
**EAST PROVIDENCE SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
OPEN SESSION – August 13, 2024**

I. Call to Order - Open Session

The East Providence School Committee met in Open Session on Tuesday, August 13, 2024 at 6:00 pm in the auditorium at East Providence High School. Present: Jenni Furtado, Chair, Jessica Beauchaine, Vice Chair, Anthony Ferreira and Ryan Queenan. Max Brandle was absent. Superintendent Forand was also present. Ms. Furtado called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

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: Receive legal advice regarding Cardin litigation pursuant to RIGL §42-46-5(a)(2); 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 6:40 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.

IV. Consent Agenda

1. **Communications** – Enrollment numbers and monthly technology data.
2. **Home School Requests** – There were twenty-one requests to homeschool students.
3. **Approval of Minutes:**

July 30, 2024 Special School Committee Meeting/Budget Workshop I
July 15, 2024 Building Committee Meetings

4. Personnel Report

Appointments – Jodi Lamagna, Science Teacher at EPHS, effective 2024-2025 school year; Lauren Hayden, Speech Pathologist at EPHS, effective 2024-2025 school year; Nicole Fellows, Special Education Teacher, self-contained K-2 at Silver Spring, effective 2024-2025 school year; Alexis Austin, Special Education Teacher, self-contained 3-5 at Hennessey, effective 2024-2025 school year; and Nicole Worzel-Piascik, Assistant Principal at Kent Heights, effective 8/14/2024.

Resignations – Amy Pinhancos, Physical Education Teacher at Kent Heights, effective 8/1/2024; Danielle Beaudon-Parsons, Speech Pathologist at Kent Heights, effective 8/9/2024; Elizabeth Dubois, Resource Teacher at Silver Spring, effective 8/23/2024; and Erin Heatherton, Paraprofessional at Oldham Pre-K, effective 8/9/2024.

Retirements – None

Leaves of Absence – None

Non-renewals – None

Recalls – Molly Millard, Grade 1 Teacher at Orlo, effective 2024-2025 school year; and Kristen Costa, Paraprofessional at ELD, Oldham, effective 2024-2025 school year.

Rescindments – Amber Lemire, Special Education Teacher, self-contained 3-5 at Hennessey, effective 8/1/2024; and Taylor Jensen, Connections Teacher 3-5 at Silver Spring, effective 8/7/2024.

5. Bill List

- Voucher No. 1044 dated 7/30/24 – \$62,047.74
- Voucher No. 1046 dated 8/5/24 - \$74.50
- Voucher No. 1047 dated 8/8/24 - \$3,140,212.08

6. Construction Invoices - EPHS for July 2024

- Apple - \$89,560.00
- B&H Photo - \$4,878.36
- C.B. Utility Co. - \$163,039.76
- City of East Providence - \$780.00
- East Providence School District - \$80,782.97
- Ed and Matt Equipment - \$13,199.20
- Hi-Pod - \$15,672.21
- Minga - \$30,780.00
- NexGen Mechanical - \$187,984.58
- Rogers Athletic Company - \$2,837.00

Construction Total – \$589,514.08

Stage III Invoices - MMS/Waddington Projects for July 2024

- Ai3 Basic Services MMS - \$46,713.27
- Ai3 Supplemental Services MMS - \$22,297.56
- Ai3 Basic Services – Wadd - \$35,013.80
- East Providence School Department - \$900.00
- Peregrine Group - \$72,380.00
- Shawmut MMS - \$1,486,299.89
- Shawmut Wadd - \$2,099,360.50
- Stephen Turner, Inc. MMS - \$4,294.00
- Stephen Turner, Inc. Wadd - \$5,863.47

- Thielsch Engineering (June) - \$19,035.38
- Willscot (July/August) - \$4,108.99

Stage III Total - \$3,796,266.86

Ms. Beauchaine inquired about the process of requests to homeschool students. Dr. Forand stated when parents inquire about homeschooling, paperwork is sent for them to fill out and return to the Assistant Superintendent's office. The requests are submitted to the School Committee for approval. Letters are then sent to the parents notifying them that their request was approved. At the end of the school year a letter is sent to the parents requesting homeschool attendance and student grades.

Mr. Ferreira inquired if there are bills for Orlo or concrete pad for Riverside. Mr. Enos stated that an invoice from Central Nurseries for Orlo was received. The concrete pad didn't make it on the warrant list for approval.

Ms. Beauchaine stated that with the personnel report regarding exit interviews there was a request for a one-on-one exit interview which was granted.

Ms. Beauchaine stated that all invoices for Waddington were discussed and approved by the Building Sub-committee and Building Committee.

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

Superintendent Forand introduced new Administrators in the District: Kent Heights Assistant Principal Nicole Worzel-Piascik, Assistant Superintendent Lisa Benedetti-Ramzi and Assistant Director of Pupil Personnel Cristina Lyman. There were several changes in administration: Danny Carpenter is the new Director of Facilities. John Iemma and Patrick McDonald are the new Co-Directors of IT.

