
**EAST PROVIDENCE SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
OPEN SESSION – February 10, 2026**

I. Call to Order - Open Session

The East Providence School Committee met in Open Session on Tuesday, February 10, 2026 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 and Assistant Superintendent Lisa Benedetti-Ramzi were also present. Mr. Luiz called the meeting to order at 6:02 pm.

Motion by Mr. Queenan, seconded by Mr. deSimas and carried by unanimous consent to move up VI. Special Public Comments regarding the Naming of the High School Weight Room.

Mr. Queenan stated that per the district's policy this item needed a second discussion and a vote. He opened it up to the Committee who are all in favor of naming the weight room at the high school after Manual and Stephanie Vinhateiro.

Next Mr. Queenan opened it up to the public. Mayor DaSilva commended the School Committee for moving this initiative along. Secretary of State Gregg Amore supports this vote. Councilman Frank Rego stated Mr. and Mrs. Vinhateiro symbolize what it means to give back to the community and is in full support. Principal Bill Black stated that this is a fitting tribute to two amazing people. Superintendent Forand stated that this has been a long time coming for the Vinhateiros. Representative Katherine Kazarian commended the School Committee for doing this and for Ryan Queenan putting this forward. Senate President Valarie Lawson offered her full support for the Vinhateiros. She stated they have given so much as educators their entire life in so many ways and also all aspects of the community.

Mr. Queenan thanked everyone who came out to show their support to honor Mr. & Mrs. Vinhateiro.

Motion by Mr. Queenan, seconded by Mr. deSimas and carried by unanimous consent to move up #7 under Discussion/Action Items on agenda.

Motion by Mr. Queenan, seconded by Mr. deSimas and carried by unanimous consent to approve the naming of the high school weight room after Manuel and Stephanie Vinhateiro as submitted.

II. Executive Session

Motion by Mr. deSimas, seconded by Mr. Ferreira and carried unanimously to move into the main office conference room for the purpose of: Superintendent's evaluation tool and contract pursuant to RIGL §42-46-5(a)(1); Attorney update on all ongoing litigation pursuant to RIGL §42-46-5(a)(2); Attorney update on all current grievances pursuant to RIGL §42-46-5(a)(9);

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 8:09 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 stated that there has been a lot of positive momentum across all schools. They are not at the beginning of the third quarter and grades are officially starting up again. Students are feeling focused especially as they head into this week leading up to February break which is also spirit week. Winter sports season is beginning to come to a close and spring sports registration has officially opened which has generated a lot of excitement among all grade levels. Students have been placing a strong emphasis on promoting their pathway education programs. These programs give students the opportunity to explore career interests and gain real, hands-on workforce experience, helping them build practical skills and make informed decisions about their futures beyond the classroom. Martin and Riverside Middle Schools, along with the high school, all participated in the Souper Bowl, collectively donating hundreds of canned food items to local food banks. The high school had an incredible Winter Ball last Friday, which was well attended and provided a fun and safe space for students to come together. That same day over 35 DECA students competed statewide at the State Career Development Conference, representing the high school with professionalism and dedication. Overall it has been a busy and exciting month and it's clear that students are staying engaged both inside and outside of the classroom as they move forward into the rest of the quarter.

Motion by Mr. deSimas, seconded by Mr. Ferreira and carried by unanimous consent to move up the East Providence High School Bond Update.

Alexandra Gonzalez, Finance Director for the school department and Glenda Delgado, Director of Finance for the City presented an update on the high school bond. They went over the high school surplus vs capital fund beginning balance and what was previously presented and updated with actuals; verification of beginning bond balance; verification of expenses; verification of closing balance and verification of approved capital projects post closing of bond.

Thirty-five requisitions were submitted between 6/17/21 and 6/5/25 and are outside of the scope of work. Each requisition and invoice was individually reviewed and reconciled to payments (check or ACH) per bond statements. Minor discrepancies identified (check reissuances, invoice sheet errors). Discrepancy identified in the last five requisitions related to change in project cost based on projections present at the 11/12/25 meeting. Outstanding items are three items not submitted before bond closure - \$327,320.87. Additional unpaid water line expenses - \$1,200 total four unpaid before bond closure. The total balance at City - \$328,341 not paid by bond. Ms. Delgado to provide all thirty-five requisitions.

