
EAST PROVIDENCE SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING OPEN SESSION – May 13, 2025

I. Call to Order - Open Session

The East Providence School Committee met in Open Session on Tuesday, May 13, 2025 at 6:00 pm in council chambers at East Providence City Hall. Present: Davd Luiz, Chair, Antonio deSimas, Vice Chair, Anthony Ferreira, Clerk, Ryan Queenan and Jessica Beauchaine. Superintendent Forand was also present. Mr. Luiz called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

II. Executive Session

Motion by Mr. Queenan, seconded by Mr. Ferreira and carried unanimously to move into the conference room for the purpose of: Discussion regarding certified employee A job performance pursuant to RIGL §42-46-5(a)(1); 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 6:30 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. deSimas and carried by unanimous consent to seal the minutes. 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.

IV. Student Liaison – This was the last meeting for Ty Messier to share some updates from the high school. It's a very busy and exciting time of year! He will be graduating in June and heading off to the University of Central Florida to study aerospace engineering. He announced the new student liaison, Hope Moran, who is a CTC honor student and RI DECA President and the founder of Townie Cares, a new program at EPHS.

The band students kicked off the month with their spring concert on May 1 and the chorus had their concert on May 8, both fantastic performances. Last week they celebrated Teacher Appreciation Week which was a meaningful opportunity to thank amazing educators for all that they do, day in and day out, for students. There was AP testing over the past few weeks. This Saturday, May 17th, is the junior and senior prom at Rhodes on the Pawtuxet from 6-10pm. On May 22nd, they will be hosting the annual fashion show in the high school auditorium which is always a creative and exciting event. It's officially senior season for the class of 2025. Thursday, May 15th the CTC Senior Certificate Ceremony will be held in the auditorium at 6pm. On Friday, May 23rd, they'll celebrate their National Honor Society students at the NHS awards night at 6pm. The Senior Athletic Banquet is scheduled for May 28th at 6pm. Seniors' last day of

school is May 30th. Class Night will take place on June 2nd at 6pm. The Senior Cookout follows graduation rehearsals on June 3rd and the Senior Trip to Six Flags is happening on June 5th. Graduation will be celebrated on June 6th beginning at 6:30pm.

The athletes are doing great this spring season in baseball, softball, boys tennis, golf, boys volleyball, girls lacrosse, boys lacrosse and unified basketball.

Ty stated that they really do have a great group of teachers, administrators, staff members and students at EPHS. He thanked the School Committee for giving him this amazing opportunity to relay the information from the high school to all of them.

Ms. Beauchaine congratulated Ty for being a semi-finalist for the Presidential Scholarship.

V. Consent Agenda

1. **Communications** – Enrollment numbers, monthly technology data and Scituate School Committee Resolution on funding for private school transportation by state and local education agencies.

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

3. Approval of Minutes:

April 8, 2025 Open Session School Committee Meeting

April 24, 2025 Open Session School Committee Meeting

April 7, 2025 Building Committee Meeting

4. Personnel Report

Appointments – Sandy Farias-Borges, Human Resources Director, effective 5/3/2025;

Alexandra Gonzalez, Finance Director, effective 5/27/2025; Armand Hunter, Senior Army

Instructor at CTC, effective 8/18/2025; and Pamela Traverse, School Nurse at Oldham, effective 8/25/2025.

Resignations – None

Retirements – Paula Fillion, Resource Teacher at Riverside Middle School, effective end of the 2024-2025 school year; and Julie Szala, Resource Teacher at Martin Middle School, effective end of the 2024-2025 school year.

