EAST PROVIDENCE SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
OPEN SESSION – August 10, 2021

I. Call to Order Open Session

The East Providence School Committee met in Open Session on Tuesday, August 10, 2021 at 5:30 p.m. at East Providence City Hall Council Chambers. Mr. Monteiro called the meeting to order at 5:34 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 and Assistant Superintendent Dr. Celeste Bowler.

II. Executive Session

Motion by Mr. Tsonos, seconded by Ms. Azanero and carried unanimously to move into Executive Session for the purpose of: Receive Legal Advice regarding Potential Litigation Pursuant to RIGL §42-46-5(a)(2); Discussion re: Executive Administrative Assistant's Contract & Stipend 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 and given the opportunity to have the discussion held in public session. No request had been made.

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

Mr. Monteiro called the meeting to order at 6:40 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 Mr. Tsonos, seconded by Ms. Azanero and carried by unanimous consent to seal the minutes.

IV. Consent Agenda

Communications - Appointments: Raul Irarte-Moore, Spanish Teacher at EPHS, effective 2021-22 school year; Jennifer Lauriat, Special Education Pre-K Teacher at Martin Middle School and Oldham, effective 2021-22 school year; Caryn Rickert, Library Media Teacher at Kent Heights and Hennessey, effective 2021-22 school year; and Gabriella Servant, Science Teacher at EPHS, effective 2021-22 school year.

Correspondence – Kent Heights Best Buddies program has been recognized under the exceptional schools category as the Overall Outstanding Elementary Chapter in the United States.

Homeschool Requests – There were 24 requests to homeschool.

Approval of Minutes: July 13, 2021 Executive Session School Committee Meeting
July 13, 2021 Regular School Committee Meeting
July 12, 2021 Building Committee Meeting

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

Motion by Mr. Tsonos, seconded by Ms. Beauchaine and carried by unanimous consent to move up items VI. 1 and IX. 2 on the agenda.

VI.1 School Re-entry Plan for 2021-2022 – Superintendent Crowley gave a power point presentation on the District's Return to Learn Plan for 2021-2022. She will have a campaign to welcome back children into their schools. All students will be in person. No more virtual learning. The plan could change at any time. Schools will be sanitized each night.

It is strongly recommended that all students and staff wear masks while indoors and it is strongly recommended that all staff and students be vaccinated. There will be two clinics on August 11 from 9 am-3 pm and August 18 from 9 am-3 pm and 5-8 pm for students aged 12+, faculty, staff and families. No appointment is needed. Weekly updates and then bi-weekly updates will be sent by Head Nurse, Diane Wallace. All information will be on the website in Spanish and Portuguese as well. Hard copies will be available at schools on August 19th.

Ms. Azanero requested copies of translated documents be sent to the School Committee so they can be shared.

Mr. Tsonos asked for clarification on a shorter school day for high school students on Wednesdays. High school dismissal is one hour earlier at 12:35 pm on Wednesdays as part of the regular schedule. The high school schedules will go out tomorrow and the two middle school schedules have already been sent out. Elementary schedules will be going out on August 19 when Principals return.

On August 18th at 6 pm there will be a virtual workshop for parents on Strategies for Coping with Anxiety for Parents and Students. A link will be sent out.

IX.2 Face Coverings Amended Policy – 1st read

Ms. Beauchaine reported that the district is required to have a policy and the District is following the recommendations of RIDE and RIDOH and CDC guidance. As of right now they are strongly recommending masks for students, teachers and staff. Students will have to wear masks on the bus which is a federal law. This is the policy as of today, August 10, 2021 and could change. This policy has been amended. The initial writing said the Supt could make a judgement call – the change is to remove that. A change would be made by a mandate or by the School Committee. At the next public meeting there will be a final vote and approval of this policy.

V. Public Comments I – Agenda Items

1. Jeff and Becky DiStefano are parents of students at Martin, grade 7 and EPHS, grade 10. They thanked the School Committee and Superintendent for being receptive. They believe masking should be a decision made by parents. They requested a copy of the policy which will sent to them as a draft.

2. Libby Merrill – Parent of a pre-k student. She thanked the Superintendent for the thought that went into the reopening plan. She felt there were apologies for mask wearing. All children should stay in school and be safe. There should be stronger language with vaccines and mask wearing.