Mr. Queenan stated that there was some confusion on the part of the school committee as to where the money was being held and managed. Ms. Gonzalez stated that capital is in two accounts, BayCoast and Washington Trust. The capital fund is held in BayCoast and Washington Trust managed by city finance.

The capital fund is managed by the city for the school district. The only stipulation is that the money has to be used for the school department, per ordinance. The city doesn't tell the school district what to do with it. The fund can't be spent/allocated if it isn't a RIDE approved project, per ordinance.

Mr. Ferreira inquired as to how much is in the account and if the district has been reimbursed for intercoms. Ms. Gonzalez stated that they haven't been reimbursed from RIDE yet. Reimbursements from RIDE are scheduled only on September 15 and March 15.

Mr. Ferreira would like to research the law stating it has to be an approved project. Dr. Forand stated that the ordinance says the district can only use money on projects that are reimbursable from RIDE. Dr. Forand to send the ordinance to the Committee. The ordinance says it has to be RIDE reimbursable projects. Ordinance Chapter No. 931.

V. District Recognition – Monthly school highlights from Martin and Riverside Middle Schools, Oldham Pre-K, Waddington, Myron J. Francis, Whiteknact, Hennessey, Orlo Avenue Elementary School and East Providence High School.

VI. Special Public Comments – Naming of the High School Weight Room

This item was moved up on the agenda.

VII. Consent Agenda

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

2. **Home School Requests** – There were five homeschool requests.

3. **Approval of Minutes:**

- January 15, 2026 Executive & Open Session School Committee Meeting
- January 22, 2026 Executive & Open Special School Committee Meeting
- January 12, 2026 Building Committee Meeting

4. **Personnel Report**

Appointments – Jessica McMullen, Speech Pathologist at Oldham, effective 2/2/2026; Evan Gonzalez, Night Custodian and East Providence High School, effective 1/21/2026; and Nicholas Soucy, Paraprofessional at East Providence High School ALP, effective 2/9/2026.

Resignations – Jessica Chartrand-Bolton, Paraprofessional at Oldham, effective 1/30/2026; and Manisha Perdereaux, Paraprofessional at Silver Spring, effective 2/20/2026.

Retirements – Cynthia Norton, Grade 2 at Silver Spring, effective end of the 2025-2026 school year.

Non-Renewals – Seven non-renewals effective the end of the 2025-2026 school year.

Recalls – None

Leaves of Absence – None

5. **Bill List**

- Voucher No. 1007 dated 1/16/2026 – \$94,168.75

- Voucher No. 1008 dated 1/29/2026 - \$218,665.35
- Voucher No. 1010 dated 2/5/2026 - \$140.00
- Voucher No. 1011 dated 2/5/2026 - \$1,984,059.94

6. Stage III Invoices - MMS/Waddington Projects for January 2026

- Ai3 Basic Services MMS - \$46,713.27
- Ai3 Supplemental Services MMS - \$7,837.50
- Peregrine Group – MMS - \$50,600.00
- Peregrine Group – Wadd - \$21,780.00
- Stephen Turner Inc. – MMS - \$2,351.010
- Stephen Turner Inc. – Wadd - \$3,551.25
- Shawmut - MMS - \$3,015,646.62
- Shawmut - Wadd - \$498,837.76
- Sheehans Office – MMS - \$17,070.80
- Willscot - MMS – \$2,943.97
- PODS - MMS - \$233.20
- DataPivot – MMS - \$1,263.54
- Whalley Computer Associates - MMS - \$131,478.30
- Johnson Scientific – MMS - \$16,443.00
- American Window – MMS - \$4,248.00
- East Providence School Department – MMS - \$900.00
- East Providence School Department – Wadd - \$59,299.60

Total \$3,881,197.81

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

VIII. PTO/PTA/EPLAC Reports – There were no reports.

IX. Superintendent's Report

1. Facilities/Building Committee Update – Dan Carpenter reported the following:

- Won doors continue with sheetrock and mudding. Install started on Friday, February 6th. Won Door figures about five days to get the doors installed. Synet has pulled the low voltage wiring over to all doors. They will be back during February vacation to do tie-in work. Painters will be finishing compound coats, along with our carpenter with baseboard and wall finishes to get these wrapped up in the coming weeks.
- Both ADA lifts at Waddington have been installed and inspected. One experienced a motor issue that AID 4 Mobility is replacing. They are currently working through the issue.
- Four large LED solar street lights were added to the back of MMS gym to light up the loading dock area. These lights have dramatically increased the safety for staff in the rear of the building.
- Garage doors from Garage Headquarters are set to be installed on the steel building at the high school starting February 26th.

