
**EAST PROVIDENCE SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
OPEN SESSION – May 11, 2021**

I. Call to Order Open Session

The East Providence School Committee met virtually and at Martin Middle School in open session on Tuesday, May 11, 2021. Mr. Monteiro called the meeting to order at 5:35 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, Craig Enos and Attorney Benjamin Scungio.

II. Executive Session

Motion by Mr. Tsonos, seconded by Ms. Azanero and carried unanimously to move into Executive Session for the purpose of: Legal Advice regarding Terms of Administrators' Contracts; and Consider & Vote on Motion to Adjourn and Convene into Public Session.

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

Mr. Monteiro called the meeting to order at 6:53. The Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence were observed. The Chair reported that no votes were taken in executive session. Motion by Mr. Tsonos, seconded by Ms. Beauchaine and carried by unanimous consent to seal the minutes.

IV. Student Liaison – Grant Wosencroft presented events that are happening at the high school via video.

V. Consent Agenda

1. Communications – An email was received by Joyce May, Library Director, regarding digitalized EPHS yearbooks that are currently available at the library.
2. Correspondence – Resolutions from the Smithfield School Committee were received regarding support for a moratorium on the expansion of charter schools, gun-free schools and support for the state reimbursement of transportation services cost for public and private school pupils.
3. Homeschool Requests: There were three requests to homeschool.

There was some discussion on enrollment. Ms. Clarkin reported that about 20% of enrollment for kindergarten and early learning students were down since COVID. There was a 4% decrease in enrollment last year and 1.8% decrease for the 2018-19 school year. Students are expected to be back in person in September. Distance learning will need the approval of RIDE.

Residency checks are done on a regular basis by a community officer. New students require proof of residency. Twenty-one families had to leave the district for not being a resident of EP.

4. Approval of Minutes: April 13, 2021 School Committee Meeting
April 20, 2021 Special School Committee Meeting
April 12, 2021 Building Committee Meeting

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

VI. PTO/PTA/EPLAC Reports - Ms. Beauchaine reported that many PTOs/PTAs/PTSAs did a great job for teachers and staff for teacher appreciation week. EPLAC recognition night is on Wednesday, June 3, 2021.

VII. Public Comments I – Agenda Items – There was one public comment on agenda items from Mary Teixeira regarding elimination of an administrative position.

VIII. Superintendent's Report

1. Open house at High School – Saturday, May 29th 9-2:30 p.m. Looking for volunteers to man the building. Elevators are not functioning. Invitations are going out and will be following all COVID restrictions and the building will be cleaned afterwards.

2. Teacher of the Year Event – Monday, May 17th at 6 pm at EPHS auditorium. Will be following all COVID restrictions. Invitations have been sent out. Refreshments. Mr. Monteiro thanked Ms. Beauchaine for suggesting that we have this event separate from the School Committee meetings.

Kent Heights has been selected as one of the Best Buddies schools in the nation.

3. Reorganization of Administrative Assistants at the New High School – The job descriptions have been approved by the union. Combining some jobs and eliminating special education and two attendance administrative assistants. Creating two additional full-time positions. Duties will be shared and employees will be cross trained to cover duties. There will be staggered times to keep someone in the office until 4 pm. The goal is to have everyone in the office who can carry on the duties in someone's absence. After approval of job descriptions, interviews will be set up. Maintenance secretary will be moving to the CTC to work in operations and the CTC. Combining the administrative assistants' duties at the middle school. The Superintendent will check on the start time of the nurse/guidance administrative assistant at the request of Mr. Monteiro.

4. Additional Dean for Waddington School – The Committee received data from Principal Moore to support another Dean. Now fully in person, Superintendent Crowley is recommending a second Dean for Waddington.
5. Update on Vision Testing – After reinvestigating vision screening in the district, five vision testing machines have been ordered and expecting them in a month. Each machine will be sent to each school and testing will be completed by the end of the year. The new high school will have a new vision machine in the clinic.
6. Summer Maintenance Plan – Mr. Feola provided a plan for proposed summer staffing and maintenance projects to review.
7. New Math Curriculum – Dr. Bowler, Crystal Monteiro & Amy Watson worked on the statewide math curriculum. Dr. Bowler reported that the Superintendent will be recommending the new K-5 mathematics curriculum this evening. A team spent hours researching a new math curriculum for the district to adopt. They provided the context of all the work the committee did beginning last year, looking at the needs of the students, teachers and families. The new curriculum is Ready Classroom Mathematics and will rollout next year. The math curriculum for grades 6-8 will be coming forward for next year.
8. Approval of Teachers & Administrative Assistants Contracts at May 18th City Council Meeting Superintendent Crowley and Mr. Enos will be going before the City Council for approval of the teachers' and administrative assistants' contract.

