
EAST PROVIDENCE SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING OPEN SESSION – December 13, 2022

I. Call to Order Open Session

The East Providence School Committee met in Open Session on Tuesday, December 13, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. in the auditorium at East Providence High School. Mr. Monteiro called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m. Present: Joel Monteiro, Chair, Jessica Beauchaine, Vice Chair, Max Brandle, Clerk, Jenni Azanero and Superintendent Dr. Forand. 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 Paraprofessionals' Collective Bargaining Agreement Pursuant to RIGL §42-46-5(a)(2); Discussion regarding Contract for Information Technology Coordinator 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 7:21 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 events from the high school that include the successful Townie Bazaar that was held at the beginning of December. The photography club students are now able to display their work in slideshows throughout the high school due to the more high-tech building. The Portuguese Club has been stirring up excitement for the World Cup by selling flags of participating Portuguese-speaking countries. The high school and Martin Middle School's winter concert will be this week. Ms. Lee is running the prom dress giveaway again this year and will start this Friday. Riverside Middle School students have been selected for the NJHS and have already started helping the community. The NHS at the high school is holding a coat drive and buying Christmas gifts for students at Hennessey Elementary through the Gingerbread Express program. Students are looking forward to the winter break next week. After the break, there will be other events like the winter ball, the senior project presentations and midterm exams at the high school.

V. Consent Agenda

Communications/Correspondence

Home School Requests – There were 3 requests to homeschool.

Approval of Minutes:

November 15, 2022 Executive & Open Session School Committee Meeting

November 29, 2022 Executive & Open Session Special School Committee Meeting
November 14, 2022 Building Committee Meetings

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

VI. PTO/PTA/EPLAC Reports – Mary Nascimento presented the 2021-2022 Annual Report for the East Providence Local Advisory Committee for Special Education.

VII. Public Comments I – Agenda Items – Tori Jessop shared her concerns on the science curriculum and implored the School Committee to work with the City Council to increase funding to support our students.

VIII. Superintendent's Report

1. Middle School/High School Credits – Dr. Forand clarified that middle school students do not receive any credits for high school.
2. Updated 2022-2023 School Calendar – East Providence is the only district open on January 2nd. Superintendent Forand is asking the School Committee to amend the calendar. June 20th will be the last day of school and is she is proposing that day be a ½ day of school. June 19th is a holiday.
3. Food Truck – The District is getting a food truck. RIDE is giving ten food trucks throughout the state. The culinary department is looking to get a food truck. They can customize it and use it for school events, sports games, contests and even WaterFire. It's a great opportunity for our students and should be up and running by September 2023.

IX. Director of Teaching & Learning Report – Lindsey Reilly

1. Curriculum Updates – The Virtual Learning Plan has been approved by RIDE. This now gives the Superintendent the option to call a virtual learning day if she chooses when faced with inclement weather or other emergency up to five days this school year.
2. High School math pilot. The District is currently engaged in the five part process to select high school math materials. The team reviewed the RIDE approved high school math materials from Carnegie, Illustrative and Reveal against the priorities set and selected three resources to pilot that were most aligned to these priorities. Teachers are utilizing each product in the Algebra One, Algebra Two and Geometry courses. All middle school teachers who teach Algebra One have been included in the pilot. Curriculum selection will be in January/February 2023 and will be presented to the School Committee for approval.

3. K/1 ELA curriculum. The Boston Curriculum currently used in K and grade 1 was not submitted for review and will not be in time for the RIDE required timeline. The District will transition to Wonders for K/1 for the 2023-2024 school year. K/1 will adopt Wonders 2023. Grades 2-5 are currently using Wonders 2020. A steering committee will be formed to take a new look at the ELA instructional framework (instructional minutes) to plan for a Fall 2023 launch of these materials.
4. Right to Read in the new year. This was launched in November. A new cohort was put together which our reading specialists have opted into. There will be additional proficiency training to offer to our teachers in the district.

