
EAST PROVIDENCE SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING OPEN SESSION – May 12, 2026

I. Call to Order - Open Session

The East Providence School Committee met in open session on Tuesday, May 12, 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 Sandra Forand was 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. Student Liaison – Hope Moran highlighted events from the final stretch of the school year. EPHS continues to stay incredibly active both inside and outside of the classroom, with students achieving success in academics, athletics and leadership. She announced Caden Vaughn, East Providence's Youth of the Year, was recently named Rhode Island Youth of the Year through the Boys & Girls Club. Caden will now travel to New York City to compete for the title of Northeast Youth of the Year. The athletic programs have also seen tremendous success throughout the spring season. Many teams are heading into playoff competitions. Academically, students have been hard at work as AP testing continues through this week. They recognized all of the students challenging themselves through advanced placement courses and exams, as well as, the teachers supporting them throughout the process. Social events have also brought students together over the past month. The junior prom was a tremendous success and now students are looking forward to senior prom coming up. These events create lasting memories and continue to strengthen the school community. As graduation season approaches, excitement continues to build for the class of 2026. Seniors will celebrate their final day of classes on May 28th with graduation taking place on June 5th. Two outstanding educators were recognized for their recent honors. Mrs. D'Orsi was named East Providence Teacher of the Year and tonight was recognized as 2026 District Teacher of the Year. Additionally, Mrs. Ashton was named Rhode Island Librarian of the Year. These recognitions are a testament to the dedication, passion and excellence of the educators here in East Providence. There are still many events taking place throughout the district, including concerts, celebrations and upcoming athletic competitions, all of which showcase the incredible talent and creativity of East Providence students.

III. Public Comments – Naming of Martin Middle School Stage

Laura McNamara, Peyton Luiz and Michael Charves addressed the Committee in support of naming the Martin Middle School stage after Judy DePerla. Several emails were presented to the Chair. Mr. Luiz read two emails honoring Judy DePerla that were requested to be read as record.

Motion by Mr. Queenan, seconded by Mr. deSimas and carried by unanimous consent to move up Action Item #6 Naming of Martin Middle School Stage after Judy DePerla

Motion by Mr. deSimas, seconded by Mr. Queenan and carried by unanimous consent to approve the naming of Martin Middle School stage after Judy DePerla as submitted.

IV. District Recognition – School Highlights

There were technical difficulties this evening. School highlights will be presented at the next meeting.

V. Consent Agenda

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

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

3. **Approval of Minutes:**

- April 14, 2026 Executive & Open Session School Committee Meeting
- April 13, 2026 Building Committee Meeting

4. **Personnel Report**

Appointments – Mia Jackson, Math Teacher at East Providence High School, effective 2026-2027 school year; Danielle Lippechar, Math Teacher at Riverside Middle School, effective 2026-2027 school year; Jameson Peckham, Math Teacher at East Providence High School, effective 2026-2027 school year; Sophia Schobel, Science Teacher at East Providence High School, effective 2026-2027 school year; and Mark Medeiros, Science Teacher at Riverside Middle School, effective 2026-2027 school year.

Resignations – Mileena Delgado, Controller in Administration, effective 4/17/2026; Sarah Travis, Science Teacher at Riverside Middle School, effective end of the 2025-2026 school year; and Ryan DeCarvalho, Social Worker at Silver Spring, effective 5/9/2026.

Retirements – Darlene Simmons, Paraprofessional at Myron J. Francis, effective end of the 2025-2026 school year; and Diana Neves, Paraprofessional at Martin Middle School, effective end of the 2025-2026 school year.

