
**EAST PROVIDENCE SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
OPEN SESSION – December 14, 2021**

I. Call to Order Open Session

The East Providence School Committee met in Open Session on Tuesday, December 14, 2021 at 5:30 p.m. in the auditorium at East Providence High School. Mr. Monteiro called the meeting to order at 5:32 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 re: Contract for Human Resources Director Pursuant to RIGL §42-46-5(a)(1); Discussion re: Salary Range for Staff Accountant Pursuant to RIGL §42-46-5(a)(1); Discussion re: Contract for Staff Accountant Pursuant to RIGL §42-46-5(a)(1); Discussion re: Superintendent's Performance Evaluation 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 7:15 pm. The Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence were observed. The Chair reported that no votes were taken in executive session only to return to public session. Motion by Mr. Tsonos, seconded by Mr. Brandle and carried by unanimous consent to seal the minutes.

Motion by Mr. Tsonos, seconded by Mr. Brandle and carried by unanimous consent to move up Discussion item #3 and Action item #9:

XIII. 3. Discussion Item - Addition of William Stringfellow's Name to the Coaches' Recognition Tower

Several members of the community gave presentations in support of recognizing William Stringfellow for his accomplishments and contributions over the years as a coach at East Providence High School. They requested to have the new athletic stadium named after Mr. Stringfellow. Mr. Monteiro explained that there is a specific action item on the agenda this evening to approve the addition of William Stringfellow's name to the coaches' recognition tower. There will be a dedication recognition space for him. The Stringfellow family is on board with this request. A space to memorialize the greatness of these coaches was created. The

monument would recognize them. Naming the field is not on the agenda tonight. Naming the stadium after him would require another hearing.

XIV. 9. Action Item

Motion by Mr. Tsonos, seconded by Ms. Beauchaine and carried by unanimous consent to approve the addition of William Stringfellow's name to the coaches' recognition tower as submitted.

IV. Student Liaison – Grant Wosencroft had to leave this evening so Mr. Monteiro read his report about the happenings at the high school.

V. Consent Agenda

Communications/Correspondence – Superintendent Crowley called attention to a letter that was sent to Gilbane Building Company from the Executive Director at Building Futures highlighting the construction project's positive impact on the local workforce and the opportunities it has generated.

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

Approval of Minutes: November 9, 2021 Regular School Committee Meeting
November 19, 2021 Special School Committee Meeting
November 8, 2021 Building Committee Meeting

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

VI. PTO/PTA/EPLAC Reports – Mary Nascimento, Chair of EPLAC Committee introduced Co-Chair Katelyn Butterworth. Mary read off the names of the 2021-2022 EPLAC Board members and voting members. The next EPLAC meeting will be on Wednesday, January 26, 2022 at 6 pm at Martin Middle School library.

VII. Public Comments I – Agenda Items – Luis DaSilva addressed the Committee on student mask wearing. Izilda Fernandes spoke about the 5th annual Christmas community dinner which is free to the public. Brightridge Club is hosting a dinner for the community on December 25th from 12-5 pm and providing clothing, toiletries, music and transportation. There will be toys for children. They are looking for other donation items and several donation boxes will be placed around the community. District will send out a message letting the community know.

VIII. Superintendent's Report

1. Use of High School Building Rentals – Diana Clarkin, Director of Operations, provided a fee structure for the use of the high school and surrounding areas and fields for outside organizations to rent space. Hoping to start in January.

2. MOU – LEAP District Support Program – Participating in this program the District is to get an additional \$3 million added on to the \$11.5 million from the ESSER grant.
3. District School Improvement Team Report – The next meeting will be in January. Many members returned from last year. Members from other school improvement teams joined the District SIT team.
4. RI Test to Stay – Dr. Forand reported that Test to Stay is a quarantine option for students in grades PK-6 and staff who don't have any symptoms and are identified as close contacts due to a school-related exposure to COVID-19. This voluntary program will allow students to stay in school if they test negative with parental permission only. Testing could start in January. The Westerly district completed their 30-day pilot and the program has been opened up to other districts. Parents will be contacted before students are tested. The District only does BINAX testing. Additional packets explaining the program will be sent out to parents, principals and school nurses. Information will be made available on the website as well.

