
**EAST PROVIDENCE SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
OPEN SESSION – October 12, 2021**

I. Call to Order Open Session

The East Providence School Committee met in Open Session on Tuesday, October 11, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. in the auditorium at East Providence High School. Mr. Monteiro called the meeting to order at 6:07 p.m. Members present were Joel Monteiro, Chair, Jessica Beauchaine, Vice Chair, Max Brandle, Clerk, Jenni Azanero and Charles Tsonos. Also present was Superintendent Kathryn Crowley.

II. Executive Session

Motion by Mr. Tsonos, seconded by Ms. Azanero and carried unanimously to move into Executive Session for the purpose of: Discussion regarding Information System & Data Specialist's Contract Pursuant to RIGL §42-46-5(a)(1); Discussion/Action re: EPSD Emergency Plan Pursuant to RIGL §42-46-5(a)(3); 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 6:53 pm. The Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence were observed. The Chair reported that one vote was taken in executive session for the approval of the EPSD Emergency Plan by a vote of 5-0. Motion by Mr. Tsonos, seconded by Mr. Brandle and carried by unanimous consent to seal the minutes.

IV. Student Liaison – Grant Wosencroft highlighted events from the start of school at the new high school.

V. Consent Agenda

Communications/Correspondence

Appointments – Jon Flammand, Paraprofessional at Silver Spring, effective 9/1/2021; Carolyn Travis, Paraprofessional at EPHS, effective 9/13/2021; Jaylieana Sotomayor, Paraprofessional at Hennessey, effective 9/13/2021; Allison Corbell, Paraprofessional in Pre-K at Martin, effective 9/20/2021; Samantha Richer, Paraprofessional at Hennessey, effective 9/27/2021; Jaclyn Hahn, Teacher, Special Education at Oldham ELC, effective, 10/4/2021; Sherry Santos, Paraprofessional at Orlo, effective 10/2/2021; Lauren Patak, Paraprofessional in Pre-K at Martin, effective 10/4/2021; Carolyn Plouff, Paraprofessional at Whiteknact, effective 10/12/2021; Brittany O'Brien, Teacher, Special Education at Kent Heights, effective 10/12/2021; James Folino, Math Teacher at EPHS, effective 10/25/2021; Michelle Gallego, Paraprofessional in Pre-K

at Martin, effective 10/12/2021; Jeannine Carreiro, Teacher, Dental Assistant at CTC, effective 10/25/2021; and Patrick Irwin, Information System & Data Specialist, effective TBD.

Homeschool Requests – There were seventeen requests to homeschool this month.

Approval of Minutes: September 14, 2021 Executive Session School Committee Meeting
September 14, 2021 Regular School Committee Meeting
September 13, 2021 Building Committee Meeting

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

VI. PTO/PTA/EPLAC Reports – Mary Nascimento reported that Wednesday, September 29th was the first EPLAC meeting held at Martin Middle School. A board committee will be formed and brought before the School Committee. Meetings are held at 6:30 pm on the last Wednesday of each month with the exception of November. The November meeting will be held on November 17th. A series of virtual workshops to support families have been scheduled throughout the year with October 13th being the first one in the series. The presentation will be on Recognizing Anxiety and Depression in Your Child or Adolescent.

VII. Public Comments I – Agenda Items – There were no comments.

Motion by Mr. Brandle, seconded by Ms. Beauchaine and carried by unanimous consent to move up Item XII (Building Committee Report) on the agenda.

Sam Bradner, Peregrine Group, presented a summary of his OPM report from last evening's Building Committee meeting.

Mr. Monteiro opened the time capsule that was found in the old high school building. There were several items in the capsule dating back to 1950. A new time capsule has been started to combine items from the new high school with the items from the old high school.

Motion by Ms. Azanero, seconded by Ms. Beauchaine and carried by unanimous consent to move up Item XIII Discussion Item - No. 1 - Naming Request for John (Sandy) Gorham.

Ted Gorham spoke about the contributions of his twin brother Sandy Gorham. They graduated EPHS in 1970. Sandy graduated URI and spent many years teaching and coaching at the high school. He was head coach of the football team for 20 years. After speaking with Mr. Monteiro, Mr. Gorham is requesting the naming of the football field or a monument after Sandy Gorham in recognition of his coaching contributions.

John Olivera, a graduate of EPHS, spoke about Sandy's contributions to students off the field.

Tshombe Lambert, who coaches the girls varsity team, spoke about Sandy's unprecedented success on the football field and his recognition as a role model and father figure to him.

Mr. Monteiro stated that the school department will designate an area for recognizing Coach Gorham and others. A landscape artist will create a design to review and bring back to the Committee. The process for naming is to be presented in two public meetings with two votes. The action item on the agenda this evening will be tabled until a design is presented. Ms. Beauchaine would like to get a policy on this for the future.

Motion by Mr. Tsonos, seconded by Ms. Azanero and carried by unanimous consent to table Item XIV Action Item – No. 11 Approve Naming Request for John (Sandy) Gorham until we have a design to approve.

