
EAST PROVIDENCE SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING OPEN SESSION – November 15, 2022

I. Call to Order Open Session

The East Providence School Committee met in Open Session on Tuesday, November 15, 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. Present: Joel Monteiro, Chair, Jessica Beauchaine, Vice Chair, Max Brandle, Clerk, Jenni Azanero and Assistant Superintendent Dr. Bowler. Charles Tsonos was absent.

II. Executive Session

Motion by Ms. Azanero, seconded by Mr. Brandle and carried unanimously to move into Executive Session in the main office conference room for the purpose of: Discussion regarding Update on Investigative Proceeding regarding Alleged Misconduct Pursuant to RIGL §42-46-5(a)(4) and Legal Advice Related Thereto; Discussion regarding Paraprofessionals' Collective Bargaining Agreement Pursuant to RIGL §42-46-5(a)(2); Discussion regarding Contract for Staff Accountant 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 7:27 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 4-0. Motion by Mr. Brandle, seconded by Ms. Azanero and carried by unanimous consent to seal the minutes.

IV. Student Liaison – Gayatri Buchta highlighted activities and upcoming events happening at the high school. Second quarter has begun and report cards go out November 16th. Parent/teacher conferences will be held Wednesday and Thursday with Thursday being an early dismissal day for students. High school students brought back the peer tutoring program to help students who are struggling academically. On Saturday computer science students will be participating in the Cyber Patriot competition which will be held at EPHS. Many school clubs and local programs are preparing to sell goods at the Christmas Bazaar on Saturday, December 3rd to help raise funds for each participating program. The high school had a very successful sock drive for Socktober, collecting over 1,500 pairs of socks. They will be moving on to a sneaker drive for November. Riverside Middle School is holding a can drive and Martin Middle School is holding a food drive to help feed the needy this month. Fall sports are coming to a close. The tennis and football teams each had their final playoff games recently, and the girls volleyball team played in the state championship last weekend. Winter sports are starting to hold sign-ups and will begin in late November.

Mr. Monteiro moved up on the agenda the EPHS student and teacher recognition under the Superintendent's report. There were two members of the East Providence Fire Department who gave recognition to Daizie DiPietro, a junior at EPHS, for her action to render medical assistance in an emergency. They presented Ms. DiPietro with a certificate of appreciation and stated that she used skills that were taught to her in the health occupation program. Mr. Monteiro presented a certificate to Ms. DiPietro for courageously taking swift action to help a person in need and to Ms. Kristina Martin for her exceptional service in preparing health occupations students to act in a real emergency.

V. Consent Agenda

Communications/Correspondence

Home School Requests – There were 11 requests to homeschool.

Approval of Minutes: October 11, 2022 Executive & Open Session School Committee Meeting
October 10, 2022 Building Committee Meetings

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 EPLAC hosted their first workshop on neurodiversity on October 26th. The next meeting will be held on November 30th at 6 pm at Martin Middle School. They are working on having more workshops.

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

VIII. Superintendent's Report

1. EPHS Student and Teacher Recognition – Student Daizie DiPietro, Teacher Ms. Kristina Martin – This was moved up on the agenda.
2. EBCAP MOU – Community Health Center – The East Providence Integrated Health Clinic Agreement was thoroughly vetted by the District's legal team. Mr. Roy from the East Bay Community Action Program stated he is looking forward to working with the district and students.
3. Attendance Officer Job Description – The job description and comparable salary throughout the districts were given in the packet for review. The position is for twenty hours per week. The Attendance Officer would serve all schools.
4. Revised 2022-2023 School Calendar
Motion by Ms. Beauchaine, seconded by Mr. Brandle and carried by unanimous consent to table this item at the suggestion of the Superintendent.

IX. Director of Teaching & Learning Report – Lindsey Reilly

1. Virtual Instructional Day Plan – Ms. Reilly presented the plan to the School Committee. This plan will be submitted for RIDE approval and allows for five virtual

learning days. Having an approved plan on file will give the Superintendent the option of calling a virtual learning day when faced with inclement weather. At the October meeting it was discussed to move forward with a plan. The district's leadership team and unions collaborated on this plan. On virtual learning days for K-12 students, three hours of synchronous instruction is required.

Motion by Mr. Brandle, seconded by Ms. Azanero and carried by unanimous consent to move up on the agenda discussion item XV.3 Facility Equity Initiative.

Mr. Bradner from Peregrine Group gave a quick overview of the RIDE program, Facility Equity Initiative, that East Providence can access. RIDE introduced this program to provide equity across the state with their buildings in the learning community. The program has been increased from four communities to ten communities which allows East Providence to apply. The application needs to be submitted by December 1st. This initiative was presented to the Building Committee on November 14th. The application would include a series of projects for Waddington Elementary, Riverside and Martin Middle Schools. This work would have to be designed on a fast-track basis and be completed by June, 2024.

