
**EAST PROVIDENCE SPECIAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
OPEN SESSION – January 9, 2025**

I. Call to Order Open Session

The East Providence School Committee met in open session on Thursday, January 9, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. at the East Providence School Department administration office. Mr. Luiz called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m. Members present: David Luiz, Chair, Antonio deSimas, Vice-Chair, Anthony Ferreira, Clerk, Jessica Beauchaine and Ryan Queenan. Also present were Superintendent Sandra Forand, Assistant Superintendent and Attorney Andrew Henneous.

II. Executive Session

Motion by Mr. Queenan, seconded by Ms. Beauchaine and carried unanimously to move into a conference room for the purpose of: Legal advice regarding pending cases pursuant to RIGL §42-46-5 (a)(2); and consider & vote on motion to adjourn and convene into public session.

III. Reconvene in Open Session

Mr. Luiz called the meeting to order at 7:10 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. Ferreira, seconded by Mr. Queenan and carried by unanimous consent to seal the minutes.

IV. Discussion Items

1. Switching from One School Committee Meeting a month to Two Meetings a month
Mr. Ferreira stated that he feels it's necessary to go back to having two meetings per month, especially with the school department handling a \$100M budget. The Committee agreed on the fourth Thursday of the month for a second meeting.

2. Change in Location of School Committee Meetings
The Committee discussed a change in location for meetings so more people will be able to attend. They are working on hosting the meetings in council chambers at City Hall on the second Tuesday of each month. Mr. Luiz proposed hosting the second meeting at a different school to encourage engagement. This item is up for further discussion.

3. Activation of Badges for School Committee Members
Mr. deSimas stated that all School Committee members should have unlimited and unrestricted access to school department buildings and should be able to go without anyone interfering.

Mr. Ferreira stated that he doesn't believe in going into schools during school hours. Walkthroughs are usually done after school.

Ms. Beauchaine stated that she had a badge that got shut off. She also stated that background checks are needed each year.

Dr. Forand stated that she pulled all records on swipe badges and no one had swipe badges since the high school opened. Everyone was using key fobs before that and according to the log, no one had swiped into any building since the high school opened.

Attorney Henneous stated that 24 hour access in the buildings concerns him for safety reasons. The District needs to have a protocol.

V. Action Items

1. Switching from One School Committee Meeting a Month to Two Meetings a Month

Motion by Mr. deSimas, seconded by Mr. Ferreira and carried by a 3-2 vote to approve switching from one meeting a month to two meetings a month as submitted. Ms. Beauchaine and Mr. Queenan voted nay.

2. Change in Location of School Committee Meetings

Motion by Mr. Ferreira, seconded by Mr. deSimas and carried by a 3-2 vote to approve the change in location of School Committee meetings to be held at a roaming school on the last Thursday of the month and at City Hall for the first meeting (second Tuesday of the month) instead of the East Providence High School auditorium as submitted. Mr. Queenan and Ms. Beauchaine voted nay.

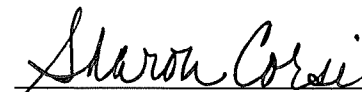
3. Activation of Badges for School Committee Members

Motion by Mr. deSimas, seconded by Mr. Ferreira and carried by a 4-1 vote to approve the activation of badges for School Committee members with unrestricted access as submitted. Ms. Beauchaine voted nay.

VI. Adjournment

Motion by Ms. Beauchaine, seconded by Mr. Ferreira and carried by unanimous consent to adjourn the meeting at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Sharon Corsi, Executive Assistant


Anthony Ferreira, School Committee Clerk