IX. Director of Human Services Report

Resignations – None

Retirements – Ms. Mammone announced the retirement as follows: Donna Dellefemine, Administrative Assistant in Maintenance, effective 8/21/2021; and Rhonda Mancinho, Administrative Assistant at Riverside Middle School, effective 10/9/2021.

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

Leave of Absence – Ms. Mammone announced the leave of absence as follows: Paraprofessional at Oldham, effective 6/4/21 to the end of the school year.

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

Non-Renewals – None

Recalls – None

Layoffs – Ms. Mammone announced the layoffs effective the end of the 2020-2021 school year as follows: Grade 1 Teacher at Waddington Elementary School; Grade 1 Teacher at Myron J. Francis; Gradpoint Teacher at EPHS; Grade 5 Teacher at Waddington Elementary School; Phys. Ed Teacher at EPHS; Paraprofessional at Hennessey, Paraprofessional at Martin Middle; Paraprofessional at EPHS; Paraprofessional at Whiteknact Elementary; Paraprofessional at EPHS; Paraprofessional at Waddington Elementary; and Paraprofessional at Riverside Middle.

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

Job Eliminations – Ms. Mammone announced the job eliminations as follows: Director of Instructional Technology & Data; Assistant Principal; and a Principal. All three employees were offered positions within the District.

Motion by Ms. Beauchaine, seconded by Ms. Azanero and carried by a vote of 4-1 to approve the job eliminations as submitted. Mr. Tsonos voted nay.

X. Director of Finance Report – Mr. Enos presented the monthly financial report. The District remains on target and on budget for all areas. He listed some changes to a few line items with regard to the removal of the paint booth and special education tuitions for out of district placements. There will be line items moving out of the budget which will be presented next month. He is meeting with fiscal officers at RIDE on Thursday. In June he will be providing a revised budget that will not affect the bottom line, however, some of the line items will be moved into the ESSERII grant to cover salary increases.

Motion by Mr. Brandle, seconded by Mr. Tsonos and carried by unanimous consent to return to the Policy Committee Report after the Building Committee Report.

XI. Policy Committee Report – Ms. Beauchaine

XII. Building Committee Report – Mr. Monteiro reported on the Building Committee meeting held on May 10th. The high school project is 66.8% complete on construction. All work is ongoing. Exterior of the building and the parking lot is taking shape. The science program is extensive with 11 science labs and aquatic program. The budget is in very good shape. Owner contingency balance is 74.1%, construction contingency balance is 80.4% and the owner allowance balance is 77.1%. COVID has not impacted the work. A clocktower design was approved at the Building Committee meeting last evening. Images of the new clocktower were shown. Ai3 Architects did a great job listening to the needs of the district and paying attention to detail. Ai3 will send estimates and Gilbane will present a cost estimate. Demolition of the old clocktower will be scheduled. There will be a walkthrough on Saturday of

Memorial Day weekend to tour the old building. Principal Gibbons will be scheduling walkthroughs of the new high school to familiarize the staff with the layout of the building.

Policy Committee Report – Ms. Beauchaine reported that the Use of School Building/School Grounds Policy has been updated for a 2nd read and vote. Much of the old school building policy has been eliminated. It was more procedural rather than a policy and very confusing. The new policy has been revised and shortened. It was a group effort by Diana Clarkin, Cheryl Mammone and Jenni Azanero. There were some changes to the categories. Mr. Tsonos stated the best sentence in the policy is the School Committee and/or Superintendent of Schools retain the right to deny the use of school facilities and grounds to any group if it deems the use is detrimental to the interest of the community or interferes with the operation of the schools.

There was some discussion on a vaccination policy. RIDOH would have to make vaccinations mandatory. There are also religious exemptions. They are waiting on word from RIDE or RIDOH. Mr. Tsonos stated the district should have some guidance on this. Superintendent Crowley will get recommendations from RIDOH.

XIII. Discussion Items

1. The importance of vision for success in public schools – Mr. Tsonos

It is vitally important that a student be vision screened. There's a shortage in the optometry fields and that would be a great addition to our CTC programs.

2. Vaccinations of students – Mr. Tsonos

Vaccinations for students 16 years and older took place at Shaw's Market on Taunton Avenue on Saturday, May 1 from 9am-2:15 pm and Friday, May 7 from 11am-5pm by appointment. Next Monday vaccines will be available for ages 12-15. The district needs guidance on vaccines to keep everyone safe in schools.

3. District maintenance – Ms. Azanero and Mr. Brandle

Mr. Feola reported that we are required to maintain our buildings. Looking at windows at Orlo and Silver Spring and entryways at Hennessey and Silver Spring. Air filter units will be looked at through the ESSER funds. Architects working on drawing window projects at Orlo and Silver Spring. Examining roofs. Fire alarms are updated throughout the district. Asphalt work needs to be continued at Martin Middle School. We have a five-year strategic plan. Riverside windows have been picked out and RIDE required all windows have to be hurricane proof due to being near the water. Engineers and architects will be looking at the steel framing and windows at Riverside on Monday.

