
**EAST PROVIDENCE SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
OPEN SESSION – October 10, 2023**

I. Call to Order - Open Session

The East Providence School Committee met in Open Session on Tuesday, October 10, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. in the auditorium at East Providence High School. Members Present: Jenni Furtado, Chair, Jessica Beauchaine, Vice Chair, Max Brandle, Clerk, Anthony Ferreira and Ryan Queenan. Assistant Superintendent Dr. Bowler was also present.

II. Executive Session

Motion by Mr. Queenan, seconded by Ms. Beauchaine and carried unanimously to table the executive session until the special meeting on Monday, October 16, 2023.

III. Open Session (Regular Meeting)

Ms. Furtado called the meeting to order at 6:06 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence were observed.

IV. Student Liaisons

Nathan Tavares from East Providence High School, reported that this month the Townies are participating in Socktober and collecting donations of new socks. An AP awards ceremony will be held on the 13th celebrating distinguished AP students, as well as, teachers of AP courses. The junior class is sponsoring the first annual Townie Olympics on Saturday, October 21st. On the 28th the music department is hosting a mattress fundraiser from 10am-5pm at the high school to support the band and chorus programs. The senior class is hosting a spirit week starting on the 23rd. Vendors are encouraged to sign up for the Townie Bazaar being held on Saturday, November 18th. There were some notable athletic accomplishments regarding the girls volleyball and tennis teams and five students from the boys cross country team.

Megan Pita, 8th grade student and proud member of the National Junior Honor Society from Martin Middle School shared some highlights from the middle school. They have started their 5th year of the 21st Century Boys & Girls Club grant. In partnership, they offer the following fall 2023 programs; Gaming Club, Volleyball, Stem to Stern, Garden to Table, Anime, Dungeons and Dragons and Power Hour. They are collaborating with EP Martial Arts for Judo and Kickboxing. They are joining with Riverside Middle School for their combines Drama Troupe. Martin's sports teams such as girls soccer, boys soccer and the cross country teams are doing a fabulous job. With band, elections for officers of each music content has begun. The NJHS candidate process is just beginning. The NJHS and Student Council are teaming up for Socktober and all donations collected will go to the Hope and Faith Drive.

Tyler Melmed, 8th grade student and member of the National Junior Honor Society from Riverside Middle School reported on many events that have happened recently and events that are coming up. They had fun team building activities like bingo and other activities to get to know each other better. There was a Boys Scout visit followed by a skate night. They are holding a Socktober event to donate socks to shelters. Martin and Riverside soccer teams

played each other for the Mayor's Cup. The Riverside boys' team won but sadly the girls' team lost. The Boys and Girls Club has held after school programs for volleyball and football for Riverside. The Principal Coffee Hour was held on October 4th so parents can come and ask questions and get to know all the things happening at RMS. A flu clinic was held at Riverside on October 5th. Coming up will be Unity Day on the 18th, the Halloween Dance on the 27th and a multicultural night on November 2nd.

V. Consent Agenda

1. **Communications** – Enrollment numbers and technology data.

2. **Home School Requests** – There were 23 requests to homeschool.

3. **Approval of Minutes:**

September 12, 2023 Executive & Open Session School Committee Meeting

September 13, Negotiations Subcommittee Meeting

4. **Personnel**

Appointments – Steven Ribeiro, Night Custodian at Silver Spring, effective 8/28/2023; Tina Lake, Lunch/Recess Attendant at Waddington, effective 8/31/2023; Kayla Durant, Lunch/Recess Attendant at Silver Spring, effective 9/19/2023; Emily Davis, Lunch/Recess Attendant at Whiteknact, effective 9/21/2023; Maureen Allen, Paraprofessional at EPHS, effective 9/20/2023; Susan Tavares, Paraprofessional at EPHS, effective 9/25/2023; Susana Augusto, Paraprofessional at Oldham Pre-K, effective 10/10/2023; Dorothy Lee, Paraprofessional at Whiteknact, effective 8/31/2023; Amy Frazer, English Teacher at Riverside Middle School, effective 9/18/2023; Sarah Adams, Paraprofessional at Hennessey, effective 9/25/2023; Katelyn Coyle, Math Curriculum Leader at Hennessey, effective 10/10/2023; Claudine Gaude, Paraprofessional at Oldham ELC, effective 10/12/2023; and Sandra Dumont, Lunch/Recess Attendant at Silver Spring, effective 10/16/2023.

