EAST PROVIDENCE SPECIAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
OPEN SESSION – June 18, 2024

I. Call to Order Open Session

The East Providence School Committee met in Open Session on Tuesday, June 18, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. in the auditorium at East Providence High School. Ms. Beauchaine called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Present: Jenni Furtado, Chair, Jessica Beauchaine, Vice-Chair, Max Brandle, Clerk, Anthony Ferreira and Ryan Queenan. Superintendent Sandra Forand and Assistant Superintendent Celeste Bowler were also present.

II. Executive Session

Motion by Mr. Queenan, seconded by Mr. Brandle and carried unanimously to move into Executive Session in the main office conference room for the purpose of: Discussion regarding Personnel Job Performance Pursuant to RIGL §42-46-5 (a)(1); Superintendent's Annual Performance Evaluation Pursuant to RIGL §42-46-5 (a)(1); Discussion regarding RFP for Legal Services Submissions; and Consider & Vote on Motion to Adjourn and Reconvene 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 9:02 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence were observed. The Chair reported that no votes were taken in executive session. Motion by Mr. Queenan, seconded by Mr. Ferreira 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 Action item #21 – Inform Superintendent of Intent Not to Extend Contract

Attorney Amanda Cascione clarified the information that was provided to the Committee. This action item has to do with contract language. A failure to notify the Superintendent in writing no later than June 30th results in a one year rollover of the contract. The Superintendent will still have two years working in the District.

There was no motion – Motion failed. There was a standing ovation for the Superintendent.

IV. Public Comments

1. Robert Rodericks, City Council President, addressed the Committee to speak on behalf of the Superintendent's contract. He stated that not renewing the Superintendent's contract is a bad idea. They have a good team now, School Committee, City Council and a Mayor all working together. Dr. Forand is everywhere in the city and has done a lot for this city.

2. Kim Maratto, Reading Specialist at Riverside Middle School. She spoke in support of Dr. Forand after waiting almost 3 ½ hours.

3. Chrissy Rossi stated that it was a big fail putting action item #21 on the agenda.

4. Bill Black, Principal at East Providence High School expressed strong support for the renewal of contracts for administrators and for the Superintendent. He expressed moving forward to continue the excellent work being done in East Providence.

5. Tory Jessop Crowley stated this was a follow up with last meeting and thanked Dr. Forand for responding to her concerns. Dyslexia is 20 percent of the student body. She hopes the District incentivizes teachers to get certified with the teaching literacy programs. She thanked Dr. Forand for making it a priority in looking for ways to get more certified teachers. Ms. Jessop-Crowley requested a power point report on the results of the special education audit that was done in January and February.

V. Action Items

Motion by Ms. Beauchaine, seconded by Mr. Ferreira and carried by unanimous consent to approve **action items 1-11** as submitted which are contracts for Leslie Anderson, Danny Carpenter, Diana Clarkin, Sharon Corsi, Emily Dias, Jeremy Deossa, Craig Enos, Sandra Farias-Borges, Yanaiza Gallant, Michael Hubert and John Iemma.

Motion by Mr. Ferreira, seconded by Mr. Brandle and carried by unanimous consent to approve **action items 12-16** as submitted which are contracts for Patrick Irwin, Steven Laughlin, Cristina Lyman, Patrick McDonald and Jamie McKenzie.

Motion by Ms. Beauchaine, seconded by Mr. Queenan and carried by unanimous consent to approve **action items 18 and 19** as submitted which are contracts for Lindsey Reilly an Mason Santos.

Motion by Mr. Ferreira, seconded by Mr. Brandle and carried by a vote of 4-1 to approve **action item #20** Mark Williamson's contract as submitted. Ms. Beauchaine voted nay.

Action item #17 – Contract for Christopher Murphy
There was no motion – Motion failed.

VI. Adjournment

Motion by Mr. Brandle, seconded by Mr. Ferreira and carried by unanimous consent to adjourn the meeting at 9:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Corsi

Sharon Corsi, Executive Assistant

Max Brandle, School Committee Clerk