X. Human Resources Report – Mark Williamson

Appointments – Elizabeth Bedard, Paraprofessional at Oldham Early Learning Center, effective 10/3/2022; Robin Leather, Resource Teacher at EPHS, effective 10/19/2022; Victoria Castle, Paraprofessional at Waddington, effective 10/25/2022; Heather MacKnight, Paraprofessional at Waddington, effective 10/31/2022; Kristen Fox-Kosowski, Social Worker at Whiteknact, effective 11/28/2022; Manuela Bernardo, Custodian, Nights at Riverside Middle School, effective 11/7/2022; Jessica Sauvageau, Kindergarten Teacher at Myron J. Francis, effective 11/18/2022; and Emily Dias, District Staff Accountant, effective 11/28/2022.

Resignations – Caryn Rickert, Library Media Specialist at Kent Heights and Hennessey, effective 11/5/2022; Katelyn Stringfellow, Paraprofessional at Hennessey, effective 10/14/2022; and Susan Tavares, Paraprofessional at Silver Spring, effective 11/3/2022.

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

Retirements – Paul Amaral, Physical Education Teacher at EPHS, effective 10/21/2022; Regina Jones, Grade 4 Teacher at Kent Heights, effective end of the 2022-2023 school year; and Julie Penha, Administrative Assistant at Orlo Avenue, effective the end of the 2022-2023 school year.

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

Leaves of Absence – None

Non-Renewals – None

Recalls – None

XI. Finance Report – Craig Enos

The finance report submitted was a summary of the fiscal year that just ended. Mr. Enos highlighted a few line items where the numbers were a bit higher than last year. All state aid has been received and took effect on July 1st. He reminded parents/guardians that it's never too late to fill out a lunch application form at www.myschool.apps.com.

XII. Facilities Report – Christopher Murphy

1. Facilities Update – Mr. Murphy reported that an agreement has been reached regarding the drain pipe repair. An enhanced drain pipe repair is being formulated and on site repairs will resume shortly. Construction work at the high school is 97.5% complete. Punch list items are being addressed on a daily basis.

Ms. Beauchaine asked if the district has the appropriate snow removal items prior to any winter storms. Mr. Murphy reported that preparation for the onset of winter months is continuing within the custodial and maintenance departments and they have been working on preparations since last August. They have been addressing heat issues in several schools with older heating systems. Three new to the district box trucks have been received. Two new Ford F-250 pick-up trucks will be delivered to the district within the next 4-6 weeks.

2. Disposal of Surplus/Obsolete Equipment

A list of school district owner equipment that are either beyond repair, unsafe to operate in their current state or obsolete was presented. The list included fifteen items which will be sold, donated or scrapped. Item #10 - locker units can be used as a fundraiser opportunity. The lockers came from the old high school weight/fitness room. Wool sewn banners can also be auctioned or used for a fundraiser.

XIII. Policy Committee Report – Jessica Beauchaine

1. Suicide Crisis Policy (1st read) – The current policy from 2007 can be deleted. A requirement of the Nathan Bruno/Jason Flatt Act is for districts to develop and adopt a policy on student suicide prevention to address procedures related to prevention, intervention and postintervention. Interventions and training will be added to this policy which needs to align with state law.
2. Updated Green Building Standards Policy – This policy has been updated to include language that for all district-wide renovation projects, replacement of any equipment that utilizes CFC or HCFC-based refrigerants and is over ten years old will be required.
3. Excessive Tardiness & Absences Policy (1st read) – This item was tabled.

XIV. Building Committee Report – Joel Monteiro gave a brief update on the high school project. The bond passed on November 8th for the Martin/Waddington projects. The high school project is still under budget and 97.4% complete based on work in place. Softball field has not been turned over yet. Work on Pawtucket Avenue with the traffic signal is still in progress. They are still in talks with the city over the water line and would like to replace the mast arm that holds three signals but can't do anything until the water line is moved. May use existing pole for signals with a longer mast arm. The sign in front of the building is a new addition and will be used for communication. Mr. Monteiro stated that there are no multiple leaks in the high school building.

XV. Discussion Items

1. 2023-2024 EPHS Program of Studies – Mr. Black presented the program of studies and highlighted several new courses at the high school and some additional new CTC programs for next year. There will be expanded electives for freshmen.
2. Paraprofessionals, Administrative Assistants & Custodians Sub Pay
Information with data for substitutes in nearby communities was included in the packet. The district is looking to maintain competitive pay for substitutes and is offering \$16 per hour for each sub position. Substitutes are not part of the union.
3. Facility Equity Initiative – This item was moved up on the agenda.