Recalls – None

Leaves of Absence – None

Non Renewals - None

5. **Bill List**

- Voucher No. 1024 dated 4/16/26 - \$13,845.47
- Voucher No. 1025 dated 4/23/26 - \$75,946.05
- Voucher No. 1027 dated 5/7/26 - \$11,876,516.90

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

- Ai3 Basic Services MMS - \$46,713.27
- Peregrine Group – MMS - \$50,600.00
- Peregrine Group – Wadd - \$21,780.00
- Shawmut – MMS - \$1,920,909.56
- Shawmut – Wadd - \$12,002.50
- Willscot - MMS – \$2,944.62
- PODS - MMS - \$233.20
- Stephen Turner Inc. – MMS - \$1,250.00
- WB Mason – MMS - \$1,106.00

- WB Mason – MMS - \$750.00
- WB Mason – MMS - \$117.00
- Thielsch Engineering – MMS - \$15,128.00

Total \$2,073,534.15

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

Motion by Mr. Queenan, second by Ms. Beauchaine and carried by unanimous consent to move up Discussion Item #1 WON Door Update from Principal and Deans.

Principal Black and Assistant Principal Messier gave a brief update on how things are working out since the WON doors have been implemented. Mr. Messier stated that it has been a major success with student supervision. When class is over, students go right to their next class. There are no more large groups of students piling up in the bathrooms. There were student conflicts and vaping in between periods. Bathroom availability, balance of bathroom locations and better placements for all gender bathrooms will be addressed during the summer. Mr. Black echoed what Mr. Messier stated. They work closely with the Administrators and Deans who all agree that the WON doors have been a good transition for the students.

VI. PTO/PTA/EPLAC Reports – Kaitlyn Hall, Marissa Custer and Channing Morin, ELC and Kindergarten Pathways parents spoke as members of EPLAC, on behalf of themselves, as well as, many other families of children with disabilities who are deeply concerned about the lack of transparency, communication and follow-through within the district. Parents repeatedly attend meetings, participate in discussions and advocate in good faith, only to leave without clear answers, timelines or accountability. Inclusion is a priority, yet there is a lack of space and resources in general education classrooms.

Ms. Beauchaine stated that this was a discussion that was had at the last EPLAC meeting. These parents are looking for answers. Mr. deSimas thanked these parents for coming out and stated that the School Committee is doing what they can to help out and get answers. Mr. Queenan thanked them for taking the time to publicly share and is hoping that the Superintendent or Director of Special Education may help to answer some questions.

Motion by Mr. deSimas, seconded by Mr. Queenan and carried by unanimous consent to move up discussion item #4 Projected Special Education Classroom Sizes and Data Update

Ms. Beauchaine requested the projected special education data. Special Education Director, Leslie Anderson, stated that the sheet she provided to the Committee is soft data. These projections do not include incoming K students to be screened. There will be a meeting to review screeners and school locations scheduled June 1, 2026. Projections do not include all students who are transferring schools Pre-K to K, elementary to middle and middle to high school. These projections cannot be considered accurate at this time due to the numbers are based on current locations/programs. IEP meetings/service still scheduled and being considered for 2026-2027

school year. Most of the programs in place will remain intact. There is still much work with testing to be done. Students requiring speech only will go to their own schools. Of the 51 students, only 6 students are recommended for resource which leaves 45 students rising from Pre-K.

In terms of placements, screeners are being conducted with a trained group of people and with the teachers' input. Will have this done by the end of the summer. There is an exorbitant amount of students being recommended for special education. May not have enough spots and may have to look at additional classrooms. It is labor intensive and takes a lot of eyes to make sure they are making the wisest decisions.

Mr. Queenan inquired as to how the communication has been laid out to the families. Ms. Anderson stated that it is communicated through the IEP teams. There is a process to make sure they are making the proper placement which includes input from the parents. Mr. Queenan stated that there are items not finalized with parents. Ms. Anderson stated there is a process that is worked on all summer and parents usually get notified during the summer.

Dr. Forand stated that most students stay in their placements of self-contained classrooms. Fifty kindergarten student were placed in self-contained last year. They work on doing the best to match students with programs that meet their needs and support individual classrooms. Screenings are a new process for the district.

Ms. Anderson stated that students are in a hybrid model and are either going into their peer classrooms or coming out for individual services. There are 400 students. Mr. deSimas stated that some parents don't want to hear that the district has 400 students to place. They want to be treated with respect. There's a bigger problem and they need to have another discussion.