Leaves of Absence – None

Recalls – Math Teacher at Riverside Middle School, effective 2025-2026 school year

5. Bill List

- Voucher No. 1025 dated 4/15/25 – \$3,420.00
- Voucher No. 1026 dated 4/22/25 - \$142,456.00
- Voucher No. 1027 dated 4/30/25 - \$175,205.06
- Voucher No. 1029 dated 5/7/25 - \$2,433,378.58

6. Stage III Invoices - MMS/Waddington Projects for April 2025

- Ai3 Basic Services MMS - \$46,713.27
- Ai3 Supplemental Services MMS - \$20,936.59
- Ai3 Basic Services – Wadd - \$18,792.28
- Ai3 Supplemental Services Wadd - \$10,257.56

- East Providence School District Reimbursement - \$900.00
- Peregrine Group - \$62,920.00
- Shawmut MMS - \$4,203,182.38
- Shawmut Wadd - \$231,683.25
- Stephen Turner, Inc. MMS - \$12,888.00
- Thielsch Engineering MMS- \$8,915.47
- Willscot – May - \$2,038.75

Stage III Total - \$4,619,227.55

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

VI. PTO/PTA/EPLAC Reports – There were no reports.

VII. Superintendent's Report

1. 2025 Teacher of the Year Candidates: Dr. Forand acknowledged all teachers who were selected from each school. Mary Sorice, East Providence High School; Adam Branch, Riverside Middle School; Amy Moran, Martin Middle School; Eileen Wayland, Myron J. Francis; Lisa Orsini, Agnes B. Hennessey; Jasmine DaSilva, Kent Heights; Casey DoVale, Orlo Avenue; Lisa Sisson, Oldham PreK; Ryan DeCarvalho, Silver Spring; Thomas Boucher, Jr., Waddington; and Shane Walsh, Whiteknact Elementary. The 2025 District Teacher of the Year is Amy Moran.

2. MLL Update – MLL Director, Yanaiza Gallant, gave an update on the Multilingual Language Learners Program. There are 298 active MLL students across the District in kindergarten through grade 12 and 50 monitored MLL students which are 38% Spanish, 28% Portuguese and 14% Creole. Spanish is the leading language in the District. The East Providence School District's MLL Program vision is that multilingual language learners in EP will be provided a safe, relationship-driven and language rich learning environment that honors cultural and linguistic assets, preparing students to achieve their full potential and advocate for themselves in and out of the classroom. The District had historical MLL exits for the 2024-2025 school year – 33 students which is the most students exited out. The program started in 2016 with 3 students exiting the program in the entire District. The focus for the 2025-2026 school year is to elevate reading comprehension through evidence-based strategies; expand MLL family engagement through the MLL Family Coordinator; strengthen educator capacity through MLL certification pathways; and continue to build infrastructure for consistent, grade-level core instruction. 2025 scores were released. ACCESS is a yearly standardized assessment. Lowest star rating is 4 stars and all schools fall under the 4-star ratings. Students are not only learning a second language but leading in academics. Orlo Avenue has a five-star rating. For the first time ever, the writing scores are at a level 3 and above and beating out reading scores. Just finished Pre-K screeners. MLL students are thriving and very diverse in our environment which means less students qualifying for services.

Superintendent Forand stated that the District received a grant from RIDE for Pre-K literacy.

3. Special Education Presentation – Leslie Anderson, Rebecca Vieira and Kelsey Laramée gave an update on the Special Education Advisory Committee. They spoke about the project development from January/February 2024 when the report was received and reviewed by District leaders. In March 2024 there was a discussion of reported strengths and recommendations to which they identified priority areas and scope of work. In April 2024 there was a comprehensive discussion and understanding of IDEA, FAPE, IEP and LRE, along with procedural safeguards/parents right. They also had an extended discussion on District data for students with IEPs to include educational environments, local, national and state data. In May 2024 they established priority areas for the team based on ten recommendations outlined and started to outline short and long term goals and objectives. In September-December 2024, there was a full committee meeting to review and reflect on four goals (warmer and cooler) and gathered feedback, aligning feedback and goals to develop initial concept and project framework. From January-March 2025 there were sub-committee meetings to expand and develop concepts and framework and program development plan. March-June 2025 is to further collaborate with stakeholders, share subcommittee work and feedback and ongoing development. This work has come directly from the teachers. The committee has developed a placement framework to support data-based decisions when recommending students for classroom placement. This process is currently being piloted for incoming students.