Resignations – Justin Van Brink, IT Systems Administrator, effective 9/23/2023; Emily Davis, Lunch/Recess Attendant at Whiteknact, effective 9/21/2023; and Kayla Durant, Lunch/Recess Attendant, effective 9/21/2023.

Retirements – Melissa Ray, Grade 2 Teacher at Waddington, effective the end of the 2023-2024 school year; and Mary Paco, Paraprofessional at Whiteknact, effective 1/13/2024.

Leaves of Absence – None

Non-Renewals – None

Recalls – None

5. **Bill List**

- Voucher No. 1046 dated September 19, 2023 – \$2,169.96
- Voucher No. 1047 dated September 28, 2023 - \$94,816.51
- Voucher No. 1049 dated October 5, 2023 - \$1,702,805.69

6. Invoices for Services (EPHS) for September 2023

- Ai3 Architects Extra Services – \$1,440.00
- City of East Providence - \$15,015.00
- Peregrine Group, LLC – \$2,212.50

Construction Total – \$18,667.50

Stage III Invoices (MMS/Wadd) for September 2023

- Ai3 Basic Services MMS - \$1,325,722.56
- Ai3 Supplemental Services MMS - \$32,733.25
- Ai3 Additional Services MMS - \$1,854.88
- Ai3 Reimbursable Services MMS - \$4,522.73
- Ai3 Basic Services – Wadd - \$1,188,336.00
- Ai3 Supplemental Services Wadd - \$8,244.50
- Mill City Construction - \$28,912.18
- Peregrine Group, LLC - \$44,000.00
- Shawmut Pre-Construction - \$25,000.00
- Shawmut Enabling Work - \$710,662.89
- Stephen Turner, Inc. MMS - \$9,484.00
- Stephen Turner, Inc. Wadd - \$2,100.00
- Willscot - \$2,664.35

Stage III Total - \$3,384,237.34

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

Motion by Mr. Brandle, seconded by Mr. Queenan and carried by unanimous consent to move back the PTO/PTA/EPLAC Reports and student liaisons until after the Superintendent's Report.

VI. PTO/PTA/EPLAC Reports – Mary Nascimento is working on recruiting a new board of officers for the November EPLAC meeting. A workshop on the Autism Project will be held on October 25th at 6 pm at Martin Middle School. Also working on a Katie Beckett workshop and a workshop on 504. If any parents have concerns after the EPLAC meeting they can set up a time to meet.

Ms. Beauchaine is looking for a PTSA board at Riverside Middle School to help fund activities for students. Last year, the PTSA helped sponsor teacher appreciation week, purchased sports sweatshirts for wrestling, supplied ice cream for the whole school, helped with 8th grade celebration and were able to take off \$100 for each student for the 8th grade class trip.

VII. Superintendent's Report

1. Kristen Coutoulakis – She was the recipient of the Cox Communications Coach's Award. She wasn't able to attend this meeting to receive her citation.

2. Joseph Barroso – He was honored by RIDE as the Career & Technical Teacher of the Year for the State of Rhode Island at the annual Salute to Educators event on Saturday, September 30, 2023.
3. Aimee Couto – She was also honored at the annual Salute to Educators event on Saturday, September 30, 2023 as the 2023 Rhode Island State Teacher of the Year.
4. Virtual Learning Plan – This item was tabled.
5. Facilities Update – Orlo and Silver Spring window replacement projects are both in the punch list phase. On-site walk-throughs of both facilities took place last week and a finalized/agreed upon punch list was provided for both facilities from the OPM. The general contractor is moving forward with the execution of those punch lists. The Riverside window replacement project is moving along on schedule. Receiving bids for reconfiguration/refurbishment of the science classrooms and library. Martin Middle School is moving toward the second enabling phase. The Martin Pre-K to Oldham transfer is complete. The high school punch list is down to thirteen items. Of the thirteen, six are administrative in nature (paperwork). An RFP is being formulated for the purchase and installation of a new boiler for Myron J. Francis.