VIII. Superintendent's Report - Student Achievement

Superintendent Crowley announced and congratulated Craig Enos, Director of Finance, who was awarded Business Manager of the Year. She also acknowledged and thanked the teachers and administrators for all they have done over the last eighteen months.

1. PreK-5 Right to Read – Superintendent Crowley presented the Right to Read Act for Pre-K to grade 5 students on behalf of Dr. Bowler who was unable to attend the meeting. In July 2019 RI legislatures passed the Right to Read Act to ensure students can fully comprehend grade level texts by third grade and beyond and to enhance teachers' knowledge in the science of reading. Training for elementary teachers is very extensive with 50-60 hours of training and they are doing it on their own after school.
2. Middle & High School Right to Read – Dr. Sandra Forand presented on the Right to Read Act for students in grades 6-12. It is an extensive initiative for teachers. The district is offering training over the next two years. Depending on educators' work assignment and certification, they must develop proficiency or awareness in the science of reading and structured literacy instruction.
3. Elementary School Initiatives – Crystal Monteiro, Math Coach and Kelly Vasey, English Language Arts Coach presented the ELA and math curriculums. The Wonders program was adopted for grades 2-5 in the 2020-2021 school year. The Boston curriculum is for kindergarten and first grade. iReady Math for grades K-5 has been implemented for the 2021-22 school year. Crystal and Kelly analyze data three times per year and support and meet the needs of all students and schools.
4. Middle School Initiatives – Rob Perry, Principal at Riverside Middle and William Black, Principal at Martin Middle presented middle school curriculum initiatives.
5. AP Scores/High School Initiatives – Toby Gibbons, Principal of the high school presented the NEASC report. NEASC will visit again in the fall of 2023. Bob Currier, Assistant Principal

at the high school presented on the AP scores and high school initiatives. 142 students attended the summer school session. Students meet with their advisors at the beginning of the year. School counselors meet with students multiple times per year on their schedules, future planning and social emotional needs. Each grade level has different needs.

6. Special Education Initiatives – Leslie Anderson presented new initiatives with special education. There were 944 special education students registered. As of today there are 985 students – 5% increase. All teachers and support staff are in place. Paraprofessional positions still need to be completed. Two social workers have been contracted to support schools that are in need. PD has been offered to teachers throughout the year. The biggest initiative is around social emotional learning. There is a series of four virtual workshops for parents. The first session “Recognizing Anxiety and Depression in Your Child or Adolescent” is tomorrow at 6 pm and is on the website. In collaboration with EPLAC, after-school activities have been planned.
7. MLL Initiatives – Yanaiza Gallant reported that currently the district has 242 MLL students enrolled, 121 in elementary, 50 in middle and 64 in high school. Ms. Gallant highlighted the current WIDA level scores and the steps that were taken to support students due to the impact of COVID. Going forward they will increase strategies, have elementary extended hours, support before and after learning opportunities, focus on asset-based thinking regarding language, have a MLL book club for 2021-2022, support middle school initiative of writing and continue supporting ESL partial reimbursement for the certification program at RWU. The district is now up to date with all MLL regulations.
8. Distance Learning Days – The Distance Learning Policy from RIDE is guidance and approval process for requesting additional distance learning days. The administrative team will fill out the request form for distance learning days and submit to RIDE for approval.

IX. Human Resources Report

Resignations – Sarah Pereira, Paraprofessional in Pre-K at Martin, effective 9/18/2021; Michael Churchill, Paraprofessional at Whiteknact, effective 9/22/2021; Dionne Manchester, Paraprofessional in Pre-K at Martin, effective 9/22/2021; Lisa Lutrario, Teacher at Kent Heights, effective 10/2/2021; Kimberly Nunes, Paraprofessional at Waddington, effective 9/30/2021; and Sonya Ellis, Paraprofessional at Silver Spring, effective 10/7/2021.

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

Retirements – Michelle Gouin, Paraprofessional at EPHS, effective 9/24/2021.

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

Leave of Absences – None

Non-Renewals – None

Recalls – None

Brian Lonergan, HR Director, read the list of appointments. He will report on the vacancies in the district at the next meeting.

X. Director of Finance Report – Mr. Enos presented the monthly financial report. They are approaching the end of the fiscal year and continue to remain in good standing. On billing for the CTC students for the first quarter there were a few items that were missed - \$732,000 in revenue. Mr. Tsonos asked if there is enough help in the new high school with maintenance work. Superintendent Crowley reported that there are seven workers at night. All custodians are responsible to their principal. There are two maintenance workers for the high school. Certain areas in the building have been highlighted. A checklist is being reviewed daily. Gilbane is still doing work in the building. Principals are doing their own evaluations on their staff, including custodians. Maintenance workers report to Mr. Feola. Mr. Murphy, Plant Manager, reports to the Superintendent.

Paraprofessional Positions – There are twelve additional paraprofessional positions that need to be filled. The positions were included in the budget and are on the agenda for approval this evening.

Substitute Pay – Mr. Enos reported that the day-to-day substitute pay for teachers is lower than what other districts are paying. Salary for paraprofessionals are comparable to other districts. Requesting to increase the rate of pay for substitute teachers and long term subs and possibly create a special rate for retirees.