Mr. deSimas requested quarterly updates. Ms. Anderson stated there will be training on how to use the tool. Mr. deSimas inquired if there is adequate funding for resources in place for professional development.

Ms. Beauchaine stated she is grateful that this has been done and will share this information publicly. Ms. Anderson has asked to be on the EPLAC agenda for next month to present.

Ms. Beauchaine inquired if the student profile will be done with all students. Ms. Anderson stated that they did focus on the pre-k coming up to kindergarten which is a different requirement from pre-k. Students that come in through the summer and enrollment won't be finalized until November. There are thirteen students coming in currently participating in private clinics. They have reached out to all clinics to have them set up a K classroom in the clinic to familiarize the students moving up.

Ms. Beauchaine asked what happens if they have to close a classroom or a classroom has too many students? Ms. Anderson stated that that will definitely be one of the challenges and they will be aware of the students coming in. They keep a very close count of how many students are in the classrooms and with what teacher. They looked at minimum staffing ratio for each of the new classrooms. Ms. Beauchaine asked what happens if parents don't agree with the decision and they don't want self-contained. Ms. Anderson stated that that remains with the

team recommendation and is part of the IEP process. This is a really solid plan and has come from the teachers. Much dedication has been put into this.

Dr. Forand stated that conversations have been going on with the middle and high schools. This year the middle schools and high school will remain unchanged. The program will be implemented this September.

5. Facilities Update – Dan Carpenter

EPHS steel building- The steel building was delivered on May 2 and on May 5, 2025 and an RFP was written up for installation. Bids came back for the electrical services. There were two companies that bid, Wayne Electric for \$41K and Sole-source Construction for \$48K. The RFP for steel frame building installation is on agenda for approval.

Duct cleaning services quotes- There were two quotes from companies to do duct work cleaning, 800 Duct for \$64K and New England Duct Cleaning Service for \$58K.

*Any commercial duct cleaning in the State of Rhode Island requires that the individual holds an HVAC license. This is regulated by the State Department of Labor and Training. There is only one person on staff with the license which means none of the custodians are legally authorized to conduct this work. A licensed company must be hired to do a full cleaning.

EPHS running track update- Cut Rite Concrete came out to give a quote on cutting an expansion joint channel in the track. The price came back at \$7,550. Other materials are estimated to bring the total repair cost to \$9-10K dollars. This would include a pourable silicone laid on top of a foam backer rod installed in the crack. A representative from Cape and Island Tennis and Track came out on Tuesday, April 29th. The Superintendent and Mr. Carpenter met with him to discuss the issues. He took pictures of the affected areas and is working to get answers from his superiors. Mr. Carpenter found three schools including East Providence that have similar issues with their tracks and he will be visiting their schools to compare. On May 5, 2025, a quote was received from Bob Whyte of Cape and Island Tennis and Track for repairs to the cracks in the tennis courts. The Tennis court repairs were quoted at \$8,900 and the track repair at \$3,300. This repair to the track is the same as they had done previously, that proved to not hold up over time. This type of repair will only crack again within a year's time and will not be guaranteed. Mr. Carpenter recommended it not be done, and continue with the expansion joint repair instead.

Composting Bathroom EPHS- The District is set to take delivery of the new composting bathroom to be installed at the high school to the back of the baseball field. City DPW will be excavating and installing the week of May 21st. The area has just been cleared by Digsafe.

APRIL vacation accomplishments by EPSD

Hennessey steam leak repairs -

- One steam leak was abated and repaired. They could not reach the other leak in the hallway area due to the confined space. This will require them to cut a hole in the

hallway floor to access the area. Due to the short week time restraint, this was not feasible to accomplish during vacation. The next repair is set up for this summer .

