
**EAST PROVIDENCE SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
OPEN SESSION – October 30, 2025**

I. Call to Order - Open Session

The East Providence School Committee met in open session on Thursday, October 30, 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. Assistant Superintendent Lisa Benedetti-Ramzi and Attorney Andrew Henneous 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. Presentation – Rhode Island Recycling Project

Renee Chicoine, Warren Heyman and Colin Windham gave a presentation on the RI Recycling Project. Since 2023, RI law requires educational entities to compost organic matter and recover healthy edible food. Americans waste too much food (35-40%). 38% of families in RI are food insecure, with higher rates among communities of color. It's bad for the environment and the landfill will be full in 2046.

Get Food Smart is a project-based learning program. Sorting stations in the cafeteria are staffed by our students. Everyone is involved; food service workers, custodians, teachers, students, principals and parents. Food Smart Schools sort lunchroom waste into five sorting stations: share table and cooler; liquid bucket; recycling bin; landfill bin; and food scraps/compost bin. Food waste is collected in compostable bags and placed in totes. No smell and no rodents. RISRP offers food smart schools supplies, support with program launch and monitoring, capacity building for the school community and opportunities for additional projects and rewards.

The program is active in 62 schools across 16 districts. They have reduced lunchroom waste going to the landfill by 87% in Food Smart Schools; diverted 417.4 tons of food waste from the landfill; recovered 52 tons of good food (about 46, 314 meals); and reduced food waste per student by 22% (goal is a 50% reduction by 2030). The carbon footprint has been reduced by 205.4 metric tons of CO₂. Cafeteria waste makes up 70% of the total volume of school-wide trash sent to the landfill. With less trash, schools can see a savings in waste hauling by reducing the number of dumpsters, the size of the dumpsters and/or frequency of pickups.

The program does not violate the union contract. Committee members requested to visit a school to see how the program works during lunchtime.

III. Public Comments

1. Erinn Roberts, a resident of Riverside, stated that the presentation was great. She is supportive of this whole concept and program being implemented and is willing to engage in that progress. She stated that with climate anxiety, kids will have the opportunity to make change. It's time for East Providence to provide more food for our students. She encourages EP to adopt the program.
2. Willa Roberts, student at Waddington, sees kids just dumping their food trays. They would help with working this program.
3. Isaac Reid from the RI Food Policy Council has been partnered with RI Recycling Program for several years. He is in support of implementing this in schools. He has seen how the program has empowered kids.
4. Jeremiah Traub from Remix Organics, a Providence based organic waste management company, has been working for a year with RIRP. He sees behavioral change being instituted in schools across the state and seeing kids learn. This program would help feed hungry people. They have over two hundred clients in the state. It's cleaner and more pest resistant. He encourages East Providence to put more thought into it.
5. June Coan addressed the Committee back on June 10th. She hopes to continue to talk with schools and is hoping Superintendent Forand is looking into this situation. She is a wrestling team victim and stated that there are student athletes from the wrestling team as well as other sports dealing with this. She hopes to change the law on statute of limitations. She will continue to update until something is done.

IV. Presentation – WON-DOOR, Jeremy Jasper, Steve Bradley, Dan Carpenter and Bob Hanlon

Dan Carpenter stated that the combination of vandalism, graffiti, fights, vaping, arson and created plumbing issues were the driving motivation to try and solve this problem. These doors are able to let the district control access during periods of the day, along with afterschool and emergency needs. The district has been awarded the COPS grant for safety and security items. These items consist of interior cameras for elementary schools, new two-way district radios and the addition of ten WON doors to the gang bathrooms at EPHS. The monies awarded to the district in the amount of \$180,353.00 must be spent and/or substantially completed by June 30, 2026. The district will be responsible for \$60K of the total grant monies for all items combined. A meeting was held with school department administrators, EPHS staff, police, building and school committee members to discuss the product and propose the work timeline and necessary items to be included in the cost. It will take 4-6 weeks and looking at a winter start date once approved. This product comes with a two-year warranty. WON Door has given the district a year of free maintenance for allowing them to showcase the high school to others.

Representatives from WON Door were present to address any issues or questions the Committee has.

Ms. Beauchaine stated that it is sad that the district has to spend \$110K because students can't just use the bathrooms correctly.

