
EAST PROVIDENCE SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING OPEN SESSION – June 13, 2023

I. Call to Order - Open Session

The East Providence School Committee met in Open Session on Tuesday, June 13, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. in the auditorium at East Providence High School. Ms. Furtado called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Present: Jenni Furtado, Chair, Jessica Beauchaine, Vice Chair, Max Brandle, Clerk, Anthony Ferreira, Ryan Queenan, Superintendent Dr. Forand and Assistant Superintendent Dr. Bowler.

II. Executive Session

Motion by Mr. Queenan, seconded by Mr. Brandle and carried unanimously to move into Executive Session in the main office conference room for the purpose of: Discussion regarding Administrator's Separation 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. Furtado called the meeting to order at 6:19 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 Mr. Queenan and carried by unanimous consent to seal the minutes.

IV. Student Liaisons

Nathan Tavares highlighted end of the year activities at East Providence High School. Nathan is the current Vice President of the Portuguese Club, Vice President of Service of the National Honors Society and member of the golf team. He is involved in the EP community and working as a coordinator of the Mayor's summer youth program and as a staff member at Crescent Park Carousel. The health occupations program hosted another successful blood drive. They held a fashion and art show. The CTC awards ceremony recognized students who successfully completed their respected technical programs. The social studies department held a voter registration drive for juniors and seniors. There was a junior and senior prom. Class Night recognized junior and senior students who excelled academically. There was an athletics banquet. Seniors were able to walk the halls of their middle school for one last time before graduation. Graduation was a momentous night. Final exams will conclude on Friday.

Joshua Shanty highlighted end of the year events at Martin Middle School. Joshua is an 8th grade student at Martin and President of the MMS Chapter of the NJHS. Spring athletic teams completed their seasons with much to be proud of. The MMS chorus had their Spring chorus concert on May 17th. On June 1st NJHS members were inducted in a ceremony. 8th grade

awards night was celebrated on June 7th. For the final week of school there are field days and spending time with friends and completing all academic work.

Aurora Hofstetter highlighted year end events at Riverside Middle School. Aurora is Vice President of the NJHS at RMS. Riverside Middle School accomplished so much this past year: More than 3,000 canned goods were donated, 100 gifts and planted flowers were given to the residents of Waterview Villa, money was raised for the American Heart Association and more than 300 pairs of socks for Socktober were donated. The 8th graders attended a three-day trip to Washington, DC to explore the history and heritage of the USA. Several 7th graders were inducted into the NJHS last week. The 8th grade attended their awards ceremony last Wednesday. The Viking Awards ceremony for 8th graders was held today. Mr. Brian Petsch received the Golden Apple award for his amazing work as a leader at Riverside. The 8th graders finished off their year with a dance at the Riviera Restaurant. They will participate in an outing at Kendbrin for outdoor fun.

V. Consent Agenda

1. Communications

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

3. Approval of Minutes:

May 9, 2023 Open Session School Committee Meeting

May 8, 2023 Building Committee Meetings

June 8, 2023 Negotiations Subcommittee Meeting

4. Personnel:

Appointments – Michael Ashby, Psychologist for the District, effective 2023-2024 school year; Ellen McGovern, Administrative Assistant at Orlo, effective 8/16/2023; Skyler Cahir, Paraprofessional at Whiteknact, effective 5/30/2023; Alexandra Guertin, Pre-K Teacher at Oldham Pre-K, effective 2023-2024 school year; and Emma Lennon, English Teacher at Martin Middle School, effective 2023-2024 school year.

Resignations – Christopher Audette, Principal at Whiteknact, effective 3/8/2023; Nanci Potemri, English Teacher at EPHS, effective 5/18/2023; Kathleen Good, Art Teacher at EPHS, effective end of the 2022-2023 school year; and Erin Stevenson, Social Studies Teacher at EPHS, effective end of the 2022-2023 school year.

