
EAST PROVIDENCE SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING OPEN SESSION – September 20, 2022

I. Call to Order Open Session

The East Providence School Committee met in Open Session on Tuesday, September 20, 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 Sandra Forand.

II. Executive Session

Motion by Ms. Azanero, seconded by Ms. Beauchaine and carried unanimously to move into Executive Session in the main office conference room for the purpose of: Discussion regarding Reversal of Employee Termination Pursuant to RIGL §42-46-5(a)(1); Discussion regarding Investigative Proceeding regarding Alleged Misconduct Pursuant to RIGL §42-46-5(a)(4) and Legal Advice Related Thereto; Discussion regarding Personnel 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 7:17 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

Home School Requests – There were 62 requests to homeschool.

Approval of Minutes: August 9, 2022 Executive & Open Session School Committee Meeting

August 18 & September 1, 2022 Special School Committee Meetings

August 8 & September 1, 2022 Building Committee Meetings

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

Dr. Forand explained the requirements for homeschool acceptance. Parents need to provide the curriculum being used and provide attendance and grades at the end of the year. Homeschool students do not receive a diploma and do not walk the stage at graduation. It's a district decision if the student can participate in sports and/or activities.

V. Public Comments I – Agenda Items – Mary Nascimento, co-chair of the East Providence Local Advisory Committee for Special Education (EPLAC), explained they are a state mandated

group that provides input on special education issues to the school district. They meet on the last Wednesday of each month during the school year at Martin Middle School library at 6 pm. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 28th.

VI. Superintendent's Report

1. Student Liaison – Gayatri Buchta reported on events and activities happening at the high school since the start of school.

VII. Director of Teaching & Learning Report – Lindsey Reilly presented on the upcoming District Strategic Planning process and the vision of a graduate. There will be a September recruitment to form a 50-60 member group consisting of families, students, educators and community members. Mr. Tsonos requested an update on the collaboration with the school improvement teams.

VIII. Human Resources Report – Mark Williamson

Appointments – Katherine Truskoski, Art Teacher at EPHS, effective 2022-2023 school year; Erin Heatherston, Pre-K Special Education Teacher at ELC @ Oldham, effective 2022-2023 school year; Andrea Salvo, Gr. 2 Teacher at Silver Spring, effective 2022-2023 school year; Jaclyn Liolios, Paraprofessional at Waddington, effective 2022-2023 school year; Jennifer Mignanelli, Guidance Counselor at Riverside Middle School, effective 2022-2023 school year; Kristi Lynn Lombardo, Guidance Counselor at Riverside Middle School, effective 2022-2023 school year; Tina Lake, Paraprofessional at Martin Middle School, effective 2022-2023 school year; Miranda Jacavone, Gr. 1 Inclusion Teacher at Hennessey, effective 2022-2023 school year; Shawn Boucher, Special Education Teacher at Silver Spring, effective 2022-2023 school year; Kayla McIntyre, Gr. 1 Teacher at Silver Spring, effective 2022-2023 school year; Tracey Bradley, School Nurse at Kent Heights, effective 2022-2023 school year; Kelly Estrela, Paraprofessional at Waddington, effective 2022-2023 school year; Kathleen Good, Art Teacher at EPHS, effective 2022-2023 school year; Megan Olink, Paraprofessional at Riverside Middle School, effective 2022-2023 school year; Sarah Jones, Paraprofessional at Whiteknact, effective 2022-2023 school year; Danielle Turnbull, Paraprofessional at Waddington, effective 9/19/2022; Heather Rocha, School Nurse at Oldham, effective 9/12/2022; Theodore Kochan, Science Teacher at Riverside Middle School, effective 2022-2023 school year; Edwidge Victor, Spanish Teacher at EPHS, effective 9/6/2022; Andrew Maiato, Physical Education Teacher at Myron J. Francis, effective 9/2/2022; Harika Keskin, Math Teacher at Riverside Middle School, effective 9/6/2022; Brielle Blais, Social Studies Teacher at Martin Middle School, effective 9/6/2022; Haley Vincent, Paraprofessional at Orlo Avenue, effective 9/6/2022; William Manlove, English Teacher at Riverside Middle School, effective 9/6/2022; Dayana Henriquez Rodriguez, Spanish Teacher at Riverside Middle School, effective 9/12/2022; Tammy DeMelo, Administrative Assistant at EPHS, effective 9/14/2022; Robert Boyd, Paraprofessional at Riverside Middle School, effective 9/19/2022; and Alfred Villeneuve, IT Director for the District, effective 9/13/2022.

