
**EAST PROVIDENCE SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
OPEN SESSION – July 14, 2026**

I. Call to Order - Open Session

The East Providence School Committee met in Open Session on Tuesday, July 14, 2026 at 6:00 pm in the auditorium at East Providence High School. Present: Antonio deSimas, Vice Chair, Anthony Ferreira, Clerk, Ryan Queenan and Jessica Beauchaine. David Luiz, Chair was absent. Superintendent Robert Perry and Assistant Superintendent Lisa Benedetti-Ramzi were also present. Mr. deSimas called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

II. Executive Session

Motion by Mr. Ferreira, seconded by Mr. Queenan and carried unanimously to move into the main office conference room for the purpose of: Discussion regarding Andrew Henneous / HCL Legal Contract pursuant to RIGL §42-46-5(a)(1); Discussion to Retain Current School Committee Clerk pursuant to RIGL §42-46-5(a)(1); Discussion regarding Pay Scale Change; and consider & vote on motion to adjourn and convene into public session. Appropriate disclosure was made by the Vice 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. deSimas called the meeting to order at 6:37 pm. The Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence were observed. The Vice Chair reported that no votes were taken in executive session. Motion by Mr. Queenan, seconded by Mr. Ferreira and carried unanimously to seal the minutes.

IV. Consent Agenda

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

2. **Home School Requests** – There were thirty-nine homeschool requests.

3. **Approval of Minutes:**

- June 8, 2026 Special Open Session School Committee Meeting
- June 9, 2026 Executive & Open Session School Committee Meeting
- June 8, 2026 Building Committee Meeting

4. **Personnel Report**

Appointments – Madison Marcure, Math Teacher at Riverside Middle School, effective 2026-2027 school year; Bethany Vieira, Connections Teacher at Silver Spring, effective 2026-2027 school year; Keyome Morales, Paraprofessional at Silver Spring, effective 2026-2027 school year; Benjamin Sunoskie, Administrative Assistant at Waddington, effective 8/19/26; Mark Piccerelli, Controller in Administration Office, effective 7/6/26; Scott Pontes, Spanish/Portuguese Teacher at EPHS, effective 2026-2027 school year; Nedim Torres, Paraprofessional at EPHS, effective 2026-2027 school year; Olivia McCulloch, Grade 5 Teacher at Whiteknact, effective

2026-2027 school year; Erin Roche, Administrative Assistant at Kent Heights, effective 8/19/26; Emily Diggle, Grade 5 Teacher at Silver Spring, effective 2026-2027 school year; Diana Ferreira, MLL Family Liaison, effective 2026-2027 school year; Catherine Pendola, Grade 4 Teacher at Whiteknact, effective 2026-2027 school year; Michelle Pearson, Resource Teacher for one year only at Whiteknact, effective 2026-2027 school year; Emily Wexler, Paraprofessional at Oldham Pre-K, effective 9/1/26; and Kayla Davis, Grade 4 Teacher at Waddington, effective 2026-2027 school year.

Resignations – Alicia Boucher, Kindergarten Teacher at Orlo, effective end of the 2025-2026 school year; Christopher Kiley, Technical Assistant at CTC, effective 6/1/26; Alexandra Gonzalez, Finance Director in Administration Office, effective 6/27/26; Kaitlyn Barron-Shashok, Pre-K Special Education at Early Learning Center, effective 6/25/26; Luis DaSilveira, Custodian at Hennessey, effective 6/30/26; and Haley Vincent, Paraprofessional at Orlo, effective 7/6/26.

Retirements – None

Leaves of Absence – Music Teacher at EPHS, effective 2026-2027 school year; MLL Teacher at Riverside Middle School, effective 2026-2027 school year; and Resource Teacher at Waddington, effective 2026-2027 school year.

5. Bill List

- Voucher No. 1054 dated 7/9/2026 - \$1,472,123.53
- Voucher No. 1055 dated 7/9/2026 - \$1,160,117.59
- Voucher No. 1036 dated 6/18/2026 - \$2,500.00
- Voucher No. 1037 dated 6/25/2026 - \$138,185.91

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

- Ai3 Basic Services MMS - \$59,078.54
- Peregrine Group – MMS - \$50,600.00
- Peregrine Group – Wadd - \$21,780.00
- Shawmut – MMS - \$2,797,442.30
- Willscot - MMS – \$2,944.63
- PODS - MMS - \$233.20
- Stephen Turner Inc. – MMS - \$2,705.75
- Stephen Turner Inc. – Wadd - \$2,733.25
- Thielsch Engineering – MMS - \$12,920.25

Total \$2,950,437.92

Motion by Mr. Queenan, seconded by Ms. Beauchaine and carried unanimously to approve the consent agenda as submitted.

