
EAST PROVIDENCE SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING OPEN SESSION – January 10, 2023

I. Call to Order Open Session

The East Providence School Committee met in Open Session on Tuesday, January 10, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. in the auditorium at East Providence High School. Ms. Azanero called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Present: Jenni Azanero, Chair, Max Brandle, Clerk, Anthony Ferreira, Ryan Queenan and Superintendent Forand. Jessica Beauchaine, Vice-Chair, was absent.

II. Executive Session

Motion by Mr. Brandle, seconded by Mr. Ferreira and, on a roll call, carried unanimously to move into Executive Session in the main office conference room for the purpose of: Discussion regarding Personnel Pursuant to RIGL §42-46-5(a)(1) and Legal Advice Related Thereto; 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)

Ms. Azanero called the meeting to order at 6:59 pm. The Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence were observed. The Chair reported that no votes were taken in executive session. Motion by Mr. Brandle, seconded by Mr. Queenan and, on a roll call, carried by unanimous consent to seal the minutes.

IV. Student Liaison – Gayatri Buchta from the high school highlighted school activities and events taking place after the winter break. The end of the second quarter ends on January 26th and students are already starting to prepare for next school year. An open house for 8th graders at both middle schools will be held on Thursday, January 12th. Also, the 8th graders visited the high school last week to explore the CTC program. Sixth graders at Martin Middle School will be taking a field trip to Providence College so they can start thinking about their future early. Middle school students will be taking the iReady mid-year tests this month. At the high school, seniors are submitting college applications. Seniors are also presenting their senior projects on Friday. Mid-terms will take place the end of January. There was a Narcan training at the high school last week. The winter ball will be held on January 20th. The art department will display their work at the art show at the high school on January 17th. Several sports teams such as the wrestling team and boys basketball team at the high school and the girls basketball team at Martin Middle School have all had several wins.

V. Consent Agenda

Communications

Home School Requests – There were 6 requests to homeschool.

Approval of Minutes:

December 13, 2022 Executive & Open Session School Committee Meeting

January 3, 2023 Open Session Special School Committee Meeting
December 12, 2022 Building Committee Meetings

Motion by Mr. Brandle, seconded by Mr. Ferreira and, on a roll call, carried by unanimous consent to approve the consent agenda as submitted.

VI. Public Comments I – Agenda Items – No public comments were received.

VII. PTO/PTA/EPLAC Reports – Mary Nascimento announced that they will have a workshop from BHDDH and ORS on Transition to Adult Services at the next EPLAC meeting on January 25 at 6 pm in the library at Martin Middle School.

VIII. Superintendent's Report

1. Facilities Update – On December 21st one sprinkler head in the high school gym was compromised when a volleyball struck the cage covering the sprinkler head. The strike caused the glass bulb/link to break which caused the discharge of approximately 600 gallons of water onto the gym floor. The cleanup was handled extremely well and there is no permanent damage to the floor.

Fluorescent lights in the Riverside Middle School hallways are being replaced with LED lighting and are 40% complete. All fluorescent lights in the administration building are being also being replaced with LED lighting. Smokestacks on Silver Spring and Hennessey are deteriorating. An RFP is being generated to tear down the tall stacks and have them rebuilt at a smaller height. Orlo and Silver Spring will be getting new windows this summer. Riverside Middle School will be getting new windows but the District needs to go back out to bid. The RFP will go before the School Committee in February. All custodians and maintenance team members will be issued chrome books for enhanced communication purposes. An in-house electrician will be performing base wiring in each school building to prepare for the new security/badge access system. Approved security upgrades are moving forward and will be completed by June 30th.

2. Hiring Update – Dr. Forand reported on the current vacancies and personnel transactions.

Appointments – Patrick Irwin, Information Technology Coordinator, effective 11/21/2022; Sarah Schneidereit, Paraprofessional at Myron J. Francis, effective 1/3/2023; Megan Black, Special Education Teacher at Myron J. Francis, effective 1/17/2023; and Sara Duarte, Dean at EPHS, effective 1/3/2023.

Resignations – Gail Gustafson, Special Education Teacher at Myron J. Francis, effective 1/7/2023; Laura Smith, Paraprofessional at EPHS, effective 12/14/2022; and April Valois, School Psychologist at Oldham and Myron J. Francis, effective 1/19/2023; and Robert Perry, Principal at Riverside Middle School, effective 1/28/2023.