Ms. Beauchaine stated that the Committee has the authority to change recommendations for the safety of students.

3. Antonio DaSilva is the parent of two students at the high school. He is glad masking is optional and knows that it will be mandated soon. He believes masks do not work and is hoping that the district has a backbone to change the policy before school starts. They don't want it to be forced on their children.

4. Dave is a parent of a child in elementary school who distance-learned last year. His son has acute asthma and the idea of wearing a mask all day terrifies him. He wanted to voice his concern and asked the Committee to take that into consideration.

Mr. Monteiro thanked everyone on behalf of the entire committee and administration for coming out to voice their concerns.

5. Mr. Cahoon and Mr. Amoroso spoke regarding the discussion item on the agenda - Naming of Library Media Center. They both stated that without the efforts, perseverance and enthusiasm of Superintendent Kathryn Crowley, the construction process to replace a new high school wouldn't have happened. They are recommending to the School Committee the naming of the library media center at the new high school be named after Superintendent Crowley and are asking them to think about their recommendation.

Mr. Monteiro stated that the Committee has to have the recommendation heard at two consecutive meetings in which to discuss and vote on the naming of the library media center.

Superintendent Crowley spoke about loving the city and the people in East Providence. The Building Committee has great leaders and the committee wanted to build a state of the art high school. She is very happy for the children who will benefit from that.

VI. Superintendent's Report

1. School Re-entry Plan for 2021-22 School Year – The plan was moved up on the agenda and presented earlier.

2. New Positions – As a result of the high school and elementary programs, she is asking to add new teachers which include for the high school a math, ELA, social studies, one special education and one severe/profound, health and vision teacher, part-time dental

teacher and three special educations teachers for inclusion. She is waiting to look at the schedule with numbers.

VII. Director of Human Resources Report

Resignations – Cheryl Mammone, Human Resources Director, effective 8/13/21; Paul Mello, Custodian at EPHS, effective 7/22/21; Kim Nunes, Administrative Assistant laid off; Jessica Cabral-Lafreniere, Administrative Assistant laid off; Heather Connolly, Administrative Assistant, laid off; Rita Vargas, Administrative Assistant laid off; and Alexia Benros, Administrative Assistant laid off. They were called back to work but found employment elsewhere.

Motion by Ms. Azanero, seconded by Mr. Tsonos and carried by a vote of 4-1. Ms. Beauchaine voted nay. Ms. Beauchaine announced that on behalf of the Committee, Ms. Mammone will be missed for all that she does in the district.

Retirements – Loretta Monahan, Administrative Assistant, Purchasing in Business Office, effective 9/7/21; and Rochelle Larghi, Science Teacher at Riverside Middle School, effective 7/27/21.

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

Leave of Absences – None
Non-Renewals – None
Recalls – None

VIII. Director of Finance Report – Mr. Enos highlighted several items on the monthly financial report regarding the salaries/substitutes line item. Regular overtime line item has gone up due to custodial cleaning work related to COVID.

IX. Policy Committee Report – Ms. Beauchaine
Residency Policy is on agenda for a 2nd read. It will be put on the website once voted on. Superintendent Crowley stated that Diana Clarkin put a lot of thought into this policy and has done an outstanding job. The policy is much easier to read.

Face Coverings Amended Policy is on agenda for 1st read.

Student Representative to the School Committee is on agenda for a 1st read. It's a draft policy. There is a student representative from the high school already. Ms. Beauchaine wants it in a policy so there will always be a representative to the School Committee and she would like the student to report on more than just events. Student voices mean a lot in local government and it's important to include them.

X. Building Committee Report – Mr. Monteiro reported on the progress of the new high school. Commissioning still ongoing. FF&E and technology ongoing. Furniture is being delivered. Gym flooring is receiving its finishing. MW/BE is at 13% participation. For the first part of July there was 192 workers per day. Less workers now that trades are being completed. Owner contingency is at 64.25, construction contingency is at 75.1% and owner contingency is at 68.6%. The budget is in good shape.

XI. Discussion Items

1. Information System and Data Specialist Job Description – Mr. Russell reported that this position is to fill the needs of the district for our student information system and our data management needs.

2. Naming of Library Media Center – Members of the Building Committee presented to the Committee earlier in the meeting under public comments I.

