
EAST PROVIDENCE SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING OPEN SESSION – November 12, 2024

I. Call to Order - Open Session

The East Providence School Committee met in Open Session on Tuesday, November 12, 2024 at 6:00 pm in the auditorium at East Providence High School. Present: Jenni Furtado, Chair, Jessica Beauchaine, Vice Chair, Max Brandle, Clerk, Anthony Ferreira and Ryan Queenan. Superintendent Forand, Assistant Superintendent Lisa Benedetti-Ramzi and Attorney Andrew Henneous were also present. Ms. Furtado called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

II. Executive Session

Motion by Mr. Ferreira, seconded by Mr. Queenan and carried unanimously to move into main office conference room for the purpose of: Receive legal advice regarding Prak-Martin litigation pursuant to RIGL §42-46-5(a)(2); Legal advice regarding pending cases pursuant to RIGL §42-46-5(a)(2); Discussion regarding personnel pursuant to RIGL §42-46-5(a)(1); Discussion regarding contract negotiations 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 8:03 pm. 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. Student Liaisons – Ty Messier from East Providence High School reported that the talent show on November 7th was spectacular where EPHS students showed off their skills and talents. The parent/teacher conferences will be on Wednesday and Thursday with an early release for students at 10:30am on Thursday. The Tri-M music honors society induction ceremony will be on November 19th at 6pm and the National Honors Society induction ceremony will be on the 21st at 6pm. Their third annual Townie Bazaar will take place on November 23rd. There will be many vendors from local communities to their own sports and clubs. It'll be a great start to the holiday season. The football team will play South Kingstown on Friday to see who makes it to the Superbowl. The annual Thanksgiving game will be on the 28th at Townie Stadium. Girls volleyball, boys soccer, girls soccer and girls tennis ended their season. The esports team is in the semifinals. Congratulations to all athletes for having such an amazing season.

V. Consent Agenda

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

2. **Home School Requests** – There were twenty requests to homeschool students.

3. Approval of Minutes:

October 8, 2024 Executive & Open Session School Committee Meeting

October 28, 2024 Special School Committee Meeting

October 7, 2024 Building Committee Meeting (MMS/Wadd/RMS)

October 2, 10 & 22, 2024 Custodian Negotiation Meetings

4. Personnel Report

Appointments – Jodie Godfrey, Paraprofessional at Oldham, effective 10/7/2024; Kelli Williams, Administrative Assistant at Hennessey, effective 10/23/2024; Steve Ribeiro, Custodian Nights at EPHS, effective 11/4/2024; Jillian Woods, Special Educator at Orlo, effective 11/4/2024; Taylor Streeper, Paraprofessional at Hennessey, effective 10/31/2024; Kelly Fitzpatrick, Special Educator at S/C Silver Spring, effective 12/2/2024; and Michelle Brissette, Administrative Assistant to Principal at Riverside Middle School, effective 11/7/2024.

Resignations – Jeremy Deossa, IT Systems Administrator, effective 10/10/2024; and Alyssa Leech, Special Educator, S/C 204 at Orlo, effective 11/2/2024.

Retirements – Donna Mann, Social Worker at Oldham, effective 1/1/2025; and Kerri Vermette, Grade 2 Teacher at Waddington, effective end of the 2024-2025 school year.

Leaves of Absence – None

Non-renewals – None

Recalls – None

5. Bill List

- Voucher No. 1055 dated 10/16/24 – \$1,985.98
- Voucher No. 1056 dated 10/30/24 - \$72,146.17
- Voucher No. 1057 dated 10/31/24 – \$2,387,482.27
- Voucher No. 1001 dated 11/7/24 - \$153,226.79
- Voucher No. 1002 dated 11/7/24 - \$162,882.00

6. Construction Invoices - EPHS for October 2024

- Ai3 Architects – August 2024 - \$1,144.00
- Ai3 Architects Extra Services – August 2024 - \$500.00
- C. Brito - \$193,200.09
- HSI Construction - September - \$10,000.00
- M&G Supply - September - \$11,000.00
- O'Neil Electric Company - \$19,780.60
- Whalley Computer Associates - \$30,809.76

