
EAST PROVIDENCE SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING OPEN SESSION – December 9, 2025

I. Call to Order - Open Session

The East Providence School Committee met in Open Session on Tuesday, December 9, 2025 at 6:00 pm in the auditorium at East Providence High School. Present: Davd Luiz, Chair, Antonio deSimas, Vice Chair, Anthony Ferreira, Clerk, Ryan Queenan and Jessica Beauchaine. Superintendent Forand, Assistant Superintendent Lisa Benedetti-Ramzi and Attorney Andrew Henneous were also present. Mr. Luiz called the meeting to order at 6:01 pm.

II. Student Liaison – Hope Moran shared an update on what’s been happening over the past few weeks at the high school. The Townie Bazaar was a major success and a wonderful day for the school community, bringing together students, families, alumni and local businesses. The turnout was great and the event highlighted the creativity and pride that make East Providence unique. Last week they held a special dedication of the new Townie Veterans Plaque. Louis M. Falguera, Class of 1948 and World War II veteran was honored. His attendance made the ceremony especially meaningful and reflective of their deep Townie history. Next weeks begins winter spirit week as they get ready for the holiday season and break beginning December 23rd. After break, students will begin preparing for midterms, and many teachers have already started organizing supports and reviewing plans. Townie Cares chapter is preparing to attend a statewide mental health summit in January. They are also continuing several community drives including: Tri-M Music Society adopting a family for Christmas; Mr. Silva’s APUSH students organizing angel tree contributions; Sock-tober collecting more than 2,200 socks; and additional toy and gift drives through clubs and athletic teams. These ongoing efforts highlight the commitment to service and community connection. Winter sports are now underway. Two weeks ago, East Providence DECA represented the high school at the International Power Trip in Washington, D.C where they participated in leadership workshops and connected with student leaders from around the world. The past few weeks have been full of school spirit, service and accomplishment.

III. District Recognition

1. Unified Volleyball Team members and coaches were presented certificates for winning the Division IV Unified Volleyball State Championship. Members are Zachary Kochan; Francielis Gonzales; Maxxwell Resendes; Randy Vasquez; Collin Bedard; Emma Power; Mitchell Snead; Justin Aguiar; Tyius Tate; Dianelys Mota; and Jack Thomson. Coaches are Dana Brodin; Beth Studley; and Brandyn Chace.

2. Presentation of School Highlights

IV. Consent Agenda

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

2. **Home School Requests** – There were two homeschooling requests.

3. **Approval of Minutes:**

- November 18, 2025 Executive & Open Session School Committee Meeting
- November 10, 2025 Building Committee Meeting

4. Personnel Report

Appointments – Eliana Corrales, Paraprofessional at Whiteknact, effective 11/24/25; and Lauren Macera, Physical Education Teacher at Hennessey/Oldham, effective 12/15/25.

Resignations – Newell Roberts, Physical Education Teacher at Hennessey and Oldham, effective 11/26/26; and Michelle Laurent, Connections at Riverside Middle School, effective 12/6/25.

Retirements – None

Recalls – None

Leaves of Absence – None

5. Bill List

- Voucher No. 1003 dated 12/04/25 – \$1,193,150.69
- Voucher No. 1057 dated 10/31/25 - \$1,112,953.00

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

- Ai3 Basic Services MMS - \$46,713.27
- Ai3 Supplemental Services MMS - \$7,513.21
- Ai3 Basic Services Wadd - \$5,181.75
- Peregrine Group – MMS - \$50,600.00
- Peregrine Group – Wadd - \$21,780.00
- Shawmut MMS - \$2,021,631.84
- Shawmut Wadd – \$515,582.75
- Stephen Turner, Inc. MMS - \$12,748.25
- Stephen Turner, Inc. Wadd - \$12,284.20
- Thielsch Engineering MMS – \$1,151.27
- Apple Financial Services MMS - \$236,325.00
- CORE Business Technologies MMS - \$41,957.03
- Willscot MMS – \$2,900.46
- PODS MMS - \$233.20
- DataPivot – MMS - \$1,300.00
- DataPivot – MMS - \$8,550.00
- WB Mason MMS - \$403.00
- Whalley Computer Associates MMS - \$58,379.14
- Whalley Computer Associates MMS - \$287,196.00
- American Window MMS - \$5,123.16

Total \$3,337,553.53

Motion by Mr. deSimas, seconded by Mr. Ferreira and carried by unanimous consent to approve the consent agenda as submitted.