- All ducts/vents around the buildings were cleaned by custodians; boiler rooms were cleaned out; air conditioners were cleaned for the season; and deep cleaning throughout all buildings.
- At Hennessey and Whiteknact they blew down the gymnasiums fully including the ductwork. Flags were removed from the gym at Whiteknact also.
- The prep work of the aluminum trim required for Orlo's window gap to be done this summer was completed.
- PA system wiring was continued for preparation for the summertime based installations at Silver Spring, Orlo, Francis and Whiteknact.
- O' Neil electric was able to accomplish the wiring requirements for the new dishwasher installed at Silver Spring. They were also able to program the gymnasium windows at Orlo to working order.
- Addition of two new offices at the Administration Building were accomplished. Demo, framing, insulation, heating, electrical and sheetrock was accomplished. Painting and finishes will continue. Doors and frames are on order. Currently waiting on Allied Fire Protection to move a sprinkler head that is in the way to finish one of the office's door opening areas.

The new Orlo sign - will be placed at the corner of the street near the flagpole. Mr. Carpenter had previously gone out for an installation price that proved to be too expensive. EPSD maintenance will be installing the sign. They have the required concrete drawing which serves as the base for the sign. They also have the concrete and tubes ready to go. Digsafe has been contacted and the area has been cleared. Due to other issues around the District and at Orlo itself, the project was put down the priority list. The parking lot issue has taken priority at the moment. This job will be taking place later this month if time allows, or may be pushed to a summer project.

Silver Spring outdoor classroom - The outdoor classroom trim work has been finished. They are sourcing the shade material and color to be made into custom shades that clip on to shield students from the sun and enhance the look of the project. Mr. Carpenter has previously gone over issues with the Building Inspector that were brought up. All were corrected. It was requested that side handrails be added, which will be installed also. This project is looking to be wrapped up next week. Trees are also set to be added to the area by the City Tree Commission in the coming weeks which is part of the Citywide Tree Grant.

Mr. Ferreira requested timelines for the next meeting on the projects getting wrapped up.

Mr. deSimas inquired about the next steps with duct cleaning. Dr. Forand stated they will be going out for an RFP and will have it for the next meeting. Mr. Ferreira stated that our

maintenance workers may be able to do the work during overtime. Mr. Carpenter will look into it.

6. Finance Update – Craig Enos stated that year to date they continue to be on a good path being a little over the half way point the fiscal year. He pointed out a few items in the budget – they are very close to the budgeted amount for substitutes, however, there are some savings in the salary line item from positions not being filled and positions coming in at a lower budgeted amount. They will keep a close eye on the substitute numbers spent to date. Beginning this month, RIDE wants the MLL categorical grant to be tracked through the general fund, not through the grant anymore, and it will be showing up on the financial report. Some lines include MLL expenses where there were no funds budgeted. It never fell within the realm of the general fund. Two accounts are impacted, account 53301 in professional development and account 56401 for textbooks. On the revenue side, the district remains on target. The district received a check from the East Bay Collaborative closure of \$250,000.

Mr. Enos took a moment to thank the current school committee and previous school committees for their trust and support over the years. He stated it has been an honor to serve the community and work with everyone for the benefit of the students of East Providence. He thanked the dedicated teachers and staff for all they do and for always welcoming him into their classrooms.

He also said thank you to the Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent, Directors and Principals. It has been an amazing opportunity to work alongside the most dedicated educators and professionals in the state. He stated the City is very fortunate to have an incredible professional staff in their finance department.

He thanked his staff in the finance department for their hard work and dedication to the taxpayers every day. They are a true example of Townie Pride and he could not have asked for a better group of individuals to work with everyday.

Mr. Ferreira inquired if the \$250K check got rolled into the general fund and where it will get spent. Mr. Enos stated an increase in state aid and the City should have a nice impact on special education out of district placement and transportation.

Ms. Beauchaine thanked Mr. Enos for making the district secure and stable. He showed up at many events and is much more than a finance director.