V. Superintendent's Report

1. Transition Update – Superintendent Perry provided a brief update on what he learned over the past few weeks as the Superintendent of Schools. He thanked Assistant Superintendent Lisa Benedetti-Ramzi and Director of Teaching & Learning, Yanaiza Gallant for their help. He thanked the directors, school administrators, teachers, former student and friends who have supported him during this transition.

Superintendent Perry spent much of his time in the past few weeks with the finance department. Last week the department ran their first payroll using a new system. The finance and HR staff spent months planning and the rollout went very well.

Mark Piccerelli started as the new Controller on July 6th. He comes from an auditing background and has already helped identify items to be amended before the upcoming financial audit. Also, with the departure of the finance director, Joseph Crowley has been brought on as a finance consultant to help prepare for budget workshops until a permanent finance director is on board.

The district continues to act on last year's audit findings in special education and looking closely at how services are structured across all schools. They are committed to strengthening communication with families and groups like EPLAC.

Kindergarten numbers are running about 50 students below last year and are being watched closely as they think about programming. Also Pre-K figures are due from the state this week.

The Information Technology Department is rolling out new devices, including Ipads and Macbooks. There is summer help configuring over 3,500 devices. Some are students in the CTC computer science program and it's nice to see these students put their EPHS education to work. The IT department is planning to incorporate the website component of Parent Square, the district communication platform. There will be a new district and school websites in the 2026-2027 school year.

Superintendent Perry had the opportunity to tour the on-going construction at Martin Middle School and Pre-K. This facility is going to be a model for communities far and wide. The students will have opportunities that young people in East Providence have never had before.

Vacancy positions are down to a handful and ahead of schedule in filling all positions.

2. Facilities/Building Committee Update – Dan Carpenter

Paving projects for Orlo and Myron J. Francis were pushed back to week of July 6th due to manpower around the holiday and city related work.

Waddington - Gym flooring replacement is set to start on July 13th. This includes the new gym floor, hallway and stairs in front of the gym and kitchen area. Window treatment replacement is set to take place. Blind King has measured and ordered the new window shades. Lead time is roughly 3-4 weeks. Mr. Carpenter was able to secure a lower price than previously, now at \$46,720 from originally \$76K.

Riverside Middle School

Started working on replacing caulk joints on the sidewalks in front of the building. Roughly 70% has been re-done.

EPHS

Running track expansion joint cutting was on July 13th. Work to create the new expansion joints will follow. It took 3-4 hours to cut. Now that it's cut, it will create a more expandable joint there. Should to be completed by the end of the month.

Martin Middle School

Stage floor replacement and finishing has been completed by American Floors on June 24th.

Kent Heights

The grease trap in the kitchen is set to be replaced on July 20th.

Summer cleaning of all buildings has begun, along with maintenance summer projects that are listed below.

- EPHS bathroom repairs to walls/FRP installation
- Silver Spring classroom cabinet refinishing
- RMS sidewalk caulking replacement
- Kitchen equipment cleanings
- Water cooler installations at Waddington, Francis and Silver Spring
- HVAC filter changes
- Various painting throughout the district
- Stage at EPHS repaint
- Oven installation at EPHS (Arden)
- Grease Trap replacement (KH - windriver)

Maintenance Equipment Needs

- Pickup trucks, setup with lights and plows (budget 100k each) x 3 **\$300,000** - phase 1 in if possible every year
- New backhoe (**(\$30K-\$40K will provide decent used one)**)
- Forklift (**(used \$10K)**)
- Sander (covered by GRANT) \$9K
- Hot water pressure washer (covered by grant) \$4500
- Snowblower for bobcat (covered by grant) \$8-10k
- Scag lawn mowers - replace existing \$20k each x 3 - **\$60,000**
- Kubota with plow and sander for MMS - **\$65-70K**

Custodial Needs

More snowblowers for custodians (\$2K each) 5-6 new ones **\$12,000**

- Carpet machines for all schools \$3600 each (6 needed) = **\$21,600**
- Bathroom machines for schools (6 needed) approx \$7500 each = **\$45,000**
- Replace floor scrubber machines that are old (clark machines) **est. \$250,000** to replace all but high school machines.