V. Superintendent's Report

1. Accountability Presentation – Lindsey Reilly presented a School & District Accountability overview. She went through the measures the District uses to evaluate school performance: Academic Performance, Student Success and College & Career Readiness. She highlighted elementary and secondary star ratings for each school from 2023-2025. Accountability and

performance overviews for each school were discussed. Student subgroups identified for targeted support and improvement and/or additional targeted support and improvement were discussed. Some schools had commendable achievement in English/language proficiency; school quality and student success and low performing subgroups.

This report is based on RIDE's recent release of district accountability from spring of 2025. All of the data is compiled in district school report cards. Report cards are available publicly through the RIDE website. Pre-K was not part of tonight's presentation. They have their own accountability system.

The District Strategic Plan will be updated for the beginning of next school year. School Improvement Plans are updated annually.

Ms. Beauchaine thanked Ms. Reilly for sending the presentation to the Committee prior to tonight's meeting so they had a chance to review the data. There was some discussion about the star ratings the schools received; implementation of the ELA (Wonder) curriculum; achievement and growth; and the account summary report about disabilities.

Ms. Reilly stated that they are conferencing with the principals on data at the school level. Ms. Beauchaine stated that the district needs to come up with a plan to help all students be successful, specifically students with disabilities.

2. Facilities Update – Dan Carpenter

Martin Middle School – The Martin Middle School ribbon cutting ceremony was on held on November 25th at 10am. Students started in the new building on December 1st. Students and staff are very excited about being in the new school. The majority of teacher items have all been moved over to the new building and are being placed. Leftover items within the old building are being distributed among other buildings, to other districts and trash. Our goal is to have the first floor from the boiler room to the library cleared out for the abatement to begin as soon as possible. The City has provided the District with dumpsters for scrap metal. Salvageable items will be removed from the existing building and put into storage. Pre-K items will be put into two new connex boxes located at the administration building that were purchased. They will have access to the building until Christmas time and hoping to be out by the end of this week. All new building related items of concern are being documented and addressed by the District, Peregrine and Shawmut accordingly.

EPHS - Won Door paperwork has been finalized and framing will start in the coming weeks. Delivery of the doors was on Tuesday December 2nd. Framing materials are being gathered to be built to specifications provided by Won Door. Synet is projected for two weeks to do programming and wiring.

The running track will be assessed further into which products are to be used to create the expansion joint. This job is slated for late spring/early summer 2026.

Garage doors for the steel building were ordered last month and they are awaiting the date for arrival and install from garage headquarters.

Waddington – On Wednesday November 26th, Aid for Mobility worked on the handicapped lift. Shawmut continues to work through plumbing issues and warranty items as they pop up. Everything is being documented and addressed. Shawmut worked with their plumbing contractor to install pressure reducing valves to help solve the issues with the flush valves. They believe pressures being too high was not letting the valves actuate correctly causing them to burn out prematurely. The in-house electrician was able to install all new high bay lighting outside both ends of the gymnasium. The lighting is much brighter overall making the visibility high, and a much newer updated look.

Building Management System - Continual work is being done around the district as to programming, wiring, controls and valving. This work is to continue until the deadline of January 2026.

RMS - The paving project at Riverside Middle School teachers' lot began on November 25th, after a short delay with Digsafe from the previous Thursday. It has been ripped and re-paved. PHMA is looking to have this finalized this month. The parking lot and light pole island area are to be replaced. Striping of parking spots will follow. The rest of the paving projects will start back up in the springtime. This includes Myron J. Francis, Kent Heights and Orlo Avenue.

