
**EAST PROVIDENCE SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
OPEN SESSION – January 9, 2024**

I. Call to Order - Open Session

The East Providence School Committee met in Open Session on Tuesday, January 9, 2024 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 Dr. Forand was also present.

II. Executive Session

Motion by Mr. Queenan, seconded by Ms. Beauchaine and carried unanimously to move into Executive Session in the main office conference room for the purpose of: Discussion re: Administrative Assistants Contract Negotiations Pursuant to RIGL §42-46-5(a)(2); Discussion re: Contract for Human Resources Office Manager/Benefits Coordinator Pursuant to RIGL §42-46-5(a)(1); Discussion re: Contract for Systems Administrator 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. Open Session (Regular Meeting)

Ms. Furtado called the meeting to order at 7:00 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. Queenan, seconded by Ms. Beauchaine and carried by unanimous consent to seal the minutes.

Motion by Ms. Beauchaine, seconded by Mr. Ferreira and carried by unanimous consent to move up the Unified Volleyball Team after the student liaisons.

IV. Student Liaisons

Megan Pita, current President of the Martin Middle School National Junior Honor Society, highlighted events from the last few months. Winter sports started in November. The Mayor's Cup basketball games took place on December 19th. The Riverside girls team and the Martin boys team took home the trophies once again. The newly elected officers to the NJHS are: Laina F., Vice-President, Kayden O., Secretary, Maddie B., Treasurer and Finn T-M., Historian. The winter band concert was held on December 11th. The chorus had their winter concert on December 19th. The high school hosted both concerts. Shawmut Construction has been hard at work during Thanksgiving recess. The Martin property has been fully fenced in, where the construction team will be working. There has been a removal of trees for the next phase. Internet safety presentations were brought to students and families at Martin, in conjunction with their Project Aware Coordinator, Mrs. Stacey Messier. East Providence Police and RI State Police shared some very interesting information about internet safety and safety using cell

phones. Eighth graders had the opportunity to walk through different CTC stations when they visited on December 18th. December 18-21 was spirit week sponsored by the NJHS.

Zachary Medeiros shared events from November and December at Riverside. The PSTA hosted restaurant night at EP House of Pizza with 10% of proceeds to benefit the school community. On November 17th they had their 1st quarter honor roll bingo where anybody that had all As and Bs could participate. Skate night for the whole school was on November 28th. Riverside kicked off RMS holiday calendar where each week they celebrated holidays school wide and showed school spirit by dressing in festive attire. The RMS Cheer Program is up and running and will perform at basketball games throughout the season. Winter sports is under way for girls and boys basketball and wrestling. The CTC visited RMS in December and 8th graders were able to have a "hands on" learning experience. The band concert was held on December 13th and on December 20th the winter chorus concert was held.

V. Consent Agenda

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

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

3. Approval of Minutes:

November 14, 2023 Executive & Open Session School Committee Meeting

November 21 & 27, 2023 Negotiations Subcommittee Meetings

October 30, 2023 Building Committee Meetings

December 11, 2023 Building Committee Meeting (MMS/Wadd)

4. Personnel

Appointments – Melissa Santiago, Administrative Assistant at Myron J. Francis, effective 11/20/23; Keri Ford, Paraprofessional at EPHS, effective 11/27/23; Sandy Farias-Borges, Human Resources Office Manager/Benefits Coordinator at Administration, effective 12/11/23; Holly Pacheco, Kindergarten Teacher at Whiteknact, effective 12/3/23; Jessica Daponte, English Teacher at Riverside Middle School, effective 12/11/23; Rachel Carvalho, Lunch/Recess Attendant at Silver Spring, effective 11/29/23; Caroline Medeiros, Paraprofessional at Whiteknact, effective 12/11/23; Kristen Costa, Paraprofessional at Whiteknact, effective 1/2/24; and Stephanie Benoit, Special Education Teacher for EPHS Connections, effective 12/18/23.

