
EAST PROVIDENCE SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING OPEN SESSION – April 24, 2025

I. Call to Order - Open Session

The East Providence School Committee met in open session on Thursday, April 24, 2025 at 6:30 pm in council chambers at East Providence City Hall. Members 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 6:36 pm. The Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence were observed.

II. Teacher Recognition

Deborah Brun was awarded the 2025 Rhode Island Mathematics Teacher Association's Outstanding Teacher of the Year. Mr. Queenan thanked Ms. Brun for everything she does for the students in East Providence.

III. Policy Committee Report

1. Visitor Behavior Policy – 2nd read

Some additional requested changes were made to the policy which were highlighted.

IV. Public Comments

1. Oliver Holmes addressed the Superintendent on the policy for getting back to a parent when they have a concern. He stopped by the administration office earlier in the week to say that a teacher in a pick up truck was barreling through the high school parking lot and almost hit him when he picked up his child. Dr. Forand stated that she responds to all calls with parents and was unaware that he requested a call back from her. She was made aware of the incident and the issue was addressed by the high school. Mr. Ferreira requested to see the video.
2. Rene Ignacio addressed the Committee in February and had a couple of questions regarding the status of getting cameras on the bus. She continues to have issues at Waddington Elementary. Mr. Luis stated that the cameras are a work in progress and will be on the May agenda. Ms. Ignacio also inquired about the status of Steve Bernard speaking to students in the district about bullying. Mr. Bernard sent a letter to the principals and Superintendent. It's up to the principals if they would like him to speak to their students.

V. Discussion /Action Items

1. Discussion on the EPSD Priority Updates from the April 8th Meeting – Mr. deSimas had several questions for further discussion and clarification regarding curriculum development and special needs; special education advisory committee focus; curriculum accessibility and universal designs; progress monitoring and program evaluation; MTSS implementation; professional development for inclusive instruction; and parent engagement communication. He will follow up by email with Superintendent Forand.

2. Visitor Behavior Policy – 2nd read

Motion by Mr. deSimas, seconded by Mr. Ferreira and carried by unanimous consent to approve the second read of the Visitor Behavior Policy as submitted.

3. RFP for Bus Transportation

Motion by Mr. deSimas, seconded by Mr. Queenan and carried by unanimous consent to approve the RFP for bus transportation as submitted with discussion. Dr. Forand stated that there weren't a lot of changes made to the RFP. They added a third year for an extension to the contract and dates were changed. The bus drivers are unionized. She will look into whether van drivers are also unionized. Legal counsel will go through the contract to make sure it includes what was in the RFP. They will have to go out to a vendor for internal cameras. Some vendors will provide at no cost.

4. Certified Staff Layoffs

Motion by Mr. deSimas, seconded by Mr. Queenan and carried by a 4-1 vote to approve the eight certified staff layoffs as submitted. Mr. deSimas confirmed that these layoffs will not impact students and class sizes. Dr. Forand stated that these positions were put in place after school started. Other than enrollment issues, there are no new cuts to programs. These educators will be able to bid at the job placement. The goal is to get everyone back before the end of the school year. Mr. Ferreira voted nay.

5. Employee Assistance Program Agreement

Motion by Mr. Ferreira, seconded by Mr. deSimas and carried by unanimous consent to approve the Coastline Employee Assistance Program Agreement as submitted. The Trust previously worked with All One Health care provider and switched to Coastline at a cost savings. There are different incentives with this new program and a free service to employees. As soon as approved, it will go out to all employees and how to access it. The District pays for this program through the Trust.

VI. Announcements – Mr. Luiz shared that starting on Monday, April 28th, the parking lot next to the Senior Center and the side street will no longer be available for student parking. There will be no parking in the Senior Center parking lot. The signs will come down tomorrow.

Dr. Forand stated that a few more spots have been opened at the high school. Parking passes are given out at the beginning of the school year by lottery. Students can park at Agawam and they have been notified before school started. A few more spots have been opened at the high school. Mr. Ferreira inquired on how the lottery works. Ms. Beauchaine stated that student parking is a privilege, same as sports, social activities, etc.

Superintendent Forand announced that the 2025 Teacher of the Year celebration will be held on Tuesday, May 13th at 4 pm.

VII. Adjournment

Motion by Ms. Beauchaine, seconded by Mr. Ferreira and carried by unanimous consent to adjourn the meeting at 7:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Sharon Corsi, Executive Assistant



Anthony Ferreira, School Committee Clerk