
**EAST PROVIDENCE SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
OPEN SESSION – July 12, 2022**

I. Call to Order Open Session

The East Providence School Committee met in Open Session on Tuesday, July 12, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. in the auditorium at East Providence High School. Mr. Monteiro called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m. Present: Joel Monteiro, Chair, Jessica Beauchaine, Vice Chair, Max Brandle, Clerk, Jenni Azanero, Charles Tsonos and Superintendent Dr. Sandra Forand.

II. Executive Session

Motion by Mr. Brandle, seconded by Mr. Tsonos and carried unanimously to move into Executive Session in the main office conference room for the purpose of: Hearing regarding Employee Pre-Suspension Pursuant to RIGL §42-46-5(a)(1) and Legal Advice Related Thereto; Discussion re: Contract for Whiteknact Elementary Principal 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. Reconvene in Open Session (Regular Meeting)

Mr. Monteiro called the meeting to order at 7:39 pm. The Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence were observed. The Chair reported that no votes were taken in executive session, except to return to public session. Motion by Mr. Brandle, seconded by Ms. Azanero and carried by unanimous consent to seal the minutes.

IV. Consent Agenda

Communications/Correspondence

Approval of Minutes: June 14, 2022 Executive Session School Committee Meeting

June 14, 2022 Open Session School Committee Meeting

June 28, 2022 Special Executive Session School Committee Meeting

June 28, 2022 Special Open Session School Committee Meeting

June 13, 2022 Building Committee Meeting

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

V. Public Comments I – Agenda Items – There were no public comments.

VI. Hearing re: Employee Pre-Suspension if Requested to be Held in Open Session

The hearing was not requested to be held in open session.

VII. Budget Workshop

This was the first budget presentation to the School Committee. Mr. Enos and Superintendent Forand presented the school budget for FY2023. The budget will be presented to the Committee again in August and then to the City Council.

VIII. Superintendent's Report

Bullying Report – Dr. Forand reported that twice a year a bullying report is submitted to RIDE for August – December and January – June. Principals investigate the incidents and report them if they are determined to be bullying.

An anonymous button for bullying has been added to our website. Email addresses do not show up and are not shared. Information is not collected.

IX. Human Resources Report – Mr. Williamson

Appointments – Glenn Costa, Maintenance Mechanic C1, effective 7/25/2022; Kayla Marcello, Science Teacher at EPHS, effective 2022-2023 school year; Christopher Audette, Principal at Whiteknact Elementary School, effective 8/17/2022; and Brooke Britt, Science Teacher at Martin Middle School, effective 2022-2023 school year.

Resignations – Jonny Gomes, Custodian at Myron J. Francis, effective 5/27/2022; Kaitlyn Baccari, Science Teacher at Riverside Middle, effective 6/28/2022; Caitlin French, English Teacher at Riverside Middle, effective 7/5/2022; Charles Rider, Computer Science Teacher at EPHS, effective 6/15/2022; and Emily Fox, Special Education Teacher, effective 7/8/2022.

Motion by Ms. Azanero, seconded by Mr. Brandle and carried by unanimous consent to accept the resignation of Jonny Gomes as submitted.

Motion by Ms. Azanero, seconded by Mr. Brandle and carried by unanimous consent to accept the resignation of Kaitlyn Baccari as submitted.

Motion by Mr. Brandle, seconded by Ms. Beauchaine and carried by unanimous consent to accept the resignation of Caitlin French as submitted.

Motion by Mr. Brandle, seconded by Ms. Azanero and carried by unanimous consent to accept the resignation of Charles Rider as submitted.

Motion by Mr. Brandle, seconded by Ms. Azanero and carried by unanimous consent to accept the resignation of Emily Fox as submitted.

Mr. Williamson reported that exit interviews have been conducted.

Retirements – None

Leaves of Absence – Jennifer Randall, Math Curriculum Leader at Myron J. Francis, (1 yr.), Effective 2022-2023 school year.

Non-Renewals – None

Recalls – Nanci Potemri, English Teacher at EPHS, effective 2022-2023 school year; and Trey Kassed, English Teacher at Riverside Middle, effective 2022-2023 school year.

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

X. Policy Committee Report – Jessica Beauchaine

1. Anti-Bullying Policy – 2nd read

Ms. Beauchaine requested to table this item for additional information. There was some discussion on the procedure for reporting a bullying incident. Dr. Forand will communicate the procedure during orientation and will communicate to all families. Once a bullying incident is reported to administration, an investigation is conducted. Ms. Azanero asked if there is anything in place for preventative bullying. Each school has core values and many initiatives take place. Dr. Bowler said schools create work for a safe climate and culture. Students can feel free to speak to the Principal, Dean and other people in the building that they feel comfortable with.

1. Challenged Materials Policy – 2nd read

Once this policy is approved, it will be posted on the District website and each school will receive a copy.

3. Staff/Student Relations Policy – 1st read

This policy is on the agenda for a first read and will be approved at the next meeting.