3. Finance Update – Ms. Gonzalez provided the Committee with the updated finance report for FY26 budget to actuals, FY25 projections and FY24 and FY23 for reference. She gave an update on FY24 final. They are closing out FY24 audit in collaboration with the city finance department. Part of that close, they pulled the Riverside project expenses. The project was funded through the School Building Authority with 48% reimbursement. The intention has always been to use the school capital fund to cover those expenses. To clarify, those funds sit in the district's unrestricted fund. The entry has been made to cover the schools' commitment. There was a change of \$1,140,120. The Auditor General is aware of this change. The audit is expected to be finalized this month. Once complete, a presentation will be scheduled with the auditors.

Into FY25 are projected finals. Project actuals meaning that they have reviewed all line items most of which have a final expense. There are a few items that have not received final invoices but they calculated what they expect the final invoices to be.

Several line items were highlighted. Some had no significant changes and some had a small increase. Some line items were awaiting final invoices. TIAA reimbursement and Medicaid reimbursements are still pending and should be finalized soon.

VI. Policy Committee Report

1. School Committee By-laws – 1st read

Some changes were made. Mr. Queenan stated that on page 4, number 4 Superintendent's performance evaluation should be put on an upcoming agenda to continue the conversation. Ms. Beauchaine stated that all members should be aware of what the By-laws are. There are 19 ethical standards to adhere to.

2. Building Access Policy – 1st read

Ms. Beauchaine stated that both policies should be aligned to read the same. The By-laws state school committee visits to a building should be managed through the administrative assistant and the Building Access Policy reads that members can enter the building between 6am and 11pm.

VII. Building Committee Report – Dan Carpenter

Martin Middle School – The construction project reached substantial completion on November 14th and TCO was issued. The ribbon cutting ceremony was on Tuesday, November 25th at 10 am and December 1st school opened to all students. All items have been moved into the new building with remaining items in the old building being moved out currently. Phase II mobilization is underway with site work and abatement. Vinagronis scheduled for this coming Friday to begin demolition. Around the site, fencing is going up along with abatement and demo inside. Two connex boxes were purchased by the District to house all Pre-K items until Phase II finishes in 2027. Upcoming work includes site work, demo and underground utilities and subgrade for footings. Inside the new building the auditorium work continues with ATR Treehouse beginning sound and lighting work. Duct work is being installed, along with above ceilings electrical.

Waddington Elementary School – The ADA wheelchair lift has been finished, inspection is on December 9, 2025 by the state inspector. Once inspection passes, the lift can be used. Shawmut continues to work through warranty items that arise. They will be installing pressure reducing valves to relieve the issues that have been seen with the flush valves throughout the building. They will be incurring the cost themselves.

Mr. Luiz inquired if there were many items coming out of Martin Middle School and if they can be repurposed. Mr. Carpenter stated that quite a bit, about 80%, can be repurposed.

VIII. Public Comments –

1. Stephanie Rose addressed the Committee regarding the 8th grade field trip at Martin Middle School. This year something has happened to their field trip that they go on every year which is a tradition. These students deserve a trip. No information has been given to the parents from the school. Riverside Middle School has a planned field trip and are going to Washington, DC. She asked where this went wrong and that the parents are left in the dark. Someone from the Committee will contact Ms. Rose.

2. Renee Ignacio – Inquired if the stop arm cameras on the buses are up and running and if there are any violations because the grace period is over. Mr. Luiz stated that the stop arm cameras are active.

3. Chrissy Rossi – A couple of weeks ago she sent an email to school committee members and Superintendent Forand regarding the difficulty her grandson is having in the 7th grade at Riverside Middle School. Dr. Forand responded to her email. Ms. Rossi will resend the email to the school committee. She is concerned about students that are not getting the appropriate resources they need to be caught up. Ms. Beauchaine stated that she spoke about this at the last EPLAC meeting.

