
EAST PROVIDENCE SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING OPEN SESSION – October 14, 2025

I. Call to Order - Open Session

The East Providence School Committee met in Open Session on Tuesday, October 14, 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 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. deSimas, seconded by Mr. Queenan and carried unanimously to move into the conference room for the purpose of: East Providence School Department 2025-2026 Emergency Plans pursuant to RIGL §42-46-5(a)(3); Discussion regarding Personnel/Coach Applicant pursuant to RIGL §42-46-5(a)(1); 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 7:10 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. deSimas, seconded by Mr. Queenan and carried by unanimous consent to seal the minutes.

IV. Student Liaison – Hope Moran from East Providence High School gave an update on what's been happening in their school community. Students are feeling positive and motivated as they move through the first quarter. Classes are running smoothly and there's great energy around the building as everyone settles into the year. The Townie Pride Parade was held on October 3rd and was an incredibly successful night full of Townie pride and community spirit. On Friday, October 17th the school will be holding their annual Pep Rally to build excitement for Homecoming Week, which takes place the following week. Spirit Week will include themed days and fun activities, all leading up to the big Homecoming Dance on October 25th. Sports teams have started hosting "Green Out" events, sponsored by Townie Cares, the school's mental health advocacy program. These events are an amazing reminder that Townies look out for one another and that their school community truly cares because Townies are family. The football team has had a strong second half of the season. Both boys and girls soccer teams are thriving in Division I. The volleyball team is having an amazing season and Unified Volleyball is also having a strong start to the season. Girls tennis is doing terrific. This week the Providence Journal recognized four East Providence High School student athletes for outstanding achievements, which is a huge honor.

V. Consent Agenda

1. **Communications** – Enrollment numbers and monthly technology data were included in the school committee packet.

2. **Home School Requests** – Twenty-six homeschooling requests.

3. **Approval of Minutes:**

- September 9, 2025 Executive & Open Session School Committee Meeting
- September 25, 2025 Executive & Open Session School Committee Meeting
- September 25, 2025 Paraprofessionals Negotiation Meeting
- September 8, 2025 Building Committee Meeting

4. **Personnel Report**

Appointments – Gina Morris, Lunch/Recess Attendant at Waddington, effective 9/2/25; Nicole Derby, Dental Assistant Instructor at CTC, effective 9/2/25; Nicole Purrier, Paraprofessional at Oldham, effective 9/10/25; Silvio Soares, Carpenter in Maintenance, effective 7/14/25; Darrell Fayerweather, Custodian Nights at Waddington, effective 9/15/25; Tracey Sutherland, MLL Director at Administration, effective 10/6/25; Stanley Robinson, Paraprofessional at Riverside Middle School, effective 9/29/25; Abigail Wishart, Resource Teacher at EPHS, effective 9/25/25; Ashley Picard, Lunch/Recess Attendant at Waddington, effective 10/2/25; and Catarina Pacheco, Paraprofessional at Oldham, effective 10/20/25.

Resignations – Harika Keskin, Math Teacher at Riverside Middle School, effective 7/7/25; Dawn Houle, School Nurse Teacher at Hennessey, effective 7/7/25; Gina Morris, Lunch/Recess Attendant at Waddington, effective 9/26/25; Nicole Purrier, Paraprofessional at Oldham, effective 9/12/25; Shayna Lepore, Culinary Tech Assistant at CTC, effective 9/11/25; Susan Tavares, Paraprofessional at Whiteknact, effective 10/11/25 and Leila McCarthy, Social Studies Teacher at Riverside Middle School, effective 10/18/25.

Retirements – Peter Hall, Maintenance, effective 11/4/25; and Paula Dionisopoulos, Grade 1 Teacher at Waddington, effective end of the 2025-2026 school year.

Recalls – Caitlin Bourgeois, Grade 5 Teacher at Myron J. Francis, effective 8/25/25.

