
EAST PROVIDENCE SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING OPEN SESSION – January 11, 2022

I. Call to Order Open Session

The East Providence School Committee met in Open Session on Tuesday, January 11, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. in the auditorium at East Providence High School. Mr. Monteiro called the meeting to order at 6:02 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 Dr. Sandra Forand and Dr. Celeste Bowler.

II. Executive Session

Motion by Mr. Tsonos, seconded by Ms. Azanero and carried unanimously to move into Executive Session in the main office conference room for the purpose of: Discussion re: East Providence High School Principal Contract Pursuant to RIGL §42-46-5(a)(1); Discussion re: Martin Middle School Interim Principal Contract Pursuant to RIGL §42-46-5(a)(1); Discussion re: Proposal/Contract for District Designer Services; 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 7:04 pm. The Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence were observed. The Chair reported that the only vote taken in executive session was to return to public session 5-0. Motion by Ms. Beauchaine, seconded by Mr. Brandle and carried by unanimous consent to seal the minutes.

IV. Student Liaison – Grant Wosencroft presented his report on school activities and events at the high school. Mr. Monteiro announced that Grant is pursuing a social studies pathway that focuses on government and citizenship. Superintendent Crowley received a note from the RI General Treasurer's office. Grant was a student representative from East Providence at the General Treasurer's announcement of a new construction bond and was very impressed by this presentation.

Motion by Mr. Tsonos, seconded by Mr. Brandle and carried by unanimous consent to move up Discussion item XII.1. and Action item XIII. 5. - Addition of William Stringfellow's Name to the Coaches' Recognition Tower – 2nd passage. There was a very thorough discussion at last month's meeting. Mr. Robert Brady addressed the Committee.

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 as a second passage.

V. Consent Agenda

Communications/Correspondence – A daily attendance report and a report on days worked for substitute teachers were included in the packet.

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

Approval of Minutes: December 14, 2021 Executive Session School Committee Meeting
December 14, 2021 Regular School Committee Meeting
December 21, 2021 Executive Session Special School Committee Meeting
December 21, 2021 Open Session Special School Committee Meeting
December 13, 2021 Building Committee Meeting

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

VI. PTO/PTA/EPLAC Reports – The next EPLAC meeting will be held on January 26th at 6 pm at Martin Middle School. They are working on recognition forms which will be going out soon.

VII. Public Comments I – Agenda Items – Robert Brady addressed the Committee earlier regarding the addition of William Stringfellow's name to the coaches' recognition tower.

VIII. Superintendent's Report

1. COVID Update – Dr. Forand spoke about the new CDC guidance that was released last Friday. Quarantine and isolation updates will be sent to parents. A vaccination clinic will be held next week for students with parental permission.

Motion by Mr. Tsonos, seconded by Ms. Beauchaine and carried by unanimous consent to move up Action item XIII.4. - Approve Proposal/Contract for District Designer Services

Superintendent Crowley reported on the new upcoming construction bond. There are more incentives than they were the last time for the high school. 68.5% reimbursement for any construction projects in the district.

Mr. Enos reported that the Department of Education approached the district and wanted the district to look at Martin Middle School. The next paygo funding is supposed to be distributed on the needs of the district. At a possible \$30 mil up front paygo money with 68.5% reimbursement rate, it would be time to take a look at the needs of school buildings, specifically Martin Middle. Reimbursement rate is 48.5 this year and going down 42.2% next year.

Mr. Monteiro stated the proposal is to approve a contract with Ai3 Architects for services. They will be doing a district wide assessment of the buildings in East Providence and make suggestions

for the district's buildings. The Capital Improvement Plan requires all buildings to be reviewed every five years.

Mr. Enos continued that this process started in July 2019 with an RFQ on the market. In August 2019, eight proposals were received and scored. Four were interviewed on September 25, 2019. Ai3 was the highest scoring firm at that time and a formal award to Ai3 was done in October 2019.

After the School Committee approval, a pause was put on the project because the project was much larger than anticipated.

Mr. Tsonos stated that the City Council will need to approve projects that the School Committee recommends.

Mr. Enos said the district will be locking in the process with RIDE should the City Council want to proceed.

Mr. Tsonos said that Martin Middle School is one of the worst buildings in the state and other school buildings have severe needs. He wants to be certain the process is transparent and procedures are being followed.

Mr. Bradner from Peregrine explained that Stage I is making an evaluation. As part of Stage II is finding a solution and part of that is to submit a cost analysis to RIDE for a design process.

Mr. Enos to provide a copy of the RFQ.

Action Item - Proposal/Contract for District Designer Services

Motion by Ms. Azanero, seconded by Mr. Brandle and carried by unanimous consent to approve the proposal/contract for District designer services for Ai3 Architects.

Superintendent Crowley announced that the new East Providence High School has received many awards for architectural design. Many school districts have looked at the high school for their own upcoming school projects.