Resignations – Jessica Sauvageau, Pre-K Teacher (declined recall), effective 8/11/2022; Sue Mungovan, School Nurse at Oldham, effective 8/5/2022; Miranda Jacavone, Teacher (declined recall), effective 8/15/2022; Raul Iriarte-Moore, Spanish Teacher (declined recall), effective 8/15/2022; Shira Pascal, Pre-K Special Education Teacher at Oldham, effective 8/15/2022; Stacy Brown, Paraprofessional at Whiteknact, effective 8/17/2022; Shannon DosSantos, Paraprofessional at Hennessey, effective 8/22/2022; Jenna Mendonsa, Math Teacher, effective 8/27/2022; Elizabeth Patty, Science Teacher at EPHS, effective 8/19/2022; Sarah Yassine, Reading Teacher at Riverside Middle School, effective 8/13/2022; Yira Polanco, Spanish Teacher at Riverside Middle School; effective 9/9/2022; Tina Lake, Paraprofessional at Martin Middle School, effective 9/2/2022; and Evan Mitchner, Paraprofessional at Riverside Middle School, effective 9/2/2022;

Motion by Mr. Brandle, seconded by Ms. Azanero and carried by unanimous consent to accept the resignations as submitted. Ms. Beauchaine requested exit interviews anonymously. Mr. Williamson reported that he requested a reason for resignations and didn't get many responses so he sent a survey form and will share data with the Committee. He will be updating the form.

Mr. Monteiro asked about the decline of recalls. Some people didn't accept the job that was offered and some took jobs elsewhere.

Retirements – John Brito, Custodian at Hennessey, effective 8/15/2022; John Moniz, Custodian Days at Pre-K @ Martin, effective 11/4/2022; Lori Souza, Gr. 4 Teacher at Waddington, effective end of the 2022-2023 school year; Kathleen Oliver, Math Curriculum Leader at Waddington, effective end of the 2022-2023 school year; Donna Long, Gr. 5 Teacher at Waddington, effective end of the 2022-2023 school year; and Marion Panichas, Special Education Teacher at Waddington, effective end of the 2022-2023 school year.

The Committee thanked these amazing individuals for their service and for a job well done.

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

Leaves of Absence – None

Non-Renewals – None

Recalls – None

XII. Building Committee Report was moved up on the agenda. Eric Andrutis presented the OPM update. The Temporary Certificate of Occupancy issued on September 1, 2021 expires on November 1, 2022. The project is 96.9% complete based on the work in place. The project team continues to meet weekly to review outstanding issues, phasing and upcoming work. Total project budget is 92% complete. Mr. Tsonos inquired about the issue behind the high school with the 30-inch drain line that separated from the spigot. The District has hired an outside

agency to determine why this happened. Coastal Engineering is reviewing it daily and making an assessment. They will do a report on their investigation which will be shared with the Committee.

IX. Finance Report – Craig Enos reported that the district is in good financial shape heading into the new fiscal year. Families can still fill out lunch applications online at www.myschoolapps.com. The reimbursement rate from RIDE depends on the level of poverty in the community and one factor to determine it is by filling out a lunch application. An online application stays in the cloud and paper applications are kept in the business office and shredded at the end of the year. The three box trucks that were purchased have arrived and are being refurbished and should be ready in October.

X. Facilities Report – Chris Murphy gave updates on Riverside Middle School, the administration office and other projects in the district. Mr. Tsonos inquired if there was an anticipated date for a football game. No date has been set yet. The field and bleachers outside of the fenced area continue to be used. The one section where the whole is will be off limits for now. There is no appropriate lighting for the football team to play on the field.

XI. Policy Committee Report – Jessica Beauchaine
Amendment to Staff/Student Relationships Policy – This policy needed a revision: Number 18 on page 3 should read staff members should not meet with students for social purposes outside of school unless directly related to a school activity. Due to feedback received for item 18, a footnote to provide additional explanation will be added to this policy.

XII. Building Committee Report – Joel Monteiro
This item was moved up on the agenda.

XIII. Discussion Items

1. Creation of an Attendance Officer Position – Dr. Forand reported there is a need for a part time attendance officer to do residency checks and to help with attendance issues. The position will be for up to twenty hours per week with hourly pay. The police department are short staffed and aren't available to get out to homes. Dr. Forand will provide a job description and support information which will be presented to the Committee. Ms. Beauchaine asked how many students have and have not turned in their residency forms and are residents of East Providence. Dr. Forand will run a report and update the Committee.
2. Legal Representation for the MMS/Waddington Renovation Project – Mr. Tsonos is requesting the Committee put out an RFP for a specialized construction/engineering law firm regarding the Martin/Waddington renovation project to protect the taxpayers of the City as a precaution going forward. Looking for reassurance for the taxpayers to protect their interest. Ms. Azanero, who is an attorney, responded that the District does have legal

representation who specializes in contracts and if the District had to go into litigation, our legal counsel would make a recommendation to an attorney that specializes in that field. To retain an attorney in case of litigation would cost the taxpayers. Ms. Beauchaine reviewed the RIDE Necessity of Building Construction criteria which doesn't require the District to have legal representation for a renovation project.

3. Restructure IT Department – Mr. Villeneuve proposed a new reorganization/restructuring of the information technology department which would be a repurposing of positions and creating new job descriptions. The staff is doing a great job. He created an organizational chart for review and is in the process of developing a Student Intern Handbook.

