
**EAST PROVIDENCE SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
OPEN SESSION – August 28, 2025**

I. Call to Order - Open Session

The East Providence School Committee met in open session on Thursday, August 28, 2025 at 6:00 pm in the auditorium at East Providence High School. Members Present: David Luiz, Chair, Antonio deSimas, Vice Chair, Anthony Ferreira, Clerk, Ryan Queenan and Jessica Beauchaine. Superintendent Sandra Forand and Assistant Superintendent Lisa Benedetti-Ramzi were also present.

Mr. Luiz called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm. The Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence were observed.

II. Public Comments – There were no comments.

Motion by Mr. Queenan, seconded by Ms. Beauchaine and carried by unanimous consent to move up the announcements on the agenda.

Mr. Queenan announced that there is an ice cream fundraiser going on this evening at Myron J. Francis until 7 p.m.

III. Discussion / Action Items

1. Recommended Budget Cuts from Superintendent – Mr. Luiz

Superintendent Forand presented her adjustments to the school budget. These are the recommendations whether the District receives 1% or 4% from the City.

Adjustments to the budget include:

- Salaries, municipal pension, non-certified pension DC, dental and health benefits for an assistant facilities director, benefits manager and plumber.
- Summer Pay
- Middle/late bus transportation
- Professional development
- Negotiations
- Tech devices
- Occupational Therapists

These adjustments would reallocate money to some line items:

- Substitutes
- Salaries – Occupational Therapists
- Benefits; certified pension, certified pension DC, health and dental
- Health

- Dental
- Behavior Consultants

Mr. Luis stated that he is not comfortable with canceling middle and high school late buses for after school activities such as band, chorus etc. Mr. Ferreira stated he doesn't support it either. Ms. Beauchaine suggested looking at where the buses are more necessary, mostly in middle school. Late buses can be cut from now to November.

Mr. Ferreira inquired about hearing that the district was in a deficit at the last meeting. Based on what he heard, he asked what will be done if they are \$400K short.

Dr. Forand stated that there is no deficit in the budget. There is \$18M left in the budget. They will be watching every bit of spending for the next two and a half months because some line items were overspent. Other line items are under spent and this will help adjust the overspent items. Late buses can be cut from now to November. Principals were asked not to order non-essential items until November 1. They already received the supplies they need to start the school year. Central office Directors and the Athletic Director will also look at spending until November 1. Any repairs will be addressed, but if they can wait until November 1, they can be put in the new budget.

This year the District lost \$350K in federal funding (Title money). All custodial supplies and tech software were ESSER funded for three years. The District had to absorb all that back into the budget last year.

Superintendent Forand stated that she is open to all suggestions that would be the least impactful on students. They brought out of district students back into the district for cost savings and to serve students better. She also stated that they spent \$80K on ESY special education services that meet three days per week which is a requirement. They spent \$55K on middle and high school summer school.

Ms. Beauchaine stated that she doesn't support summer school.

2. Emailing School Committee Protocol – Mr. Ferreira requested that any answers to questions presented at the meetings be sent to the Committee via email in a few days.

3. Update on all Paving Work for Schools – Mr. Ferreira stated that Orlo paving was completed. Hennessey parking lot has to be completed by November 17th. Myron J. Francis, Riverside Middle School and Kent Heights have to be done by the end of May. There is a fine in the contract if not completed. Orlo project will include all the sidewalks. Dan Carpenter will have the information at the next facilities meeting. Mr. Ferreira stated that concrete sidewalks are safer and will look better. He would like to see if the paving projects can be rolled into the school vacations. Dr. Forand will follow up.

4. Appointments of School Committee Members to Teacher Contract Negotiations Team

Mr. Luiz appointed himself and Mr. deSimas to the teacher contract negotiations team.

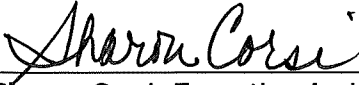
IV. Announcements

This item was moved up on the agenda. There were no additional announcements.

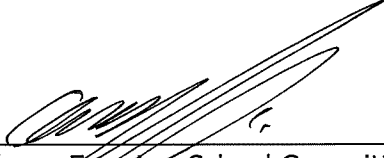
V. Adjournment

Motion by Mr. Queenan, seconded by Ms. Beauchaine and carried by unanimous consent to adjourn the meeting at 7:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Sharon Corsi, Executive Assistant



Anthony Ferreira, School Committee Clerk