IX. Human Resources Report – Mr. Williamson

Appointments – Abigail LaDue, Paraprofessional at EPHS, effective 12/20/2021; Mark Williamson, Director of Human Resources, effective 1/3/2022; William Black, Principal at EPHS, effective 1/3/2022; Shane Messier, Interim Principal at Martin Middle School, effective 1/3/2022; Yuanfei Lai, Staff Accountant in Administration, effective 1/31/2022; Matthew Laroche, Math Teacher at Riverside Middle School, effective 1/3/2022; and Dawn Houle, School Nurse for the District, effective 1/3/2022.

Resignations – Tracy Brum-Arraial, Paraprofessional at Kent Heights, effective 12/17/2021; and Toby Gibbons, Principal at EPHS, effective 12/23/2021.

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

Retirements – Eileen Eklund, Resource Teacher at Riverside Middle School, effective 12/31/2021.

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

Leave of Absences - None

Non-Renewals – None

Recalls – None

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

Mr. Bradner gave a brief overview of the high school building project. Gilbane is still working in the high school on punch lists. Building is under temporary certificate of occupancy. TCO will remain open until all site work is done. Construction progress photos were shown. The project is 83% complete.

X. Director of Finance Report

1. Monthly Financial Update – Mr. Enos reported that they are two months into the fiscal year. \$3,200 in revenue has come in. He will have a final number for FY21 next month.
2. Substitute Numbers for December – The report shows the various number of day-to-day subs and the number of days that substitutes worked. Also included is the number of retirees that have worked. There were 121 unfilled positions for 16 days in December. Next month the report will be generated from the Human Resources Office.

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

XII. Discussion Items

1. Addition of William Stringfellow's Name to the Coaches' Recognition Tower – Mr. Tsonos
2nd Passage – This item was moved up on the agenda.

2. Residency Policy – Ms. Beauchaine said the policy with the residency admission requirement was passed last August. The Committee discussed assigning a financial responsibility to the affidavit to deter fraudulent activity. Legal counsel to review adding a disclaimer for falsifying information.

XIII. Action Items

1. Bill List:

Voucher No. 1007 dated 12/28/2021 - \$51,429.75
Voucher No. 1009 dated 01/06/2022 - \$1,480,215.40
Voucher No. 1057 dated 10/29/2021 - \$560,319.39
Voucher No. 1058 dated 10/29/2021 - \$357,478.06

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

2. Contract for East Providence High School Principal

Motion by Ms. Beauchaine, seconded by Ms. Azanero and carried by unanimous consent to approve the contract for the EPHS Principal as submitted.

3. Martin Middle School Interim Principal

Motion by Ms. Beauchaine, seconded by Ms. Azanero and carried by unanimous consent to approve the contract for the Martin Middle School Interim Principal as submitted.

4. Proposal/Contract for District Designer Services – This item was moved up on the agenda.

5. Addition of William Stringfellow's Name to the Coaches' Recognition Tower – 2nd Passage – This item was moved up on the agenda.

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

6. Ai3 Invoices for Services

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

7. Peregrine Invoice for Services

Motion by Mr. Tsonos, seconded by Ms. Azanero and carried by unanimous consent to approve the Peregrine Group December 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. Azanero and carried by unanimous consent to approve the Gilbane Construction Co. December 2021 invoice for services in the amount of \$1,248,177.50 as submitted.

9. 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. December 2021 invoice for services in the amount of \$8,486.35 as submitted.

10. Thielsch Engineering Invoice for Services

Motion by Mr. Tsonos, seconded by Ms. Azanero and carried by unanimous consent to approve the Thielsch Engineering December 2021 invoice for services in the amount of \$1,040.00 as submitted.

11. Construction Invoices for EPHS

Motion by Mr. Tsonos, seconded by Ms. Azanero and carried by unanimous consent to approve the EPHS construction invoices for December 2021 in the amount of \$1,352,132.92 as submitted.

12. Invoices for Furniture, Fixtures & Equipment

Motion by Mr. Tsonos, seconded by Ms. Azanero and carried by unanimous consent to approve the furniture, fixtures & equipment December 2021 invoices in the amount of \$292,698.14 as submitted.

13. Go Out to Bid for Window Projects for Silver Spring, Orlo and Riverside Middle Schools

Motion by Ms. Azanero, seconded by Mr. Tsonos and carried by unanimous consent to approve to go out to bid for the window replacement projects for Silver Spring, Orlo Avenue and Riverside Middle Schools as submitted. Silver Spring and Orlo Avenue Schools are being funded by the ESSER II grant and Riverside Middle School is being funded by the capital fund. The bid documents will be ready in 30 days.

XIV. Public Comments II – Non-Agenda Items – No comments.

XV. Announcements – Ms. Beauchaine thanked everyone who came out to do COVID testing on Sunday, January 2, 2022. Approximately 900 students and staff members were serviced.

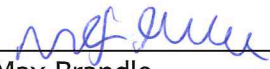
XVI. Adjournment

Motion by Mr. Tsonos, seconded by Ms. Azanero and carried by unanimous consent to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Sharon Corsi
Administrative Assistant



Max Brandle
School Committee Clerk