Ms. Beauchaine is requesting that iReady reporting (hard copies) be included in the report cards and an iReady report presented in January.

X. Human Resources Report – Mark Williamson

Appointments – Katie Logan, Gr. 5 Teacher at Whiteknact, effective 11/29/2022; Christian Peloquin, Paraprofessional at EPHS, effective 11/29/2022; Ciarra Nallen, Administrative Assistant at Riverside Middle School, effective 12/19/2022; Kristin Chase, Administrative Assistant in Finance Department, effective 12/5/2022; J. Caroline Brennan, School Nurse at Martin Middle School, effective 12/5/2022; Courtney Bricault, School Nurse at EPHS, effective 12/5/2022; Alex Butler, Athletic Director for the District, effective 12/12/2022; Rebecca Paniccia, Dental Assistant Instructor at the CTC, effective 1/14/2023; and Patrick Irwin, Information Technology Coordinator, effective 11/21/2022.

Resignations – Jeannine Carreiro, Dental Assistant Instructor at CTC, effective 11/23/2022; Lisa Travassos, Paraprofessional at Waddington Elementary School, effective 11/13/2022; Kristin Chase, Paraprofessional at EPHS, effective 12/3/2022; and Sarah Jones, Paraprofessional at Whiteknact Elementary School, effective 12/7/2022.

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

Retirements – Leslie Andrade, Pre-K Teacher at Oldham, effective end of the 2022-2023 school year; Gail Ramos, Pre-K Special Education Teacher at Oldham, effective end of the 2022-2023 school year; Carol Mennucci, Social Studies Teacher at Riverside Middle School, effective end of the 2022-2023 school year; Debbie D'Arezzo, Math Teacher at Riverside Middle School, effective end of the 2022-2023 school year; Robert Traverse, Jr., Guidance Counselor at EPHS, effective 1/2/2023; and Gregg Amore, Athletic Director for the District, effective 1/3/2023.

Motion by Ms. Beauchaine, seconded by Ms. Azanero and carried by unanimous consent to accept the retirement of Leslie Andrade as submitted.

Motion by Ms. Beauchaine, seconded by Ms. Azanero and carried by unanimous consent to accept the retirement of Gail Ramos as submitted.

Motion by Ms. Beauchaine, seconded by Ms. Azanero and carried by unanimous consent to accept the retirement of Carol Mennucci as submitted.

Motion by Ms. Beauchaine, seconded by Ms. Azanero and carried by unanimous consent to accept the retirement of Debbie D'Arezzo as submitted.

Motion by Mr. Brandle, seconded by Ms. Azanero and carried by unanimous consent to accept the retirement of Robert Traverse, Jr. as submitted.

Motion by Mr. Brandle, seconded by Ms. Azanero and carried by unanimous consent to accept the retirement of Gregg Amore as submitted.

Leaves of Absence – Valarie Lawson, Social Studies Teacher at EPHS, effective 1/1/2023
Motion by Ms. Beauchaine, seconded by Mr. Brandle and carried by unanimous consent to accept the leave of absence as submitted.

Non-Renewals – None

Recalls – None

XI. Finance Report – Craig Enos

The District is one month into the new fiscal year and off to a great start. FY22 numbers are still moving and still having expenses that are being processed.

XII. Facilities Report – Christopher Murphy

Estimates and proposals are currently being gathered to complete the repair for the drain pipe behind the high school. A permanent certificate of occupancy was obtained for the high school in early December. The installation of a new roof on the administration building will begin tomorrow with the arrival of six tractor trailers full of materials. RFPs are being created to conduct extensive repairs on the chimneys at Silver Spring and Hennessey elementary schools. In the process of examining bids to replace all the windows at Riverside Middle School. There are some heating issues at almost all school facilities and are prioritized and have been addressed by the HCAV tech and maintenance employees assigned to assist.