Leaves of Absence – None

5. **Bill List**

- Voucher No. 1048 dated 9/24/25 – \$145,243.19
- Voucher No. 1049 dated 10/6/25 - \$4,709.93
- Voucher No. 2050 dated 10/9/25 - \$1,694,341.25

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

- Ai3 Basic Services MMS - \$59,078.54
- Ai3 Supplemental Services MMS - \$12,402.60
- Ai3 Basic Services – Wadd - \$5,181.75
- Ai3 Supplemental Services Wadd - \$27,500.00
- Peregrine Group - \$72,380.00
- Shawmut MMS - \$3,752,338.60
- Shawmut Wadd - \$1,252,130.06
- Stephen Turner, Inc. MMS - \$2,525.75
- Stephen Turner, Inc. Wadd - \$10,008.25
- Thielsch Engineering - \$9,570.97

- PODS – \$233.20
- PODS - \$233.20
- Willscot – \$2,989.03
- COX – MMS - \$1,200.00
- B&H Photo - \$29,201.46
- Whalley Computer Associates - \$30,417.75
- Whalley Computer Associates - \$15,910.60
- Sweetwater - \$11,394.17
- East Providence School Department Reimbursement - \$221.02

Stage III Total - \$5,294,906.95

Motion by Mr. Queenan, seconded by Mr. Ferreira and carried by unanimous consent to remove and table item #2 homeschool requests from the consent agenda due to the address of a homeschooled student.

Motion by Mr. Queenan, seconded by Mr. deSimas and carried by unanimous consent to approve the remaining items in the consent agenda as submitted.

Mr. Luiz apologized for the streaming issues. Not long after, the streaming issues were rectified.

VI. Superintendent's Report

1. Facilities Update – Dan Carpenter reported that paving is ongoing at Hennessey. PHMA completed the first section on Wednesday, October 1st. The alleyway was also finished on Wednesday afternoon. The rainy weather has slowed progress slightly from last week. The rear section of the playground is being converted from full asphalt into a grassy area. DOT will be doing their drainage project work sometime next year. They will be supplying the district with a new fence and gate along Mercer Street. The area will have to be off limits for a while so the grass can establish. Next is the upper playground area, which was ripped up on Thursday, October 2-7, 2025. Grading of the areas took place Thursday, October 9th and paving began Friday, October 10th. They have made the playground safe so kids can still use it. Once finished, the parking lot will be the last piece. Daily coordination with the principal continues to keep everything flowing smoothly. Dan is also working with the city tree commission to plant some trees in the area along the fence line for shade. The addition of the grass area not only makes it safer for students to play on, but allows space for more activities such as soccer, running and a reduced amount of asphalt to add greenery to the school property. The remaining projects include Kent Heights playground, RMS teachers' lot, Francis sidewalks owned by the school department and remainder of Orlo sidewalks in conjunction with the city. Dan is going to push to try to get the RMS teachers' lot done before winter.

Quotes for line striping at Orlo have come back from four companies which includes all parking spots in two lots, 1 handicap spot and lining of the basketball court in the playground. This was scheduled for October 13. We are also seeking pricing for Hennessey and Riverside Middle School parking lots.

Lighting is being improved at Waddington on both sides of the gym. Various other projects and minor upgrades will continue to help make Waddington classrooms look more modern and finished. Waddington will also be getting a new dishwasher due to a failed motor and age of the machine being over 30 years old. Fiscally it is more appropriate to purchase a new dishwasher paid for through the lunch fund.

Building management system work started on September 29th at the administration building, Oldham and Francis so far. Some of the work will be done at night.

Preventative measures have been installed at Oldham to prevent children and staff from hazards associated with the small decline where the asphalt meets the grass in the back of the building.

New weather resistant shades were made for the outdoor classroom at Silver Spring.

Snow operations at Martin Middle School will be as follows: No trucks are to be on sidewalks at all, only small machines, shovels or snowblowers; sidewalks will not be treated with rock salt, only calcium chloride, as it is not hazardous to the concrete; all snow from the temporary parking lot will be pushed toward the gray trailers on the hill; and another small machine in the long run will be beneficial at Martin with the amount of sidewalks. Additional snowblowers will also be needed.

Radon inspections throughout the district will be taking place later this month. They are good for a three year period. Dan is developing a list of district wide projects for his maintenance team to tackle to give updates and finishes to items that have been left out of the scopes of work or are a need to help modernize older items.

Martin Middle School will be opening after Thanksgiving break. The ribbon cutting ceremony is set for Tuesday, November 25th at 10am.