Ms. Beauchaine inquired if the district is still using the slide show profile. Mr. deSimas inquired as to why it was taken down from the website. Ms. Beauchaine stated that if the district is using that blueprint, the data is coming from the teacher and asked who the screeners are. Ms. Anderson stated the screeners are a dean, teachers, service providers and 2 BCBAs are part of that too.

Ms. Beauchaine stated that if reviewing on June 1, all teachers need to provide data. Parents haven't received progress reports. An audit is supposed to be followed. Parents should know by June 5th where their kids are going and what program they will be in. Something is missing and we need to find it for these children.

Mr. deSimas said we can't wait until August. Dr. Forand stated that the numbers are based on what we have now. We plan with what we have but we get students all summer long and we get registrations in the fall. We project out but it's hard to plan. Preschool screenings are done

at the end of the school year. The older students are screened as they come in. There is so much growth starting in October. Screenings started after February vacation.

Mr. Ferreira asked if the system was broken. Ms. Anderson responded no, not broken, it's challenged. Mr. Ferreira requested to know when was it taken down off the website.

Ms. Beauchaine directed the Superintendent to hand over the data as to why the K-2 pathways is closed. Dr. Forand stated that the K pathways has not been closed. It will now be K-2 because additional seats are needed. The goal of the program was to get those students back into a resource model general education classroom, not a self-contained program. It's the best way to change the K to a K-2 self-contained program. Dr. Forand stated students are based in the classrooms by their IEP needs.

Mr. Luiz stated that when parents ask questions and have legitimate concerns, we need to stop the gaslighting. No parents should be subject to this. Mr. de Simas stated we should be open and transparent going forward.

VII. Superintendent's Report – Dr. Forand

1. 2026 Teacher of the Year – Jessica D'Orsi at East Providence High School; Will Manlove at Riverside Middle School; Chris Kennedy at Martin Middle School; Michelle MacDonald at Myron J. Francis; Lisa Carreira at Hennessey; Taylor Temple at Kent Heights; Kehinde Vaz at Oldham Pre-K; Brittany Kobeissi at Orlo Avenue; Stacy Simmons at Silver Spring; Taylor Batty at Waddington; and Rebecca Spencer at Whiteknact. They were all honored in a ceremony today. The 2026 District's Teacher of the Year is Jessica D'Orsi. She will move on to compete for Rhode Island Teacher of the Year.

2. Right to Read Corrective Action Plan

Dr. Forand stated that East Providence has been placed on probationary status under the Right to Read Act. Not all teachers completed the required Awareness or Proficiency training by the state deadline. By June all teachers will be on track to complete. One will complete by August. Teachers had five years to complete this PD and there has been in-house training. This plan outlines the steps the district will take to return to full compliance. A letter went home to families in the May newsletter letting them know the District was on probationary status for Right to Read.

3. Facilities/Building Committee Update – Dan Carpenter

Paving Projects have started up full swing again with Kent Heights playground, which was redone over April vacation. Painting was done Saturday May 2nd to complete the area. New 4-square courts, hop scotch, basketball area, and a kickball field were painted onto the new asphalt. Loam and seed were added on areas to re-grow grass.

Next up will be Orlo Elementary, which will be getting granite curbing installed along Blanche Ave. The granite is on site, and the roadway has been cut for installation. Mr. Carpenter is

working with the City DPW and PHMA to schedule the timeframe of work around the school schedule.

Myron Francis building sidewalks will be last up, within the month of June, to wrap up district repaving projects for this year's funding timeline.

Mr. Carpenter has put together a list of costs associated with the paving projects, painting costs, and savings that were able to be incurred.

He has been working on a summer project list with associated costs to the district which is included in school committee packet. This was requested at the last meeting to see what sorts of costs and funding is needed to complete these projects around the district. This is also attached in their packet. The two lists were discussed during the May 6th Facilities Subcommittee meeting.

