
EAST PROVIDENCE SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING OPEN SESSION – February 14, 2023

I. Call to Order Open Session

The East Providence School Committee met in Open Session on Tuesday, February 14, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. in the auditorium at East Providence High School. Ms. Azanero called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m. Present: Jenni Azanero, Chair, Jessica Beauchaine, Vice-Chair, Max Brandle, Clerk, Anthony Ferreira, Ryan Queenan and Superintendent Forand.

II. Executive Session

Motion by Mr. Brandle, seconded by Mr. Queenan and carried unanimously to move into Executive Session in the main office conference room for the purpose of: Discussion regarding Employee Termination Pursuant to RIGL §42-46-5(a)(1) and Legal Advice Related Thereto; Discussion regarding Contract for Systems Administration for IT Department Pursuant to RIGL §42-46-5(a)(1); Discussion regarding Contract for Principal at Riverside Middle School Pursuant to RIGL §42-46-5(a)(1); 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)

Ms. Azanero called the meeting to order at 7:19 p.m. 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 Ms. Beauchaine and carried by unanimous consent to seal the minutes.

IV. Discussion re: Employee Termination (if requested by employee to be held during public session) – No discussion was held in open session.

V. Student Liaisons – Gayatri Buchta from the high school highlighted school activities and events taking place at the high school starting with Valentine’s Day festivities.

Joshua Shanty presented from Martin Middle School – He is President of the National Junior Honor Society and shared current events from the middle school.

Janelle Albert presented from Riverside Middle School – She is President of the National Junior Honor Society and highlighted events happening there.

VI. Consent Agenda

1. Communications
2. Home School Requests – There were 12 requests to homeschool.
3. Approval of Minutes:

January 10, 2023 Executive & Open Session School Committee Meeting

January 9, 2023 Building Committee Meetings

4. Personnel:

Appointments – Kimberly Nunes, Paraprofessional at EPHS, effective 1/17/2023; Carissa Jandrositz, Guidance Counselor, effective 2/6/2023; Lisa Marshall, Special Education Teacher at Orlo Avenue, effective 2/6/2023; Kaitlyn Butterworth, Paraprofessional at ELC/Oldham, effective 11/21/2022; Tara Calandra, Paraprofessional at Myron J. Francis, effective 1/19/2023; Alyssa Cardoso, Paraprofessional at Waddington, effective 2/8/2023; Lynn Doyle, Administrative Assistant at EPHS, effective 2/6/2023; Thomas Silva, Custodian Nights at Waddington, effective 1/30/2023; Michael Sousa, Custodian Nights at EPHS, effective 1/27/2023; Patrick McDonald, Systems Administrator – IT, effective 2/6/2023; Julie Giangiulio, Principal at Riverside Middle School, effective 2/27/2023; Nataly Pimentel, Lunch/Recess Attendant at Myron J. Francis, effective 1/30/2023; Jamie Baldwin, Lunch/Recess Attendant at Hennessey, effective 2/2/2023; Teres Couto, Lunch/Recess Attendant at Hennessey, effective 2/1/2023; Ariel Fisher, Lunch/Recess Attendant at Waddington, effective 1/31/2023; Amoy Williams, Lunch/Recess Attendant at Whiteknact, effective 2/9/2023; and Anell Ibanez, Lunch/Recess Attendant at Orlo, effective 2/13/2023.

Resignations – Tammy DeMelo, Administration Assistant at East Providence High School, effective 1/17/2023.

Retirements – None

Leaves of Absence – None

Recalls – None

Non-Renewals – Science Teacher at Riverside Middle School; Math Teacher at Riverside Middle School; Resource Teacher at East Providence High School; and Math Teacher at East Providence High School.

Termination – Art Teacher

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

VII. Public Comments – Ms. Tori Jessup addressed the Committee on the I-Ready scores that were sent home today. She would like to have the District take it to the next level and offer a grade level workshop for parents to educate them on the scores and sub-categories.