2. Finance Update – Ms. Gonzalez stated that the district is nearing the end of the fiscal year. The salary line in 51100 series should have a remaining balance closing out of \$200K, but may not cover substitute overages. In the 52000 series, health and dental, #52101 and 52103 includes retirees and has a balance of \$306K. Both series will close. The 53000 series is over budget and is still closing out. In the 54000 series, #54320, last September's report there was an expense moved and now has a reduction of \$10K. The expense was moved to #53502. The 55000 series have some remaining expenses in transportation and will be close. In the #55660 line item, charter schools has a savings of \$8K which was higher in September and lower in October due to an adjustment on an invoice. Teachers and administrators have been supportive and mindful with cost savings. Supplies in line item #56101 is over. There is a remaining balance in the general supplies line. No changes in the 57000 and 58000 series from last month. It will be a close year for the district but should be okay.

Mr. Queenan inquired about the revenue side of the budget. Ms. Gonzalez stated that the district received all funds from the city side and received all funding from the state. The state aid has an increase of \$700K for what was budgeted.

There is an MLL grant that wasn't budgeted here, of \$228K. The remainder in the state aid line is from an increase throughout the fiscal year. The state aid revenue budget passed before RIDE issued state aid final numbers. Due to East Providence's fiscal year not aligning with the state, the district will always be making assumptions on state aid funding. State aid could increase in the district's favor or it could be less and the district won't know until May. Ms. Gonzalez will give a report on what the difference will be when that happens in May 2026. Tuition has an increase, same is true with rental. Medicaid should have one more reimbursement coming in before closing out the fiscal year. There is \$200K from the sale of the East Bay Collaborative building in the "other" line which includes sale of old tech and small donations.

Mr. Luiz inquired if the late buses will resume on November 1st. Dr. Forand stated yes they will.

Ms. Beauchaine stated that the district spent \$73,072 in substitute pay since the beginning of the year. Last year it was approximately \$33K. Dr. Forand stated that much of the cost this year comes from FMLA.

Mr. Ferreira would like to meet with Ms. Gonzalez to go over invoices and several other items such as pest control and the elevator repair at Martin. He inquired as to where the district is with the \$500K from the city. Dr. Forand stated that they are still working with the city to cross-check all requisitions on the bond issue.

Dr. Forand stated that because the district isn't on the same budget cycle as the state, July-June, they won't know the state aid #s until March and won't be finalized until late June. It's difficult to budget because the district's budget cycle is November to October.

VII. Building Committee Report – Dan Carpenter reported that Martin Middle School is coming together. Kitchen equipment is installed, rooms are being finished up on the first floor, and sidewalks and plantings are being installed. Lighting around the building has been installed, along with signage on the building itself. Work in the gymnasium and auditorium continues also. The auditorium will be getting a new ceiling, lighting and sound system. This work will continue into next year. The gym should be back online at the time of turnover of the new building. Mechanical, roofing, plumbing and electrical finishes continue, along with low voltage work such as cameras and security. Capping of the north field is set to be done along with plantings. Furniture, fixtures & equipment is scheduled for November 13th. Packing of items within the existing building is taking place for the move. The official opening for students is December 1st.

Waddington project continues with site drainage. After a pause was initiated on the project to verify a dispute with exit elevations between engineering measurements at the runoff stream discharge of the drainage pipe, the project is back on track to be finished on October 20th. Punchlist items are being taken care of by Shawmut, Peregrine and the district. Once the punchlist is finalized, the warranty period will take place which includes phase 1 and 2 for the

same one-year timeline. Six-month and 11-month warranty walkthroughs will be scheduled once the project is finalized.