New quotes are being gathered for the cutting of the EPHS running track due to the retirement of the previous contractor that had been lined up. The project is still slated for this coming summer.

Mr. Carpenter is having contractors come out to quote the asphalt crack issues at the high school and administration parking lots. Depending on the prices, it may have to go out to RFP. He is starting to put together a list of projects that were either not chosen for the RIDE submission, or needed in the future to put forth for possible funding for next years' emergency funding submissions.

- Preparations are underway for summer cleaning, with keeping stock, and ordering of summer cleaning supplies. They will be monitoring the expenditures on supplies to keep it on budget.

Building Committee Report

MMS/Pre-K - Construction continues. Steel structure framing has been completed. Slab on grade and slab on deck has been poured. Cold form metal framing is starting up, along with roofing. Drainage installation work is ongoing on site, with the continuation of the permanent parking lot set to be ready for the upcoming 2026/27 school year. Work in the auditorium continues, with stage lighting and sound by ATR Treehouse. Painting and flooring has been ongoing and starting to wrap up. Stage flooring replacement will be the final part of the project with a mid-June expected turnover for completion.

Waddington - A review of the flooring took place a few weeks ago. Decisions are to be made as to the route that will be taken, with alternates such as the gym floor replacement, classroom and hallway flooring replacement, and window shades. This would include removal of the current VCT tile flooring, shot blasting the floor, and adding a moisture barrier coating before installing new flooring to prevent any moisture that would come through the concrete slab.

Pricing is being worked out with the Building Committee and put forth for a vote which passed at last evening's meeting.

4. Finance Update – Ms. Gonzalez reported that in the 51000 series, substitutes is now 70% expended. While this expense is out of control, at this rate they will likely over spend this category again by the next school year. In the 52000 series, health insurance remains to be a concern. To address this they have been exploring solutions with the district's insurance provider. They have also looked at exploring new revenue sources with Enel. The Governor's proposed budget will give the district a projected increase of \$500K for the months of July-October. The district is projected to have some savings in the salaries line due to vacancies and a large group of top step teachers retiring. In the 53000 series, speech therapist, OT and psychologist not a concern. These are positions that were budgeted in salaries that have remained vacant. Keeping an eye on the 53222 web based support and 53301 professional development line items. In the 53406 series Other includes the truancy officer that was previously budgeted in salaries but prefers to be a 1099. This is a cost savings to the district while that line overspent, it is not affecting the bottom line negatively. There was nothing to report in the 54000, 55000, 56000 and 57000 series. For revenue - state aid the Governor's proposed budget will increase state aid by a projected \$500K. Miscellaneous - disposal of old tech etc. While working with Enel on the demand program, it is projected to increase revenue \$60K this year.

Ms. Beauchaine inquired on the school lunch balance debt for this year. Dr. Forand said it is \$57K. Students did not fill out the lunch applications. Jessica Arruda has done a great job of contacting families. Schools do not turn students down if they do not have a lunch. Mr. deSimas encouraged parents to apply regardless if they think they qualify or not for free or reduced lunch.

VIII. Policy Committee Report

1. Staff Acceptable Use & Device Care Policy – 1st read

This is a new policy and is for devices that are provided to staff members, not personal use devices. There was one policy for both staff and teachers. Now there is one policy for students and one policy for staff.

2. Acceptable Use Policy: Computer, Technology, Internet & Google for Students – 1st read

This is a new policy for students only.

3. Homework Policy – 1st read

This policy hasn't been updated in quite some time and is from 1963. It needed to be updated. Homework is determined by the teacher through the 12th grade. They have team discussions in the schools and by grade levels. It is not a district discussion. It depends on the grade, reinforcements or projects being worked on.

4. Child Abuse & Neglect Policy – 2nd read

No revisions were made from the first read.

5. Communication to Parents/Guardians – Retention Notification Policy – 2nd read

No revisions were made from the first read.

