
**EAST PROVIDENCE SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
OPEN SESSION – April 13, 2021**

I. Call to Order Open Session

The East Providence School Committee met virtually in Open Session on Tuesday, April 13, 2021. Mr. Monteiro called the meeting to order at 6:01 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 Sandra Forand and Celeste Bowler, Ben Russell, Anthony Feola, Leslie Anderson, Cheryl Mammone, Julian MacDonnell, Craig Enos, Toby Gibbons, Bob Currier, Laurie Marchand, Lindsey Reilly, Denise Labrecque, Nicole Monte, Mary Nascimento and Christopher Murphy.

II. Executive Session

Motion by Mr. Tsonos, seconded by Mr. Brandle and carried unanimously to move into Executive Session for the purpose of: Work Session Pertaining to Collective Bargaining Pursuant to RIGL §42-46-5(a)(2); Discussion re: Physical Plant Manager's Contract; 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. Monteiro called the meeting to order at 6:47 p.m. 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. Beauchaine, seconded by Mr. Brandle and carried by unanimous consent to seal the minutes.

IV. Student Liaison – Grant Wosencroft presented highlights from the high school.

V. Consent Agenda

1. Communications – RI Department of Education provided a memo outlining revisions to the current health and safety guidance and also information on catered events which is aligned with guidance to the RI Department of Health.

2. Correspondence – Appointments: Christopher Murphy, Physical Plant Manager for the new East Providence High School, effective April 19, 2021.

3. Homeschool Requests: There were three requests to homeschool.

4. Approval of Minutes: March 9, 2021 School Committee Meeting
March 8, 2021 Building Committee Meeting

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

VI. PTO/PTA/EPLAC Reports

Mary Nascimento from East Providence Local Advisory Committee reported that the recognition dinner has been pushed to June 3 at 6:30 pm and will be held at the Riviera Restaurant. Last year's recipients will be invited to accept their awards. This year the committee will be awarding the Carla Midgley award and looking at wall of fame. Recognition nominations should be submitted by next week. For people who cannot attend they will have it live streamed. EPLAC is having a zoom workshop, "When your child turns 18: A guide to special needs guardianship", on Wednesday, April 28 at 6:30 pm. To join send an email to EPLAC@epschoolsri.com and they will send the zoom link.

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

VIII. Superintendent's Report

1. RIMTA Outstanding Math Teacher of the Year Award – Nicole Monte from Hennessey Principal Lindsey Reilly proudly presented the award to Nicole Monte who recently received the 2020-2021 Outstanding Math Teacher award. She has been a teacher in the district for twenty-three years and is outstanding and deserving of the recognition.

2. Golden Apple Award – Denise Labrecque from Whiteknact Principal Laurie Marchand was proud and honored to present this award to Denise Labrecque, who teaches third grade. On March 18 Patrice Wood, the Commissioner of Education, Superintendent Crowley and the family of Denise surprised her with the Golden Apple Award. Denise was nominated by Deb Olaes and her two daughters.

3. East Bay Community Action Program – Dennis Roy and Stephanie McCaffrey from EBCAP presented a proposal to partner with the School District to open a school-based health center. In the fall they will be opening a community health center located across from the high school and will service students and families of East Providence. They offer a wide arrangement of health care services. EBCAP has been around for fifty years with headquarters on Bullocks Point Avenue. They will provide school-based services to the youth and adolescents in the city in collaboration with the school nurses and they have the support of the City. The School Committee would like to continue gathering more information on this proposal to see if it's beneficial to students.

4. PSAT Report – Bob Currier

EPHS Assistant Principal, Bob Currier, reported that they are continuing to make progress in the state standardized testing. 76% of juniors showed up for testing and with makeups on April 28 may have 80% participation. It will be the first time administering the PSATs digitally. Administered two standardized tests. The seniors took the test in October. 71% of seniors showed up on October 14. 62% met or approached benchmark in ELA which was an improvement. Still struggling in math but making an improvement. In January offered PSMMSQT

to juniors and had 74% of students met or approached the benchmark in ELA. In math 42% either met or approached benchmark, definitely making process. Distance learning has been a great challenge. Thursday, grade 10 will be taking the PSAT tests. Makeup for sophomores is on April 28.

Mr. Currier attended an EP Prevention Coalition meeting last March. They are asking to partner with the district to send out a parent survey. The survey flyer was sent to the School Committee. This is a one-time parental survey taken annually for high school and middle school parents. Data will be shared with the high school. Mr. Currier will attend the meeting in April. The organization is run by parents in the city to target what is affecting our youth.