Resignations – Michael Weeden, Paraprofessional at EPHS, effective 10/26/23; Melissa Nascimento, Paraprofessional at Whiteknact, effective 12/12/23; Deanna Smith, Math Teacher at EPHS, effective 12/5/23; and Bethany Barron, Paraprofessional at Whiteknact, effective 1/6/2024.

Retirements – Michael Charves, Social Studies Teacher at Martin Middle School, effective end of the 2023-2024 school year; Anna Martins, Paraprofessional at Martin Middle School, effective end of the 2023-2024 school year; and Diane Hurd, Grade 3 Teacher at Waddington, effective end of the 2023-2024 school year.

Leaves of Absence – Paraprofessional at Kent Heights, effective 11/7/2023.

Non-Renewals – None

Recalls – None

5. Bill List

- Voucher No. 1002 dated 11/15/23 – \$6,175.00
- Voucher No. 1003 dated 11/17/23 - \$105.00
- Voucher No. 1005 dated 11/29/23 - \$5,542.33
- Voucher No. 1006 dated 12/07/23 - \$1,287,823.22
- Voucher No. 1007 dated 12/28/23 - \$138,960.43
- Voucher No. 1009 dated 01/3/24 - \$2,700.00
- Voucher No. 1010 dated 01/4/24 - \$2,160,890.68
- Voucher No. 1054 dated 10/31/23 - \$76,676.20
- Voucher No. 1055 dated 10/31/23 - \$991,784.87
- Voucher No. 1056 dated 10/31/23 - \$250,439.75

6. Construction Invoices - EPHS for November and December 2023

- Ai3 Architects Extra Services – \$800.00 and \$480.00
- East Providence School Department - \$152,323.27
- Gilbane Building Company - \$99,130.76
- Peregrine Group, LLC – \$1,200.00
- Thielsch - \$437.50

Construction Total – \$253,454.03 (November)
\$917.50 (December)

Stage III Invoices - MMS/Wadd Projects for November and December 2023

- Ai3 Basic Services MMS - \$709,136.28 and \$113,348.50
- Ai3 Supplemental Services MMS - \$6,050.00 and \$22,609.77
- Ai3 Additional Services MMS - \$7,612.00 and \$1,096.63
- Ai3 Reimbursable Services – December \$2,144.63
- Ai3 Supplemental Services Waddington - \$1,254.00
- Peregrine Group - \$18,920.00 and \$62,920.00
- Shawmut MMS Pre-Construction - \$25,000.00
- Shawmut MMS Enabling Work - \$299,791.56 and \$115,363.64
- Stephen Turner, Inc. MMS - \$300.00 and \$3,787.60
- Stephen Turner, Inc. Waddington - \$2,979.50 and \$3,511.00
- Thielsch Engineering - \$1,062.00
- Willscot - \$2,038.75 and \$2,038.75

Stage III Total - \$1,099,244.09 (November)
\$345,740.52 (December)

Motion by Mr. Queenan, seconded by Mr. Brandle and carried by unanimous consent to approve the consent agenda as submitted. No comments or questions by the Committee.

VI. PTO/PTA/EPLAC Reports – Mary Nascimento from the East Providence Local Advisory Committee for Special Education presented their annual report for 2022-2023. She also provided the Committee with the list of EPLAC members for 2023-2024.

