
EAST PROVIDENCE SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING OPEN SESSION – April 11, 2023

I. Call to Order Open Session

The East Providence School Committee met in Open Session on Tuesday, April 11, 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, Max Brandle, Clerk, Anthony Ferreira, Ryan Queenan and Assistant Superintendent Celeste Bowler. Jesssica Beauchaine was absent.

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 Potential Litigation Pursuant to RIGL §42-46-5(a)(2) and Legal Advice Related Thereto; and Consider & Vote on Motion to Adjourn and Convene into Public Session.

III. Reconvene in Open Session (Regular Meeting)

Ms. Azanero called the meeting to order at 6:48 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. Queenan, seconded by Mr. Ferreira and carried by unanimous consent to seal the minutes.

IV. Student Liaisons

Gayatri Buchta highlighted activities from the high school. The spring musical *In the Heights* was a very successful show. The third quarter wrapped up last week. EPHS hosted the band festival. The GSA organized a day of silence last Thursday to bring awareness of bullying of LGBT students. Spring sports has started with many victories. PSATs and SATs are scheduled for Tuesday and Wednesday after break. Ceramics program will have their annual Empty Bowls fundraiser which will raise funds for Good Neighbors. The NHS is holding their second annual paint night fundraiser. The environmental club is holding a cleanup of Crescent Park Beach for Earth Day on April 22nd. This is an opportunity for students to complete community service hours. The end of April there will be an in-school summer jobs fair. Students will be able to meet with potential employers to earn money over the summer.

Elska Keyes Alario, an 8th grade student at Riverside, highlighted activities from the middle school. The 8th grade band concert was held on March 9th, on March 25th Unified Champion Schools Plunge at Roger Wheeler Beach, March 3 Pennies for Patients fundraiser kicked off to help leukemia patients. Spring sports such as unified track, baseball and softball started up. NJHS will do a spring clean up of the Riverside Middle School grounds. Grade 8 is planning a May 30-31 Washington DC field trip.

V. Consent Agenda

1. Communications

2. Home School Requests – There were four requests to homeschool.

3. Approval of Minutes:

March 22, 2023 Executive & Open Session School Committee Meeting
March 13, 2023 Executive & Open Session Building Committee Meetings
March 28, 2023 Building Committee Meeting (MMS/Waddington)

4. Personnel:

Appointments – Krystina Nicholas, Paraprofessional at EPHS, effective 3/27/2023.

Resignations – Shannon Barnowski, Social Studies Teacher at Riverside Middle School (LOA), effective end of the 2022-2023 school year; and Jennifer Randall, Math Curriculum Leader at Myron J. Francis (LOA), effective end of the 2022-2023 school year.

Retirements – Deborah Ormerod, Department Chair, Special Education at EPHS, effective end of the 2022-2023 school year; and Demitra Wilder, Speech Pathologist at Martin Middle School, effective end of the 2022-2023 school year.

Leaves of Absence – None

Recalls – None

Non-Renewals - None

5. Bill List

- Voucher No. 1019 dated 3/28/23 - \$155,059.93
- Voucher No. 1021 dated 4/5/23 - \$2,290,078.78
- Voucher No. 1074 dated 10/31/22 - \$16,125.00

6. East Providence High School Math Curriculum

7. Invoices for Services

- Ai3 Architects Extra Services – March 2023 - \$960.00
- Peregrine Group, LLC – March 2023 - \$6,381.25
- Gilbane Construction – March 2023 \$148,717.63 and \$51,668.62
- Construction – March 2023 \$207,727.50
- Furniture, Fixtures & Equipment for EPHS - \$101,362.00

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

VI. Public Comments – The following email was received on April 6, 2023.

School Committee Members, Superintendent Forand, Ms. Corsi,

With the recent airing on WPRI TV, of concerns by School Committee member Anthony Ferreira regarding the high school, I am compelled to voice my concerns as well. As a resident and taxpayer of East Providence I am very disheartened by these recent events. There is zero transparency with existing issues at the high school as well as any school in this district. The residents are told nothing of issues, costs and plans on rectifying any issues yet we are expected to just dish out money without question. We pay your salaries and we elected some of you to be OUR VOICE. I have also noticed meeting agenda's no longer have "public Comment With Discussion" at which point the public can voice concerns and receive a reply from School Committee members. This is in effect an attempt to silence residents. My

concerns are the very real construction and cosmetic deficiencies not only at the high school but all schools in this district. From playgrounds in disrepair to concrete walkway issues. The zero tolerance policy on bullying are words on paper. Policy is not followed and lacks protection for the student that is bullied. All too many times I am told about children being bullied, complaints are filed, and nothing is done to protect these children. The bullying continues regardless of the zero tolerance policy. In my opinion, things need to change. The lack of transparency is unacceptable. Regards, Lynn Miller