VIII. PTO/PTA/EPLAC Reports – Ms. Beauchaine who is PTO president at Riverside Middle School announced that grade 8 is going to Washington this spring. A raffle fundraiser will be held every Saturday through April 1st at 2-4 pm at Broadway Lounge. The goal is to take \$100 off the price for each student. This will allow students to be able to participate in the field trip.

Mary Nascimento announced that EPLAC will be hosting a workshop on "Experience the Timeline of School Transitioning" beginning with Pre-K to Kindergarten on Wednesday, February 15th at 6 pm at Martin Middle School. Parents of students of all ages are welcome to attend. Principal Karen Rebello will be present to answer any questions. EPLAC is working on the 15th Annual Special Needs Recognition Ceremony which will be held in May.

IX. Superintendent's Report

1. Facilities Update – Severe weather negatively impacted four of the District's schools with burst pipes in three schools repaired and a minor roof repair scheduled for this week. There are still heating issues at Waddington and Whiteknact. Installing netting near the soccer field in front of the CTC. The roof on administration building is being worked on. Five bids came in for the Riverside Middle School window project and will be opened and reviewed. Recommendations will be forwarded to this Committee for approval. The District has contracted to purchase eight new AED's (automated external defibrillators). Five will be used on the newly opened athletic fields and tennis court at the high school and three will be used for traveling with middle school sports teams to away events.
2. Finance/Budget Update – Mr. Enos reported that they ended the year with a surplus of a little over \$300,000. There may be a few other things to come in but they will still have a small surplus. The District was notified of the Governor's aid proposal for next year and they may receive a decrease in funds - approximately \$600,000.00. Mr. Enos called RIDE to get the determination as to why. Enrollment was considered down and they will be reviewing enrollment from October 2022. Other factors to take into consideration is the free and reduced lunch applications and direct certifications. Families can still apply for free and reduced lunch at www.myschoolapps.com. Categorical eligibility from the state has dropped.

Facilities Equity Initiative – They applied for fourteen different projects and was awarded almost \$4m worth of projects and are eligible to receive 40.5% reimbursement on three projects. The State is advising that if they increase their MWBE to 15% they will get an extra 10% back. The District will aim for that. They achieved 14.5% for the high school project. Should hear back by end of June.

Ms. Azanero proposed having three budget workshops this year.

3. Kindergarten Registration – Registration is ongoing. There are 200 kindergarten students registered so far. Families can call Maria Rodrigues at 270-8276 to set up an appointment or come in person from 8 am -3 pm. Packets can be emailed out and returned. The registration office has made accommodations for parents who can't come in to the office.
4. EPHS Registration/Scheduling – Seniors have already picked their classes for next year. They will be looking at doing scheduling in March before students enter school. Ms. Beauchaine asked about students attending the CTC. There is an application process. Students have to fill out an application and do an essay. It is not on a first come, first serve basis. They have taken a percentage of students from out of district. It needs to be discussed with the committee to prioritize East Providence students first. The Superintendent is not involved in the selection process of students.

5. Duties & Responsibilities of School Resource Officer (SRO) – The District received the job description of the SROs from the Police department. They are law enforcement officers in the schools to keep students and staff safe. The Superintendent will be working on updating an MOU with the police department. There are two at the high school and one each at the middle schools. There is community policing at the elementary schools.
6. Special Education Program Review – This has been a goal at the beginning of the year. Pupil Personnel Director, Leslie Anderson reached out to several companies who provide this type of service – constructive feedback from someone outside the office to help with how best to service students/families and improve the program. They will do an analysis and report back to us. It will be a 22-26 week process. An RFP will be going out based on the sample provided. No details yet until we get the RFP back.

X. Director of Teaching & Learning Report – Lindsey Reilly

1. Right to Read Update – Ms. Reilly gave a brief update presentation on the RI Right Read Act which was passed in July 2019 and revised in July 2022. The law requires educators to exhibit either proficiency in or awareness of the knowledge and practices of the science of reading and structured literacy. Local Educational Agencies (LEAs) must provide professional learning for educators to support these requirements and Educator Preparation Programs (EPPs) must address these requirements within their programs of study.