Retirements – Marianne Walsh, Special Education Department Head 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. 1026 dated 5/10/23 – \$2,186.00
- Voucher No. 1027 dated 5/23/23 - \$128,277.03

- Voucher No. 1028 dated 5/23/23 - \$1,250.00
- Voucher No. 1029 dated 5/23/23 - \$2,730.00
- Voucher No. 1030 dated 5/25/23 - \$761.20
- Voucher No. 1031 dated 5/30/23 - \$920.00
- Voucher No. 1033 dated 6/8/23 - \$4,352,036.78

6. Invoices for Services

- Ai3 Architects Extra Services – May 2023 - \$29,575.00
- Peregrine Group, LLC – May 2023 - \$6,337.50
- Construction – May 2023 \$282,632.34
- FF&E – May 2023 \$82,150.84

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

VI. PTO/PTA/EPLAC Reports – Mary Nascimento reported that the last EPLAC meeting was held on May 26th and meetings will resume in September. A survey will be sent out to parents over the summer to see if the dates and times are good. They are looking for a new Chair and Co-chair in the fall.

Motion by Mr. Brandle, seconded by Mr. Ferreira and carried by unanimous consent to move up the Discussion Item #1 Unified Basketball Recognition.

The Unified basketball team were recognized for securing a state championship victory over Chariho. Team members are Marin Bessette-Warwick, Jayden Delgado, Kyanna Burgo, Josh Harris, Lily Johanson, PJ Kochan, Shane Lavin, Ethan Medeiros, Erin McLaughlin, Brett Nadrowski, Ben Nascimento, Ben Nunez, Joseph Santana, Denzel Sivels, Alex Vieira, Colby Wallace and Jaïden Wright. Coaches are Kristen Coutoulakis, Dana Brodin and Beth Studley. Aide is Niurka Ferreira and Angelo Masse is the manager.

Motion by Mr. Bandle, seconded by Mr. Ferreira and carried by unanimous consent to move up the Building Committee Report.

1. Ai3 Architects Presentation

Mr. Jordan from Ai3 reported that the team will be giving an overview of the middle school projects. Jonathan Quell gave an overview of the Riverside Middle School Facility Equity initiative. He presented on the schedule, the FEI application, the 1st and 2nd floor plans and design renderings. The science classroom upgrades to align with the science classrooms that Martin Middle School is proposing. Anne DaSilva from Peregrine went through the budget details. She reported the budget is slightly under for Riverside. Project scope narratives, project descriptions, drawings and project cost will be included in the FEI Design Development submission to RIDE.

Mr. Ferreira stated that we are on budget for Riverside Middle School and waiting for the cost analysis for steel structure. Ms. DaSilva stated that the budget is showing a bit higher than the actual budget. An update will be presented at the next School Committee meeting.

Mr. Brandle asked if there will be a new road behind Martin. Mr. Jordan is looking at methods to develop that land, which is owned by the District.

VII. Superintendent's Report

1. Award – Superintendent Forand presented a certificate to School Committee Chair Jenni Furtado from the RI Board of Education recognizing her for graduating from the RI Association of School Committee's Leadership Academy.
2. Staff Recognition – Brian Petsch was awarded the Golden Apple today at Riverside Middle School. He was nominated by colleagues at RMS. The segment will air on July 6th on channel 10. Last Tuesday Aimee Couto from Whiteknact was selected Rhode Island Teacher of the Year which is a huge honor. She will be working at RIDE a few days per week and supporting their initiatives next year. East Providence has also had a Milken Award recipient, as well as, another Golden Apple Award.
3. Summer School Programs – This is the first year there are two Camp Invention weeks. The first week has 160 seats and the second week has 90. The first week will be held at Martin Middle School in June and the second week will be at Waddington in August. Summer Learning Academy for elementary – 213 students in grades K-2. There will be a pre and post test for all students attending the program. Middle and high school summer school will be at the high school June 26 – July 27. Elementary summer school will be at Waddington. ESY will be June 27 – July 27.
4. Facilities Update – Mr. Murphy gave an overview of the high school closeout. The District and construction management provider are waiting on one final engineering approval of the existing conditions before the reconstruction of the 30 inch drain pipe to start final repairs. The MUSCO light pole will be reinstalled. They have received assurances from the construction manager and the involved subcontractors that they will move with the necessary and appropriate sense of urgency to complete these repairs. Work on the 30" drain line, retention ponds and sidewalk to start as soon as school ends. There is a software solution for the fire pump. The repairs to the 30" drain line will be complete on or before June 30th. There are twenty items left on the punch list. There will be an 11th month walkthrough. Steve Duvel, Senior Vice President addressed the Building Committee last evening and went through the most important open items which will be properly addressed and closed out.
5. Finance Update – The financial report was given in the packet. No changes to the report.

