16/2021; Paraprofessional at Whiteknact Elementary School, effective 1/27/2021; and Paraprofessional at Riverside Middle School, effective 2/13/2021.

Motion by Mr. Tsonos, seconded by Ms. Azanero and carried by unanimous consent to approve the leaves of absence as submitted.

Non-Renewals – Supt. Crowley read the non-renewals as follows: Special Education Resource Teacher at EPHS, effective the end of the 2020-2021 school year; Special Education Resource Teacher at EPHS, effective the end of the 2020-2021 school year; and Science Teacher at EPHS, effective the end of the 2020-2021 school year.

Motion by Mr. Tsonos, seconded by Ms. Azanero and carried by unanimous consent to approve the non-renewals as submitted.

Recalls – Supt. Crowley read the recalls as follows: Kathline Levesque, Paraprofessional at EPHS, effective 1/26/2021; Karen Cahir, Paraprofessional at EPHS, effective 1/26/2021; and Susan Tavares, Paraprofessional at Riverside Middle School, effective 2/8/2021.

Motion by Mr. Tsonos, seconded by Ms. Azanero and carried by unanimous consent to approve the recalls as submitted.

VIII. Director of Finance Report – Mr. Enos presented the financial report for February. For end of FY20 there was a surplus due to decreases in tuition and FEMA expenses that were reallocated to the ESSER grant. Mr. Enos explained that when former School Committee member, Mr. Ferreira did not take a stipend he donated the funds back to the school department and needed to allocate the funds before he left office. He asked that the balance of $4,400 be allocated to EPLAC for their recognition night.

IX. Policy Committee Report – Ms. Beauchaine reported that all policies were discussed at the policy committee meeting.

Acceptable Use Policy: Computer, Technology, Internet and Google for Faculty, Staff and Students – 1st read
Prevention & Crisis Intervention/Physical Intervention for Safety Promotion Policy – 1st read
COVID-19 Vaccine Policy – 1st read
Title IX Sexual Harassment and Retaliation Policy – 2nd read

X. Building Committee Report – Mr. Monteiro gave a building project update referring to the OPM report from the February 8 Building Committee meeting. Building officials continue to meet. FF&E components, procurement review is complete. RFP will go out mid-February. Project is 55.4% complete. Almost entire exterior of building is closed. Rooftop unit startup is scheduled for March. Warranties for everything in the building goes into effect when put in service. Project is tracking very well. Conversations will be held with the weekly team and building committee to look at ways to maximize dollars.

Mr. Tsonos asked about the HVAC system being tested in February and when will practical exercises be done in the building. All aspects of the building need to be tested before September. Mr. Monteiro will check with the OPM for a schedule for testing all levels.

XI. Discussion Items

1. COVID related Social Emotional Supports for Students – Mr. Brandle
Leslie Anderson and Tabitha Watjen gave a powerpoint presentation update on social emotional learning. The powerpoint had many links throughout for more detailed information on resources and support that will be available to access. Resources can also be found on the district's website. Mr. Monteiro suggested rotating posts on the district website. Support information can be communicated through our PTAs/PTOs and will be placed on the schools' websites. The East Providence Health Equity Zone is availble for support for faculty and staff.

The Committee had a brief intermission.

2. Curriculum Sub-committee – Ms. Azanero
Dr. Bowler gave a broad overview of the curriculum that is going on in the district. Curriculum committees have been re-established and regularly meet throughout the year. Last year a grade 2-8 team of educators and administrators participated in a RIDE sponsored ELA curriculum selection process facilitated by EdReports. This year an elementary math curriculum team will go through the same process with EdReports to select a K-5 math curriculum. The math team will select a math program, recommend the selection to the Superintendent who will then recommend the selection to the School Committee for approval. Science and social studies will be looked at next.

Ms. Azanero would like to see an increase in inclusivity in English and to see that black history is being covered in the school curriculum so students have a better understanding. Dr. Bowler is

working on including black history throughout the curriculum, not just for one month in February. It will be a slow and steady process. There is an equity goal as part of the district's strategic plan that she is working on. There were PD opportunities focused on diversity and equity offered during the last two years by Diversity Talks and the Equity Institute. There will be several sessions on diversity and equity for teachers to sign up for in the upcoming PD days.

Ms. Azanero asked if we have information on essential tools to prepare a student after graduation. Some of the skills are incorporated in different classes and common core standards. As an example, in the new high school there will be an ATM fully supported by a bank in the community and will be worked into the financial literacy course/economics. There will be opportunities for students to go out into the community for internships.

Mr. Monteiro requested periodic updates on curriculum development.