Motion by Mr. Tsonos, seconded by Ms. Azanero and carried by unanimous consent to approve the increase of substitute teacher rate as follows based on immediate need by the District.

- Day 1 through 30 - \$100
- Day 31 through 60 - \$150
- Day 61 through end of the year - \$175

XI. Policy Committee Report – This report was tabled.

XII. Building Committee Report – This report was moved up on the agenda.

XII. Discussion Items

1. Naming Request for John (Sandy) Gorham – Mr. Monteiro on behalf of an EP Resident
This item was moved up on the agenda.
2. Purchase of Two Pick-Up Trucks and One Box Truck – Mr. Enos requested permission to proceed with the purchase of two pick-up trucks to replace the aging trucks in the district. He asked to use funds from the Building Improvement account that hasn't been used which has \$100,000 budgeted. He received quotes from two vendors and is recommending making the award to MHQ for two Ford F250 trucks. Estimated delivery time will be in early spring. The cost of each truck is \$48,940.30 for a total of \$97,880.60. They are holding off on the purchase of a box truck at this time.
3. Silver Spring & Orlo Avenue Window Replacement Projects – These projects are part of the submission package going to RIDE tomorrow and need to show approval by the School Committee. The action item on the agenda this evening is that we are being allowed to proceed with the project.

XII. Action Items

1. Bill List:

Voucher No. 1047 - \$82,484.16

Voucher No. 1049 - \$1,667,458.64

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

2. Contract for Information & Data Specialist

Motion by Mr. Tsonos, seconded by Ms. Azanero and carried by unanimous consent to approve the contract for the Information & Data Specialist as submitted.

3. New Paraprofessional Positions

Motion by Mr. Tsonos, seconded by Ms. Azanero and carried by unanimous consent to approve the twelve new paraprofessional positions as submitted.

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

4. Ai3 Invoices for Services

Motion by Mr. Tsonos, seconded by Ms. Azanero and carried by unanimous consent to approve the Ai3 September 2021 Invoice for Basic Services in the amount of \$29,484.68 and Extra Services in the amount of \$11,900.00 as submitted.

5. Peregrine Invoice for Services

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

6. Gilbane Invoice for Services

Motion by Mr. Tsonos, seconded by Ms. Azanero and carried by unanimous consent to approve the Gilbane Construction Co. September 2021 invoice for services in the amount of \$3,557,040.70 as submitted.

7. Stephen Turner, Inc. Invoice for Services

Motion by Mr. Tsonos, seconded by Ms. Azanero and carried by unanimous consent to approve the Stephen Turner, Inc. September 2021 invoice for services in the amount of \$22,294.20 as submitted.

8. Thielsch Engineering Invoice for Services

Motion by Mr. Tsonos, seconded by Ms. Azanero and carried by unanimous consent to approve the Thielsch Engineering September 2021 invoice for services in the amount of \$5,202.50 as submitted.

9. Construction Invoices for EPHS

Motion by Mr. Tsonos, seconded by Ms. Azanero and carried by unanimous consent to approve the EPHS construction invoices for September 2021 in the amount of \$3,684,922.08 as submitted.

10. Invoices for Furniture, Fixtures & Equipment

Motion by Mr. Tsonos, seconded by Ms. Azanero and carried by unanimous consent to approve the furniture, fixtures & equipment September 2021 invoices in in the amount of \$1,924,323.93 as submitted.

11. Naming Request for John (Sandy) Gorham – This item was tabled.

12. Purchase of Two Pick-Up Trucks and One Box Truck

Motion by Mr. Tsonos, seconded by Mr. Brandle and carried by unanimous consent to approve the purchase of two pick-up trucks as submitted and table the purchase of a box truck.

13. Start of the Silver Spring & Orlo Avenue Window Replacement Projects

Motion by Mr. Brandle, seconded by Ms. Azanero and carried by unanimous consent to approve the start of the window replacement projects at Silver Spring and Orlo Avenue Elementary Schools as submitted.

14. Award Masonry Repair RFP for Silver Spring and Hennessey Elementary Schools

Motion by Mr. Tsonos, seconded by Ms. Azanero and carried by unanimous consent to table this item.

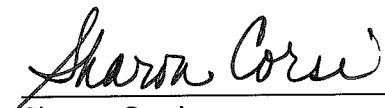
XV. Public Comments II – Non-Agenda Items – There were no comments.

XVI. Announcements – The EPHS Ribbon Cutting event will be held on Monday, October 25th at 2 pm. The Townie Pride Parade will be held on Friday, October 22 at 5:45 pm at Pierce Field. The EPHS guided tour will be on Saturday, October 30 from 9 am to 1 pm.

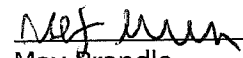
XVII. Adjournment

Motion by Mr. Tsonos, seconded by Mr. Brandle and carried by unanimous consent to adjourn the meeting at 10:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Sharon Corsi
Administrative Assistant



Max Brandle
School Committee Clerk