- I Mops \$3K each X 15 = **\$45,000**
- New vacuums for schools \$750-\$1000 each X 15 = **\$15,000**

Rough estimate total \$870,000

Building Committee Report - June 2026

Waddington - Gym flooring replacement started on July 13th, along with the kitchen, closet and front hallway/stairs area. Projected at 3-4 weeks to complete.

Martin Middle School - Exterior work continues with masonry, windows and exterior panels. MEP work continues inside with HVAC, plumbing, electrical and sheetrock. Curbing was installed to make way for asphalt of the new parking lot. The temporary lot up on the hill will be demolished and regraded. The auditorium floor was completed, allowing student/school based use in the fall.

5. Finance Update – Mr. Crowley, Interim Finance Director gave a budget summary report that is still be worked on and refined. The report provides information on the current status of the budget with comparisons to the status of the budget at the same time in the previous year. In addition, end-of-year (EOY) information is provided for the last three years. Percentages are provided to allow comparisons of the current year's rate of expenditures in comparison to the previous year's expenditures for the same period. The report provides multiple year outcomes. For budget planners, this provides information on previous budget outcomes.

Mr. deSimas inquired if all accounts are reconciled. Superintendent Perry stated that over the last two weeks they have been in discussion with a consulting group to figure out where they are with the budget. The goal is to make sure finances are where they should be. Mr. Piccerelli has an auditor's eye for accounting and in a good place to have control of the budget and the end of the year. Mr. Perry is looking to do some reorganization into the finance department.

Mr. deSimas inquired about some reporting that was several months behind. He asked to provide details to the school committee.

Mr. Queenan inquired about the timeline to have budget workshops. Superintendent Perry stated that in two weeks to have a budget workshop to be a head of the game. He will have a clear view of where the district is.

VI. Public Comments

1. Renee Ignacio inquired about the feasibility study and what the district is doing with it. Superintendent Perry will have that information for her tomorrow.
2. Karen Rebello clarified that at the Building Committee meeting on Monday evening there was a very good discussion regarding the Pre-K playground and basketball courts. A lot of thought was put into it. At that meeting no one mentioned that they didn't think the playground or basketball court shouldn't be there.

3. Brian Coogan inquired if Mr. Crowley is the new finance director and if the Committee knew he is getting \$750 per day. He stated that no one deserves \$750 per day in this city. This is absurd.

VII. Discussion / Action Items

1. First Budget Workshop – Mr. Luiz

Mr. Ferreira stated that Mr. Luiz was requesting a schedule for the budget workshops. They will begin in the next two to three weeks.

2. Finance Director Search – Mr. Luiz

Superintendent Perry stated that they are actively seeking a finance director on School Spring. The intention is to have a new finance director in place as soon as possible.

3. Andrew Henneous / HCL Legal Contract

Motion by Mr. Queenan, seconded by Ms. Beauchaine and carried unanimously to table this item for further information.

4. EPHS Trip to Washington, D.C. in April 2027

Motion by Ms. Beauchaine, seconded by Mr. Queenan and carried unanimously to approve the East Providence High School trip to Washington, D.C. in April 2027 as submitted.

5. Retain Current School Committee Clerk

Motion by Ms. Beauchaine, seconded by Mr. Queenan and carried unanimously to retain the current School Committee Executive Assistant as submitted. Mr. Ferreira stated that she will be working for the school committee and building committee. Any changes should go before the school committee.

6. Pay Scale Change

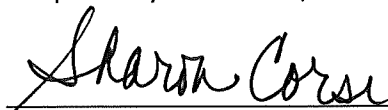
Motion by Ms. Beauchaine, seconded by Mr. Queenan and carried unanimously to approve the pay scale change as discussed in executive session.

VIII Announcements – No announcements

IX. Adjournment

Motion by Mr. Ferreira, seconded by Mr. Queenan and carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 7:31 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Sharon Corsi, Executive Assistant


Anthony Ferreira, School Committee Clerk