Construction Invoices Total - \$266,434.45

Stage III Invoices - MMS/Waddington Projects for October 2024

- Ai3 Basic Services MMS - \$46,713.27
- Ai3 Supplemental Services MMS - \$62,510.80
- Ai3 Basic Services – Wadd - \$5,181.75
- Peregrine Group - \$72,380.00
- Shawmut MMS - \$4,085,807.81
- Shawmut Wadd - \$331,759.86
- Stephen Turner, Inc. MMS - \$6,757.25
- Stephen Turner, Inc. Wadd - \$110.75
- Thielsch Engineering – September 2024 - \$9,644.97
- Thielsch Engineering – October 2024 - \$21,846.22
- Willscot – October & November 2024 - \$4,108.54

Stage III Total - \$4,646,821.22

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

VI. PTO/PTA/EPLAC Reports – Jessica Beauchaine reported that the next EPLAC meeting will be on November 26th at 6 pm at Kent Heights library. At their last meeting on October 29th there was a workshop on developmental language disorder (DLD) and dyslexia by Kendall Martes. During “Tell Me Something Good” portion of the meeting Hennessey Elementary implemented a buddy program which pairs children with IEPs with older students as peer models for social emotional experiences. Hennessey has partnered with Special Olympics to create a unified basketball team. EPLAC will have a table at the Townie Bazaar on Saturday, November 23 at 11am-3pm at East Providence High School.

Riverside Middle School PTA has a Saturday raffle to benefit Riverside PTSA at Contenders. Kent Heights has coffee on the curb this Friday at 8:30am. Hennessey is having their Harvest Rodeo on Friday, November 15th at 6-7:30pm.

VII. Superintendent’s Report

1. Facilities Update – Dan Carpenter

EPHS – The wall covering work was completed on October 8th. All punch list items have been completed to District standards. The closeout invoice should be coming in for payment. Cape Island Tennis & Track responded to the warranty claim. Looking further into this issue to find a resolution. Plumbing covers that were ordered have arrived and are being installed in priority areas to help combat vandalism.

Myron J. Francis – Installation of the two new boilers was completed by Nex Gen Mechanical on October 10th. Everything has been tested and is running for the heating season.

Martin Middle School – Concrete pours have been completed on slab on grade and slab on decks. Fire proofing is being sprayed daily. Metal clips are being installed around exterior of the building to accept the exterior walls. Layout of steel studs on each floor has begun. Roofing has also begun and will throughout November. Setting of the HVAC units will follow the roof work in December.

Riverside Middle School – Punch list items are being addressed by Collins Construction in the media center and science rooms. Closeout of the project will follow with the Peregrine Group and Ai3 Architects. The concrete slab work was completed by Duarte Corporation on October 28th. The freezer was installed.

Waddington – Some warranty items that have come up from this summer's construction project have been addressed by Shawmut Construction. Prep and exploratory work has begun by Shawmut and subcontractors to look at the next phases for this coming summer with electrical, plumbing and HVAC systems.

Silver Spring – The new dishwasher is ready for installation. A new run of electrical is required due to removal from the past. Hoping to have it fully installed and ready to use by the end of the month.

Orlo/Silver Spring Window Projects – Lockheed completed repairs to both schools on November 1st. The final product and punch list will be reviewed accordingly.

Silver Spring Outdoor Classroom Project – Actively working on the seating project at Silver Spring. Inspections are to take place and verified by the building inspector with framing, concrete and final finishes. Looking to have it fully completed by November 26th.

Other District Notes – Installed convex mirrors throughout Waddington, Whiteknact, Silver Spring and Kent Heights that were supplied through a safety enhancement grant that was received from the Trust to help with visibility throughout the hallways and corner areas.

Prices for a new roof replacement at Oldham Pre-K have started to come back. Looking to address this in the near future as part of the district project list.

Mr. Ferreira requested the punch lists for Waddington and Riverside Middle Schools. Superintendent Forand will resend the punch list from September 13th and the ones from October 10th.

2. Finance Update – Mr. Enos stated that the budget report represents the end of FY24 as November 8th. There are still some outstanding transactions and it will be a tight fiscal year end.

VIII. Policy Committee Report

1. AI Policy Update – Ms. Furtado stated that administration was working on AI with legal counsel. Dr. Forand is still working on the policy and changes with the tech department. All districts in the state are working on these policies as well.

IX. Building Committee Report

Ms. Beauchaine stated there was a Building Committee meeting last evening for the high school project. There was a vote to close out the EPHS bond and turn over the remaining bond funds to the City of East Providence.

Mr. Enos stated that last night the remaining project activities document was reviewed and voted on. The capital project listing that the building committee has been working on for the last eight months was presented to the Committee. Mr. Enos went through some items on the list that have been going on such as the fencing that borders the high school/administration building, the storage sheds and composting toilet facilities.