VII. PTO/PTA/EPLAC Reports – There were no reports.

VIII. Superintendent's Report

1. Facilities Update – Mr. Murphy reported that after five months of proposals and planning with the OPM and the construction management firm, the high school Building Committee is prepared to recommend to the School Committee that they move forward with the current agreed upon repair plan. This plan, barring any unforeseen circumstances or weather-related issues, will result in the substantial completion of the 30" drain line repair on or about mid to late June. This will include the resetting of the Musco light pole on its existing base. The window replacement plan at Riverside Middle School is moving forward. Contractors have already been on site for the past two weeks assessing and planning. Substantial completion is scheduled for September 2024. The window replacement projects for Orlo and Silver Spring Elementary Schools are slated to begin as soon as school is dismissed for the summer. The turnover of the old Oldham School from the School Department to the City is complete. The grand opening of the Townie Pride Food Pantry happened last week. The food pantry, funded and supported by Stop & Shop and We Share Hope, is fully stocked and ready for business. It is housed in the culinary arts kitchen in the old Career & Tech Center, which is now the School Department Administration Offices.
2. Finance Update – Mr. Enos reported that the District is in good financial shape for the current fiscal year.

Motion by Mr. Brandle, seconded by Mr. Queenan and carried by unanimous consent to move up the Building Project Update under X. Building Committee Report.

Anne DaSilva, Senior Project Manager at Peregrine, presented the proposed schematic design for the Stage II submission to RIDE. She explained the process for the Construction Manager at Risk and Commissioning Agent recommendations for the Martin Middle School project. She also went through the approved total project budget.

Justin Thibeault from Ai3 Architects went over the project schedule. They are moving into the Stage III portion of the project. There will be two submissions for RIDE Stage III schematic design. Design development submission on May 26, 2023, Stage III 90% CD submission on October 10, 2023 and 100% construction documents on November 30, 2023.

Mr. Queenan requested historical data of enrollment at Martin. Mr. Ferreira requested a report on the fields at MMS. There are currently 212 parking spaces with an additional fifty-three parking spaces being added. Parking options are still being worked on.

IX. Policy Committee Report – Jessica Beauchaine

1. Updated Purchasing & Bidding Policy – 1st read

This policy was reviewed by the Director of Finance, Superintendent Forand and School Committee Chair. The language is being updated.

X. Building Committee Report - This was moved up on the agenda.

1. Building Project Update

XI. Action Items

1. Construction Manager at Risk for Martin Middle School Project

Motion by Mr. Brandle, seconded by Mr. Queenan and carried by unanimous consent to approve the CMaR for the Martin Middle School project recommended by the Building Committee as submitted.

2. Commissioning Agent for the Martin/Waddington Projects

Motion by Mr. Queenan, seconded by Mr. Brandle and carried by unanimous consent to approve the Commissioning Agent for the Martin Middle School project recommended by the Building Committee as submitted.

3. EPSD FEI – Ai3 Amendment No. 4

Motion by Mr. Brandle, seconded by Mr. Ferreira and carried by unanimous consent to approve the EPSD Facility Equity Initiative – Ai3 Amendment No. 4 which is for additional work associated with Riverside Middle School FEI projects: Library media center upgrades and renovations; and upgrades and renovations to six of the eight science classrooms as submitted. The District received \$4m from RIDE to upgrade. Ai3 added their services for the library media center and science classrooms. Reimbursement will come from housing aid each June.

4. Stage III Schematic Design for Submittal to RIDE-SBA

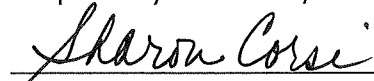
Motion by Mr. Brandle, seconded by Mr. Queenan and carried by unanimous consent to approve the Stage III Schematic Design for Submittal to RIDE-SBA as submitted.

XII. Announcements – Please contact Principals for operating hours of the newly opened Townie Pride Food Pantry. Any family that would like to come in to pick up food at no cost is welcome to do so. The Pantry is located behind the district office at 1998 Pawtucket Avenue.

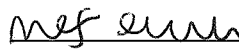
XIII. Adjournment

Motion by Mr. Brandle, seconded by Mr. Queenan and carried by unanimous consent to adjourn the meeting at 7:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Sharon Corsi, Executive Assistant



Max Brandle, School Committee Clerk