VIII. Building Committee Report – Moved up on the agenda.

IX. Discussion Items

1. Unified Basketball Recognition – Moved up on the agenda.

2. Pre-Budget Workshop Update – There will be three dates to discuss the budget, June 21, June 26 and June 28. Ms. Furtado asked Committee members if they would like anyone to attend the workshops. Dr. Forand stated that they met with every Principal and the Athletic Director to see if they have any changes for next year. They are currently working on the personnel portion of the budget which is the largest expense. Most positions are filled for next year and by the end of June all positions should be filled. They have been working on the budget since April and will have all the data at the workshop. First piece of the budget to work on is personnel. Mr. Ferreira asked if council members can attend the budget workshops. Once the budget is approved by the School Committee, it will go before the City Council. Budget workshops are open to the public.

3. Proposed Dress Code – The Administrators from different schools in the district prepared the proposed dress code. The dress code was based on a survey and feedback from students and faculty. Mr. Brandle liked and agreed with the policy but would like to change the hoods up and hats in the schools and didn't see why students can't wear hats if teachers' give permission. The Student Code of Conduct is being worked on. Mr. Brandle asked if we can get gender or racial discrimination in the dress code policy. Ms. Beauchaine thanked everyone on the committee for providing their input and putting this together. She would like to add some other items and have students attend the first read of the policy. Dr. Forand announced the Committee members and said this is a working draft from the schools to the policy committee.

X. Public Comments – No comments.

XI. Action Items

1. Administrator's Separation Agreement

Motion by Mr. Brandle, seconded by Mr. Queenan and carried by unanimous consent to approve the Administrator's Separation Agreement from the District as submitted.

2. Martin Middle School Design Development Submittal to RIDE-SBA

Motion by Mr. Queenan, seconded by Mr. Brandle and carried by unanimous consent to approve the MMS design development submittal to RIDE-SBA as submitted.

3. Riverside Middle School FEI Design Development Submittal to RIDE-SBA

Motion by Ms. Beauchaine, seconded by Mr. Queenan and carried by unanimous consent to approve the RMS design FEI development submittal to RIDE-SBA as submitted.

4. Award of Oldham Classroom Re-configuration RFP

Motion by Mr. Brandle, seconded by Ms. Beauchaine and carried by unanimous consent to approve the award of the Oldham classroom re-configuration RFP to Mill City Construction for \$89,330.00 as submitted. Mr. Enos stated this was approved at the Building Committee meeting last evening.

5. East Providence High School Trip to Italy

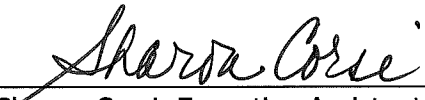
Motion by Mr. Ferreira, seconded by Mr. Brandle and carried by unanimous consent to approve the EPHS trip to Italy on February 14-24, 2024 for a cultural and performance tour as submitted.

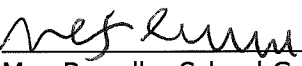
XII. Announcements – No announcements.

XIII. Adjournment

Motion by Mr. Brandle, seconded by Ms. Beauchaine and carried by unanimous consent to adjourn the meeting at 7:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Sharon Corsi, Executive Assistant


Max Brandle, School Committee Clerk