Mr. Hanlon stated that passing time is when there is a high volume of students using the bathrooms. There is five minutes between periods when students are in the halls and not accountable. There are two or three single gender-neutral bathrooms on each floor that are accessible. Teachers are stationed there to monitor.

WON Door reps stated that with having the doors, they are not trying to keep kids out of the bathrooms but trying to deter undesirable things from happening in the bathrooms. The doors just need a battery replacement every 3-5 years depending on usage.

Student privacy safeguards will be in place and it would be added security during a lock down. There will be training for students. Director of Facilities, Principal Black, Mr. Hanlon, IT and Superintendent Forand will have access to lock and unlock the doors.

The high school uses a MINGA electronic pass system. Assistant Superintendent Benedetti-Ramzi stated that the WON doors are a nice compliment to the electronic pass system.

Mr. Carpenter to look into possibly getting reimbursement from RIDE.

Mr. Ferreira requested the letter from East Providence Fire Department saying this plan is doable for the high school.

V. Discussion / Action Items

1. Bus Cameras Update – Mr. Luiz stated that all thirty-six buses have interior cameras and stop arm cameras installed and there was training on the use of cameras this week. The IT Director, Director of Operations and Administration were present. Mr. Ferreira requested the cost of the interior cameras. Assistant Superintendent stated that the cost of the cameras is in the contract and she'll get a breakdown.

2. East Providence High School Track Update

Previously Dan Carpenter gathered information from other districts regarding the same issues with their outdoor running tracks that the district was having. A meeting was held with representatives from Cape and Island Tennis and Track with no results. Other districts were contacted to look into potentially a class action lawsuit due to the design of the drainage system at the edge of the track. Mr. Carpenter provided quotes and potential remediation for the issue on his end. The current status is on hold. Everything was done without taking legal action or the decision to repair the issues in house and try to reclaim the funds after. Mr. Carpenter spoke with Gilbane Construction, the president of Cape and Island Track, Ai3 Architects, Peregrine and the district's legal counsel. To saw cut the cracked section of track out, a quote provided from CUT-RITE is \$7,650 (3 days at \$2,550 per day). Repair and infill crack with backer rod and silicone is \$2,500 (in house).

Mr. Ferreira requested this item be placed on the next agenda and to have legal team look into. If the district fixes the track, the district will not be able to pursue this issue legally. The warranty expires in May 2026.

3. Final Update on Waddington Elementary School – Mr. Ferreira

Dan Carpenter reported that the drainage at Waddington is moving along nicely. Grading and loam was done on October 23rd and 27th. Paving was finished on October 25th. Hydroseed will be on Tuesday, October 28th. The site fencing was removed and replaced with stakes and rope to deter people from walking on the loam and hydroseed. The paving was extended to cover the area that was not in the original scope that Mr. Ferreira had requested, which added an

extra \$5,500 to the project. The area was determined that it needed to be repaved due to an existing divit area in the asphalt that would cause issues later such as water flow and ice buildup. The two areas in the drop off area were repaired with the assistance of City DPW on Friday, October 24th. Installation of the handicap lifts and removal of all site equipment will be on Saturday, November 1st. Inspections by Pare and Traverse took place on October 28th also to finalize the job. Remaining items are the handicap lifts and additional requested emergency switches in the library which will be installed this coming weekend. A few faulty flush valves under warranty will be swapped out on Monday, November 3rd. Wiring of the heaters for the water main hot box was completed on Wednesday, October 29th. Final closeout should be scheduled for this coming week. Photos of projects done in the district were shown.

Mr. Ferreira requested a cost analysis of sidewalk repair. Mr. Carpenter stated that the sidewalks at Orlo are part of the paving project.

4. Fuller Library Teen Civics – Ms. Beauchaine stated that she was asked to speak at the Fuller Library last Tuesday. The Secretary of State and Mayor DaSilva attended and was speaking about local government. Professor Kate Shapiro from Brown University would like to speak at the December School Committee meeting on implementing a de-escalation training in our schools. She is teaching a six-week teen civics class at Fuller Library.

5. Food Bank Hours of Operation and Contact Information – Ms. Beauchaine inquired about signing up for food throughout the year. She would like to see the food pantry open up on Saturdays for a few hours. She gave a huge shoutout to Mr. Hanlon for putting a post on parent square about food donations.