XI. Policy Committee Report – Jessica Beauchaine

1. Administration of Medical Marijuana Policy (2nd read) – No feedback has been received. This policy is on the agenda for a vote. It is state law. All school districts have to have a policy and procedure in place. If a nurse isn't available to administer the medical marijuana, then a parent/guardian or parent designee will need to administer.
2. Anti-Hazing Policy (2nd read) – This will be established after policy passes. The plan is to get a policy committee back working in full force. In person meetings were better and more efficient to discuss and review policies.

XII. Building Committee Report – Ms. Azanero reported that there will be a joint meeting with the City Council next month to discuss the cost of the Martin Middle School project. Building Committee meetings are open to the public. They are held on the Monday before the School Committee meetings. The next six months will be extensive for the Martin/Waddington projects.

XIII. Discussion Items

1. Moving Martin Pre-K to Oldham School in September – Dr. Forand explained that with the breaking ground at Martin Middle School next spring there is a safety concern with construction traffic. The middle school parent drop off will be re-routed. This will allow

time to develop new traffic patterns from the beginning of school instead of changing in the middle. She is proposing to put all pre-k at Oldham in August as well as special education pre-k. They will be there for at least two years. The proposal was presented to RIDE with a map and plan. They have approved of the temporary space. Some minor construction will be required at Oldham. Preliminary conversations were held with the teachers' union about having staggered start times. She is meeting with the faculty of Pre-K teachers at Oldham. She already spoke with Melissa Read at Chartwells on the preliminary stages of this proposal. There will be additional swing space if needed for Martin students while construction is being done. Site work to begin over the summer.

XIV. Action Items

1. Bill List:

Voucher No. 1010 dated 1/17/23 - \$275.00
Voucher No. 1011 dated 1/26/23 - \$671,413.74
Voucher No. 1012 dated 1/26/23 - \$44,000.00
Voucher No. 1014 dated 2/9/23 - \$3,199,470.07
Voucher No. 1068 dated 10/31/22 - \$223.60
Voucher No. 1069 dated 10/31/22 - 204,312.57
Voucher No. 2070 dated 10/31/22 - \$140,308.85

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

2. RFP for Riverside Middle School Window Replacement Project

Motion by Ms. Beauchaine, seconded by Mr. Brandle and carried by unanimous consent to award the RMS window replacement project to Lockheed Architectural Solutions for \$4,552,000 as submitted. The exterior windows will look very similar to what is there now.

3. Award Masonry Repairs RFP

Motion by Ms. Beauchaine, seconded by Mr. Brandle and carried by unanimous consent to award the masonry repairs for chimney work at Hennessey and Silver Spring Elementary Schools to Lombardi Construction for \$131,000 as submitted. Silver Spring will be first and then Hennessey and will be completed before school starts.

4. Contract for Ai3 Architects

Motion by Mr. Brandle, seconded by Mr. Ferreira and carried by unanimous consent to approve the contract for Ai3 Architects for the Martin Middle and Waddington Elementary building projects as submitted. The contract has been reviewed extensively by legal counsel.

5. Administration of Medical Marijuana Policy – 2nd read

Motion by Ms. Beauchaine, seconded by Mr. Brandle and carried by unanimous consent to adopt the Administration of Medical Marijuana Policy as submitted. Policy will be posted to the website.

6. Anti-Hazing Policy – 2nd read

Motion by Ms. Beauchaine, seconded by Mr. Brandle and carried by unanimous consent to adopt the Anti-Hazing Policy as submitted.

Mr. Enos reported that the following invoices have been vetted and approved by the Building Committee at their meeting on February 13, 2023.

7. Ai3 Architects Invoice for Services

Motion by Mr. Brandle, seconded by Mr. Ferreira and carried by unanimous consent to approve Ai3 Architects January 2023 invoices for extra services in the amount of \$5,673.93 and reimbursable expenses in the amount of \$3,850.00 as submitted.

