
EAST PROVIDENCE SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING OPEN SESSION – May 9, 2023

I. Call to Order - Open Session

The East Providence School Committee met in Open Session on Tuesday, May 9, 2023 at 6:30 p.m. in the auditorium at East Providence High School. Ms. Furtado called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m. Present: Jenni Furtado, Chair, Jessica Beauchaine, Vice Chair, Max Brandle, Clerk, Anthony Ferreira, Ryan Queenan and Superintendent Dr. Forand.

II. Student Liaisons

Gayatri Buchta highlighted activities from East Providence High School. This is her final school committee meeting this year and her last day of school is next week. She introduced Junior, Nathan Tavares, who will take over in June and next school year. There are a ton of events for the end of the school year, especially seniors. Yearbooks are going out. The band banquet and senior athletic banquet are coming up. Awards night, class night and NHS award night will be before the end of the year. The NHS is taking an end of the year field trip to Boston. The junior/senior prom is another major event coming up on May 20th. On the morning of June 2nd, seniors have the opportunity to tour their old middle schools and see their teachers and principal one final time. Graduation is on June 2nd at Pierce Field. In sports they had a good spring season. Students and the Day One program held assemblies addressing school culture and sexual harassment. The student art and fashion show will be held on May 18 at EPHS. There will also be a student art show on Mother's Day at Hunt's Mills with the East Providence Historical Society. Hoping for a good turnout at the student blood drive on Thursday.

Joshua Shanty highlighted events from Martin Middle School. He is President of the NJHS at Martin. Unified basketball season has wrapped up. Spring sports season is underway. Spring band concert happened this past week. May 17th is the spring chorus concert. NJHS induction ceremony will be held on June 1st and the talent show is on June 9th. They had an overnight field trip to Boston in April.

Janelle Albert highlighted events from Riverside Middle School. She is President of the NJHS at Riverside. Finished RICAS testing and participated in raffle. Unified basketball season came to an end on Friday. There will be a spring band performance on May 18. Their DC trip on is on May 31st. June 5 will be the 7th grade induction ceremony. The 8th grade awards will be held on June 8.

Motion by Mr. Brandle, seconded by Mr. Queenan and carried by unanimous consent to move up No. 4 of the consent agenda, Retirements.

Retirements – Valarie Lawson, Social Studies Teacher at EPHS, effective end of the 2022-2023 school year and Fatima Avila, Principal at Silver Spring, effective 8/15/2023.

III. Consent Agenda

1. Communications

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

3. **Approval of Minutes:**

April 11 2023 Executive & Open Session School Committee Meeting
April 10, 2023 Executive & Open Session Building Committee Meetings
April 27, 2023 Special School Committee Meeting
April 24, 2023 Negotiations Subcommittee Meeting

4. **Personnel:**

Appointments – Kayla Lubo, Administrative Assistant to the Principal at Martin Middle School, effective 4/26/2023; Kyle Desmarais, Volunteer – Boys Tennis, effective 2023 Spring Season; Nicole Tvrdik, Paraprofessional at Silver Spring, effective 5/8/2023; and Kassidy Gustafson, Grade 5 Teacher at Whiteknact, effective 4/27/2023.

Resignations – Amanda Corrente, Music Teacher at Myron J. Francis and Pre-K, effective 5/6/2023.

Retirements – Valarie Lawson, Social Studies Teacher at EPHS, effective end of the 2022-2023 school year and Fatima Avila, Principal at Silver Spring, effective 8/15/2023.

Leaves of Absence – None

Recalls – None

Non-Renewals – None

5. **Bill List**

- Voucher No. 1022 dated 4/26/23 - \$118,439.45
- Voucher No. 1024 dated 5/2/23 - \$585.90
- Voucher No. 1025 dated 5/4/23 - \$3,948,039.05

6. **Invoices for Services**

- Ai3 Architects Extra Services – April 2023 - \$2,982.50
- Peregrine Group, LLC – April 2023 - \$9,850.00
- Gilbane Construction – April 2023 \$313,810.54
- Construction – April 2023 \$326,193.04

7. **Electronic Waste Recycling (E-Waste) Pickup List**

Motion by Mr. Brandle, seconded by Mr. Queenan and carried by unanimous consent to approve the consent agenda as submitted, including item #4.

IV. Public Comments

1. Chrissy Rossi asked the Committee to abandon the School Buildings Visitation Policy discussed at the last meeting. Under Title XVI School Committee members have the right to walk into any school building, especially for safety reasons.
2. Ben Nascimento announced that there will be a unified basketball game at 4:30 on Thursday at the high school. The game will be live streamed. If they win, the State championship is on Saturday at 12:30 pm at Hendricken High School.
3. Isaiah Jean-Louis, a 12th grade student at EPHS, addressed the Committee regarding the student handbook. He asked if it is fair and just to students in school. Dr. Forand responded that a survey went out and they are currently looking at the dress code and

outdated policies and getting student feedback and making changes. A committee has been formed. Any additional changes can be emailed to Dr. Forand and she will come to the classroom to speak about it.

4. Tori Jessup-Crowley addressed the Committee on where to put the public comments on their meeting agenda and suggested to put it before the action items. She asked for information on the middle school grading system and hasn't received a response. She would like to have parent workshops on how to better understand test scores to help their child. She also advised to get funding from Mayor DaSilva and the City Council.

Motion by Mr. Ferreira, seconded by Ms. Beauchaine and carried by unanimous consent to move up item VIII. Building Committee Report.