VIII. Public Comments

1. Renee Ignacio passed out materials to Committee members. She requested to be placed on the agenda for the next school committee meeting regarding the stop arm cameras. She has been going back and forth between the city. She did her research and wants the Committee to know about discrepancies with the RFQ that went out.
2. Chrissy Rossi announced that her grandson joined the unified track team. She has community service hours if a student needs to do community service hours. On Sunday, October 26th from 3:30-7:30pm there will be an outdoor event, rain or shine. The Haunted Legion is not a trunk or treat and is free for East Providence families. It will be held at the American Legion Post 10, 830 Willett Avenue in Riverside. Ms. Rossi also announced that the life skills class at Riverside needed a refrigerator and Mr. Ferreira paid for a new refrigeration. She also announced it's that time for the East Providence Kids annual raffle that supports EP students. The calendar sells for \$10.
3. Mary Nascimento stated that as a parent who cares deeply about students, inquired about background checks and if they are updated on a regular basis. Superintendent Forand stated that she will send Ms. Nascimento the policy. They will review the policy. School Committee members have a background check done every time they are sworn in. Volunteers and coaches have to get them done every year.

IX. Discussion / Action Items

1. Facilities Subcommittee Meeting Update – Mr. Ferreira stated the update was already given in the facilities report.

2. Appointments of School Committee Members to the Administrative Assistants Contract Negotiation Team

Mr. Luiz and Mr. Queenan have been appointed to the Administrative Assistants contract negotiation team.

3. EPSD 2025-2026 Emergency Plans

Motion by Mr. deSimas, seconded by Mr. Ferreira and carried by unanimous consent to approve the 2025-2026 East Providence School Department's emergency plans as discussed in executive session.

4. 2025-2026 Virtual Learning Plan

Motion by Mr. deSimas, seconded by Mr. Ferreira and carried by unanimous consent to approve the District's 2025-2026 Virtual Learning Plan as submitted. Dr. Forand stated there are no changes, just an update. The district went from Skyward to Parent Square and the plan is submitted to RIDE every year. The district could do up to five days and use the days at their discretion based on conditions. They can also call a regular snow day. A lot of factors go into calling a snow day, a virtual day or a delay. They can use a virtual learning day for an emergency day and it has to be approved by RIDE.

5. Tyler Technologies Contract Renewal

Motion by Mr. deSimas, seconded by Mr. Queenan and carried by unanimous consent to approve the Tyler Technologies Software Agreement renewal as submitted. Ms. Gonzalez stated that this agreement is the renewal of computer software. Total cost is \$100K and there are no changes to our budget to renew. The agreement was reviewed by legal counsel. They were in the process of implementing a different software called MUNIS and did a cost analysis and decided to stay on with the current software which is most cost effective.

6. RIDE Transportation Efficiency Study

Motion by Mr. deSimas, seconded by Ms. Beauchaine and carried by unanimous consent to approve RIDE's transportation efficiency study as submitted. The cost is \$14K, and will come out of the budget, to analyze the bus routes and will have a cost savings.

Mr. Ferreira inquired if this will affect the district if they change the routes going forward for redistricting. Dr. Forand stated that it is two years away before PreK moves out of Oldham and an adjustment could be made. Mr. deSimas stated that the district will share the cost with other districts. The district is looking at route efficiency and long term. Diana Clarkin stated that the kickoff was held last week. If approved, there will be a meeting with RIDE later this week. The study is billed through Oceanstate Transportation as a service.

X. Announcements – Ms. Beauchaine stated that she is very happy with this agenda, however, there is no education discussed at these meetings. There are two meetings per month and the Committee needs to find a way to get back to discussing education. There's a need to redirect the Committee's thinking.

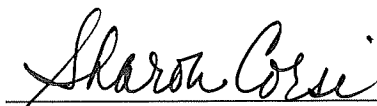
She also announced that Pink Out is Friday, October 17th. She will be requesting an update on the special education audit that was done a few years ago and an overview of the behavior matrix. The district needs to come up with a plan to alleviate the amount of substitute teachers in the district.

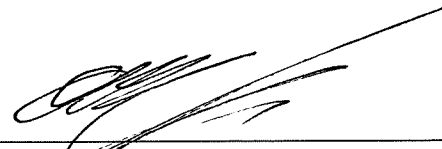
Fundraising for Riverside Middle School starts Saturday, October 18th at Contenders at 12:30pm. The raffle starts at 2pm. The EPLAC meeting was canceled due to illness and will be rescheduled.

XI. Adjournment

Motion by Mr. deSimas, seconded by Mr. Ferreira and carried by unanimous consent to adjourn the meeting at 8:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Sharon Corsi, Executive Assistant


Anthony Ferreira, School Committee Clerk