
**EAST PROVIDENCE SPECIAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
OPEN SESSION – August 5, 2025**

I. Call to Order Open Session

The East Providence School Committee met in open session on Tuesday, August 5, 2025 at 6 p.m. in the auditorium at East Providence High School. Mr. Luiz called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence were observed.

Members present: David Luiz, Chair, Antonio deSimas, Vice-Chair, Anthony Ferreira, Clerk, Jessica Beauchaine and Ryan Queenan. Superintendent Sandra Forand and Alexandra Gonzalez, Finance Director, were also present.

Acting Police Chief Michael Rapoza spoke about the police department's role with regard to the RFQ for school bus cameras. The police department is not paying for the cameras, just enforcing them. The contract will need to be signed by the school department, city and police department. Mr. Luiz stated that the school department published an RFQ for stop arm surveillance for bus fleet on July 17, 2025. A total of two bids were received. Each submission was reviewed and rated by five evaluators using the scoring rubric in the RFQ.

The two companies were scored by Mr. Luiz, Mr. deSimas, Ms. Clarkin, Ms. Gonzalez and Dr. Forand. Mr. deSimas stated that no one was excluded from scoring and the committee could have submitted questions.

Ms. Beauchaine thanked the Acting Police Chief and Acting Deputy for coming. She stated that the school committee will not be signing the contract for the company, the school department administration will be. Mr. Ferreira stated that he won't be voting either way if the committee isn't signing. Mr. Luiz stated the school committee has to approve the RFQ.

Mr. Luiz thanked the police department for their time. Dr. Forand stated that there will be no cost to the school district for the cameras.

II. Public Comments – There were no public comments.

III. Discussion / Action Items

1. Award of RFQ for School Bus Stop Arm Surveillance

Motion by Mr. deSimas, seconded by Mr. Queenan and passed by a vote of 4-1 to award the school bus stop arm surveillance project to Gatekeeper Systems as submitted. Based on the evaluation process and final scores, Gatekeeper Systems has been recommended to award this project. Mr. Ferreira voted nay.

Dr. Forand stated that cameras will be installed by August 25th. They will have GPS tracking and real time surveillance. The district is waiting to receive the contract. The city will be getting

30%, state 40% and the company 30%. The school department receives 0 funds. The main focus is ensuring the safety of students and staff and establishing it before school starts. Gatekeeper is offering services before school starts at no cost to the school department and the city. Oceanstate Transit is taking care of interior cameras on the vans.

IV. Budget Workshop II

Superintendent Forand stated that at the last meeting on July 7th the 2025-2026 school budget was presented which highlighted the priorities of the school department. She stated that no changes to the budget have been made since then. The District took a \$330K cut in federal funds. RIDE has now allocated that money to the districts and have been told to push forward with allocations. The CRP has been submitted. The projected number is still the same.

The Extended School Year (ESY) program cost the district \$80,000 and is required. \$110,000 is budgeted for next year. The Committee requested the staff member who ran the ESY program to attend a meeting and speak about the program regarding information such as data, number of classes, number of students and number of teachers who attended this summer.

Dr. Forand that that this budget will go to the City Council for approval in mid to late August. Mr. Ferreira stated that he will not support a budget where there are cuts to positions that take away from students. Dr. Forand stated that any position already in the budget are getting filled. There are several central office positions that still need to be filled.

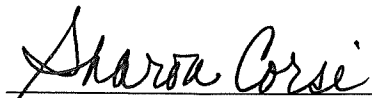
Mr. Queenan requested an updated FY26 budget as of September 2nd be sent to the Committee in advance for the September 9th meeting.

V. Announcements – The August 12th meeting will be at City Hall. The August 28th meeting to be determined.

VI. Adjournment

Motion by Mr. Ferreira, seconded by Mr. deSimas and carried by unanimous consent to adjourn the meeting at 8:29 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Sharon Corsi, Executive Assistant


Anthony Ferreira, School Committee Clerk