1. Ai3 Architects Presentation – Anne DaSilva introduced the Ai3 team. They are giving a presentation that was the same as the one for the Building Committee on May 8th. They are seeking approval and consent to submit the RIDE State III schematic design for track 1 only on May 9th. Justin Thibeault, Andrew Cunneen and Jonathan Quell presented the project schedule and design layout for Martin Middle School, Waddington Elementary School and renovations to Riverside Middle School. Ms. DaSilva went through the total project budget. The Waddington submission to RIDE is similar to Martin but on a smaller scale. Several FEI applications for Riverside were submitted to RIDE. Schematic design submission is this month. They have an accelerated schedule for RMS.

Motion by Mr. Brandle, seconded by Mr. Queenan and carried by unanimous consent to move up action items #1, 2 & 3.

V. PTO/PTA/EPLAC Reports – Tori Jessop-Crowey from EPLAC announced that the 15th Annual EPLAC Recognition Night is tomorrow evening at 6 pm. She reported that emails are going to EPLAC via Mary Nascimento. They need help and have asked IT for assistance.

VI. Superintendent's Report

1. Staff Recognition – The Chair gave a shout out to Coach Tom Galligan who was inducted into the Rhode Island Wrestler's Hall of Fame for 2023. He is also a construction teacher at the CTC. He was unable to attend the meeting but was very grateful to be honored.
2. 2023 Teachers of the Year – Today was a celebration for the District's teachers of the year. Keith Anderson at EPHS/CTC; Kristyn-Anne Pinheiro at Riverside Middle School; Jodie Audet at Martin Middle School; Kimberly Sherman at Myron J. Francis; Rebekah Vieira at Hennessey; Regina Jones at Kent Heights; Nicole Cram at Orlo Avenue; Kristen Johnson at Pre-K; Abigail Jaffa at Silver Spring; Jalyn Alves at Waddington; and Raffi Rachdouni at Whiteknact. The District's 2023 Teacher of the Year is Kristyn-Anne Pinheiro from Riverside Middle School.
3. Facilities Update – Requests for bids have been publicly posted for the small construction project at Oldham School in preparation for teachers moving out of Marin Pre-K. Windows were delivered to Silver Spring and Orlo in preparation for the window replacement

projects slated to begin on June 21. The large, long cluttered storage area in Martin Middle School has been cleaned out in preparation for long and short term storage of teacher materials. The replacement "Remembrance Plaque" for Scott Gorham was installed in a ceremony at the high school tennis courts on May 3.

Mr. Ferreira requested the contract for the RMS window replacement project.

4. Finance Update – Dr. Forand reported that line item #55650 FY23 expenditures column is the same as last year. It is now the actual amount for out of district tuition. In state tuition is higher and will be adjusted. They continue to see an increase in students for out of district placements. She will continue to update the Committee.

VII. Director of Teaching & Learning Report

Ms. Reilly gave a brief update on the District's Strategic Plan and how they have come to develop the Plan. They will submit to RIDE on June 1, 2023. The School Improvement Plan will be submitted on July 1, 2023. She will share the completed document.

VIII. Building Committee Report – This report was moved up on the agenda.

IX. Discussion Items

1. Student and/or Staff Recognition at School Committee Meetings – They will propose to have a system for the upcoming school year. People can be recognized on an optional basis. A staff newsletter goes out monthly to give people an opportunity to recognize people who are exceeding expectations in the district and will have a shout out in the newsletter.
2. 2023-2024 School Calendar – Informed by RIDE that there is no mechanism for ½ days. Half days have been removed from the calendar for next year. We just found out that there will be a primary day on September 5th and a special election on November 7th. The Canvassing department is asking for one school to use for polls. They are working on looking at different locations for voting and will let us know as soon as possible. Dr. Forand hopes to avoid closing schools for two days.

X. Action Items

1. Waddington Elementary School Stage III Schematic Design Approval for Submittal to RIDE-SBA.

Motion by Mr. Ferreira, seconded by Mr. Brandle and carried by unanimous consent to approve the Waddington School Stage III schematic design for submittal to RIDE-SBA as submitted.

2. Riverside Middle School Facility Equity Initiative Schematic Design Submission for Submittal to RIDE-SBA

Motion by Mr. Ferreira, seconded by Mr. Brandle and carried by unanimous consent to approve the Riverside Middle School FEI schematic design submission for submittal to RIDE-SBA as submitted.

3. Riverside Middle School Facility Equity Initiative Proposals (OPM)

Motion by Mr. Ferreira, seconded by Mr. Brandle and carried by unanimous consent to approve the Riverside Middle School FEI Proposals (OPM) as submitted.

Ms. Beauchaine stated Waddington is still in need of a gymnasium and needs square footage .

4. School Buildings Visitation Policy/Protocol – 2nd read

Motion by Mr. Queenan, seconded by Mr. Ferreira and carried by unanimous consent to table this item.

5. Revised 2023-2024 School Calendar

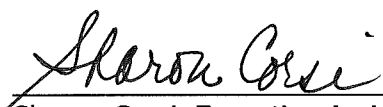
Motion by Mr. Brandle, seconded by Mr. Queenan and carried by unanimous consent to approve the revised school calendar for 2023-2024 as submitted. Any additional changes will be brought before the Committee.

XI. Announcements – The computer acceptable use policy was in the School Committee packet. It will be added for a discussion on the next agenda. The next meeting will be held on June 13th. No second meeting during the month of May.

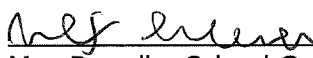
XII. Adjournment

Motion by Mr. Brandle, seconded by Mr. Ferreira and carried by unanimous consent to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Sharon Corsi, Executive Assistant



Max Brandle, School Committee Clerk