XII. Action Items

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

Voucher No. 1035 - $1,768.26
Voucher No. 1036 - $814.42
Voucher No. 1037 - $1,125.00
Voucher No. 1039 – $1,807.20
Voucher No. 1040 - $56,668.92
Voucher No. 1041 - $1,830,443.73

2. Residency Policy – 2nd Read
Motion by Mr. Tsonos, seconded by Ms. Azanero and carried by unanimous consent to approve the Residency Policy as submitted.

3. Contract & Stipend for Executive Administrative Assistant
Motion by Ms. Beauchaine, seconded by Ms. Azanero and carried by unanimous consent to approve the contract and stipend for the executive administrative assistant to the Superintendent and School Committee as discussed in executive session.

4. Information System & Data Specialist Job Description
Motion by Mr. Tsonos, seconded by Ms. Beauchaine and carried by unanimous consent to approve the job description for the Information System & Data Specialist as submitted.

5. Technology E-Recycling List and Award to Second Life Mac
Motion by Mr. Tsonos, seconded by Ms. Beauchaine and carried by unanimous consent to approve the technology e-recycling list and award to Second Life Mac as submitted.

Mr. Monteiro reported that the following invoices have been approved and vetted by the Building Committee. The approved invoices are to be paid by the city out of the bond.

6. Ai3 Invoices for Services
Motion by Mr. Tsonos, seconded by Ms. Beauchaine and carried by unanimous consent to approve the Ai3 July 2021 Invoice for Basic Services in the amount of $122,474.84 and Extra Services in the amount of $55,777.66 as submitted.

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

8. Gilbane Invoice for Services
Motion by Mr. Tsonos, seconded by Ms. Beauchaine and carried by unanimous consent to approve the Gilbane Construction Co. July 2021 invoice for services in the amount of $6,383,483.84 as submitted.

9. Stephen Turner, Inc. Invoice for Services
Motion by Mr. Tsonos, seconded by Ms. Beauchaine and carried by unanimous consent to approve the Stephen Turner, Inc. July 2021 invoice for services in the amount of $21,291.52 as submitted.

10. Thielsch Engineering Invoice for Services
Motion by Mr. Tsonos, seconded by Ms. Beauchaine and carried by unanimous consent to approve the Thielsch Engineering July 2021 invoice for services in the amount of $9,054.38 as submitted.

11. Construction Invoices for EPHS
Motion by Mr. Tsonos, seconded by Ms. Beauchaine and carried by unanimous consent to approve the EPHS construction invoices for July 2021 in the amount of $75,433.36 as submitted.

12. Invoices for Furniture, Fixtures & Equipment
Motion by Mr. Tsonos, seconded by Ms. Beauchaine and carried by unanimous consent to approve the furniture, fixtures & equipment July 2021 invoices in in the amount of $331,413.96 as submitted.

13. High School Math, ELA, Social Studies, One Special Education and One Severe/Profound Teacher if needed, Health and Vision Teachers, Part-Time Dental Teacher and Three Special Education Teachers for Inclusion
Motion by Mr. Beauchaine, seconded by Ms. Azanero and carried by unanimous consent to approve the new teaching positions as submitted.

14. Resolution of Wage Claim of an Employee
Motion by Mr. Tsonos, seconded by Mr. Brandle and carried by unanimous consent to approve the resolution of wage claim of an employee as submitted.

15. Naming of Library Media Center
Motion by Ms. Azanero, seconded by Mr. Brandle and carried by unanimous consent to approve the naming of the library media center after Kathryn Crowley as submitted.

XIII. Public Comments II – Non-Agenda Items – There were no comments.

XIV. Announcements – Ms. Beauchaine asked the public to please respect the playgrounds in all areas of the city for our children. Any vandalism should be reported to the police.

Mr. Monteiro asked everyone to stay off the construction property at the high school. It's a dangerous and hazardous area. There will be a charge for violating the trespassing order.

Bridgepoint Church is donating back to school items on Saturday, August 21 from 9 am-1 pm.

XV. Adjournment
Motion by Ms. Beauchaine, seconded by Ms. Azanero and carried by unanimous consent to adjourn the meeting at 8:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Corsi
Administrative Assistant

Max Brandle
School Committee Clerk