VIII. Policy Committee Report

1. Medication Policy – 1st read

There was some discussion with reference to language in the draft policy for school sponsored activities about medication that can't be self-administered. Dr. Forand stated that in most cases, a school nurse teacher accompanies students on the trip. The District Head Nurse revised the policy according to state law. Mr. Queenan stated that it's not specified and could lead to confusion. He also suggested to add annual training is provided to all staff at the beginning of the year to the policy. Dr. Forand stated that training and a video is required also.

2. Field Trip Policy – 1st read

Much language was taken out of the policy and not added in. Waivers were already in the old policy. Mr. Queenan inquired if funding for field trips come under the general fund for all students. Dr. Forand stated that field trips are usually funded through the PTAs/PTOs and some schools use the line item in their budget for transportation costs. The principals work with their faculties to determine where they are going on field trips throughout the year.

IX. Building Committee Report – Dan Carpenter

Waddington – The District was provided clearance from the Army Corps of Engineers. This will now fall into review of RIDEM for the moisture site mitigation. Two sets of windows were replaced on the west side of the building on the lower floor. Curbing and stands were installed to accept the new RTUs. The last two boilers have been demolished and removed making space for the new electrical switchgear. Electrical work continues to keep the project ahead of schedule without disrupting education. Four connex storage boxes also have been delivered to hold school belongings while the work is completed over the summer. Prep and packing has been in process. A look ahead to the future will start with the RIDEM review for the mitigation work and new ADA stair lifts. They are continuing daily logistics coordination in preparation for phase II.

Martin Middle School – Construction phase I has reached 51% completion. Some of the project milestones are acoustical ceilings, electrical primaries have been pulled, flooring installation and the turnover of the auditorium and gym for construction. Heat lines leading from the construction area have been re-routed to control phase II side only for the heating season. The new main gas line was installed over April break in the rear of the building. Existing rooftop units on the gym and auditorium area have been demolished for replacement. Wall tile on the third floor has been completed. The second floor is about ¼ finished so far. Classroom cabinetry has started to be installed also. Work in the north field area to shape the landscape has begun. A look ahead for the next three months of construction work is exterior envelope work ongoing, interior finishes and finishes to mechanical, electrical, plumbing and fire protection.

Mr. Ferreira asked for the paperwork and final dollar amount on the water issue be sent to the school committee. Dr. Forand stated that the money was allocated and is not sitting in the bond. Funds were shifted from one school to another and the money has to stay at Waddington.

Mr. Enos clarified that when they did the comprehension plan and submitted stage II to RIDE, RIDE approved for MMS and Waddington and Orlo Avenue. They have five years to get reimbursement. Orlo was assigned \$600K to spend. The District would have to ask RIDE to move money back to Orlo. It has to be spent by December 27th. He stated that if an item has to be added on, it can be added on.

Dr. Forand stated that \$600K was designated for handicap ramp. Those three projects were part of the bond project. They will be submitting stage II to RIDE.

Ms. Beauchaine stated that knowing that bond money was not going to fix the issue, she pleaded at the Building Committee meetings about the puddling issue. There are priorities set for safety and the Building Committee is taking action on it.

X. Public Comments

1. Renee Ignatio stated that as a taxpayer and resident of East Providence, she expressed how disappointed she is in the five School Committee members. She sent a personal email to them to voice her concerns and someone from the Committee sent an email to her employer. She is going to send an email to the RI Association of School Committees.
2. Robert Chiaradio addressed the committee previously regarding the Title IX policy. He would like the District to change the policy. It is in conflict with the federal judge's ruling and is unlawful. The District cannot continue to place girls in unsafe and unlawful positions.
3. Libby Merrill is a parent of an elementary student. She is happy she attended the meeting this evening and heard the good news that is going on with education. She is in support of the Title IX policy. The State of RI already protects gender identity. Diversity is our strength.
4. Melodie Pimental, a graduate of EPHS, is in support of the Title IX policy. The District should keep its focus on education, attendance, test scores, etc.
5. Jimmy Dufurrena, a resident of East Providence stated the District needs to protect all students including transgender students. The government has no right to tell students what their gender preference should be.
6. Patricia Furtado – employee of EPSD nearly thirty years and is a passionate person and thought of speaking on issues. Lucky and blessed to have worked for Craig Enos. Could not have asked for a more dedicate and supported boss. He has respect, understanding and listening to staff.

