
**EAST PROVIDENCE SPECIAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
OPEN SESSION – October 16, 2023**

I. Call to Order Open Session

The East Providence School Committee met in Open Session on Monday, October 16, 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 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 Contract Negotiations Pursuant to RIGL §42-46-5(a)(1); Discussion regarding Administrators' Contracts and Evaluations 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 7:28 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 Mr. Brandle, seconded by Mr. Queenan and carried by unanimous consent to seal the minutes.

IV. Discussion Items

1. EPSD 2023-2024 Virtual Learning Plan – The plan is identical to last year's plan. All East Providence schools will follow modified schedules with three synchronous hours of instruction and support (K-12). Students will check into their home room. The Principals communicated the plan to all parents and families. The plan has to be submitted to RIDE before a virtual learning day is called and calling a virtual learning day has to be submitted to RIDE. A virtual learning day will count for a day of instruction.

2. Student Attendance Policy – There were two slight changes made after the principals reviewed the policy. Diana Clarkin and Stacey Messier were on the committee. The Committee comprised of Diana Clarkin, Director of Operations, Stacey Messier, Project Aware Coordinator and Deans from the middle schools and high school. The committee met four-five times on the attendance policy and what should be in it. They highlighted some procedures in section 8 that were removed.

There was some discussion on student absences and when it would be considered truancy. Students are supported at the school level. There are reasons why a student would be absent

for any length of time. A meeting would be called with the principal, assistant principal, dean, guidance counselors or social workers to discuss what the child needs at that time. Sometimes special education would be involved. Truancy is a process. They look at what supports can be put in place for the student or parent.

Administrators in the schools review attendance on a daily basis. There are discussions with the student, communication with parents and meetings held by the District with parents to determine if it's a truancy issue.

If buses are late to arrive in the morning, students are not marked tardy. The bus company doesn't always notify the District if the bus is late. If they are significantly late, they will be notified. Sometimes the dispatcher will contact the principal. Students have up to three minutes to get on a bus. If a bus is 15-20 minutes late, Diana Clarkin notifies the principal.

Unexcused absences – Everybody will be treated fairly. Been an issue before but we are making sure attendance gets improved.

Ms. Messier shared that she has a good relationship with the families. There are attendance teams across the district. Good attendance starts with having a strong relationship with families. It's a place of support, not of discipline. Consistency with attendance is a key and talked about daily, such as shout outs, conversations at assemblies, lunch time announcements and working with families in a non-judgmental way. The nurse and teacher could be part of the conversation. There is great work going on in the district.

Social probation is listed in the student handbooks, not in the policy. High school is the only school doing social probation and middle schools are starting to look at that.

V. Public Comments – Tori Jessop Crowley addressed the Committee about including social probation in a policy to have consistency at all schools. There are two events this week regarding dyslexia awareness. The Mayor will be lighting up City Hall red on Thursday, October 19th at 5 pm. Senator Robert Britto will be lighting up the State House red on Friday, October 20th at 5:30 pm.

VI. Action Items

1. 2023-2026 Teachers' Collective Bargaining Agreement

Motion by Ms. Beauchaine, seconded by Mr. Queenan and carried by unanimous consent to approve the three-year Teachers' CBA as submitted.

2. EPSD 2023-2024 Virtual Learning Plan

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

VII. Announcements – Ms. Beauchaine asked if the school department could light up EPHS red. Dr. Forand will look into it.

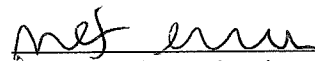
VIII. Adjournment

Motion by Mr. Queenan, seconded by Mr. Brandle and carried by unanimous consent to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Sharon Corsi, Executive Assistant



Max Brandle, School Committee Clerk