IX. Public Comments

1. Rene Ingacio had a few questions regarding line item#52902, a credit of \$6,000 on the finance report from March 10th. She was advised to email the Superintendent. Also, there is a new bill S2392 Tracking Legislation which proposes to amend existing law to also require that GPS data of the school buses be made available electronically to authorized parents/guardians. It's a parent app and is coming out soon.

X. Discussion / Action Items

1. WON Door Update from Principal and Deans – Ms. Beauchaine

Moved up on agenda.

2. Kindergarten Enrollment Numbers – Ms. Beauchaine inquired if numbers are on trend. Dr. Forand stated that there are 336 students registered right now. They have done a lot of outreach in the city and are expecting 20 more students. All Pre-K students have been registered. There will be some movement with students who need service. Another kindergarten classroom has been opened and she is not concerned about the numbers.

3. GPS on School Buses – Ms. Beauchaine stated that this issue came up at the EPLAC meeting. Ms. Clarkin confirmed the district had a safe stop app. She has been communicating with Oceanstate on what can be done to track the buses. It has become an issue and parents have been accustomed to using the app. Tyler Technologies has an app called My Ride K-12 which goes by student's SASID # and bus number and is user friendly and quicker to receive information. It is secure and once a student is dropped off by the bus, tracking the bus is discontinued. Mr. deSimas requested having the information on Parent Square.

4. Projected Special Education Classroom Sizes and Data Update – Ms. Beauchaine
Moved up on agenda.

5. Update on Bus Camera Citations – Mr. Luiz stated that the police department is officially issuing citations which started a few weeks ago. It has been a concern in the past. The school district will be getting an update on citations to track information. There were concerns on visibility on some of the cameras. Ms. Clarkin stated that a few issues with cameras have been resolved. She spoke with a representation who was forthcoming on resolving. A new fleet at no cost to district will be coming in. Cameras will be removed and implemented correctly in the new buses which will start on June 18th.

Jason Harris from Gatekeeper Systems, Inc. gave a brief update. He stated that 93 citations were captured over the past two weeks. Law enforcement makes the final decision. The report would include information such as license plate and residency location. The transfer of cameras will be done during the summer. They can work on multiple buses which will speed up the process between June 17-July 3. Gatekeeper is working with a contractor and are still working with the police department on tweaking the system to put a program together that is aligned to legislation with school bus infractions.

6. Naming Martin Middle School Stage after Judy De Perla – Mr. Luiz

Moved up on agenda.

7. Child Abuse & Neglect Policy – 2nd read

Motion by Mr. deSimas, seconded by Ms. Beauchaine and carried by unanimous consent to approve the second reading of the Child Abuse & Neglect Policy as submitted.

8. Communication to Parents/Guardians – Retention Notification Policy – 2nd read

Motion by Mr. deSimas, seconded by Mr. Queenan and carried by unanimous consent to approve the second reading of the Communication to Parents/Guardians – Retention Notification Policy as submitted.

9. Right to Read Corrective Action Plan

Motion by Mr. deSimas, seconded by Mr. Queenan and carried by unanimous consent to approve the Right to Read Corrective Action Plan as submitted.

10. Awarding of RFP for Feasibility Study

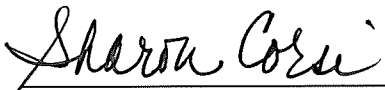
Motion by Ms. Beauchaine, seconded by Mr. deSimas and carried by unanimous consent to approve the awarding of the RFP for Feasibility Study to Ross Haber and Associates in the amount of \$33,825.00 as submitted.

XI. Announcements – Ms. Beauchaine announced that the Unified basketball team won their game today and there will be another game tomorrow at Cranston West.

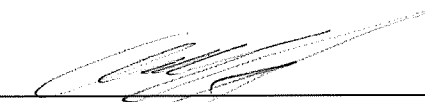
XII. Adjournment

Motion by Ms. Beauchaine, seconded by Mr. Queenan and carried by unanimous consent to adjourn the meeting at 8:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Sharon Corsi, Executive Assistant



Anthony Ferreira, School Committee Clerk