Motion by Ms. Beauchaine, seconded by Mr. Brandle and carried by unanimous consent to move up discussion item XV.1 - Return Complete Care & Control of the old Oldham School back to the City of East Providence

Mayor DaSilva addressed the Committee and reported that the Oldham building is deteriorating and their goal is to acquire the property and turn it into a commercial incubator space to start a new business and then eventually move off site and grow. It's a great opportunity for residents in the city and it could be used as a summer camp. It can also provide opportunities

for culinary students. Mayor DaSilva also said he is very excited about the School Department getting a food truck. Dr. Forand said that the building needs to be put up to current code which will be very costly.

Dr. Forand discussed exploring the possibilities of moving eight classrooms to Waddington School down the road. Over the next five years they will be doing construction at Martin and Waddington. Silver Spring is the smallest school.

Mayor DaSilva thanked Mr. Monteiro for his ten years of service on the School Committee.

XIII. Policy Committee Report – Jessica Beauchaine

1. Suicide Crisis Policy (2nd read) – No feedback was received from the first read. The policy was reviewed by legal counsel. Some grammatical edits need to be made. Training was done for everyone over three days at the beginning of the school year. The District has a good working relationship with the police department and Dr. Forand will provide the policy to them.
2. Administration of Medical Marijuana Policy (1st read) – This policy is required by state law. Ms. Beauchaine is not sure if there is a need for it in school. Ms. Azanero asked if other school departments have implemented this policy. Mr. Monteiro stated that it is not to be in the hands of a student but will be kept with the school nurse. Field trip protocol should be included in this policy. The Superintendent will coordinate a meeting with the nurse, Ms. Azanero and Ms. Beauchaine to discuss the policy.
3. Anti-Hazing Policy (1st read) – Ms. Beauchaine would like to include the references to the policy. All staff members should be made aware of this policy.

XIV. Building Committee Report – Mr. Monteiro reported the District has the certificate of occupancy for the high school. The new drain piping has been put in place with backfill. Removing the light pole was a good decision. There is temporary lighting on Pawtucket Avenue and they continue to work with the City of East Providence to move the water pipe so the traffic light can be put up. Owner contingency is money that has not been spent and construction contingency balance is \$719,880.00 and the COVID allowance will come back to the City. The project remains under budget and has had great success with M/WBE participation at 14.5%. The District is waiting for RIDE's final approval of Stage II for the Martin/Waddington projects.

XV. Discussion Items

1. Old Oldham School – This item was moved up on the agenda.

XVI. Action Items

1. Bill List:

Voucher No. 1002 dated 11/22/22 - \$3,013.50

Voucher No. 1003 dated 11/30/22 - \$55,184.63
Voucher No. 1005 dated 12/8/22 - \$927,934.96
Voucher No. 1065 dated 10/31/22 - \$41,143.70
Voucher No. 1066 dated 10/31/22 - \$1,126,402.97

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

2. EPLAC 2022-2023 Board Members

Motion by Ms. Azanero, seconded by Mr. Brandle and carried by unanimous consent to approve the EPLAC 2022-2023 Board Members as submitted.

3. 2023 School Committee Meeting Schedule

Motion by Mr. Brandle, seconded by Ms. Azanero and carried by unanimous consent to approve the 2023 School Committee meeting schedule as submitted.

4. Award of HVAC Services for EPHS

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

5. Amendment to Peregrine Group, LLC Contract

Motion by Ms. Beauchaine, seconded by Ms. Azanero and carried by unanimous consent to approve the amendment to Peregrine Group, LLC contract as submitted. Their contract is expiring on December 31, 2022. Amendment extension was presented and approved by the Building Committee on December 12, 2022.

6. Contract for Project Management Services

Motion by Ms. Beauchaine, seconded by Ms. Azanero and carried by unanimous consent to approve the contract for project management services to Peregrine Group, LLC pending legal counsel approval. The contract was presented and approved at the Building Committee meeting on December 12, 2022.

Mr. Monteiro reported that the following invoices have been vetted and approved by the Building Committee at their meeting on December 12, 2022.