IX. Human Resources Report

Appointments – Ashley Vargas-Troche, Paraprofessional at Silver Spring, effective 11/15/2021; Sarena Hernandez, Paraprofessional at Silver Spring, effective 11/8/2021; Ryan DeCarvalho, Social Worker at Silver Spring, effective 11/22/2021; Tracy Brum-Arraial, Paraprofessional at Kent Heights, effective 11/29/2021; Carson Cambre, Math Teacher at Riverside Middle, effective 11/29/2021; Jessica Savageau, Pre-K Teacher at MMS PreK, effective 12/13/2021; Katelin Stringfellow, Paraprofessional at Orlo Avenue, effective 12/13/2021; John Campopiano, Social Worker for District, effective 1/3/2021; Jesse Chakouian, Custodian Nights at EPHS, effective 12/9/2021; and Alyssa Oliveira, Paraprofessional at Myron J. Francis, effective TBD.

Resignations – Kaitlyn Villucci, Math Teacher at Riverside Middle School, effective 11/20/21.

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

Retirements – Wendy Coogan, Math Teacher at Riverside Middle School, effective 12/31/2021.

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

Leave of Absences - None

Non-Renewals – None

Recalls – None

Terminations – Paraprofessional at EPHS, effective 12/2/2021; and Paraprofessional at Hennessey, effective 11/19/2021.

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

X. Director of Finance Report

1. Monthly Financial Update – Mr. Enos presented the monthly financial report including FY2021 expenditures from last fiscal year and FY2022 year to date expenditures. With regard to FY21 there are still expenses in revenues and they don't have a final number at this time. They were able to make a \$150,000 contribution payment to the OPEB account which is for retirees' health insurance. For FY22 substitutes salary increased to \$135,628 which is up from \$86,383 from last year.
2. Long Term Teacher Substitute Salary – Mr. Enos asked to move this item to the next meeting to provide more information. He will add how many long-term positions the district has.

Motion by Ms. Beauchaine, seconded by Mr. Brandle and carried by unanimous consent to table this item until more data is received.

3. Retired Teacher Substitute Salary – Mr. Enos asked to move this item to the next meeting to provide more information. He will report on how many retired teachers are currently working in the district. The Committee agreed that the district needs to take action on absentee teacher issues. Building-based subs should have the opportunity for long term salary as well.

Motion by Mr. Tsonos, seconded by Ms. Beauchaine and carried by unanimous consent to increase the East Providence retired teacher substitute's salary as follows:
Start at \$175, after 30 days - \$200 and after 60 days - \$225 just to the end of the school year, revisit data and receive feedback in February and March 2022.

XI. Policy Committee Report – Mr. Monteiro would like to review the residency policy affidavit. The affidavit doesn't presently state any consequences for falsifying a document. The District would still have to verify that family is living there but would have to pursue when documents are falsified. This will be addressed in January.

XII. Building Committee Report – Mr. Monteiro presented the OPM report from the December 13th Building Committee meeting. They are seeing some delays in deliveries of

custom furniture orders but no delay in the project. Moving forward the timeframe for long term maintenance is being monitored by building administration and the union. The Building Committee is looking at extended warranties and service contracts which will impact any services needed. Lights will be going up, weather permitting, by the end of December on the baseball and softball fields.

XIII. Discussion Items

1. Final Design for Coaches' Recognition Space – To create a space to honor coaches it was made in the design of the clock tower and will be placed inside the main gates. Townie Pride is on each side and the design will include the name of each coach recognized. Once the final design is priced and made available, it will be presented to the School Committee again.
2. Naming of Coaches' Recognition Space for John (Sandy) Gorham – Mr. Monteiro on behalf of EP Resident – The Sandy Gorham Tower of Honor will have a description of who the coaches are. Additional coaches will be listed.
3. Addition of William Stringfellow's Name to the Coaches' Recognition Tower – Mr. Tsonos
This item was moved up on the agenda.
4. 2022 School Committee Meeting Schedule – The Committee will go back to one meeting per month on the annual meeting schedule due to confusion on the second meeting that doesn't always take place.
5. Residency Verification Procedures – Mr. Monteiro will be looking into the residency policy affidavit.
6. Website Navigation – Ms. Beauchaine will meet with Mr. Russell on where information can be found on the district website.

XIV. Action Items

1. Bill List:

Voucher No. 1054 - \$47,165.03
Voucher No. 1055 - \$7,039.94
Voucher No. 1056 - \$901,638.27
Voucher No. 1002 - \$148.50
Voucher No. 1003 - \$7,380.53
Voucher No. 1005 - \$180.00

Voucher No. 1006 - \$706,203.28

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

2. Contract for Human Resources Director

Motion by Mr. Tsonos, seconded by Ms. Azanero and carried by unanimous consent to approve the contract for the Human Resources Director according to the changes made in executive session.