- The heating system BMS is in full operation. This system has helped tremendously to track heat issues and monitor systems throughout the district. This system should also help reduce operating costs associated with electrical and gas.
- Waddington dishwasher is set to be removed on February 13th for the expected arrival of the new one later this month.
- Spring project logistics are being worked out for the rest of the paving projects and other internal projects such as RMS fencing and Silver Spring fence removal.
- RFPs are being developed for initial stage 2 items selected from our RIDE 5-year improvement plan. These items include Orlo Elementary School roof replacement and PA system replacements at Hennessey and Kent Heights.

Building Committee Update February 2026

Martin Middle School

- The existing building is in the final stages of teardown. Excavation of the new pre-k site, underground work and footings are being placed for concrete. Looking ahead in the next three months there will be footings and form work for foundation, shear wall grouting and reinforcement. The steel is expected sometime in late April/May.
- Auditorium work continues with ductwork, electrical and MEP work. ATR treehouse will be starting this month with sound and lighting. Once completed, the new ceiling will be installed and the staging will be removed.

Waddington

- ADA lifts have been installed. They both have been inspected and Aid 4 Mobility is diagnosing a warranty issue with a motor part on one lift. Ms. Beauchaine stated that the vendor hasn't responded and Shawmut is working on it.
- Warranty items have been addressed, as to flush valves and water issues.

3. Finance Update – Ms. Gonzalez stated that there wasn't much to update for this month's report. For FY26 the correction has been made with regards to the error reported in last month's report for January for line item 51406 and 51407. In the 52000 series there is a credit of \$6K. The district received a grant from the Trust to cover 50% of our EAP expense. The credit will sit there until invoices are applied to it through the year. There is nothing to report for the 53000, 54000, 55000 and 57000 series. In the 56000 series line item 56215 electricity, spending is pretty high there and they are keeping a close look at that line. For FY25 there is a small change in the bank line item 58103, however, they are still in the black. For FY24 the auditor has come back with more questions. The auditors will present at the March meeting.

Mr. Ferreira requested an update with the snow removal costs and overtime expenses. He would like a total at the end of the season.

- **East Providence High School Bond Update** – This was moved up on the agenda.

X. Policy Committee Report

1. Admission Requirements for Registration of School Aged Children – 2nd read

There was no discussion. Ms. Beauchaine stated that it is the law that the McKinney-Vento Act/Homelessness be included in the policy and it has been added.

2. Attendance Policy – 1st read

Dr. Forand stated that a section was added to the policy. Mr. Beauchaine inquired about #9 on page 3 and reiterated that a written request for early dismissal for medical or family reasons signed by the student's parent/guardian must be presented to the first period classroom teacher or office on the day of the early dismissal. Superintendent Forand stated that parental phone calls requesting an early dismissal must be approved by the Principal.

XI. Public Comments

1. Renee Ignacio addressed the Committee regarding an update on the stop arm bus cameras and inquired if any violations have been issued. She has letters from the City from December and January 21st stating that the cameras are not up and running as of yet. Mr. Luiz stated that the cameras are up and running. Ms. Ignacio stated that the police department was supposed to do a follow-up in July or August. Ms. Beauchaine stated that the cameras inside the buses are working. Ms. Ignacio inquired about the owner of the contract. She stated that tomorrow will be a year she brought this issue up with the school department. She has a timeline of everything that was said, every single transcript written out on who said what for every single meeting about bus cameras. She also stated she has no problem putting it out there about who said what, who back talked what, or who did what, because it's right there in black and white and she has everything.

2. Bethanie Rado from the East Providence Prevention Coalition requested approval of the BHHDH student risk survey. The survey provides local school data. The information is anonymous and helps when applying for grants and the information tracks trends. Without data, East Providence would lose funding. Parents are notified about the survey and are given the option to opt out.

XII. Discussion / Action Items

1. Update on Website Construction – Ms. Beauchaine

Mr. McDonald gave a brief presentation on a new website which looks more modern and is better laid out. One student and the IT Director is working on the website. Ms. Beauchaine stated that she would like an easy access to find information and phone numbers on the website. Mr. McDonald stated that an overhaul of a website is generally fourteen months to complete. To do the website, eight months is realistic and should be completed in the summer.