5. Equity Teams – Dr. Bowler and Lindsey Reilly

Principal Reilly of Hennessey School has an interest in her school about starting an equity team. Through the support from the grant and central administration they are ready to move forward. This equity team is part of the School Improvement Team subcommittee and they will have the opportunity to work with the Equity Institute.

6. RI Foundation Grant – Dr. Bowler

Dr. Bowler reported that the district received \$50,180 from the RI Foundation for Project Drive which is for discussing diversity, race, voice, inclusivity and equity to support another session of Diversity Talks and support the development of an equity team as a model for other equity teams in schools across the district.

7. ESSER Funding – All districts received the amount of money they will be receiving from ESSER II funding. East Providence will be receiving \$5,270,561.00. The application is coming out Friday, April 16th but may be delayed. ESSER III will be coming in.

8. Summer Programs – Dr. Forand and Leslie Anderson

Dr. Forand gave an overview of the program they are planning for the summer. Pre-K (going into kindergarten) through grade 8 would have ½ day of ELA and ½ day of enrichment which will be a variety of activities offered that are curriculum related. It will be a four-day week from 9-4 pm and hoping to do a field trip on Friday connected to the curriculum. Surveys were sent out to staff looking at teachers to do some framework and who would be interested in working during the summer. They will be looking at data of students to target students who really need this program. MLL and ESY will be integrated to join in the afternoon enrichment. Special needs students will be able to attend depending on their level of need. There will be after school programs next year.

Special Education Director, Leslie Anderson, gave an update on the ESY program which runs from July 12-August 12 (5 weeks). She worked with MLL Director, Yanaiza Gallant and Dr. Forand on the other half day for the summer program. The East Providence Recreation Department has a special needs summer camp and are willing to partner with the district. They

are waiting for guidance from the RIDOH on the camps. Some parents may request to continue virtually during the summer. Many students are returning and the department is flexible in providing services.

9. NEASC and Ramp Up Program – Toby Gibbons

The New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) collaborative conference visit was a virtual visit on March 22-23. Principal Gibbons presented on their two-day schedule and highlighted the high school's priority areas of growth and their feedback from NEASC.

Principal Gibbons explained the East Providence High School INTERsession Program which is a program to help energize, engage and help students progress and challenge themselves to achieve.

IX. Director of Human Services Report

Resignations – None

Retirements – Ms. Mammone announced the retirement as follows: Kathleen Gouveia, Art Teacher at Martin Middle School, effective 5/8/2021.

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

Leave of Absences – None

Non-Renewals – None

Recalls – None

Motion by Ms. Beauchaine, seconded by Mr. Tsonos and carried by unanimous consent to move up the Building Committee Report.

Building Committee Report

Sam Bradner, Peregrine Group, gave his OPM update on the high school building project. Mr. Monteiro discussed the two free standing sign posts which identify the gym on the north side and the performing arts on the south side of the new building. The Building Committee received several design options for the replacement of the clocktower from Ai3 Architects. Three options were presented to the Building Committee on April 12th which was narrowed down to 2. The Committee agreed on the option 1 design. Ai3 will present the design and cost estimate to construct a new clocktower to the Building Committee for a final decision. Mr. Tsonos agreed with the Building Committee that the clocktower should be lit up and there should be a buffer around it.

There was some discussion about the delivery of furniture and who is responsible for putting it together. The furniture will go straight to the loading docks at the school. The vendors and consultants will make sure the plan is being met and everything is placed where it should be.

Motion by Ms. Beauchaine, seconded by Mr. Tsonos and carried by unanimous consent to move up action item #2 Physical Plant Manager's Contract.

Physical Plant Manager's Contract

Motion by Ms. Beauchaine, seconded by Ms. Azanero and carried by unanimous consent to approve the Physical Plant Manager's Contract based on terms discussed in executive session.

X. Director of Finance Report – Mr. Enos presented the monthly financial report which is on target for the current month. The ESSERII (Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund) funds allocated \$175,000 to the district. A few weeks ago there was a passage of the American Rescue Plan which is in the ESSERIII funding. The draft allocation amount is \$11.8 million and is specified to address summer learning loss, summer enrichment, extended school day and after school programs. ESSERIII will be coming out before the end of the school year.

XI. Policy Committee Report – Ms. Beauchaine reported that the Use of School Building/School Grounds Policy has been updated for a 1st read. She asked the Committee to review and send any recommendations to her. Public usage of the new high school building will need to be in place and specified. This document was sent to legal counsel for review. Mr. Monteiro made a suggestion to pull rates out of the policy and revisit annually with the Director of Operations. The rates should be a separate document outside of the policy.