Assistant Superintendent Benedetti-Ramzi stated the food pantry is a supplemental program and is communicated through the staff and family newsletters every month. Stacey Messier is the coordinator for the food pantry. The district does bi-weekly food deliveries to the schools, about 100-130 bags each delivery. A process and system has been established where families can contact their child's school and get on the list or off the list throughout the year. There are no walk in hours or hours on the weekend due to sustainability of the pantry, which is why deliveries are made directly to the schools. The district receives a grant from Stop and Shop and puts in an order at least once a month for the basics such as pasta, sauce, mac and cheese and other mostly non-perishable items. The district also receives some private donations as well as partner with Feed RI who bring bi-weekly deliveries. The pantry is low on items and they are encouraging schools that are doing food drives to consider donating their items to the food pantry to support the efforts.

6. School District Website Update - Ms. Beauchaine stated that contact numbers for the district are not easy to find. The website is not easy to access. Assistant Superintendent Benedetti-Ramzi stated that the IT department will be working with the CTC to revamp the website.

7. Add Accomplishments and Achievements to School Committee Agenda – Ms. Beauchaine requested to have a place on the agenda where people, students, teachers and

schools can be recognized instead of doing it during announcements at the end of the agenda. Mr. Luiz stated that going forward it will be on the next agenda in November.

8. Homeschool Requests

Motion by Mr. Queenan, seconded by Mr. deSimas and carried by unanimous consent to approve the twenty-six homeschool requests as submitted.

9. EPHS Trip to New York City in April 2026

Motion by Ms. Beauchaine, seconded by Mr. Queenan and carried by unanimous consent to approve the East Providence High School field trip to New York City in April 2026 as submitted.

10. Culinary Arts Trip to Italy in February 2027

Motion by Ms. Beauchaine, seconded by Mr. Queenan and carried by unanimous consent to approve the East Providence CTC Culinary Arts trip to Italy in February 2027 as submitted.

11. ADMINIS, Inc. Service Agreement Renewal voted 4-1

Motion by Ms. Beauchaine, seconded by Mr. deSimas and carried by a vote of 4-1 to approve the agreement renewal for ADMINIS, Inc. as submitted. Mr. Ferreira voted nay.

12. WON-DOOR at East Providence High School

Motion by Mr. deSimas, seconded by Mr. Ferreira and carried by unanimous consent to approve the WON-DOOR at East Providence High School as submitted.

13. Moving School Committee Meetings Back to High School

Motion by Mr. deSimas, seconded by Ms. Beauchaine and carried by unanimous consent to approve moving the School Committee meetings back to East Providence High School as submitted.

14. Electronic Waste Recycling

Motion by Ms. Beauchaine, seconded by Mr. deSimas and carried by unanimous consent to approve the list of electronic waste recycling as submitted.

15. Apple Lease Agreement

Motion by Mr. deSimas, seconded by Ms. Beauchaine and carried by unanimous consent to approve the Apple Lease Agreement as submitted.

16. Resolution for Apple Master Lease Agreement

Motion by Mr. deSimas, seconded by Mr. Queenan and carried by unanimous consent to approve the Resolution for Apple Master Lease Agreement as submitted.

VI. Announcements

Exciting news that Myron J. Francis was ranked the 9th best elementary school in the state by U.S. News. Mr. Queenan gave a shoutout to all schools in the district that were in the top 100 great schools in Rhode Island.

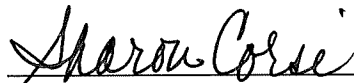
Mr. Luiz shared some wonderful news about Ty Messier who was recognized as a semifinalist in the U.S. Presidential Scholars Program, which was featured in The Reporter and on various social media platforms in April and May. He has been selected as one of only 161 students nationwide to receive this prestigious honor. This is an incredible accomplishment. To the best of their knowledge, this is the first time an East Providence High School student has received this award, a truly remarkable achievement for Ty, the school and the community.

Ms. Beauchaine recognized the Special Olympics team who won gold on Sunday. It was a big accomplishment for all those athletes.

VII. Adjournment

Motion by Mr. Queenan, seconded by Mr. deSimas and carried by unanimous consent to adjourn the meeting at 8:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Sharon Corsi, Executive Assistant



Anthony Ferreira, School Committee Clerk