V. PTO/PTA/EPLAC Reports

Tori Jessop Crowley stated that EPLAC opted not to have an August meeting this year. They will be participating in back to school events and PTO events. They plan to update their web page and audit records this year. They would like to have principals' reports at the EPLAC meetings and would like EPLAC school liaisons at each school. Their meetings will be held on a different day, Tuesdays instead of Wednesdays to reach more families.

Ms. Beauchaine announced that the Bridgepointe back to school fair will be held on Saturday, August 17 at East Providence High School from 9-11 am for Pre-K to grade 5. They will be giving away backpacks and school supplies, doing vision and dental screenings and will have carnival games. Donations are welcome. The volunteer list is completely full. Supplies are free.

VI. Superintendent's Report

1. Facilities Update – Dan Carpenter

- Starting at Riverside Middle School, the window project headed by Lockheed Architectural Solutions is going great and starting to come to the end. Curtain walls in

the front of the building have been installed, shades are going up, and finish items are being taken care of. The new science rooms and media center projects that Collins Construction is working on are making headway. The goal is to have all the science classrooms operational for the start of the school year. The media center will be complete in September.

- Waddington phase 1 construction project is moving forward quickly without any issues. A lot of progress is happening daily, and Shawmut is moving the project along. Walls are up.
- Martin Middle School construction project is also moving forward with more demo work, prep work in the gymnasium for shear wall reinforcements to accept the new section of building. Footing and foundation work has been finished to start accepting steel August 5th.
- Orlo courtyard renovation project started on July 1st by Central Nurseries. Concrete patio and handicap accessible ramps have been poured. Irrigation piping is going in now then sod, flowers and various outside furniture and storage items. The project is slated to be completed by mid-August.
- Myron J. Francis boiler replacement project started July 1st by Nex-Gen Mechanical. Demolition and removal of the existing boiler was done the first week, with re-routing of piping and new boiler installation to follow. Two new Lochinvar boilers are being installed in a lead lag configuration to combat the issues of only having a single boiler.
- Installation of newer re-utilized univents at Whiteknact is taking place by our own maintenance crew. Rooms are slated to be replaced in the front section of the building that have 50 plus year old units. They have all been installed by our own HVAC, plumbers, electricians and other maintenance crew members, and will be ready to go for the beginning of school.
- EP High School, HSI has begun installing vinyl wall covering in the hallways on the 3rd and 4th floors. Water drainage issues on the running track were addressed by Woods rooter service, and issues of cracking and turf lifting at the running track are being addressed under warranty by REPLAY, and Cape and Island Tennis & Track.
- Summer cleaning of all buildings is moving along and I would like to thank my custodial and maintenance staff for their hard work so far.

2. Finance Update – Mr. Enos

The District continues to be in good shape. There are some areas they will continue to watch in the 53000 series, speech therapists. In the 55000 series with the closure of the East Bay Educational Collaborative, a balance of funds is available to offset other areas.

VII. Policy Committee Report

1. Code of Student Conduct – 2nd read

Ms. Beauchaine stated that this policy is on the agenda for a 2nd read and approval. Attorney Cascione and Ms. Beauchaine met with a group of teachers and administrators and came up with this revised policy. One small change was made from the last meeting. This policy should be its own policy. It's based on state law and every district in the state is doing this. Links in

the policy will be available to families. This policy will go out to all teachers, families and students to sign off on. Mr. Ferreira asked if the School Committee will be notified if there is vandalism in our schools and will they get an update when a parent is fined. Dr. Forand sends weekly discipline reports to the School Committee and will send vandalism reports as well.

VIII. Building Committee Report

1. Building Project Update – Ms. Beauchaine reported that Martin Middle School is behind three months. Topping off is the week of September 23rd. Dan reported that they accepted the seal. Elevator shaft is in. Bleachers in the gym are set to go back in tomorrow. Matt Abraham went over the Waddington project at the Building Committee meeting on August 12 and stated the seventy workers are on the clock. Martin is ADA accessible. The electric has been put on from the City. There will be heat in the winter. Old boiler will stay and the new boiler will give heat to other classrooms. Construction turnover is set for August 22nd. The punch list has started. The Building Sub-Committee meeting was very interesting. They walked the schools and found an issue at Waddington and brought it to Peregrine's attention who have already addressed the issue regarding the water behind the high school and they will be replacing the floor tiles due to moisture with water issues. Dr. Forand stated that they temporarily put down flooring tiles. There's not enough time to address this issue properly because teachers will be coming back. There is a plan is to seal the concrete and will be addressed with a permanent solution in phase II next summer. Riverside Middle School had their inspection. The media center will open in September. The science classrooms will be ready for the start of school. There is a new Principal and Assistant Principal at Riverside.

2. Updated Building Committee Membership – Ms. Beauchaine reported that there are two membership lists, one for the high school and one for district wide projects. Dr. Forand stated that new staff were added to the committees. Mr. Queenan inquired if there is room for another School Committee member to be on these committees. A resume has to be submitted. There are RIDE requirements to be on these committees. Mr. Queenan clarified that\ community members can apply to be on the building committees.