7. Ai3 Architects Invoice for Services

Motion by Mr. Brandle, seconded by Ms. Azanero and carried by unanimous consent to approve Ai3 Architects November 2022 Invoice for extra services in the amount of \$7,150.00 as submitted.

8. Peregrine Invoice for Services

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

9. Gilbane Invoice for Services

Motion by Mr. Brandle seconded by Ms. Azanero and carried by unanimous consent to approve the Gilbane Construction Co. November 2022 invoice for services in the amount of \$332,224.50 as submitted.

10. Thielsch Engineering Invoice for Services

Motion by Mr. Brandle seconded by Ms. Azanero and carried by unanimous consent to approve the Thielsch Engineering November 2022 invoice for services in the amount of \$1,440.00 as submitted.

11. Invoices for Furniture, Fixtures & Equipment

Motion by Mr. Brandle, seconded by Ms. Azanero and carried by unanimous consent to approve the FF&E November 2022 invoices in the amount of \$9,620.46 as submitted.

12. Paraprofessionals' Final Tentative Agreement

Motion by Mr. Brandle, seconded by Ms. Azanero and carried by unanimous consent to approve the Paraprofessionals' Final Tentative Agreement as submitted.

13. Suicide Crisis Policy – 2nd read

Motion by Mr. Brandle, seconded by Ms. Azanero and carried by unanimous consent to approve the second read of the Suicide Crisis Policy as submitted with grammatical edits to be made.

14. Contract for Information Technology Coordinator

Motion by Ms. Beauchaine, seconded by Ms. Azanero and carried by unanimous consent to approve the contract for the Information Technology Coordinator as submitted.

15. Updated 2022-2023 School Calendar

Motion by Ms. Beauchaine, seconded by Ms. Azanero and carried by unanimous consent to approve the amended 2022-2023 school calendar as submitted which has no school on Monday, January 2, 2023 and the last day of school on June 20th. June 20th will be a half day.

16. Updated Building Committee Membership

Motion by Ms. Beauchaine, seconded by Ms. Azanero and carried by unanimous consent to approve the updated Building Committee membership as submitted. A change of officers on the new list which includes Mr. Rodericks as a City Council member and Mr. Cahoon as a community member.

17. Return Complete Care & Control of the Oldham Building on Bullocks Point Road back to the City of East Providence

Motion by Mr. Brandle, seconded by Ms. Azanero and carried by unanimous consent to approve the return of the care and control of the old Oldham building back to the City of East Providence as submitted.

18. K-1 ELA Curriculum

Motion by Mr. Brandle, seconded by Ms. Azanero and carried by unanimous consent to approve the K-1 ELA curriculum as submitted.

19. Riverside Middle School Window Replacement Project

Motion by Mr. Brandle, seconded by Ms. Azanero and carried by unanimous consent to table this item until January per the recommendation of Mr. Enos.

XVII. Public Comments II – Non-Agenda Items

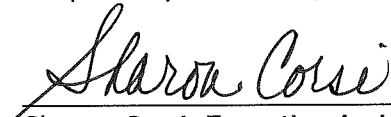
Ms. Jessop stated that she addressed the committee about nine years ago regarding the middle school grading system as it relates to reading and writing. She is confused about the sub categories in the grading system and should incorporate sub categories in elementary school.

XVIII. Announcements – Mr. Monteiro thanked everyone, the committee, the district and the voters for their support. It has been a challenge and an honor to serve for the last ten years. Each Committee member and Superintendent Forand thanked Mr. Monteiro for his service and dedication to the community.

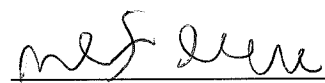
XIX. Adjournment

Motion by Ms. Azanero, seconded by Ms. Beauchaine and carried by unanimous consent to adjourn the meeting at 9:39 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Sharon Corsi, Executive Assistant



Max Brandle, School Committee Clerk