3. Transportation – Diana Clarkin proposed the district merge the majority of the runs, presently under Statewide Transportation to Oceanstate Transit. Doing this would save $20k per month having Oceanstate provide the service.

Motion by Ms. Beauchaine, seconded by Mr. Brandle and carried by unanimous consent to move up action item #14 on the agenda.

Request to Merge Existing Routes under EP in District Vendor
Motion by Ms. Beauchaine, seconded by Mr. Brandle and carried by unanimous consent to approve to pursue a contract amendment with Oceanstate Transit to replace the services of Statewide Transportation as submitted.

4. District Technology Automation Specialist Job Description
Motion by Ms. Beauchaine, seconded by Ms. Azanero and carried by unanimous consent to table this item.

5. Physical Plant Manager Job Description – This position was recommended by the OPM to look for a person who is dedicated to managing the new high school and will be under the director of the Facilities Director. The position will be posted on indeed.com and other websites appropriate for that field.

XII. Action Items

1. Bill List:
Motion by Mr. Brandle seconded by Ms. Azanero and carried by unanimous consent to approve the following warrants as submitted.

Voucher No. 1009 for $75,185.63
Voucher No. 1011 for $1,341,905.14
Voucher No. 1051 for $130,989.96

2. Title IX Sexual Harassment & Retaliation Policy – 2nd read
Motion by Ms. Beauchaine, seconded by Mr. Brandle and carried by unanimous consent to approve the Title IX Sexual Harassment and Retaliation Policy as submitted.

Mr. Monteiro reported that the following invoices which total $4,983,747.31 have been vetted and approved by the Building Committee and recommended for approval by the School Committee.

3. Ai3 Invoices for Services
Motion by Ms. Beauchaine, seconded by Ms. Azanero and carried by unanimous consent to approve the Ai3 January 2021 Invoice for Basic Services in the amount of $122,474.84 and Extra Services in the amount of $1,966.80 as submitted.

4. Peregrine Invoice for Services
Motion by Ms. Beauchaine, seconded by Ms. Azanero and carried by unanimous consent to approve the Peregrine Group, LLC January 2021 Invoice for services in the amount of $59,000.00 as submitted.

5. Gilbane Invoice for Services
Motion by Ms. Beauchaine, seconded by Ms. Azanero and carried by unanimous consent to approve the Gilbane Construction Co. January 2021 invoice for services in the amount of $4,790,495.92 as submitted.

6. Stephen Turner, Inc. Invoice for Services
Motion by Ms. Beauchaine, seconded by Ms. Azanero and carried by unanimous consent to approve the Stephen Turner, Inc. January 2021 invoice for services in the amount of $6,104.75 as submitted.

7. Thielsch Engineering Invoice for Services
Motion by Ms. Beauchaine, seconded by Ms. Azanero and carried by unanimous consent to approve the Thielsch Engineering January 2021 invoice for services in the amount of $3,705.00 as submitted.

8. District Technology Automation Specialist Job Description
Motion by Ms. Beauchaine, seconded by Ms. Azanero and carried by unanimous consent to table this item.

9. Physical Plant Manager Job Description
Motion by Mr. Brandle, seconded by Ms. Beauchaine and carried by unanimous consent to approve the Physical Plant Manager job description as submitted.

10. 2021-2022 Unified School Calendar
Motion by Ms. Beauchaine, seconded by Ms. Azanero and carried by unanimous consent to approve the 2021-2022 unified school calendar as submitted. This is a state calendar. The opening date of the high school may be a day or two later.

11. Technology E-recycle
Motion by Ms. Beauchaine, seconded by Mr. Brandle and carried by unanimous consent to approve the list of technology items for e-recycle as submitted.

12. EPHS Proposed Schedule
Motion by Ms. Azanero, seconded by Mr. Tsonos and carried by unanimous consent to approve the EPHS proposed schedule for 2021-2022 as submitted.

13. EPHS Program of Studies 2021-2022
Motion by Ms. Beauchaine, seconded by Mr. Brandle and carried by unanimous consent to approve the EPHS Program of Studies for 2021-2022 as submitted. A final copy will be sent to the School Committee.

14. Request to Merge Existing Routes Under EP in District Vendor
This item was moved up on the agenda.

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

XIV. Announcements – Mr. Tsonos announced that tomorrow there is a fundraiser for Martin Middle School at the Burrito Bowl.

XV. Adjournment
Motion by Mr. Brandle, seconded by Ms. Beauchaine and carried by unanimous consent to adjourn the meeting at 10:31 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Corsi
Administrative Assistant

Max Brandle
School Committee Clerk