8. Peregrine Invoice for Services

Motion by Mr. Brandle, seconded by Mr. Ferreira and carried by unanimous consent to approve the Peregrine Group, LLC January 2023 Invoice for services in the amount of \$8,162.50 as submitted.

9. Gilbane Invoice for Services

Motion by Mr. Brandle, seconded by Mr. Ferreira and carried by unanimous consent to approve the Gilbane Construction Co. January 2023 invoice for services in the amount of \$458,133.05 as submitted.

10. Construction Invoices for EPHS

Motion by Mr. Brandle seconded by Mr. Queenan and carried by a vote of 4-1 to approve the January 2023 construction invoices for East Providence High School in the amount of \$475,819.48 as submitted. Mr. Ferreira voted nay.

11. Invoices for Furniture, Fixtures & Equipment

Motion by Mr. Brandle, seconded by Mr. Ferreira and carried by unanimous consent to approve the FF&E January 2023 invoices in the amount of \$69,985.74 as submitted.

12. EPHS DECA Field Trip to Orlando Florida

Motion by Mr. Brandle, seconded by Mr. Ferreira and carried by unanimous consent to approve the East Providence High School DECA field trip to Florida on April 20-26, 2023 as submitted.

13. Martin Middle School 8th Grade Field Trip to Boston

Motion by Mr. Brandle, seconded by Mr. Queenan and carried by unanimous consent to approve the Martin Middle School 8th grade field trip to Boston on April 26-27, 2023 as submitted.

14. RIDE School Construction MOA

Motion by Mr. Brandle, seconded by Mr. Queenan and carried by unanimous consent to approve the RIDE School Construction Memorandum of Agreement as submitted. RIDE approval for Stage II.

15. RIDE Statewide Bond/Pay-As-You-Go MOA

Motion by Ms. Beauchaine, seconded by Mr. Queenan and carried by unanimous consent to approve the RIDE Statewide Bond/Pay-As-You-Go Memorandum of Agreement as submitted.

16. RIDE School Building Authority Capital Fund MOA

Motion by Mr. Queenan, seconded by Mr. Ferreira and carried by unanimous consent to approve the RIDE School Building Authority Capital Fund Memorandum of Agreement as submitted. Facility Equity Initiatives.

17. Youth Risk Behavior Survey for EPHS and MMS

Motion by Mr. Brandle, seconded by Mr. Queenan and carried by unanimous consent to approve the distribution of the Youth Risk Behavior Survey for East Providence High School and Martin Middle School as submitted. The survey is voluntary.

18. Contract for Systems Administrator

Motion by Mr. Ferreira, seconded by Mr. Queenan and carried by unanimous consent to approve the contract for the Systems Administrator for IT as submitted.

19. Contract for Principal at Riverside Middle School

Motion by Ms. Beauchaine, seconded by Mr. Ferreira and carried by unanimous consent to approve the contract for the new Principal at Riverside Middle School as submitted.

20. RFP for Special Education Program Review

Motion by Mr. Brandle, seconded by Ms. Beauchaine and carried by unanimous consent to approve the RFP for the special education program review as submitted.

21. School Committee Sub-Committee for Teacher Negotiations

Motion by Mr. Brandle, seconded by Mr. Ferreira and carried by unanimous consent to approve the School Committee Sub-Committee for teacher negotiations as submitted. The sub-committee members are Ms. Beauchaine and Ms. Azanero.

XV. Announcements – Mr. Queenan was invited to chair the Health & Wellness Committee and will attend a follow-up on March 10th. He hopes to provide an update to the school committee bi-monthly or monthly.

XVI. Adjournment

Motion by Mr. Brandle, seconded by Mr. Ferreira and carried by unanimous consent to adjourn the meeting at 9:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Sharon Corsi, Executive Assistant



Max Brandle, School Committee Clerk