VII. Superintendent's Report

1. Unified Volleyball Team – 1st runner up in Division 2. This item was moved up on the agenda after student liaisons' reports. Members on the roster: Avery Arruda, Kyanna Burgo, Mikayla Gallagher, Lily Johanson, Jaiden Wright, Justin Aguiar, JoJo Branco, Josh Harris, Tyius Tate, Ben Nascimento and Jason Russo, Jr. Coach Kristen Coutoulakis, Dana Brodin and Beth Studely. Citations were presented to all.
2. High School Principal's Report – Mr. Black presented the EPHS Program of Studies for the 2024-2025 school year. Every year they present the changes to the Committee. There are three changes to the program of studies in English. Three electives have been added based on student interests; Why William Shakespeare?; Why Novels in Context?; and Why Stephen King? Changes in social studies pathways will reflect new courses such as human rights. Public service is more connected to concepts and practices within government service. No major changes to the science department. They eliminated the statement that biology follows other courses. There is more flexibility in science program. In math they will be adding AP Precalculus to next year's offerings. AP French was added for the growing MLL French speaking population and transfer students. An elective was added in the IT program called Data Science, AI and You. This class was piloted in the spring of 2023 and students loved it. In the health/physical education department, two new electives were added, sports media and coaching and officiating. There are new course highlights – Unified Fine Arts and Intro to Music Theory. allows students to get involved in music. The Program of Studies for next year is a comprehensive curriculum with almost three hundred courses at EPHS; robust choices for elective courses; sheltered courses for MLL students; CTC courses are extensive and provide authentic work-based learning opportunities; courses are designed for various learning levels of students; expanding AP program, experiential pathways offered to students; and the offer of courses that provided students the opportunity to earn postsecondary credit or professional credentials.
3. ALICE – After January teachers will be implementing ALICE in the classrooms. There will be a parent presentation in the high school auditorium on Wednesday, January 24th at 6-8 p.m.
4. BHDDH 2024 Rhode Island Student Survey – The Rhode Island Department of Behavioral Healthcare Disabilities & Hospitals (BHDDH) is partnering with the University of Rhode Island to administer the RI Student Survey (RISS) to students in grades 6 through 12 between January and May of 2024. This survey needs School Committee approval.

5. Facilities Update – Window replacement project has started at Riverside. Media center and science room rehab starts in January 2024. The walk-in freezer refrigerator replacement will start in summer of 2024. Demolition for gymnasium divider replacement to start February 22 and 23 and install new on April 15th-19th.

The second enabling phase at Martin Middle School is complete. Permits have been received to start site work and demo of “old” main entrance area. Gym floor was refinished over Christmas break.

Courtyard renovation project at Orlo Avenue School will start in spring of 2024. Window replacement project punch list is in progress. Final walkthrough Monday, February 15th. Playground fence replacement scheduled for April vacation 2024.

Boiler replacement at Myron J. Francis is slated for summer 2024. Contract awarded to Nex-Gen Services.

The three-phase construction renovation project at Waddington to commence in summer 2024, phase II in summer of 2025 and phase III in summer of 2026.

There are three remaining open items on the punch list at the high school.

LED light replacement project at the administration building started on December 5th and will be completed before January 12, 2024.

A list of surplus equipment to sell, donate or scrap is on the agenda for approval.

All schools have appropriate winter storm tools and supplies. All snow removal equipment has been tested and is in good order. All district boiler systems have been installed with glycol to prevent freezing pipes.

Mr. Murphy to provide the Committee with specs for the gate at Orlo.

6. Finance Update – Mr. Enos stated they are wrapping up last fiscal year and are working with RIDE on the ESSER grants. Next month he will present on the FY22 audit. Parents and guardians can still submit a lunch application.

VIII. Director of Teaching & Learning Report

1. School Accountability Update – Ms. Reilly stated that there is new accountability data from RIDE and accountability changes have been made. She gave a brief overview of the school accountability. She presented an update on school accountability and highlighted the following topics: What measures will we use to evaluate school performance?; What are the components of RI’s accountability system?; What does the School Report Card look like?; 2022 Elementary Star Ratings; 2022 Secondary Star Ratings; Refining Plans with Accountability Data; and Continuous Improvement & Accountability Data.

IX. Building Committee Report

1. Building Project Update – The Martin/Pre-K, Waddington and Riverside projects were updated at the Building Committee meeting last evening.
2. Updated Building Committee Membership List – Ms. Furtado announced that Mr. Cahoon served on the School Committee and City Council and on both Building Committees. She thanked him for his countless hours of hard work to the District and community. Mr. Cahoon has stepped down from the Building Committees on December 11, 2023.

