
**EAST PROVIDENCE SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
OPEN SESSION – September 12, 2023**

I. Call to Order - Open Session

The East Providence School Committee met in Open Session on Tuesday, September 12, 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. Members Present: Jenni Furtado, Chair, Jessica Beauchaine, Vice Chair, Max Brandle, Clerk, Anthony Ferreira and Ryan Queenan. Superintendent Dr. Forand was also present.

II. Executive Session

Motion by Mr. Ferreira, seconded by Mr. Brandle and carried unanimously to move into Executive Session in the main office conference room for the purpose of: Discussion/Action regarding EPSD Emergency Plan Pursuant to RIGL §42-46-5(a)(3); Discussion regarding Superintendent's Performance Evaluation 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. Furtado called the meeting to order at 7:41 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence for the passing of former teacher and School Committee member, Karen Oliveira, were observed. The Chair reported that no votes were taken in executive session except to reconvene in open session. Motion by Mr. Brandle, seconded by Mr. Ferreira and carried by unanimous consent to seal the minutes.

IV. Student Liaison – Nathan Tavares, East Providence High School

The start of the 2023-2024 school year started off strong. On August 23 incoming freshmen orientation was held. Student athletics, the cheer team and the Townie band greeted the EP school department staff on August 29. The school held two car wash fundraisers for the senior and junior classes. The boys soccer team held a car show last Sunday with food trucks, a raffle and music. Thursday, September 21, EPHS is hosting a meet the teachers night for all Townie parents. The highly anticipated Townie Pride Parade will be held at Pierce Field on Friday, September 22. Picture days for freshman, sophomores and juniors are scheduled for September 28 & 29. The Homecoming football game is Friday, the 29th with the Homecoming dance following on Saturday, the 30th.

Construction will be ongoing next week on Pawtucket Avenue in the area in front of the clocktower and significant traffic slowdowns are expected. Mr. Black will be sending out information to all Townie families.

The girls volleyball team and girls tennis team are both looking to return to the division II championships this fall season. Students are very excited for the return of Friday Night Lights with football games being back on home turf following the reinstallation of the light post behind the school.

The middle school student liaisons will present at the October meeting.

V. Consent Agenda

1. Communications

2. Home School Requests – There were 70 requests to homeschool.

3. Approval of Minutes:

August 8, 2023 Executive & Open Session School Committee Meeting

August 15, 2023 Joint School Committee/Building Committee Meeting (MMS/Wadd)

August 7, 2023 Building Committee Meeting (EPHS)

August 30, 2023 Negotiations Subcommittee Meeting

4. Personnel

Appointments – Thomas D'Amore, Art Teacher at EPHS, effective 2023-2024 school year; Alyssa Leech, Special Education S/C at Orlo, effective 2023-2024 school year; Deanna Smith, Math Teacher at EPHS, effective 2023-2024 school year; Amanda Kassabian, Resource Teacher at EPHS, effective 2023-2024 school year; Tess Alexandre, Library Media at Kent Heights/Hennessey, effective 2023-2024 school year; Jeremy Pendergast, Dean of Students at Silver Spring, effective 2023-2024 school year; Jennifer Drisko, Special Education Teacher at Hennessey, effective 2023-2024 school year; Yira Polanco, Spanish Teacher at EPHS, effective 2023-2024 school year; Stephanie Fitzmorris, Paraprofessional at Oldham Pre-K, effective 2023-2024 school year; Ashley Dudley, Special Education Teacher at EPHS, effective 2023-2024 school year; Slade Sharma, MLL Teacher at EPHS, effective 9/18/2023; Briana Silva, Paraprofessional at Kent Heights, effective 9/11/2023; Melissa Harrington, Paraprofessional at Kent Heights, effective 9/11/2023; Kim Ricard, Special Education Teacher at EPHS, effective 8/28/2023; Margaret Parsons, Art Teacher at Kent Heights/Hennessey, effective 9/11/2023; and Diane Bonalewicz, Lunch/Recess Attendant at Kent Heights, effective 8/30/2023.

Resignations – Alyssa Cardoso, Paraprofessional at Oldham Pre-K, effective 8/8/2023; Heather MacKnight, Paraprofessional at Waddington, effective 8/15/2023; Whitney Desrosiers, School Nurse at Whiteknact, effective 8/27/2023; Nicole Monte, Math Curriculum Leader at Hennessey, effective 8/27/2023; Kelly Estrela, Paraprofessional at Waddington, effective 8/27/2023; and Ariel Fisher, Lunch/Recess Attendant at Waddington, effective 8/25/2023.