XI. Discussion Items

1. Update on Internships/Externships – Ms. Azanero requested a breakdown of externship and internship opportunities that are provided. Dr. Forand said there are two ways to advertise these opportunities. One way is through the Career & Tech Center. Surveys were sent to students who are interested in the pathway programs. Businesses do contact the District looking for students. The high school is currently working with the City to partner with businesses for more opportunities in the community.

2. Admission Process and Verification of Residency Form Submittals – Ms. Azanero inquired about the process for student registration. Ms. Clarkin reported that students provide three proofs of

residency when registering. At the beginning of the year a notice is sent home for families to submit proof of residency. Families that do not send in their proof of residency by the first quarter will have the option to disenroll. Residency checks include families under the McKinny-Vento status. A memo is going to be sent to the principals to remind them of the process and the step-by-step timelines. By late September principals will know who has not submitted verification. Reminders are sent out. By the December break, letters are sent out by Ms. Clarkin. Residency checks are done throughout the school year. Each school has an attendance committee. As part of the residency packet, the lunch form is also included. Ms. Clarkin will add language that is on the residency affidavit for the parent/guardian's affidavit to the landlord/shared tenancies affidavit advising that a false affidavit submitted is considered a fraudulent act and will result in appropriate civil and/or criminal proceedings seeking monetary damages of at least but not limited to the District's current annual per pupil funding rate as well as such other penalties as may be prescribed by law.

XII. Action Items

1. Bill List:

Voucher No. 1038 dated 6/21/22 - \$3,664.98

Voucher No. 1039 dated 6/30/22 - \$113,973.64

Voucher No. 1041 dated 7/7/22 - \$2,591,282.58

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

2. Contract for Whiteknact Elementary Principal

Motion by Ms. Azanero, seconded by Mr. Tsonos and carried by unanimous consent to approve the contract for the Whiteknact Elementary School Principal as submitted.

3. Stipend for EPHS Audio/Visual, Herd & Fashion Design Club Advisors

Motion by Ms. Beauchaine, seconded by Mr. Tsonos and carried by unanimous consent to approve the stipend for the new Club Advisors. The stipend in the contract is for \$749.00.

4. Anti-Bullying Policy – 2nd read

Motion by Ms. Beauchaine, seconded by Ms. Azanero and carried by unanimous consent to table the Anti-Bullying Policy .

5. Challenged Materials Policy – 2nd read

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

Mr. Monteiro reported that the following invoices have been vetted and approved by the Building Committee at their meeting on July 11, 2022.

6. Ai3 Invoices for Services

Motion by Ms. Azanero, seconded by Mr. Tsonos and carried by unanimous consent to approve the Ai3 June 2022 Invoice for Basic Services in the amount of \$29,484.68 and Extra Services in the amount of \$23,179.20 as submitted.

7. Peregrine Invoice for Services

Motion by Ms. Azanero, seconded by Mr. Tsonos and carried by unanimous consent to approve the Peregrine Group, LLC June 2022 Invoice for services in the amount of \$59,000.00 as submitted.

8. Gilbane Invoice for Services

Motion by Ms. Azanero seconded by Mr. Tsonos and carried by unanimous consent to approve the Gilbane Construction Co. June 2022 invoice for services in the amount of \$2,444,026.36 as submitted.

9. Stephen Turner, Inc. Invoice for Services

Motion by Ms. Azanero, seconded by Mr. Tsonos and carried by unanimous consent to approve the Stephen Turner, Inc. June 2022 invoice for services in the amount of \$663.50 as submitted.

10. Thielsch Engineering Invoice for Services

Motion by Ms. Azanero, seconded by Mr. Tsonos and carried by unanimous consent to approve the Thielsch Engineering June 2022 invoice for services in the amount of \$3,429.38 as submitted.

11. Construction Invoices for EPHS

Motion by Ms. Azanero seconded by Mr. Tsonos and carried by unanimous consent to approve the EPHS construction invoices for June 2022 in the amount of \$2,559,603.12 as submitted.

12. Invoices for Furniture, Fixtures & Equipment

Motion by Ms. Azanero, seconded by Mr. Tsonos and carried by unanimous consent to approve the FF&E June 2022 invoices in the amount of \$25,045.25 as submitted.

13. Uphold the Recommendation of Superintendent on Employee Suspension for 2022-2023 School Year and Termination Thereafter

Motion by Ms. Azanero, seconded by Mr. Brandle and carried by a vote of 4-1 to uphold the recommendation of the Superintendent on employee suspension for the 2022-2023 school year and termination thereafter as submitted. Mr. Tsonos voted nay.

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

XIV. Announcements – Bridgepointe Church Back to School Fair will be held on Saturday, August 20th from 9 am - 12:00 noon at Martin Middle School.

XV. Adjournment

Motion by Mr. Brandle, seconded by Ms. Azanero and carried by unanimous consent to adjourn the meeting at 9:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Sharon Corsi, Executive Assistant



Max Brandle, School Committee Clerk