
EAST PROVIDENCE SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING OPEN SESSION – September 25, 2025

I. Call to Order - Open Session

The East Providence School Committee met in Open Session on Thursday, September 25, 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. Ferreira, seconded by Mr. deSimas and carried unanimously to move into main office conference room for the purpose of: Discussion regarding Superintendent's Contract Pursuant to RIGL §42-46-5(a)(1); Discussion regarding Potential Litigation Pursuant to RIGL §42-46-5(a)(2) and Legal Advice Related Thereto; Discussion: 25-047K In re: D. Does, RIDE Pursuant to RIGL §42-46-5(a)(2) and Legal Advice Related Thereto; and Consider & Vote on Motion to Adjourn and Convene into Public Session. 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.

III. Reconvene in Open Session (Regular Meeting)

Mr. Luiz called the meeting to order at 7:47 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.

IV. Presentation: Transportation Efficiency Safety Study

Dr. Mario Carreno, Chief Operations Officer at the Rhode Island Department of Education and school committee member in Lincoln, RI gave a presentation on a student transportation savings opportunity. RI public school enrollment is down 15% (-23,400) since 2004. Despite overall declines in student enrollment, LEA transportation costs are up 61% (additional \$66M annually) over the last eight years. Compared to a similar district in Maryland, Rhode Island spends \$40M per year on student transportation despite having 25K less students. RIDE has created a report that looks at possibilities to combine aspects of in-district and out-of-district transportation. There are empty seats on statewide buses that could pick up in-district students that are also going to the same location on empty buses. This will allow the district to remove an in-district bus.

Phase I: RIDE has already started the process on a local savings pilot program with some districts for the 2025-2026 school year. RIDE is requesting data from every LEA and all identified savings will benefit the LEAs.

Phase 2: Districts will perform independent route reviews of existing service. While districts are public entities, bus companies are private for-profit entities. Every bus that is in use represents an annual cost of approximately \$100,000. RIDE's recent transportation system manager contract includes a fixed price to perform independent reviews and provide recommendations of in-district bus routes and identify inter-district opportunities. The cost is \$14,300 and would save \$100,000 per year.

Phase 3: Inter-district bus service. The phase 2 review will include preliminary observations and recommendations for potential inter-district transportation opportunities.

Ms. Clarkin, Director of Operations, stated that she believes it's a good idea to do phase 2. It wouldn't affect the buses but could cut down on the vans.

V. Public Comments – There were no public comments.

VII. Discussion / Action Items

1. Stop Arm Camera Update

Attorney Andrew Henneous updated the Committee on the installation of the cameras on the bus. He spoke with the contractor and installation to start on Saturday, not to disrupt transportation. Mr. Henneous was in conversation with the EPPD regarding billing.

2. Martin Middle School Maintenance Plan

Mr. Ferreira stated that the turnover of Martin will be after Thanksgiving. For the next meeting he requested to get a good maintenance plan that includes snow removal and a plan that will maintain the sidewalks. He also requested to get all the paperwork for maintenance.

Mr. Luiz read a response from the Facilities Director that stated that once the building is turned over from Shawmut Construction to the District, the first round of warranties will take place. The contractor has an obligation to a one-year warranty period for anything in the building. Manufacturer's warranties on individual items will extend certain items further. This will hold true until April 2028 when the warranty period expires for the whole project. The district/ownership is fully responsible for all preventative maintenance required. This would entail all oil changes, inspections, belts, filters, cleanings, etc. Quarterly and yearly inspections will be completed as usual as to fire alarm, sprinklers, boilers, elevators, backflow preventers and kitchen equipment. HVAC system filter changes will also take place as specified by manufacturer's requirements. We will accomplish all HVAC filter changes in house as preventative maintenance, with the possibility of going out to RFP/bid further down the line if necessary. All filters will be ordered ahead of time to ensure the next round of changeouts. No work will be performed in-house on anything in the building that would break any warranties.

Shawmut and I are coordinating to develop the maintenance plan. They will be providing us with quotes from their contractors and vendors for maintenance items required, which we may accept, or use as a template to develop RFPs and go out to bid. The plan will be in place at the time of turnover in November for the middle school portion of the building. Typical building

maintenance items will be addressed by the Director of Facilities to ensure that everything is performed properly and to meet any specifications set forth. We have installed measures in place when constructing the building to ensure to prevent any major issues of flooding, heat loss or vandalism.

A snow removal blue print was sent to the Committee members. Mr. Ferreira suggested to have a policy about plow trucks on the sidewalks. He requested to know that once the sidewalks are poured, how are they going to be sealed before rock salt is used.

3. Superintendent' Contract

Motion by Mr. Ferreira, seconded by Ms. Beauchaine and carried by unanimous consent to table this item due to ongoing conversations with the Superintendent.

4. 25-047K In re: Residence of D. Does, RIDE

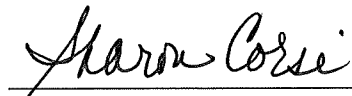
Motion by Ms. Beauchaine, seconded by Mr. Ferreira and carried by unanimous consent to approve 25-047K In re: Residence of D. Does, RIDE as submitted with amendment to move forward to have the City Council go forth with this matter so the school department can gain back \$100,000 of taxpayers' money.

VII. Announcements – Ms. Beauchaine thanked the Human Resources department for the outreach to promote our district.

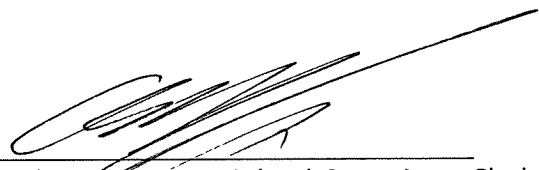
VIII. Adjournment

Motion by Ms. deSimas, seconded by Ms. Beauchaine and carried by unanimous consent to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Sharon Corsi, Executive Assistant



Anthony Ferreira, School Committee Clerk