Retirements – Denise Morris, Paraprofessional at EPHS, effective 12/31/2022; Marcia Vallese, Evaluation Team Leader for the District, effective the end of the 2022-2023 school year; John

Baldaia, Musical Chorus Teacher at Riverside Middle School, effective end of the 2022-2023 school year; Barbara Lardner, Art Teacher at Pre-K and Silver Spring, effective the end of the 2022-2023 school year; Cathy Cabral, MLL Teacher at Silver Spring, effective the end of the 2022-2023 school year; and Diane Bedrosian, Special Education Resource Teacher at EPHS, effective 1/19/2023.

There were no leaves of absence, non-renewals or recalls this month.

There are approximately seventeen retirements for the 2023-2024 school year and four retirements so far before the end of this school year. The District is taking recruitment measures.

3. Finance Update – A few line items were discussed – #55630 which is over due to out of district tuition. Looking at shifting other line items to make sure it is covered. Other line item #55640 is over and is also out of district tuition. Last year there were 944 students out of district. Currently there are 1,070 students in out of district placements. The District will continue to monitor that.
4. Residency Check Update - The District received 75% of residency verifications. Mark Petrella is the new part time Attendance Officer who will be starting next Tuesday. This process will be completed before the end of the school year and begin again at the start of school.

IX. Director of Teaching & Learning Report – Lindsey Reilly

1. School Accountability – The presentation on school accountability is the first report since the pandemic. Ms. Reilly gave an overview of what the components are for RI's accountability system, what measures will be used to evaluate school performance, student success measures, college and career readiness measures, how school star ratings are determined and school star rating performance levels. Each school has a link to view their individual results. Next steps for the District are guiding the development of a three-year District Strategic Plan and annual School Improvement Plan with goals and action plans to address identified areas of need, continue to focus on strengthening the instructional core/standards-based core curriculum, continue to strengthen the MTSS systems, providing all educators with training in the science of reading and structured literacy and expand the intervention strategies in reading and math.

X. Policy Committee Report – Ms. Beauchaine was unable to attend the meeting this evening. These policies will be presented at the February meeting.

1. Administration of Medical Marijuana Policy (2nd read)
2. Anti-Hazing Policy (2nd read)

Motion by Mr. Brandle, seconded by Mr. Ferreira and, on a roll call, carried by unanimous consent to table the 2nd read of the Administration of Medical Marijuana and the Anti-Hazing Policies.

XI. Building Committee Report – Dr. Forand reported that the District received Stage II approval for the Martin and Waddington projects and are currently receiving input from all stakeholders.

XII. Discussion Items

1. Additional Student Liaisons from Martin & Riverside Middle Schools – Mr. Brandle looked at other school districts. For example, Pawtucket School Department has three different students who represent three different high schools. Superintendent Forand will ask if middle school student council members want to participate as a student liaison to report on any topic and give a middle school update similar to what the high school liaison does at the School Committee meetings.
2. Communication and Transparency with East Providence Residents – Ms. Azanero stated that there is a need to have communications sent out to parents/guardians from the Superintendent to let them know what is happening when something occurs in the school buildings. Dr. Forand sends communications out through SkyAlert either by phone or email. Principals communicate to their families and send out information on a school level. The District doesn't have a city-wide blast or a social media page. The Superintendent sends out a newsletter via email/text to all SkyAlert families. Ms. Azanero asked Superintendent Forand to provide on letterhead to the School Committee a formal alert so it can be shared with East Providence residents. She currently contacts the Committee immediately by phone or text when something happens in the District. She will follow up with a formal writing. Communications and newsletters are posted to the District's website.

XIII. Action Items

1. Bill List:

Voucher No. 1006 dated 12/16/22 - \$2,108.19
Voucher No. 1007 dated 12/28/22 - \$179,441.90
Voucher No. 1009 dated 1/5/23 - \$1,380,625.54
Voucher No. 1067 dated 10/31/22 - \$195,229.55

Motion by Mr. Brandle, seconded by Mr. Ferreira and, on a roll call, was carried by unanimous consent to approve the warrants as submitted.