Moving into the new building is going very well. We have to be out of the building by the first couple of days in July which will begin on June 23. The maintenance and custodial team are

ready to move. Dr. Forand, Diana Clarkin, Tony Feola, Craig Enos and Chris Murphy are part of the moving team.

Mr. Brandle requested maintenance plans for Martin and Riverside Middle Schools and the new high school. The maintenance plan is written for the high school building. Once the building has been completed, the maintenance plan will be handed over. The School Committee approved a contract for the development of a plan (Peregrine Property Management LLC) in December, 2020.

Mr. Feola will send the five-year plans for all schools to the Committee. RIDE used the statewide report which is the Jacobs Report and they numbered the problems within the buildings 1-5 according to severity that had to be taken care of within five years. The five-year plan is a requirement from RIDE.

XIV. Action Items

1. Bill List:

Motion by Ms. Beauchaine seconded by Mr. Brandle and carried by unanimous consent to approve the following warrants as submitted. Mr. Enos reported one correction on page 3 on a duplicate invoice that was submitted.

Voucher No. 1022 for \$58,548.41

Voucher No. 1024 for \$1,879,447.39

2. Use of School Building/School Ground Policy – 2nd read

Motion by Ms. Beauchaine, seconded by Ms. Azanero and carried by unanimous consent to approve the Use of School Buildings/School Grounds Policy as submitted.

3. New Math Curriculum K-5

Motion by Mr. Tsonos, seconded by Ms. Beauchaine and carried by unanimous consent to approve the new K-5 math curriculum as submitted.

4. Purchases for CTC using Perkins Funds

Motion by Ms. Azanero, seconded by Ms. Beauchaine and carried by unanimous consent to approve the purchases for the Career & Technical Center using Perkins funds as submitted. Mr. Enos reported that the funds will be used for purchasing a digital microscope for the forensic program \$20,000, ambulance rescue squad simulator for the Allied Health program for \$72,000, a CNC machine for the construction department for \$20,000 and a high-speed color printing/scanning unit for \$72,000 for the graphics department.

Mr. Monteiro reported that the following invoices totaling \$6,200,009.65 have been vetted and approved by the Building Committee.

5. Ai3 Invoices for Services

Motion by Mr. Tsonos, seconded by Mr. Brandle and carried by unanimous consent to approve the Ai3 April 2021 Invoice for Basic Services in the amount of \$122,474.84 and Extra Services in the amount of \$18,400.00 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 April 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. April 2021 invoice for services in the amount of \$5,922,017.99 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. April 2021 invoice for services in the amount of \$3,515.00 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 April 2021 invoice for services in the amount of \$11,253.76 as submitted.

10. National Grid Invoice

Motion by Mr. Tsonos, seconded by Mr. Brandle and carried by unanimous consent to approve the National Grid April 2021 invoice in the amount of \$61,313.00 as submitted.

11. WB Mason Invoices

Motion by Mr. Tsonos, seconded by Mr. Brandle and carried by unanimous consent to approve the WB Mason invoices in the amount of \$1,435.06 as submitted.

12. City Reimbursement to East Providence School Department

Motion by Mr. Tsonos, seconded by Mr. Brandle and carried by unanimous consent to approve the City reimbursement to EPSD in the amount of \$600.00 as submitted.

13. Job Descriptions for Administrative Assistants at High School

Motion by Mr. Brandle, seconded by Ms. Azanero and carried by unanimous consent to approve the job descriptions for administrative assistants at the high school as submitted.

14. Additional Dean for Waddington Elementary School

Motion by Ms. Beauchaine, seconded by Ms. Azanero and carried by unanimous consent to approve the additional Dean at Waddington Elementary School as submitted.

XV. Public Comments II – Non-Agenda Items – There was one public comment on non-agenda items from Dr. Hanneken regarding his son not being able to attend Waddington School for in-person learning.

XVI. Announcements – There will be a guided tour at the existing High School on Saturday, May 29th 9-2:30 pm. The 2021 Teacher of the Year celebration will be held on Monday, May 17 at 6 pm in the high school auditorium. EPLAC awards will be held on June 3rd and the next City Council Meeting is May 18. The final theatre performance (Mamma Mia) was held at the high school in April. May 19 is the CTC Senior Celebration at Pierce Field.

XVII. Adjournment

Motion by Ms. Beauchaine, seconded by Mr. Brandle and carried by unanimous consent to adjourn the meeting at 9:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Sharon Corsi
Administrative Assistant



Max Brandle
School Committee Clerk