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

I. Call to Order Open Session

The East Providence School Committee met virtually and at East Providence High School in Open Session on Tuesday, March 9, 2021. Mr. Monteiro called the meeting to order at 6:30 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 what has been happening at the high school.

III. Consent Agenda

Communications/Correspondence:

Appointments: Oriana Rebelo, Custodian Nights at EPHS, effective 2/11/2021; Gary Silva, Custodian Nights at Waddington, effective 2/11/2021; Chelsea Anderson, SHOUT Co-Advisor, effective 3/8/2021; and Faith Jean, SHOUT Co-Advisor, effective 3/8/2021.

Homeschool Requests: There was one homeschool request.

Approval of Minutes:

- February 9, 2021 School Committee Meeting
- February 8, 2021 Building Committee Meeting

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

IV. PTO/PTA/EPLAC Reports – Ms. Beauchaine reminded everyone EPLAC is still taking recognitions for awards night through the end of March. Riverside Middle School is having restaurant night at Chelo's on Thursday, March 11 and Waddington Elementary School is having restaurant night at Millers on Monday, March 15.

V. Public Comments I – Agenda Items – One public comment was received from Stephanie Meuse, parent and educator in Central Falls, urging the Committee to encourage schools to make information about families' rights to opt their child out of RICAS testing widely available to all families.

Friends of Townie Athletics brick fundraiser is taking orders until April 1, 2021. All proceeds go directly to the high school.

VI. Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Crowley spoke with Mayor DaSilva last Thursday regarding vaccination sites. Captain John Potvin said the district would be able to use the Senior Center to vaccinate all staff. Vaccination clinics will be set up for all educational staff on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, 3/12, 3/13 and 3/14. A team is meeting tomorrow morning at 9:30. Vaccines are only for employees of the East Providence public school department and planning on Friday for all educational staff. Saturday and Sunday will be for all pre-k and private schools in the City. This event will be closely monitored. Nurses will be present as well as the Fire Department. Employees will be able to register for their second Pfizer vaccine at the time they get their first.

1. Testing – Dr. Forand spoke about state assessments and current student progress in the district. State Assessments are mandatory and the district will set up a schedule for testing for both in person and distance learners. Testing windows have been extended. Accommodations will be made for students in the building. There has been learning loss throughout the country and state due to the pandemic. The district will be reaching out to disengaged students and are continuing to put supports in place for students to be successful. Summer enrichment programs are being planned for K-12. Dr. Forand is looking for help with the summer programs from community partners.

ACCESS for MLLs January 4 – March 12

RICAS (ELA) March 29 - May 14, 2021

RICAS (Math) April 12 - May 28, 2021

RI SAT April 13 – 15, 2021

PSAT10 April 13 – May 5, 2021

NGSA April 26 – June 4

2. District School Improvement Team Report – The District School Improvement Team meets the last Friday of every month. Members from RIDE came to the last meeting on February 26. Jessica Beauchaine observed the meeting. RIDE procured a new guidance document on school improvement teams and the district school improvement team provided very thoughtful feedback.

3. Moving Plan – A moving plan has been developed for the high school. Operating on developing a very systemized plan for moving. Two moves from the high school to the storage area for the summer months and then from the CTC to the new high school for demolition purposes.

4. Playground – Dr. Forand reported that playgrounds for all elementary schools will be open for spring on March 22. Students will sanitize before and after using the playground. A schedule has been created by elementary Principals.

PSATs and the new math curriculum will be on next month's agenda.

VII. Director of Human Services Report

Retirements – Ms. Mammone read the retirement as follows: Ellen Tilley, Paraprofessional at EPHS, effective at end of the 2020-2021 school year.

Motion by Mr. Tsonos, seconded by Mr. Brandle and carried by unanimous consent to accept the retirement as submitted.

Resignations - None

Leaves of Absence – None

Non-Renewals – None

Recalls – None

VIII. Director of Finance Report – Mr. Enos gave a brief presentation on the financial report for February. They are on target and under budget this month.

IX. Policy Committee Report – Ms. Mammone reported on the policy committee.

Acceptable Use Policy: Computer, Technology, Internet and Google for Faculty, Staff and Students – 2nd read. A slight change was made for parents to opt out by signing the appropriate FERPA form.

Prevention & Crisis Intervention/Physical Intervention for Safety Promotion Policy – 2nd read
The revision of the Building Use policy will be reviewed at the next Policy Committee meeting and will be looking at renting auditoriums and fields and the cost involved.

Mr. Tsonos asked about teachers not getting a vaccine and what legal counsel advised. The district can't force a staff member to get a vaccine. It's not mandated but strongly recommended that they get a vaccine. Legal counsel advised it is their responsibility. The HR Director is keeping a record of staff vaccinations.

X. Building Committee Report – Mr. Monteiro gave an update on the building project.

Construction trailers have been moved to the CTC parking lot. There were four field site visits and one visit for mechanical, electrical, plumbing and fire protection. RFPs on FF&E and technology went out last week. Construction 58.9% complete. It was asked at the Building Committee meeting last evening what will the completion percentage look like when the high school is occupied. It will be around 80% complete and ready to use. Remainder is demolition. COVID allowance holding on to 77% of that. Photos were shown of the new construction. The budget is in good shape and under budget and the team is continually watching contingencies. People are requesting access to the old building. There is a time when the building will be emptied before demolition. They will work with Gilbane and Peregrine to schedule walkthroughs for employees using precaution. They will have design options for a new clocktower and location from the architect. The current clocktower was rebuilt in 1999 and doesn't match the new building.