Mr. Ferreira inquired about approving the close out tonight. Mr. Enos stated that if there are any changes, it will come back for review. Superintendent Forand stated that the list was voted on and approved tonight at the City Council meeting.

Ms. Furtado stated that Council President Rodericks is on the Building Committee and is aware that additional funds may be needed.

Mr. Enos presented the project budget close-out summary:
Total Project Budget - \$189,500,000
Spent/Paid to Date* - \$182,499,383 (Same since 5/1/24)
Projected that was Spent** - \$90,712
Spent to Date + Projected Spent - \$182,590,095
Remaining Available Balance - \$6,909,905
Outstanding Budget Items Spent (not included above)*** - \$3,617,343
Ending Balance - \$3,292,562

*City of East Providence spent to date through 4.30.24, less bond placement costs.

**Projected remaining scoped costs – OPM, AE, FF&E

***Budget items outside of original project (water line/mast arm relo/EPSP items)

This project was on time and on budget with funds to return to the City. There will be an account holding \$3.2M which will be earmarked for the school department.

Building Project Update – Mr. Carpenter highlighted milestones on Martin Middle School. Fireproofing, completed decking, slab on deck and all slab on grade work has been completed. Exterior and interior framing has begun. Roofing is also starting along with exterior wall covering. Fireproofing to be completed by the end of November.

A look ahead for the phase 2 project this coming summer at Waddington includes three different designs for water mitigation in the rear section of the building. The library is being

brought up to code compliance for space requirements. Working on the wheelchair lift procurement. Exploratory work has been taking place to get measurements and plans in place for the next phase.

The punch list has been completed for the Riverside Middle School science room/media center project. Currently awaiting issuance of a letter of completion. Once it is received, the release of the retainage and project closeout will take place.

They will be conducting six-month and eleven-month warranty walkthroughs.

X. Discussion Items

1. 2025 School Committee Meeting Schedule – Ms. Furtado asked the Committee is there were any issues with the dates proposed for their meetings schedule. Once approved the schedule is posted on the Secretary of State website at the beginning of the year and can be revised.

XI. Public Comments – There were no public comments this evening.

XII. Action Items

1. Proposed Prak-Martin Settlement

Motion by Mr. Ferreira, seconded by Mr. Queenan and carried by unanimous consent to approve the Prak-Martin proposed settlement as submitted.

2. Martin Middle School Trip to Boston

Motion by Mr. Brandle, seconded by Mr. Ferreira and carried by unanimous consent to approve the Martin Middle School grade 8 trip to Boston, MA in May 28-29, 2025 as submitted.

3. 2025 School Committee Meeting Schedule

Motion by Mr. Queenan, seconded by Ms. Beauchaine and carried by a vote of 4-1 to approve the 2025 School Committee meeting schedule as submitted. Mr. Ferreira voted nay.

4. Award of FARO Scanner RFP

Motion by Mr. Queenan, seconded by Ms. Beauchaine and carried by unanimous consent to approve the award of the FARO scanner RFP to FARO Technologies for \$59,536.99 as submitted. Funding for this purchase will be coming from the Perkins Grant.

5. 2024-2027 Custodians' Collective Bargaining Agreement

Motion by Mr. Queenan, seconded by Mr. Ferreira and carried by unanimous consent to approve the 2024-2027 Custodians' collective bargaining agreement as submitted.

6. EPHS Remaining Project Activities

Motion by Mr. Queenan, seconded by Mr. Brandle and carried by a vote of 4-1 to approve the East Providence High School remaining project activities as submitted. Mr. Ferreira voted nay.

7. Close Out EPHS Bond and Turn Over Remaining Bond Funds to the City

Motion by Mr. Ferreira, seconded by Mr. Queenan and carried by unanimous consent to close out the East Providence High School bond and turn over the remaining bond funds to the City of East Providence as submitted.

XIII. Announcements – Mr. Queenan shared his appreciation to Mr. Brandle and Ms. Furtado for their service spent on this Committee. He also shared congratulations to Ms. Beauchaine, Mr. Ferreira and to new members, Mr. Luiz and Mr. Desimas.

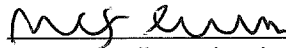
XIV. Adjournment

Motion by Mr. Ferreira, seconded by Mr. Queenan and carried by unanimous consent to adjourn the meeting at 9:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Sharon Corsi, Executive Assistant



Max Brandle, School Committee Clerk