XVI. Action Items

1. Bill List:

Voucher No. 1058 dated 10/12/22 - \$659.22
Voucher No. 1059 dated 10/26/22 - \$294,295.92
Voucher No. 1060 dated 10/26/22 - \$92,540.97
Voucher No. 1061 dated 10/26/22 - \$220.50
Voucher No. 1062 dated 10/31/22 - \$300.00
Voucher No. 1063 dated 10/31/22 - \$125,448.31
Voucher No. 1064 dated 10/31/22 - \$3,256,513.68
Voucher No. 1001 dated 11/9/22 - \$157,705.45

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

2. 2023-2024 EPHS Program of Studies

Motion by Ms. Azanero, seconded by Ms. Beauchaine and carried by unanimous consent to approve the EPHS 2023-2024 Program of Studies as submitted with amendment. The address and title for Dr. Bowler will be changed at the bottom of page two.

3. Riverside Middle School Trip to Washington, D.C.

Motion by Ms. Beauchaine, seconded by Mr. Brandle and carried by unanimous consent to approve the Riverside Middle School grade 8 trip to Washington, D.C. on May 30-June 1, 2023 as submitted. Mr. Monteiro stated that these experiences and opportunities should be equitable for both middle school students.

4. Updated Green Building Standards Policy

Motion by Ms. Beauchaine, seconded by Ms. Azanero and carried by unanimous consent to approve the updated Green Building Standards Policy as submitted.

Mr. Monteiro reported that the following invoices have been vetted and approved by the Building Committee at their meeting on November 14, 2022.

5. Peregrine Invoice for Services

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

6. Gilbane Invoice for Services

Motion by Ms. Beauchaine seconded by Ms. Azanero and carried by unanimous consent to approve the Gilbane Construction Co. October 2022 invoice for services in the amount of \$752,748.06 as submitted.

7. Invoices for Furniture, Fixtures & Equipment

Motion by Ms. Beauchaine, seconded by Ms. Azanero and carried by unanimous consent to approve the FF&E October 2022 invoices in the amount of \$45,324.45 as submitted.

8. Award of Middle School/Elementary Band Instruments

Motion by Ms. Azanero, seconded by Ms. Beauchaine and carried by unanimous consent to approve the award of the middle school/elementary band equipment to three vendors, Chuck Levin's Washington Music, Music & Arts and Sweetwater Music as submitted. As part of ESSER requirements. \$100,000 was allocated.

9. Award of HVAC Services for East Providence High School

Motion by Ms. Beauchaine, seconded by Ms. Azanero and carried by unanimous consent to table this item until the December meeting.

10. Virtual Instructional Day Plan

Motion by Ms. Beauchaine, seconded by Mr. Brandle and carried by unanimous consent to approve the virtual instructional plan as submitted.

11. EBCAP Memorandum of Understanding – Community Health Center

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

12. Paraprofessionals, Administrative Assistants and Custodians Sub Pay

Motion by Ms. Azanero, seconded by Ms. Beauchaine and carried by unanimous consent to approve the substitute pay of \$16 per hour for paraprofessionals, administrative assistants and custodians as submitted.

13. Job Description for Attendance Officer

Motion by Ms. Beauchaine, seconded by Mr. Brandle and carried by unanimous consent to approve the attendance officer job description as submitted.

14. Facility Equity Initiative

Motion by Ms. Beauchaine, seconded by Ms. Azanero and carried by unanimous consent to approve the Facility Equity Initiative applications as submitted.

15. Paraprofessionals' Final Tentative Agreement

Motion by Ms. Beauchaine, seconded by Mr. Brandle and carried by unanimous consent to table this item.

16. Revised 2022-2023 School Calendar

Motion by Ms. Beauchaine, seconded by Mr. Brandle and carried by unanimous consent to table this item.

17. Award of Ball Field Netting RFP

Motion by Ms. Azanero, seconded by Ms. Beauchaine and carried by unanimous consent to approve the award of the ball field netting RFP to R.A.D. Sports of Rockland, MA for \$76,380.00 as submitted. The expense will be covered as part of the EPHS building project.

18. Contract for Staff Accountant

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

19. Disposal of Surplus/Obsolete Equipment

Motion by Ms. Beauchaine, seconded by Ms. Azanero and carried by unanimous consent to approve the disposal of fourteen surplus/obsolete equipment items without item #10 - lockers as submitted.

20. Contract for Ai3 Architects

Motion by Ms. Azanero, seconded by Ms. Beauchaine and carried by unanimous consent to approve the contract for Ai3 Architects as submitted subject to legal counsel's final review of the contract.

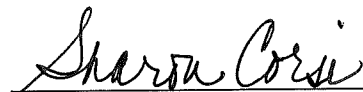
XVII. Public Comments II – Non-Agenda Items – There were no public comments.

XVIII. Announcements – Congratulations to the three School Committee members on their re-election. Enjoy the upcoming Thanksgiving holiday.

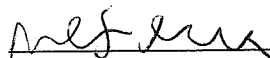
XIX. Adjournment

Motion by Mr. Brandle, seconded by Ms. Azanero and carried by unanimous consent to adjourn the meeting at 9:29 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, /



Sharon Corsi, Executive Assistant



Max Brandle, School Committee Clerk