Retirements – Donna Colasante, Administrative Assistant in Finance, effective 12/3/2023; and Donna Ferrucci, Dean of Students at Kent Heights, effective end of the 2023-2024 school year.

Leaves of Absence – Grade 5 Teacher at Kent Heights, effective 2023-2024 school year.

Non-Renewals – None

Recalls – None

5. Bill List

- Voucher No. 1042 dated August 9, 2023 – \$2,509.00
- Voucher No. 1043 dated August 23, 2023 - \$39,789.68
- Voucher No. 1045 dated September 8, 2023 - \$2,502,486.29

6. Invoices for Services (EPHS) for August 2023

- Ai3 Architects Extra Services – \$960.00
- City of East Providence - \$9,815.00
- Peregrine Group, LLC – \$5,212.50
- Construction Total – \$15,987.50
- Furniture, Fixtures & Equipment – \$299,578.37

Stage III Invoices (MMS/Wadd) for August 2023

- Mill City Construction - \$60,417.82
- Peregrine Group, LLC - \$44,000.00
- Shawmut Construction - \$25,000.00
- Stephen Turner, Inc. - \$3,047.50
- Willscot - \$24,243.64

Total - \$156,708.96

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

VI. PTO/PTA/EPLAC Reports – Mary Nascimento reported that the first EPLAC meeting will be on Wednesday, September 27th at 6 pm at Martin. They will be working on a membership drive and inclusion at school events. They are looking for new board members, a Chair and Co-Chair. Tori Jessop stated they will represent this organization at the schools' open house events that are coming up.

VII. Superintendent's Report

1. Review Director Positions – Dr. Forand presented information on the central office staff - the Directors and their department staff members. All departments collaborate and work to support each other.
2. Facilities Update – Orlo window replacement is 98% complete. Some select punch list items remain and are in the process of being addressed. The Silver Spring window replacement project has reached a significant completion stage. The final nine windows are due to be received and installed in December. Final punch list items are being addressed now. Riverside window replacement has seen its first windows installed last week. This project will take approximately eighteen months to complete. Hennessey and Silver Spring smokestack demolition projects were both completed prior to the start of the school year. Martin Middle School demolition/renovation started early July. This

job will take approximately three years to complete. Oldham Elementary classroom enhancement is complete. Martin Pre-K to Oldham transfer is complete. The high school installation of the durable vinyl wall covering for select areas on the 1st and 2nd floors was completed on September 5th. The high school open items (punch list) has 17 open items. This is made up of 13 items from Phase I and IV and recently added items from the Phase II eleven month warranty walkthrough. Of the 17 items, 6 are administrative in nature (paperwork). The athletic complex behind the high school has once again started to host Townie athletic contests and practices now that the 30" drain line has been repaired.

3. Finance Update – Mr. Enos stated that the current budget has been impacted by student enrollment, out of district placements and numerous plumbing issues. Enrollment numbers are high at the high school. A freeze has been placed on purchasing except for emergency supplies. For the October School Committee meeting he will be reporting on expenditures and year end. October 31 is the end of the fiscal year. East Providence is one of five districts in the State seeing an increase in enrollment. Anticipating a preliminary geographic report by the end of the month. The District is off to a great start with school lunch applications.

Ms. Beauchaine requested enrollment numbers every week. Mr. Ferreira asked for the capacity of classrooms at the high school.

VIII. Director of Teaching & Learning Report

1. Review District Strategic Plan Priorities – Ms. Reilly gave a presentation on the strategic planning process, the Strategic Plan and Vision of a Graduate and the School Improvement Plans. She went through the District Strategic Plan priorities, academic excellence, social emotional learning to support academic success, educator commitment to continuous improvement and family and community engagement.

IX. Building Committee Report – Ms. Beauchaine reported that the enabling phase II work will be October – December at Martin Middle School/Pre-K. Waddington CMAr is on the market and they will be doing a preliminary walkthrough with vendors this Thursday. Riverside Middle School science lab RFP will be on the market soon.

Mr. Queenan asked about students arriving home late from Martin and if there is any plan in place. Dr. Forand stated that when buses leave the middle school, the principals are notifying families. They will be rerouting buses at Martin due to the construction. There may be a delay issue on Monday due to the construction and two lanes. Dr. Forand is meeting with the bus company this week and will notify families of any changes. Bus routes have been adjusted and redistributed students.

