
**EAST PROVIDENCE SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
OPEN SESSION – November 14, 2023**

I. Call to Order - Open Session

The East Providence School Committee met in Open Session on Tuesday, November 14, 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. Superintendent Sandra Forand was also present.

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 re: Legal Advice regarding Potential Resolution of Claim against Gilbane Construction for School Construction Issues around Light, Irrigation and Sidewalk Heaving and Potential Litigation re Same Pursuant to RIGL §42-46-5(a)(2); Discussion re: District Safety Protocols Pursuant to RIGL §42-46-5(a)(3); and Consider & Vote on Motion to Adjourn and Convene into Public Session.

III. Open Session (Regular Meeting)

Ms. Furtado called the meeting to order at 7:33 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. Ferreira and carried by unanimous consent to seal the minutes.

IV. Student Liaisons

Nathan Tavares from East Providence High School, reported that the music department hosted a talent show on November 8th and new junior and senior members were installed into the National Honor Society during the induction ceremony last Thursday. The 2nd annual DIVA Bowl was being held on the football field last evening. The senior class is holding a fundraiser at Chipotle. Parent/teacher conferences are being held on November 15th and 16th. The Townie Bazaar will be held Saturday, November 18th from 11am to 3 pm. The Health Occupations Program in conjunction with the EP Police Department is hosting a Townies Keeping Townies Warm fundraiser. The Winter Ball is being held on Friday, December 1st from 6:30-9:30 pm. Band and chorus students are performing in the Holiday Concert on December 7th. The season has come to a close for most fall athletes.

Megan Pita, from Martin Middle School shared some highlights from the middle school. There are 170 students involved with after school activities thanks to the Boys & Girls Club of EP. The fall sports season ended last month and all did a fabulous job. The entire music department is busy preparing for winter concerts; band concert is on December 11 at 6 pm at EPHS and the chorus concert is on December 13 at 6 pm at EPHS. The NJHS candidate process is complete and MMS student candidates were notified at their lunch meeting on November 9th. The NJHS

and Student Council collected 691 pairs of socks for SOCKTOBER and will be donated to the Hope & Faith Drive. Shawmut Design & Construction has been onsite working hard. Many activities and fundraisers were held in October and November. They are partnering with the EP Police Department for the "Let's Give Thanks" Thanksgiving Dinner Drive. Donations are being accepted until Friday, November 17. On November 9th students surprised and celebrated a well know substitute teacher, who spends most his time at Martin and which they are grateful for, as he turned 80 years old.

Zachary Medeiros, President of the Riverside Middle School Chapter of the National Junior Honor Society, reported on recent events at Riverside. On October 18th, Unity Day was celebrated where students wore orange to support teamwork and inclusion. A Halloween dance was held on October 27th and students were able to purchase boo-grams which raised \$50. On November 2nd, MLL teachers hosted a multicultural night which was well received. November 1st through 15th blankets, playing cards and snacks were donated to send to service members and on November 10th a Veterans Day event was held. The chorus and band performed. Riverside also had a Thanksgiving Drive.

Motion by Mr. Brandle, seconded by Mr. Ferreira and carried by unanimous consent to move up the PTO/PTA/EPLAC Reports before the Consent Agenda.

Mary Nascimento announced there will be an EPLAC meeting on Wednesday, November 29th at 6 pm in the library at Martin Middle School. There will be a workshop on Kate Beckett presented by the Autism Project. The Katie Beckett Medicaid program allows certain children under 19 who live at home and have certain health care needs to become eligible for Medicaid coverage. EPLAC is changing their meeting location to Kent Heights Elementary School library starting January 31, 2024 at 6 pm.

V. Consent Agenda

1. Communications – Enrollment numbers and technology data.

2. Home School Requests – There were seven requests to homeschool this month.

3. Approval of Minutes:

October 10, 2023 Open Session School Committee Meeting

October 16, 2023 Special School Committee Meeting

October 18 and November 1, 2023, Negotiations Subcommittee Meetings

October 19, 2023 Emergency School Committee Meeting

September 11, 2023 Building Committee Meetings

4. Personnel

Appointments – Kathryn Tirrell, Lunch/Recess Attendant at Whiteknact, effective 10/12/2023; Colleen Vandal, Lunch/Recess Attendant at Silver Spring, effective 10/10/2023; Jessica Arruda, Administrative Assistant in Purchasing at Administration, effective 10/30/2023; Brittany Crevier, Lunch/Recess Attendant at Whiteknact, effective 10/23/2023; Lorraine Reed, Lunch/Recess Attendant at Orlo, effective 10/23/2023; Julie Paquin, Paraprofessional at Kent Heights, effective 11/8/2023; and Deborah Martins, Lunch/Recess Attendant at Myron J. Francis, effective 10/25/2023.