Mr. Tsonos had a great walkthrough today of the new building. Time management is important for everyone involved in the school department. The Commissioning Agent, Stephen Turner, will be making sure they have realistic tests of all operating equipment until 2022. Peregrine Group will be available and ensure that all systems are functioning properly until 2022.

XI. Discussion Items

1. Donation of Retired Chromebooks to EP Community – Mr. Russell was approached by David Bachrach, Community Development Director of the City of East Providence and asked about what the district was doing with the old chromebooks. New chromebooks have been ordered for the district. Two options are to e-recycle or donate them to residents of East Providence. The district has approximately 3-4 thousand chromebooks and they will be cleared of all data. A quote from one vendor was received for \$5 per device. Mr. Brandle supported donating them to the community as it has the potential to help many residents who don't have a computer especially during this pandemic.
2. Amendment to Transportation Services Agreement – Ms. Clarkin reported that Mr. Scungio developed this amendment to the June 30, 2020 Agreement between Student Transportation of America, Inc. and the East Providence School District for the district to transfer the majority of the bus runs presently under Statewide Transportation to Oceanstate Transit.
3. Reduction of State Services to Other School Districts – Mr. Tsonos read that the state is cutting back on funding programs and asked if we have programs that could be potentially cut back in East Providence? Superintendent Crowley said that the service that RIDE supported was the Sherlock Center. The Sherlock Center does not affect our district. She hasn't heard of any areas receiving cutbacks at this point in time.
4. RFP for Demolition/Removal of Paint Booth – Mr. Enos said as we prepare to move the CTC into the new high school, the automotive department has a paint booth that was purchased through the Perkins grant. It hasn't been used and Davies and New England Teach doesn't want it. It's a federally funded paint booth. They have to go out with an RFP to have it removed.

XII. Action Items

1. Bill List:

Motion by Mr. Brandle seconded by Mr. Tsonos and carried by unanimous consent to approve the following warrants as submitted.

Voucher No. 1052 for \$120,960.03

Voucher No. 1012 for \$43,815.50

Voucher No. 1013 for \$101,566.94

Voucher No. 1015 for \$1,568,229.51

Voucher No. 1016 for \$389,567.29

2. Acceptable Use Policy: Computer, Technology, Internet & Google for Faculty, Staff and Students – 2nd read

Motion by Mr. Brandle seconded by Ms. Azanero and carried by unanimous consent to approve the Acceptable Use Policy as submitted.

3. Prevention & Crisis Intervention Policy – 2nd read

Motion by Ms. Azanero seconded by Mr. Brandle and carried by unanimous consent to approve the Prevention & Crisis Intervention Policy as submitted.

4. Donation of Retired Chromebooks to EP Community

Motion by Mr. Brandle seconded by Ms. Azanero and carried by unanimous consent to approve the donation of retired chromebooks to the East Providence community as submitted.

Mr. Monteiro reported that the following invoices which total \$5,453,967.86 have been vetted and approved by the Building Committee and recommended for approval by the School Committee.

5. Ai3 Invoices for Services

Motion by Mr. Tsonos, seconded by Mr. Brandle and carried by unanimous consent to approve the Ai3 February 2021 Invoices for Basic Services in the amount of \$122,474.84 and Extra Services in the amount of \$906.40 as submitted.

6. Peregrine Invoice for Services

Motion by Mr. Tsonos, seconded by Mr. Brandle and carried by unanimous consent to approve the Peregrine Group, LLC February 2021 Invoice for services in the amount of \$59,000.00 as submitted.

7. Gilbane Invoice for Services

Motion by Mr. Tsonos, seconded by Mr. Brandle and carried by unanimous consent to approve the Gilbane Construction Co. February 2021 invoice for services in the amount of \$5,258,895.12 as submitted.

8. Stephen Turner, Inc. Invoice for Services

Motion by Mr. Tsonos, seconded by Mr. Brandle and carried by unanimous consent to approve the Stephen Turner, Inc. February 2021 invoice for services in the amount of \$5,471.50 as submitted.

9. Thielsch Engineering Invoice for Services

Motion by Mr. Tsonos, seconded by Mr. Brandle and carried by unanimous consent to approve the Thielsch Engineering February 2021 invoice for services in the amount of \$7,220.00 as submitted.

10. Invoice for City Reimbursement Expenses to EPSD

Motion by Mr. Tsonos, seconded by Mr. Brandle and carried by unanimous consent to approve the invoice for City reimbursement to East Providence School Department for electricity expenses for Gilbane and OPM trailers from January 2020–December 2020 and asbestos abatement plan application fee for January 2021 in the amount of \$46,179.66 as submitted.

11. Amendment to Transportation Services Agreement

Motion by Mr. Tsonos, seconded by Ms. Azanero and carried by unanimous consent to approve the amendment to the Transportation Services Agreement as submitted.

12. RFP for Demolition/Removal of Paint Booth

Motion by Mr. Brandle, seconded by Ms. Azanero and carried by unanimous consent to approve the RFP for demolition/removal of paint booth as submitted.

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

XIV. Announcements – Superintendent Crowley forwarded the link to the awards ceremony for Representative Gregg Amore who is being honored by the RI Superintendents' Association to receive the Paul W. Crowley Award on Monday, March 15 at 3 pm.

Mr. Tsonos announced that Whiteknact Elementary School has a calendar fundraiser to raise money and Myron J. Francis Elementary School is putting together a calendar bingo to raise funds.

Mr. Monteiro thanked Mr. Russell and his technology team for setting up the high school for the hybrid School Committee meetings.

XV. Adjournment

Motion by Mr. Tsonos, seconded by Ms. Azanero and carried by unanimous consent to adjourn the meeting at 8:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Corsi
Administrative Assistant

Max Brandle
School Committee Clerk