IX. Discussion / Action Items

1. Fencing Around Riverside Middle School Condenser Units – Mr. Ferreira

Mr. Carpenter stated that a fence has been put up around the condenser units at Riverside.

2. Going from Two School Committee Meetings to One Meeting per Month

Motion by Mr. deSimas, seconded by Ms. Beauchaine and carried by a vote of 4-1 to approve going from two school committee meetings per month to one meeting per month starting January 2026. Mr. Ferreira voted nay.

3. 2026 Monthly School Committee Meetings Schedule

Motion by Mr. Queenan, seconded by Mr. deSimas and carried by a vote of 4-1 to approve the 2026 monthly School Committee meetings schedule as submitted. Mr. Ferreira voted nay.

4. Silver Spring School Fence Repair Issue

Mr. Luiz stated that there was a social media post about the fence repair at Silver Spring School and the comments made were pointed at the Facilities Director. It was not the Facilities Director who made the fix to the fence. The repairs were not made by the District. This matter was discussed with legal counsel.

Mr. Ferreira shared what was discussed with Mr. Luiz and legal counsel. He stated that he put a brand new orange \$18 safety cone over a fence pole and that what he did anyone had the right to do. He said that it was exposed for 3-4 weeks. He stated that a resident, Lynn Miller, had called him saying she had calls about the repair. He said he went there that night and the following morning slid the cone on the fence pole around 6:30am. He took a picture of the cone and sent it to Ms. Miller who, in turn, posted it on social media and wrote that it should last 10 years. Someone put the cone on the ground and untied the rope.

Mr. Ferreira stated that he will pay the attorney's fee for being at the meeting this evening.

Mr. Luiz stated that the post on social media was an implication that our Facilities Director was responsible and the statement of the 10-year fix was sarcastic. It implied that the repair job was horrible and that the Facilities Director did it. The parks department took the cone down. Mr. Carpenter did the repair that is currently there now.

Regarding an issue at Hennessey, Mr. Luiz stated that he sent a photo to Mr. Carpenter, and the next day it was fixed. Mr. Luiz made him aware of the situation and within 48 hours Mr. Carpenter will send a photo back that the issue was resolved.

Superintendent Forand stated that neither she nor Mr. Carpenter received any repair order at Silver Spring. Mr. Ferreira took the picture and sent it to Ms. Miller, who posted it. Administration was not aware of the fence. If the district is not aware of something needing to be fixed or a ticket put in, then how can they take care of the issue.

Mr. Ferreira stated that the fence needed repair three months ago. Mr. Luiz asked Mr. Ferreira if he had the picture of the Silver Spring fence from three months ago. Mr. Ferreira stated he did not have the picture. Mr. Luiz asked Mr. Ferreira if he instructed Ms. Miller to post it and blame Mr. Carpenter. Mr. Ferreira stated no.

Dr. Forand said to contact the district when there is a safety issue in the future so they have the opportunity to repair it instead of misrepresenting our facilities director and/or district.

Mr. Luiz asked Mr. Ferreira if he is willing to notify the facilities Director first before he puts it out on social media. Mr. Ferreira stated that he would never do anything to disrespect them.

Mr. deSimas stated that he wants the staff to know that they are valued and information misrepresented is disheartening.

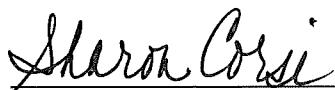
Ms. Beauchaine added to not rely on social media posts about the district. Contact the district directly or school committee members. The information may be incomplete or inaccurate.

X. Announcements – Ms. Beauchaine apologized for being late and missing the united volleyball team recognition. She attended a wake. She congratulated the unified team. She also announced that on behalf of the East Providence School Department, they wish everyone a happy holiday season.

XI. Adjournment

Motion by Mr. Queenan, seconded by Mr. deSimas and carried by unanimous consent to adjourn the meeting at 8:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Sharon Corsi, Executive Assistant



Anthony Ferreira, School Committee Clerk