Resignations – Kathryn Tirrell, Lunch/Recess Attendant at Whiteknact, effective 10/14/2023; Briana Silva, Paraprofessional at Kent Heights, effective 9/27/2023; Colleen Vandal, Lunch/Recess Attendant at Silver Spring, effective 10/20/2023; Sandra Dumont, Lunch/Recess Attendant at Silver Spring, effective 10/20/2023; Kristen Cobb, Paraprofessional at Hennessey, effective 11/1/2023; Amy Frazer, English Teacher at Riverside Middle School, effective 11/9/2023; and April Ford, Paraprofessional at Silver Spring, effective 11/9/2023.

Retirements – Pamela Thacker, Science Department Head at Martin Middle School, effective end of the 2023-2024 school year; Pamela Santos, Guidance Counselor at Martin Middle School, effective end of the 2023-2024 school year; Diane Ferreira, Administrative Assistant at Myron J. Francis, effective 10/21/2023; and Julie Bailey, Benefits Coordinator, effective 1/3/2024.

Leaves of Absence – Kindergarten Teacher at Whiteknact, effective 11/27/2023.

Non-Renewals – None

Recalls – None

5. Bill List

- Voucher No. 1001 dated November 9, 2023 – \$319,821.99
- Voucher No. 1050 dated October 18, 2023 - \$269.50
- Voucher No. 1051 dated October 19, 2023 - \$900.00
- Voucher No. 1052 dated October 25, 2023 - \$96,784.34
- Voucher No. 1053 dated October 31, 2023 - \$2,331,846.60

6. Construction Invoices - EPHS for October 2023

- Ai3 Architects Extra Services – \$800.00
- CB Utility Company - \$540,911.95
- O'Neil Electric Company - \$13,251.30
- Peregrine Group, LLC – \$2,081.25

Construction Total – \$557,044.50

Stage III Invoices - MMS/Wadd Projects for October 2023

- Ai3 Basic Services MMS - \$662,861.28
- Ai3 Supplemental Services MMS - \$14,461.70
- Ai3 Additional Services MMS - \$6,349.75
- Ai3 Basic Services – Wadd - \$34,545.00
- Ai3 Supplemental Services Wadd - \$10,846.00
- O'Neil Electric Company - \$12,548.67
- Peregrine Group, LLC - \$44,000.00
- Shawmut MMS Pre-Construction - \$25,000.00
- Shawmut MMS Enabling Work - \$233,735.68
- Stephen Turner, Inc. MMS - \$2,210.00
- Stephen Turner, Inc. Wadd - \$5,625.00
- Willscot - \$2,158.78

Stage III Total - \$1,054,341.86

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 – Moved up on the agenda.

VII. Superintendent's Report

1. Middle School Principals' Reports – Ms. Marchand, Principal at Martin Middle School, highlighted activities, athletics and attendance, as well as, the core values, celebrations and culture at the middle school.
Dr. Giangiulio, Principal at Riverside Middle School presented on the District Strategic Plan priority areas and Riverside's goals: Academic excellence for all Students, SEL to Support Academic Learning and Family & Community Engagement. Priority 1&2: ELA and Math Improvement, Priority 3: Students, Family & Community, Priority 4: Attendance and Priority 5: Social Emotional Learning.
2. Facilities Update – Mr. Murphy reported that the window replacement projects at both Orlo and Silver Spring Elementary Schools are in the punch list phase. The window replacement project at Riverside Middle School is progressing as scheduled. Bids for reconfiguration of the science classrooms and library have been received, reviewed and awarded shortly. Phase II enabling is progressing at Martin Middle School. Sewer reroute and exterior site work to being in early December. Interior work is progressing as scheduled. The existing punch list at the high school is down to seven items, two are administrative in nature. The RFP for the new boiler at Myron J. Francis was extended to December 6. An RFP for the new playground fencing has been advertised and bids are coming in. Winter preparations are moving forward at all schools with the focus on preventing frozen pipes and flooding. Refinishing of the middle school gymnasium floors will be taking place prior to the end of this year. Disposal of surplus district-owned furniture and equipment will be disposed of by the end of the year.
3. Finance Update – Dr. Forand stated there is no financial update this month. They are two weeks into the new fiscal year and bills are being finalized. An update will be presented next month.