XII. Building Committee Report – Moved up on the agenda.

XIII. Discussion Items

1. Technology Automation Specialist Job Description

The school department is waiting for a building maintenance plan which was contracted with the PPM to help plan and develop for the maintenance needs of the new high school building. The PPM provided some staffing requirements. The Physical Plant Manager has been hired and the Technology Automation Specialist position is part of the plan that is being developed. At the recommendation of the PPM the district needed a person dedicated to the high school. They would be in charge of any and all hardware and software in the building, operation and maintenance of the television studios and working to engage students through communication pathways in the operation of television studio. There is a high level of technology in the new building. They will be doing professional development for staff in the building and promethean boards in classrooms. They would be required to engage and interact with the students in

continuing with programs such as fixing and repairing computers and technology training and application.

2. Vision Screen Information in the District – Mr. Tsonos

Vision screening is done in the 7th and 9th grade and in the elementary grades. The vision machine is passed around to all elementary schools for vision testing. Mr. Tsonos reported that the Rumford Lions Club has been vision screening for the last thirty years and is a benefit to the school department. They are volunteers that use the borrowed equipment and is set up with the school nurses and usually in September. Mr. Tsonos would like a formal plan for vision screening the children in this district addressed and look into purchasing equipment. The Superintendent will have the Head Nurse organize a vision screening plan with all the nurses.

3. Status of Hiring New Personnel in the District – Mr. Tsonos

Where do we stand with personnel and shortages in staffing. The Superintendent reported that four retirements have come in. Job placements taking place in May. No shortages this point in time.

4. Full In-Person Learning Status in RI – Mr. Monteiro

The district is following guidance from RIDE and the RIDOH. Superintendent reported that social distancing has been decreased from 6 ft. to 3 ft. Dr. Forand stated that many middle school students have been brought back. We have 2,618 in person and 2,113 distance learners. The guidelines from RIDE for graduation and events have just been sent out. All teachers and staff will be back the Monday after April vacation. All nurses' offices have the BINAX testing. The district has not set up a hybrid plan to bring all students back.

XIV. Action Items

1. Bill List:

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

Voucher No. 1017 for \$8,137.45

Voucher No. 1018 for \$109,757.74

Voucher No. 1020 for \$6,016.00

Voucher No. 1021 for \$3,215,337.84

2. Physical Plant Manager's Contract - Moved up on the agenda.

3. Administrative Assistant's Collective Bargaining Agreement

Motion by Ms. Azanero, seconded by Mr. Tsonos and carried by unanimous consent to approve the contract between the East Providence School Committee and the East Providence Educational Administrative Assistants Association as submitted.

Mr. Monteiro reported that the following invoices have been vetted and approved by the Building Committee.

4. Ai3 Invoices for Services

Motion by Ms. Beauchaine, seconded by Ms. Azanero and carried by unanimous consent to approve the Ai3 March 2021 Invoice for Basic Services in the amount of \$122,474.84 and the Reimbursable Expenses invoice in the amount of \$681.80 as submitted.

5. Peregrine Invoice for Services

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

6. Gilbane Invoice for Services

Motion by Ms. Beauchaine, seconded by Ms. Azanero and carried by unanimous consent to approve the Gilbane Construction Co. March 2021 invoice for services in the amount of \$5,922,448.49 as submitted.

7. 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. March 2021 invoice for services in the amount of \$1,913.42 as submitted.

8. Thielsch Engineering Invoice for Services

Motion by Ms. Beauchaine, seconded by Ms. Azanero and carried by unanimous consent to approve the Thielsch Engineering March 2021 invoice for services in the amount of \$11,342.50 as submitted.

9. RIDOT Invoice

Motion by Ms. Beauchaine, seconded by Ms. Azanero and carried by unanimous consent to approve the RIDOT March 2021 invoice in the amount of \$1,426.36 as submitted.

10. Technology Automation Specialist Job Description and Posting

Motion by Mr. Tsonos, seconded by Mr. Brandle and carried by unanimous consent to approve the job description for the Technology Automation Specialist as submitted.

11. Award of Paint Booth Removal Contract

Motion by Mr. Brandle, seconded by Ms. Azanero and carried by unanimous consent to approve the awarding of the paint booth removal contract to AA Wrecking in Johnston, RI for \$11,380.00 as submitted.

XV. Public Comments II – Non-Agenda Items – There were two public comments received from Amy Docen and her son Lanear Nocella regarding high school graduation.

XVI. Announcements – Tentative plans for the high school students regarding graduation and prom will be sent out. The graduation parade is on.

XVII. Adjournment

Motion by Mr. Tsonos, seconded by Mr. Brandle and carried by unanimous consent to adjourn the meeting at 10:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Corsi
Administrative Assistant

Max Brandle
School Committee Clerk