XI. Discussion / Action Items

1. Update on Silver Spring Outdoor Classroom – Mr. Luiz

Mr. Carpenter and Mr. Luiz went over some of the concerns residents have regarding the outdoor classroom at Silver Spring and the completion of the project. The location has to be ADA and was put in the back of the building. The shades will go at the top as an amphitheatre style. The location was discussed with the threat assessment team and with all the cars in front, they believe it should be better in the back and out of sight. The project should be completed in one week.

2. East Bay Educational Collaborative Money Update – Mr. Ferreira inquired where the money is going from the sale of the EBEC. Superintendent Forand is going to keep it in the account and is not making any decision as to where to spend it right now. There is no plan to spend that money. Mr. Ferreira will discuss it at the next Building Committee meeting - \$250k is a good amount of money and could be used on the sidewalks owned by the District and on cracks in the parking lot. Dr. Forand stated that the District is eligible on July 1st for safety and security money and would get reimbursed by RIDE at 47%. There are many projects they are looking at to discuss with the subcommittee so they get reimbursed. Then it will be brought to the School Committee for approval.

3. Award of RFP – EPSD IT

Motion by Mr. deSimas, seconded by Mr. Ferreira and carried by unanimous consent to approve the RFP award to Linewize for a total of \$178,425 for three years as submitted. Mr. McDonald stated the RFP is for content filtering. The rubric was included in the packet. Linewize scored the highest and is \$150,000 less than what they currently have.

4. Award of RFP for Electrical Services

Motion by Mr. deSimas, seconded by Mr. Queenan and carried by unanimous consent to approve the award for RFP for electrical services to Wayne Electric for \$41,030.00 as submitted.

5. RFP for Steel Frame Building Installation - EPHS

Motion by Mr. Queenan, seconded by Mr. deSimas and carried by unanimous consent to approve the RFP for steel frame building installation at the high school as submitted.

6. Proposed Certified Employee A Resignation

Motion by Mr. Ferreira, seconded by Mr. deSimas and carried by unanimous consent to approve the proposed certified employee A resignation as discussed in executive session.

7. Resolution on CRAFT Bill

Motion by Ms. Beauchaine, seconded by Mr. Queenan and carried by unanimous consent to approve the Resolution in support of the CRAFT Bill S0113 as submitted. Ms. Beauchaine thanked Superintendent Forand and the Mayor for going to fight for the District on Thursday to the State House. Senator Lauria and Senator Britto also attended.

8. Certified Staff Layoff

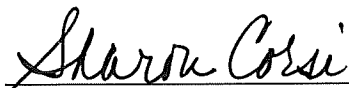
Motion by Mr. deSimas, seconded by Ms. Beauchaine and carried by a 4-1 vote to approve the certified staff layoff as submitted. Mr. Ferreira voted nay.

XII. Announcements – Ms. Beauchaine stated that the unified basketball championship game was an amazing time. The team received second place.

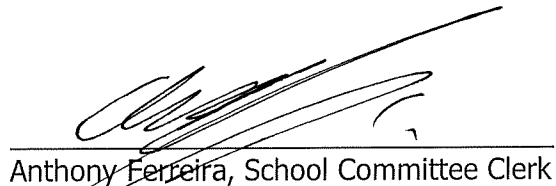
XIII. Adjournment

Motion by Mr. deSimas, seconded by Ms. Beauchaine and carried by unanimous consent to adjourn the meeting at 8:49 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Sharon Corsi, Executive Assistant


Anthony Ferreira, School Committee Clerk