VIII. Building Committee Report

Mr. Enos discussed the actions items on the agenda pertaining to the RFP for Orlo Avenue School fence replacement project, award of Waddington Construction Manager at Risk, award of Riverside Middle School General Contractor and the Orlo Avenue courtyard renovation project. Mr. Ferreira inquired about having a penalty clause in all contracts. Ms. Beauchaine asked Mr. Enos to clarify the difference between a Construction Manager at Risk vs. a General Contractor with regard to the construction projects.

IX. Discussion Items

1. Student Attendance Policy – 2nd read

This policy is on the agenda for approval. Several changes were made. There was a brief discussion on excused absences. Suspensions are an excused absence and there is a separate section in the policy book for suspension consequences. The policy will be posted on the District website and will be included in the school newsletters that are sent out.

X. Public Comments – Chrissy Rossi addressed the Committee to bring awareness to EP Kids in business to help children in East Providence. She is raising funds for an inclusive playground which costs \$550,000. So far, \$20,000 has been raised. Calendars are \$10 each. Ms. Rossi can be reached at 401-481-1721.

XI. Action Items

1. RFP for Orlo Avenue Fence Replacement Project

Motion by Mr. Queenan, seconded by Mr. Ferreira and carried by unanimous consent to approve the RFP for Orlo Avenue fence replacement project as submitted.

2. Award of Waddington Construction Manager at Risk (CMaR) RFP

Motion by Mr. Ferreira, seconded by Mr. Queenan and carried by unanimous consent to approve the recommendation of the Building Committee the award of Waddington Elementary CMaR preconstruction services to Shawmut Design and Construction as submitted.

3. Award of Riverside Middle School General Contractor

Motion by Mr. Brandle, seconded by Mr. Ferreira and carried by unanimous consent to approve the recommendation of the Building Committee the award of Riverside Middle School General Contractor (GC) to Collins Construction as submitted.

4. Potential Resolution of Claim against Gilbane Construction for School Construction Issues around Light, Irrigation and Sidewalk Heaving and Potential Litigation re Same

Motion by Mr. Brandle, seconded by Mr. Queenan and carried by unanimous consent to approve the potential resolution against Gilbane Construction as submitted pending final legal counsel review.

5. RMS 8th Grade Trip to Boston in May 2024

Motion by Ms. Beauchaine, seconded by Mr. Ferreira and carried by unanimous consent to approve the Riverside Middle School 8th grade class trip to Boston on May 29 & 30, 2024 as submitted.

6. Approve Student Attendance Policy – 2nd read

Motion by Mr. Brandle, seconded by Mr. Queenan and carried by a vote of 4-1 to approve the second reading of the Student Attendance Policy as submitted. Ms. Beauchaine voted nay.

7. Orlo Avenue Courtyard Renovation Project

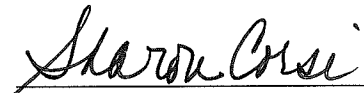
Motion by Mr. Ferreira, seconded by Ms. Beauchaine and carried by unanimous consent to approve the award of the Orlo Avenue School courtyard renovation project to Central Nurséries of Johnston RI as submitted. The project will begin the day after school ends, June 18, 2024 and completed by August 30, 2024.

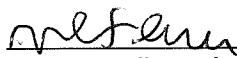
XII. Announcements – Congrats to EPHS Girls Volleyball – Division 2 Undefeated State Champs and Unified Volleyball Team for 1st runner up in Division 2. Happy Thanksgiving to all.

XIII. Adjournment

Motion by Mr. Brandle, seconded by Mr. Queenan and carried by unanimous consent to adjourn the meeting at 8:39 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Sharon Corsi, Executive Assistant


Max Brandle, School Committee Clerk