Motion by Mr. deSimas, seconded by Mr. Ferreira and carried by unanimous consent to move up item # 9 Approval of List of Technology E-Waste

Motion by Mr. deSimas, seconded by Mr. Ferreira and carried by unanimous consent to approve the list of technology e-waste as submitted.

2. Update on Special Education Advisory Committee – Ms. Beauchaine

Leslie Anderson gave a quick update. She stated that the Special Education Advisory Committee met on January 28th. They came together to assess progress toward their goals. There are four goals identified as the HUB of the work that the committee has taken on and includes MTSS,

Quality Inclusion, a Placement Framework and Purposeful Collaboration. The nature of the four priority goals encompasses the six additional recommendations made in the overall study. The committee identified the strengths and barriers experienced as they are implementing recommendations and goals set by this committee. They discussed quality inclusion and best practices and models for successful inclusion of students with IEPs in general education settings. Resources were shared; Co-Teaching Models and Rightful Presence. They went through the Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS), Purposeful Collaboration and Next Steps. There will be a joint MTSS Committee and Special Education Advisory Committee meeting on Thursday, April 9th at 1:30-3:30 pm in the high school library. At that time they will determine if there is a need to meet again. The committee will continue updating program descriptions and the manual. They will schedule time for special education program and self-contained teachers to collaborate with other special educators in the district and will have inclusion training on Co-teaching models. Teachers, special educators, administrators and building principals make up this committee.

3. Update on WON Doors – Mr. Luiz

Mr. Carpenter stated earlier that the Won doors continue with sheetrock and mudding. The install started on Friday, February 6th. It will take about five days to get the doors installed.

4. Update on Bus Camera Access – Mr. Luiz

Ms. Clarkin, Director of Operations, confirmed that the cameras inside the buses are working and the stop arm cameras are active and functioning and she has utilized them. The Gatekeeper cameras are on Oceanstate vans. Ms. Clarkin can log in and get information. They are not issuing tickets at this time. There are some communication gaps with Gatekeeper and the police department.

5. Admissions Requirements for Registration of School Aged Children – 2nd read

Motion by Mr. deSimas, seconded by Ms. Beauchaine and carried by unanimous consent to approve the second reading of the Admissions Requirements for Registration of School Aged Children policy as submitted.

6. 2026-2027 School Calendar

Motion by Mr. deSimas_, seconded by Mr. Ferreira and carried by unanimous consent to approve the 2026-2027 school calendar as submitted. Ms. Beauchaine stated that school starts on September 3 as the first day of school for all students. The calendar still gives February and April vacations and has a primary day. School ends on June 22nd. Dr. Forand applied in January for a full-day off for parent/teacher conferences and is waiting for RIDE approval.

7. Naming of High School Weight Room

Motion by Mr. Queenan, seconded by Mr. deSimas and carried by unanimous consent to approve the naming of the high school weight room after Manuel and Stephanie Vinhateiro as submitted.

8. 2026 BHDDH RI Student Survey

Motion by Mr. deSimas, seconded by Ms. Beauchaine and carried by a vote of 3-2 to approve the 2026 Rhode Island Department of Behavioral Healthcare Disabilities & Hospitals (BHDDH) student survey to be administered to students in grades 6 through 12 between February and

June 2026 as submitted. Mr. Queenan and Mr. Ferreira voted nay. Ms. Beauchaine stated again that parents can opt out.

9. List of Technology E-Waste

This item was moved up on the agenda.

XIII Announcements –

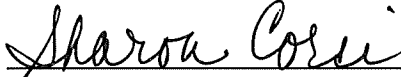
There will be a community forum on Thursday, February 26th at Riverside Middle School library to share concerns, ideas and opinions regarding the old Oldham School.

Mr. Queenan helped facilitate a few meetings between school leadership at Myron J. Francis and folks at the RI School Recycling Program. He also brought together MJF leadership, Superintendent and maintenance Union President to discuss the logistics of the that program. Myron J. Francis would like to move forward and will be communicating with the RI School Recycling Program to get the program up and running at that school. He will share more information as it becomes available.

XIV. Adjournment

Motion by Mr. deSimas, seconded by Mr. Ferreira and carried by unanimous consent to adjourn the meeting at 9:49 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Sharon Corsi, Executive Assistant


Anthony Ferreira, School Committee Clerk