X. Discussion Items

1. Special Education Audit Report Status Update – The audit was conducted by the American Institute of Research and the report was delivered on December 7th. The 150 page report is extensive. The District will be meeting to go over the recommendations and establishing a district-based team of stakeholders to review the report and develop action plans and steps to incorporate into the District's Strategic Plan. Dr. Forand will share the report with the Committee on Friday. A presentation will be provided in February.
2. Second School Committee Meeting in January – Ms. Furtado wanted to propose a second meeting to discuss security in the District and is extending an invitation to Union Presidents.

XI. Public Comments – Donna Rattigan is concerned about what's going on in the schools, particularly EPHS and Silver Spring. She stated the District needs more SRO officers. She has a family member who is afraid to go to school. There are leaks in the schools, bathrooms aren't up to par and the shades at Silver Spring need to be replaced.

Mr. Ferreira requested the Superintendent to email the Committee regarding SROs.

Ms. Furtado stated that the District is not in litigation with any company at this time.

XII. Action Items

1. 2024 School Committee Meeting Schedule

Motion by Mr. Queenan, seconded by Mr. Brandle and carried by unanimous consent to approve the 2024 School Committee meeting schedule as submitted.

2. Updated Building Committee Membership List

Motion by Ms. Beauchaine, seconded by Mr. Queenan and carried by unanimous consent to approve the updated Building Committee membership lists for the high school and district-wide projects as submitted.

3. Contract for Human Resources Office Manager/Benefits Coordinator

Motion by Ms. Beauchaine, seconded by Mr. Ferreira and carried by unanimous consent to approve the contract for the HR Office Manager/Benefits Coordinator as submitted.

4. Contract for Systems Administrator

Motion by Mr. Queenan, seconded by Ms. Beauchaine and carried by unanimous consent to approve the contract for the Systems Administrator as submitted.

5. Administrative Assistants Three-Year Collective Bargaining Agreement

Motion by Mr. Ferreira, seconded by Mr. Brandle and carried by unanimous consent to approve the 2023-2026 CBA for EPSD Administrative Assistants as submitted.

6. Award of Myron J. Francis Boiler Replacement Project

Motion by Mr. Queenan, seconded by Mr. Ferreira and carried by unanimous consent to approve the award of NexGen Mechanical for the Myron J. Francis boiler replacement project for \$172,988 as submitted. Funding will come from the City of East Providence.

7. Award of Orlo Avenue School Fence Replacement Project

Motion by Mr. Ferreira, seconded by Ms. Beauchaine and carried by unanimous consent to approve the award of Premier Fence for the Orlo Avenue School fence replacement project for \$33,963.00 as submitted.

8. EPHS 2024-2025 Program of Studies

Motion by Ms. Beauchaine, seconded by Mr. Queenan and carried by unanimous consent to approve the EPHS 2024-2025 Program of Studies as submitted.

9. BHDDH 2024 Rhode Island Student Survey

Motion by Mr. Brandle, seconded by Ms. Beauchaine and carried by unanimous consent to approve the 2024 Rhode Island Student Survey as submitted.

10. Disposal of Surplus/Obsolete Equipment & Furniture

Motion by Mr. Ferreira, seconded by Mr. Queenan and carried by unanimous consent to approve the disposal of the surplus/obsolete equipment and furniture as submitted.

XIII. Announcements – Ms. Beauchaine announced that the Mayor’s Wrestling Cup will be held on January 17th at East Providence High School. Girls wrestling has now been sanctioned. The District food truck will be available mid-January.

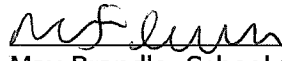
XIV. Adjournment

Motion by Ms. Beauchaine, seconded by Mr. Queenan and carried by unanimous consent to adjourn the meeting at 9:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Sharon Corsi".

Sharon Corsi, Executive Assistant

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Max Brandle".

Max Brandle, School Committee Clerk