3. Long Term Teacher Substitute Salary – Tabled

4. Retired Teacher Substitute Salary – This item was moved up on agenda.

5. 2022 School Committee Meeting Schedule

Motion by Ms. Beauchaine, seconded by Mr. Brandle and carried by unanimous consent to approve the 2022 School Committee Meeting Schedule with changes.

6. 2021-2022 EPLAC Board & Voting Members

Motion by Ms. Beauchaine, seconded by Ms. Azanero and carried by unanimous consent to approve the 2021-2022 EPLAC Board and voting members as submitted.

7. Final Design for Coaches' Recognition Space

Motion by Mr. Brandle, seconded by Ms. Azanero and carried by unanimous consent to approve the final design for the coaches' recognition space as submitted.

8. Naming of the Coaches' Recognition Space for John (Sandy) Gorham

Motion by Mr. Tsonos, seconded by Ms. Azanero and carried by unanimous consent to approve the naming of the coaches' recognition space for John (Sandy) Gorham as submitted.

9. Addition of William Stringfellow's Name to the Coaches' Recognition Tower

This item was moved up on the agenda.

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

10. Ai3 Invoices for Services

Motion by Mr. Brandle, seconded by Ms. Azanero and carried by unanimous consent to approve the Ai3 November 2021 Invoices for Basic Services in the amount of \$29,484.68, Extra Services in the amount of \$176,000.00 and Reimbursable Expenses in the amount of \$3,850.00 as submitted.

11. Peregrine Invoice for Services

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

12. Gilbane Invoice for Services

Motion by Mr. Brandle, seconded by Ms. Azanero and carried by unanimous consent to approve the Gilbane Construction Co. November 2021 invoice for services in the amount of \$1,432,885.68 as submitted.

13. Stephen Turner, Inc. Invoice for Services

Motion by Mr. Brandle, seconded by Ms. Azanero and carried by unanimous consent to approve the Stephen Turner, Inc. November 2021 invoice for services in the amount of \$6,798.60 as submitted.

14. Thielsch Engineering Invoice for Services

Motion by Mr. Brandle, seconded by Ms. Azanero and carried by unanimous consent to approve the Thielsch Engineering November 2021 invoice for services in the amount of \$3,095.00 as submitted.

15. Construction Invoices for EPHS

Motion by Mr. Brandle, seconded by Ms. Azanero and carried by unanimous consent to approve the EPHS construction invoices for November 2021 in the amount of \$1,711,113.96 as submitted.

16. Invoices for Furniture, Fixtures & Equipment

Motion by Mr. Brandle, seconded by Ms. Azanero and carried by unanimous consent to approve the furniture, fixtures & equipment November 2021 invoices in the amount of \$523,793.51 as submitted.

17. LEAP MOU between RIDE and EPSD

Motion by Ms. Beauchaine, seconded by Ms. Azanero and carried by unanimous consent to approve the LEAP Memorandum of Understanding between the Rhode Island Department of Education and the East Providence School Department as submitted.

18. Salary Range for Staff Accountant

Motion by Ms. Beauchaine, seconded by Mr. Tsonos and carried by unanimous consent to approve the salary range for the staff accountant as submitted.

19. Contract for Staff Accountant

Motion by Mr. Brandle, seconded by Ms. Azanero and carried by unanimous consent to approve the contract for the staff accountant as submitted. With amendment.

XV. Public Comments II – Non-Agenda Items – Becky DiStefano addressed the Committee on mask wearing for students. Carissa Moglia, homeowner and parent in East Providence, concerned with city spending including the school department, asked the Committee to pass a resolution to withhold dues from the RI Association of School Committees until a cost analysis is performed.

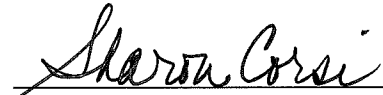
XVI. Announcements – Mr. Enos announced that the Building Committee authorized him to go out to bid for new high school band equipment for the music program. The old equipment that can be salvaged will be for the middle and elementary schools.

Superintendent Crowley wished members of the School Committee, administration and community members a very merry Christmas and a happy, healthy new year.

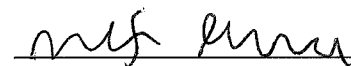
XVII. Adjournment

Motion by Mr. Brandle, seconded by Ms. Azanero 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