2. Riverside Middle School Window Replacement Project

Mr. Enos requested this item be tabled until the February meeting.

3. Award of HVAC Services for East Providence High School

Mr. Enos requested this item be tabled until the February meeting.

4. Amendment to Ai3 Architect Contract

Motion by Mr. Brandle, seconded by Ferreira and, on a roll call, carried by unanimous consent to approve the amendment to Ai3 Architect contract as submitted. Their contract expired on 12/31/22. This Amendment, starting January 1st, was approved by the Building Committee last evening for hourly services for the rest of the closeout for the high school. There will be a maximum cap of \$50,000 and when Ai3 reaches 90% of that cap, the District will be notified.

5. Contract for Ai3 Architects

Motion by Mr. Brandle, seconded by Mr. Queenan and, on a roll call, carried by unanimous consent to table this item. Mr. Enos reported that the contract will be presented at the next meeting.

6. Administration of Medical Marijuana Policy – 2nd read

Motion by Mr. Brandle, seconded by Mr. Queenan and, on a roll call, carried by unanimous consent to table this item until the February meeting.

7. Anti-Hazing Policy – 2nd read

Motion by Mr. Brandle, seconded by Mr. Queenan and, on a roll call, carried by unanimous consent to table this item until the February meeting.

Mr. Enos reported that the following invoices have been vetted and approved by the Building Committee at their meeting on January 9, 2023.

8. Ai3 Architects Invoice for Services

Motion by Mr. Brandle, seconded by Mr. Queenan and, on a roll call, carried by unanimous consent to approve Ai3 Architects December 2022 invoices for basic services in the amount of \$29,484.68 and extra services in the amount of \$6,160.00 as submitted.

9. Peregrine Invoice for Services

Motion by Mr. Brandle, seconded by Mr. Queenan and, on a roll call, carried by unanimous consent to approve the Peregrine Group, LLC December 2022 Invoice for services in the amount of \$59,000.00 as submitted.

10. Gilbane Invoice for Services

Motion by Mr. Brandle, seconded by Mr. Queenan and, on a roll call, carried by unanimous consent to approve the Gilbane Construction Co. December 2022 invoice for services in the amount of \$778,446.92 as submitted.

11. Construction Invoices for EPHS

Motion by Mr. Brandle seconded by Mr. Queenan and, on a roll call, carried by unanimous consent to approve the December 2022 construction invoices for East Providence High School in the amount of \$873,091.60 as submitted.

12. Invoices for Furniture, Fixtures & Equipment

Motion by Mr. Brandle, seconded by Mr. Queenan and, on a roll call, carried by unanimous consent to approve the FF&E December 2022 invoices in the amount of \$333,729.42 as submitted.

13. RIDE MOA for 21st Century Technology & Furniture Fund SBA Capital Fund

Motion by Mr. Queenan, seconded by Mr. Brandle and, on a roll call, carried by unanimous consent to approve the RIDE MOA for 21st Century Technology & Furniture Fund SBA Capital Fund as submitted. This MOA will enable the District to do a furniture upgrade to Riverside Middle School and purchase equipment for the technical department at the high school.

14. Resignations

Motion by Mr. Brandle, seconded by Mr. Queenan and, on a roll call, carried by unanimous consent to approve the resignations as submitted.

15. Retirements

Motion by Mr. Brandle, seconded by Mr. Queenan and, on a roll call, carried by unanimous consent to approve the retirements as submitted.

16. Leaves of Absence – There were no leaves of absence this month.**XIV. Public Comments II** – Non-Agenda Items

Chrissy Rossi spoke about EPKids, an organization which helps to get kids engaged. She has been raising money for inclusive playgrounds the last few years. She is doing a calendar fundraiser to make the playground on Vintner Avenue in Riverside handicap accessible. Each calendar is \$10 each and has many raffle prizes. Ms. Rossi can be reached at (401)481-1721.

XV. Announcements – Mr. Ferreira announced that he will not be taking his School Committee stipend.

XVI. Adjournment

Motion by Mr. Brandle, seconded by Mr. Queenan and, on a roll call, carried by unanimous consent to adjourn the meeting at 8:31 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Sharon Corsi, Executive Assistant



Max Brandle, School Committee Clerk