XIV. Action Items

1. Bill List:

Voucher No. 1048 dated 8/25/22 - \$89,529.91
Voucher No. 1050 dated 8/31/22 - \$125,307.10
Voucher No. 1051 dated 9/9/22 - \$2,449,970.37
Voucher No. 1052 dated 9/9/22 - \$547.50
Voucher No. 1053 dated 9/13/22 - \$9,750.00

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

2. RFP for HVAC Preventative Maintenance at EPHS

Motion by Mr. Brandle, seconded by Ms. Azanero and carried by unanimous consent to approve the RFP for HVAC preventative maintenance at the high school as submitted. Mr. Enos reported that the district retained a one-year contract which is expiring. This RFP will be for a multi-year contract.

3. RFP for Synthetic Field Maintenance at EPHS

Motion by Ms. Beauchaine, seconded by Mr. Brandle and carried by unanimous consent to approve the RFP for synthetic field maintenance at the high school as submitted. This is monthly maintenance services on the two front fields and track field.

4. RFP for District Music/Band Equipment

Motion by Ms. Beauchaine, seconded by Ms. Azanero and carried by unanimous consent to approve the RFP for district music/band equipment as submitted. Through the ESSERIII grant the district is doing a refresh at the elementary and middle schools for band and chorus instruments and equipment.

5. Stipend for Executive Administrative Assistant

Motion by Ms. Beauchaine, seconded by Ms. Azanero and carried by unanimous consent to approve the stipend for the executive administrative assistant as discussed in executive session.

6. Reversal of Employee Termination

Motion by Mr. Brandle, seconded by Ms. Azanero and carried by unanimous consent to approve the reversal of employee termination as discussed in executive session.

7. Creation of an Attendance Officer Position

Motion by Ms. Azanero, seconded by Ms. Beauchaine and carried by unanimous consent to approve the creation of an attendance officer position as submitted and to be presented in duty and compensation.

Mr. Monteiro reported that the following invoices have been vetted and approved by the Building Committee at their meeting on September 19, 2022.

8. Ai3 Invoices for Services

Motion by Mr. Tsonos, seconded by Mr. Brandle and carried by unanimous consent to approve the Ai3 August 2022 Invoice for Extra Services in the amount of \$4,059.00 as submitted.

9. Peregrine Invoice for Services

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

10. Gilbane Invoice for Services

Motion by Mr. Tsonos seconded by Mr. Brandle and carried by unanimous consent to approve the Gilbane Construction Co. August 2022 invoice for services in the amount of \$1,678,509.66 as submitted.

11. Stephen Turner, Inc. Invoice for Services

Motion by Mr. Tsonos, seconded by Mr. Brandle and carried by unanimous consent to approve the Stephen Turner, Inc. August 2022 invoice for services in the amount of \$9,830.88 as submitted.

12. Thielsch Engineering Invoice for Services

Motion by Mr. Tsonos, seconded by Mr. Brandle and carried by unanimous consent to approve the Thielsch Engineering August 2022 invoice for services in the amount of \$5,701.25 as submitted.

13. Construction Invoices for EPHS

Motion by Mr. Tsonos seconded by Mr. Brandle and carried by unanimous consent to approve the EPHS construction invoices for August 2022 in the amount of \$1,757,100.49 as submitted.

14. Invoices for Furniture, Fixtures & Equipment

Motion by Mr. Tsonos, seconded by Mr. Brandle and carried by unanimous consent to approve the FF&E August 2022 invoices in the amount of \$148,271.48 as submitted.

15. IT Department Restructure

Motion by Mr. Brandle, seconded by Ms. Azanero and carried by unanimous consent to approve the restructure of the IT department as submitted.

16. Amendment to Staff/Student Relationships Policy

Motion by Ms. Beauchaine, seconded by Ms. Azanero and carried by unanimous consent to approve the amendment to the staff/student relationships policy as submitted.

17. Request for RFP for Engineering/Construction Legal Representation

Motion by Mr. Tsonos for RFP for engineering/construction legal representation. Motion failed due to lack of a second.

18. RFQ for Owners Project Manager Services

Motion by Mr. Brandle, seconded by Ms. Azanero and carried by unanimous consent to approve the RFQ for Owners Project Manager services as submitted.

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

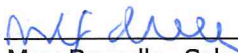
XVI. Announcements – Mr. Tsonos announced Orlo Avenue School has a calendar raffle for \$5. Ms. Beauchaine congratulated Ms. Azanero who will be getting married on Saturday. The Committee wished her the best. EPHS has a meet the teachers night tomorrow evening at 6. Silver Spring has a luau on Thursday, September 22nd. Mr. Monteiro invited a student liaison to weigh in on school committee meeting discussion items.

XVII. Adjournment

Motion by Ms. Azanero, seconded by Ms. Beauchaine and carried by unanimous consent to adjourn the meeting at 9:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Sharon Corsi, Executive Assistant


Max Brandle, School Committee Clerk