The District is planning with the bus company and the police department on the delay for Monday. The state is putting in a water line. It's a state run project which was delayed a week so not to disrupt the start of school. Ms. Beauchaine requested a message be sent to all parents in the district.

X. Discussion Items

1. Policy on Standards Regarding Food Service Procurements – 2nd read
Mr. Enos reported that as part of the audit for food services, language was added that RIDE requested we add.
2. Policy on EPPD Access to East Providence School Department's Video – 2nd read
Dr. Forand worked with policy department, legal department and the city for police to have access to cameras in an emergency.
3. Student Attendance Policy – 1st read
Dr. Forand stated this policy was written by members of the group that created the dress policy. It's a new policy. The definition of excused absences and unexcused absences is much clearer in this policy.

XI. Public Comments

1. Chrissy Rossi – She attended all three of the budget meetings. She asked the Committee to refocus on the students and ask for the money from the city. She praised the Superintendent for her hard work. The student meals do not reflect the health and wellness policy for the District. Do better with funding, do better with construction and do better with the food.
2. Richard Dellefemine, Sr. – Concerned about things he is seeing in the city with lack of maintenance and the many deficiencies at the high school.
3. **Tori Jessop Crowley** – Commented on the construction delay impeding pick up for elementary students. There should be a plan in place and suggested delays should be communicated to working parents. September 23rd is the first RI Science of Reading Conference at the Compass School. She is in the process of finalizing plans for Dyslexia awareness month which is in October. She has a personal request for middle and high school language offerings to include incoding and decoding in foreign language. RIDE offers through CCRI ASL as a foreign language.

XII. Action Items

1. EPSD Emergency Plan

Motion by Ms. Beauchaine, seconded by Mr. Queenan and carried by unanimous consent to approve the East Providence School Department Emergency Plan as submitted.

2. Policy on Standards Regarding Food Service Procurements– 2nd read

Motion by Mr. Brandle, seconded by Mr. Queenan and carried by unanimous consent to approve the second read of the Policy on Standards regarding Food Service Procurements as submitted.

3. Policy on EPPD Access to East Providence School Department's Video – 2nd read

Motion by Mr. Queenan, seconded by Mr. Brandle and carried by unanimous consent to approve the Policy on East Providence Police Department Access to EPSD's video as submitted.

4. Award of Orlo Avenue Courtyard Renovation Project

Motion by Ms. Beauchaine, seconded by Mr. Brandle and carried by unanimous consent to table this item until next month. Mr. Ferreira requested a letter from the Fire Department stating that the courtyard is available and can be used.

5. Award of Graphic Communications Printer for East Providence High School

Motion by Ms. Beauchaine, seconded by Mr. Brandle and carried by unanimous consent to table this item until next month.

6. Updated Building Committee Membership List

Motion by Mr. Brandle, seconded by Ms. Beauchaine and carried by unanimous consent to approve the updated Building Committee membership list for the Martin/Waddington projects as submitted.

7. Martin MS/PK Testing & Inspections Consultant

Motion by Mr. Brandle, seconded by Mr. Ferreira and carried by unanimous consent to approve the Building Committee's recommendation of the Martin Middle School/Pre-K Testing & Inspections services to Thielsch Engineering as submitted. Final cost will be based on total hours required.

8. Waddington Elementary School 60% Construction Documents Stage III Submission to RIDE

Motion by Ms. Beauchaine, seconded by Mr. Brandle and carried by unanimous consent to approve the Waddington Elementary School 60% CD Stage III submission to RIDE as submitted. Alternates are not ranked in order.

9. Riverside Middle School General Contractor RFP Advertisement

Motion by Mr. Brandle, seconded by Mr. Ferreira and carried by unanimous consent to approve the Riverside Middle School General Contractor RFP advertisement as submitted.

10. EPHS Trip to New York City – David Geffen Hall

Motion by Mr. Brandle, seconded by Ms. Beauchaine and carried by unanimous consent to approve the East Providence High School class trip to New York City – David Geffen Hall on Thursday, December 21, 2023 as submitted.

XIII. Announcements – There were no announcements.

XIV. Adjournment

Motion by Mr. Brandle, seconded by Mr. Queenan and carried by unanimous consent to adjourn the meeting at 9:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Sharon Corsi, Executive Assistant



Max Brandle, School Committee Clerk