
**EAST PROVIDENCE SPECIAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
OPEN SESSION – April 27, 2023**

I. Call to Order Open Session

The East Providence School Committee met in Open Session on Thursday, April 27, 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, Jessica Beauchaine, Vice-Chair, Max Brandle, Clerk, Anthony Ferreira, Ryan Queenan and Superintendent Sandra Forand.

II. Executive Session

Motion by Mr. Queenan, seconded by Mr. Ferreira and 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.

III. Reconvene in Open Session (Regular Meeting)

Ms. Azanero called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence were observed. The Chair reported that no votes were taken in executive session except to reconvene in open session. Motion by Ms. Beauchaine, seconded by Mr. Queenan and carried by unanimous consent to seal the minutes.

IV. Consent Agenda

1. **Communications**
2. **Home School Requests** – There were six requests to homeschool.
3. **EPHS Pro Start Nationals Competition Field Trip to Washington**
4. **Updated Purchasing & Bidding Policy – 2nd read**
5. **School Committee By-Laws – 2nd read**
6. **RFP for Oldham Classroom Re-Configuration**
7. **RFP for Medicaid Billing Services**

Motion by Mr. Brandle, seconded by Mr. Queenan and carried by unanimous consent to remove #7 RFP for Medicaid Billing Services from the consent agenda.

Ms. Beauchaine would like to have RFPs placed under discussion items.

Motion by Mr. Brandle, seconded by Mr. Ferreira and carried by unanimous consent to remove #6 RFP for Oldham Classroom Re-Configuration from the consent agenda and move it under action items.

Ms. Beauchaine proposes to move the placement of public comments on the agenda so people have an opportunity to comment.

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

V. Public Comments – There were no public comments.

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

VII. Superintendent's Report

1. CTC Update – Fashion Design is a new pathway for the 2023-2024 school year. Offering beginner, intermediate and advanced courses including authentic work-based learning experiences as part of the school's enterprise, the Townie Boutique. Submitting an application for a full plan approval to RIDE this year.

The Automotive program continues to expand. This year a partnership with WIT Transmissions offered a full-day seminar for students. Also this year, the automotive program partnered with Anderson Motors who brought an electric bus to the shop providing training on electric vehicle maintenance and repair. Anderson offered summer employment to three 11th graders with an option to continue into co-op for next school year.

The Culinary Program is busy preparing for its new food truck. EPHS CTC is first in line that will be receiving a truck under the RIDE's Menu for Success initiative. The truck has been purchased and is being outfitted with kitchen equipment. The theme of the truck will be supported by students from other programs. Auto and Electrical students will have opportunities to service the truck which Graphics students will design images for the exterior wrap. Debut of the truck will take place at one of the RIDE events (Water Fire for teachers in the fall 2023).

Health occupations expanded their co-op opportunities at RI Hospital which allowed twelve Pre-Nursing II 12th grade students to complete their 40-hour clinical experience at the hospital. The clinical experience is part of the RIDOH requirement for a Nurse's Assistant Certification (CNA). This will be the first time in EPHS history that students will graduate as CNAs. The Dental program partnered with RIDOH which brought an Oral Health Workforce Grant. This year the main focus was to increase recruiting into the dental assisting program. The grant funded a Dental Assisting after school program for EP middle school students.

All programs are full with close to 450 applicants. The District accepted twenty-four out-of-district students. Students from East Providence were accepted first. The Barrington Times ran an article last week featuring the career and technical educational movement in Rhode Island. In this article, East Providence High School is recognized as a leader in the State in Career and Technical Education.

2. Instructional Coaching Positions – The Superintendent requested approval to create new instructional coach positions to support curriculum work, new teachers, SEL, provide PD after school and during the summer and to support teachers and principals in the classroom. The District currently has coaching positions that focus on specific subjects. There is one math coach, one literacy coach and a SEL Specialist. They are looking at supporting instructional practices in the district. A job description was shared with the Committee. The only change in the job description is the qualifications. Some coach positions are in the budget and some are grant funded. These positions need to be posted and all coaches are eligible to bid on them.

VIII. Director of Finance Report

1. East Providence FY21 Audit Report – Mr. Enos reported that the FY21 audit was completed by CliftonLarsonAllen, LLP dated April 11, 2023 for FY ended October 31, 2021. The fourth and final payment from the Due to/Due From will be coming this July.

IX. Policy Committee Report – Jessica Beauchaine

1. School Buildings Visitation Policy/Protocol – 1st read

JA asked legal counsel for a policy on visitation for the school buildings. For the last four years, tours have been given to the high school. Mr. Brandle suggested to add to the policy that school committee members should wear a badge/ID when visiting schools. JB said that this is not a policy for school building inspections. JA said this just says what inspections can be. Should there be clarification to do an attachment what it would not include like events like parent/teacher conferences, sporting events. JB understands the need for this policy.

AF said this policy is based on him and will continue to do it until someone takes him to court.

JA said SC cannot dictate what employees do. Limitation on management aspect and role of a SC member. No SC member should be barred. Be mindful of boundaries.

AF reported that he does not enter buildings during education hours and never asked a custodian to open the building at midnight.

Will get clarification of TITLE XVI.

X. Discussion Items

1. Updating Dress Code under the Code of Student Conduct – Ms. Beauchaine met with SHOUT last year and Martin Middle School's student council. She has been trying to update and change the dress code for six years. A survey was sent out to teachers at the high school for their input on the dress code and phone use. Students were also able to give their input. The language in the policy will be reviewed so it reflects a more positive message. They may include images in the dress code policy. The District has put together a committee to work on this.

2. Adding a Phone Use Code under the Code of Student Conduct – Students proposed ideas for cell phone use in the classroom. A survey was sent out to students and two hundred responses were received. A committee has been put together and feedback will be shared with the School Committee.

3. Increasing Student Input with the School Committee – Mr. Brandle offered several ideas to increase student input with the Committee and get more feedback from them. Some ideas were offering students to get community service hours for attending a school committee meeting; advisory committee between a group of students between grades 5-12 to speak with school committee members or the Superintendent; emailing the school committees' contact information for the high school students, update the district website; work closer with student liaisons to get more involved; and send videos of school committee meetings to students.

School Committee members can also attend school events and PTO meetings to engage with students/families.

4. Student and/or Staff Recognition at School Committee Meetings – Mr. Brandle suggested having an as needed agenda item for student/staff recognition who are exceeding expectations and are doing great things.

XI. Action Items

1. Creation of Instructional Coaching Positions

Motion by Ms. Beauchaine, seconded by Mr. Brandle and carried by unanimous consent to approve the creation of instructional coaching positions as submitted, as long as the budget allows.

2. East Providence FY21 Audit Report

Motion by Mr. Brandle, seconded by Mr. Queenan and carried by unanimous consent to approve the East Providence FY21 audit report as submitted.

3. RFP for Oldham Classroom Re-Configuration

Mr. Enos reported that they will be moving the preschool program at Martin over to Oldham and constructing some walls in the library space and the same within the gymnasium/cafeteria space. The RFP will be posted after approval.

Motion by Ms. Beauchaine, seconded by Mr. Brandle and carried by unanimous consent to approve the RFP for Oldham classroom re-configuration as submitted.

XII. Announcements – Marc Furtado announced they had a Charter Review Commission meeting and are trying to solicit from the public. They are going through sections in the charter. If anyone has any items to review or consider, they can be placed on their agenda.

XIII. Adjournment

Motion by Mr. Brandle, seconded by Mr. Queenan 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