
EAST PROVIDENCE SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING OPEN SESSION – February 27, 2025

I. Call to Order - Open Session

The East Providence School Committee met in Open Session on Thursday, February 27, 2025 at 6:00 pm in the auditorium at East Providence High School. Present: David Luiz, Chair, Antonio deSimas, Vice Chair, Anthony Ferreira, Clerk, Jessica Beauchaine and Ryan Queenan. Superintendent Forand and Assistant Superintendent Lisa Benedetti-Ramzi were also present. Mr. Luiz called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

II. Executive Session

Motion by Mr. deSimas, seconded by Mr. Queenan and carried unanimously to move into main office conference room for the purpose of: Hearing: appeal regarding student discipline and legal advice related thereto pursuant to RIGL §42-46-5(a)(8); Discussion regarding Mill City arbitration settlement and legal advice related thereto 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 (Regular Meeting)

Mr. Luiz called the meeting to order at 6:32 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. deSimas, seconded by Mr. Queenan and carried by unanimous consent to seal the minutes.

IV. Hearing: Appeal regarding Student Discipline if Requested by Parent – There was no hearing. Parent had an emergency out of state and couldn't attend.

V. Consent Agenda

1. **Communications** – EPHS ALP update was included in the school committee packet.

2. **Approval of Minutes:**

February 6, 2025 Special Open Session School Committee Meeting

February 11, 2025 Open Session School Committee Meeting

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

VI. Policy Committee Report

1. Artificial Intelligence (AI) Policy – 2nd read – There was no discussion.

VII. Public Comments

1. Steven Bertrand spoke about bullying in schools and has started a program called Project Change. He would like an opportunity to address students in East Providence.

2. Renee Ignacio, an East Providence bus driver, spoke about Steven Bertrand's story and bullying on buses. She has a program about cameras on the buses and would like to have it looked into.

3. Madeline Marlow advocated on behalf of the East Providence Prevention Coalition for middle and high school students to take the RIDOH/RIDE Youth Risk Behavior Survey which is voluntary and confidential.

VIII. Discussion/Action Items

1. AI Policy – 2nd read

Motion by Mr. deSimas, seconded by Mr. Queenan and carried by unanimous consent to approve the second reading of the Artificial Intelligence (AI) Policy as submitted.

2. Content Filtering Platform Licensing RFP

Motion by Mr. deSimas, seconded by Mr. Ferreira and carried by unanimous consent to approve the RFP for content filtering platform licensing as submitted. Patrick McDonald stated that the District is seeking competitive proposals for technology software currently in use for protection of and blended learning with classroom chromebooks. The Go Guardian platform is from 2019 and the price has increased.

3. 2025-2026 School Calendar

Motion by Mr. deSimas, seconded by Mr. Ferreira and carried by unanimous consent to approve the East Providence School Department 2025-2026 school calendar as submitted. Dr. Forand stated that they heard from parents and teachers that there wasn't enough time to meet with teachers during parent/teacher conference day so next year they will be doing a full day of conferences. In order to do that, they had to petition RIDE for the day which was approved.

4. List of Technology E-Waste

Motion by Mr. Queenan, seconded by Mr. deSimas and carried by unanimous consent to approve the list of technology e-waste as submitted. A printout of a spread sheet for buyout and devices that weren't able to get quotes for was handed out. The items on the list would be disposed of. The list is from a couple of years of cleaning out and includes old and obsolete devices. With the buyout money, the IT department is planning on purchasing flat panels. The money is going back into the IT budget.

5. Uphold Superintendent's Decision for Student Discipline – There was no hearing.

6. EPHS Trip to New York

Motion by Mr. Ferreira, seconded by Mr. deSimas and carried by unanimous consent to approve the East Providence High School trip to New York in May 2025 as submitted.

7. Mill City Settlement

Motion by Mr. deSimas, seconded by Mr. Ferreira and carried by a 4-1 vote to approve the Mill City settlement as discussed in executive session. Ms. Beauchaine voted nay.

8. RIDOH/RIDE 2025 Youth Risk Behavior Survey for Middle and High School Students

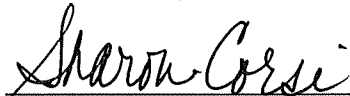
Motion by Mr. deSimas, seconded by Mr. Queenan and carried by a 3-2 vote to approve the distribution of the RIDOH/RIDE 2025 Youth Risk Behavior Survey for middle and high school students as submitted. Ms. Beauchaine and Mr. Ferreira voted nay.

IX. Announcements – Dr. Forand said good luck to all teams in the playoffs this weekend.

X. Adjournment

Motion by Mr. deSimas, seconded by Mr. Ferreira and carried by unanimous consent to adjourn the meeting at 7:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Sharon Corsi, Executive Assistant



Anthony Ferreira, School Committee Clerk