IX. Discussion Items

1. Proposed FY2025 School Budget Presentation

Dr. Forand went through the district's goals on creating the budget for next year. They apply for any grant that will support any of these goals which are: academic excellence for all students; social-emotional learning to support academic learning; educator's focus on continuous learning; and family and community engagement. She went through the projected enrollment/enrollment history from 2020 which includes special education and MLL enrollment; out of district placements; 2024-2025 reduction in personnel changes; additional budget items; grant funded positions; cost increase; budget impacts; facility updates; and maintenance priorities.

Mr. Enos went over the projected FY 2025 budget to be presented to the City Council. They are seeing a \$26M increase this year.

51000 series Salaries - \$55,303,291

52000 series Benefits - \$24,025,397

53000 series Prof/Tech Services - \$1,615,000

54000 series Property Services - \$640,000
55000 series Other Services - \$14,942,274
56000 series Supplies - \$2,539,000
57000 series Property - \$250,000
58000 series Miscellaneous - \$82,000

Grand Total - \$99,396,962 for expense budget
Total Revenue to match expenses - \$99,396,962

They will be proposing a request from the City, a maximum of \$2.2M.

Mr. Queenan and Ms. Beauchaine met with City Council members to discuss the funding from the City and the needs of the District. Councilman Lawson will put a discussion on the City Council agenda for funding for capital improvement projects. Dr. Forand stated that she tried to look at positions that would have the least impact on students. There is a decrease in kindergarten enrollment. Two classrooms have been reduced and there are still fifteen seats open. Classrooms were combined because there was a classroom with 50 seats and only 25 students. MLL numbers were looked at and cuts were made that would have the least impact on students.

Mr. Enos stated what the website is to fill out the application for school lunch. Go to www.myschoolsapps.com. He went through the process for lunch applications which are handled confidentially in the finance office and online portal. Applications are taken through October 10th. The form requires the number of members living in the home and the income for each member. Applications must be signed. There will be assistance with filling out forms on August 19th at the East Providence library. Forms are available in English, Spanish and Portuguese.

There was discussion on some items in the budget. Ms. Beauchaine stated that she would like to have a social worker at Waddington and professional development for teachers. Dr. Forand is still looking at options or a shift in numbers in classrooms. She stated they will be doing PD internally and will be looking for other grants.

Dr. Forand stated they have 94 out of district students for the CTC. They are grateful for the work at the State House for educational funding and they knew funding was going to come to an end. She will still advocate for additional positions and funding for the District.

Ms. Beauchaine asked if the District received the \$10,000 from the bridge from December 2023. Ms. Furtado will follow up on that.

Mr. Ferreira stated that he cannot support this budget with cuts in positions when the City has money. He said the District should be getting 40% of the speed camera money and haven't seen a penny of it. He will never support a budget knowing the Mayor has \$5.5M. He stated

that the administrators have done a fantastic job on the budget and meetings should be set up quarterly with the City Council.

There will be a meeting with the City Council on September 24th to present the proposed budget for next year.

X. Public Comments – Chrissy Rossi stated that at the last meeting Ms. Furtado said two school committee members were appointed to contract negotiation committees. Ms. Rossi stated that she pulled up the By-Laws and in Article 5 Section 1 there are a total of four collective bargaining agreements. The Chair will appoint two school committee members to each contract negotiation committee regarding a collective bargaining agreement. Such appointment shall be affirmed by a majority vote by the School Committee. Ms. Rossi stated she hasn't heard any votes to appoint school committee members on negotiation committees.

XI. Action Items

1. Code of Student Conduct – 2nd read

Motion by Mr. Ferreira, seconded by Mr. Queenan and carried by unanimous consent to approve the revised Code of Student Conduct policy as submitted.

2. Proposed FY2025 School Budget

Motion by Mr. Queenan, seconded by Ms. Beauchaine and carried by a vote of 3-1 to approve the proposed FY2025 school budget as submitted. Mr. Queenan clarified that the total amount of \$99,396,962 will not change. The Superintendent will be able to move money from line items in the budget. Mr. Ferreira voted nay.

3. Award Material Handling Equipment RFP

Motion by Mr. Queenan, seconded by Ms. Beauchaine and carried by unanimous consent to table this item until the next meeting. Mr. Ferreira asked if the material handling equipment was on the initial list. Mr. Enos confirmed it was and Dr. Forand stated that the list was given to the School Committee. Mr. Queenan asked for all the information on the awarding of the RFP.

4. Updated Building Committee Membership

Motion by Mr. Queenan, seconded by Mr. Ferreira and carried by unanimous consent to approve the updated Building Committee membership list to include Danny Carpenter, John Iemma and Patrick McDonald as submitted. .

5. Proposed Cardin Settlement

Motion by Mr. Ferreira, seconded by Mr. Queenan and carried by unanimous consent to approve the Cardin settlement as submitted.

XII. Announcements – No announcements were made.

XIII. Adjournment

Motion by Mr. Queenan, seconded by Mr. Ferreira and carried by unanimous consent to adjourn the meeting at 9:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sharon Corsi". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Sharon Corsi, Executive Assistant

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Max Brandle". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Max Brandle, School Committee Clerk