Construction on Pawtucket Avenue was delayed for several weeks by the City with a promise to be completed by November 15th. The mast arm and water main replacement project should be starting next Monday. Mr. Murphy will share the date with the Committee. Ms. Beauchaine requested that all parents and the bus company receive a communication about the start of the project.

6. Finance Update – Mr. Enos followed-up on several items in the budget from last month. They are keeping an eye on electricity and plumbing and heating. All local aid as well as state aid was received. They continue to receive revenue as FY23 ends. Final numbers will be available in January. They will continue to be cautious with spending. The RFP for boiler replacement will be funded from the City or the capital fund. The Superintendent wants to move forward on getting the boiler replaced at Myron J. Francis.

There is a freeze on purchasing for the next few weeks, however, funds are available for paper and medical supplies.

7. Directors' Reports

Alfred Villeneuve, Director of Technology, presented on the technology business infrastructure, staff/student data and compliance and end user support system.

Yanaiza Gallant, Director of MLL Services – presented on the historical MLL number of student enrollment, diversity in the East Providence MLL population, the process when an MLL student enters EPSD and the current upcoming 2023-2024 MLL initiatives.

Leslie Anderson – Director of Pupil Personnel Services and Bud MacDonnell, Asst. Director of Pupil Personnel Services presented on special education enrollment, EPLAC,

special education teacher and the related service provider help center and an update on the special education audit.

Mark Williamson – Director of Human Resources presented the different departments in Human Resources and the services each provides; hiring/onboarding, coverage, policies and procedures, workers compensation, employee assistance/wellness and employee relations.

VIII. Building Committee Report

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

IX. Public Comments – Mary Nascimento spoke about her concern for the special education audit that is taking place.

Tori Jessop – Last month she addressed foreign language. She spoke with RIDE and stated that there is a high school offering foreign language as a requirement for high school graduation. This month is dyslexia awareness month. The Rhode Island State house will be lighting up red on October 20-27th as well as City Hall. She is working with Weaver Library who will be providing information and books on dyslexia.

X. Action Items

1. Award of Graphic Communications Printer for EPHS

Motion by Mr. Brandle, seconded by Ms. Beauchaine and carried by unanimous consent to approve the award of the graphic communications printer for East Providence High School to Hypertec, Inc. for \$13,995 as submitted. This purchase is being funded through the CTE Perkins Grant.

2. Virtual Learning Plan

Motion by Ms. Beauchaine, seconded by Mr. Queenan and carried by unanimous consent to table this item until the next meeting.

3. MMS 8th Grade Trip to Boston in May 2024

Motion by Mr. Ferreira, seconded by Ms. Beauchaine and carried by unanimous consent to approve the Martin Middle School 8th grade class trip to Boston on May 22 & 23, 2024 as submitted.

4. RFP for Boiler Replacement at Myron J. Francis School

Motion by Mr. Queenan, seconded by Mr. Ferreira and carried by unanimous consent to approve the RFP for the boiler replacement at Myron J. Francis Elementary School as submitted.

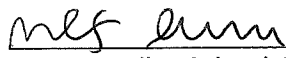
XI. Announcements – There will be a special school committee meeting on Monday, October 16th at 6 p.m. to have an executive session and any items that were tabled.

XII. Adjournment

Motion by Mr. Brandle, seconded by Mr. Queenan and carried by unanimous consent to adjourn the meeting at 7:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Sharon Corsi, Executive Assistant


Max Brandle, School Committee Clerk