EAST PROVIDENCE SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
OPEN SESSION – September 8, 2026

I. Call to Order - Open Session

The East Providence School Committee met in Open Session on Tuesday, September 8, 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 Perry and Assistant Superintendent Lisa Benedetti-Ramzi were also present. Mr. Luiz called the meeting to order at 6:01 pm.

II. Executive Session

Motion by Mr. Queenan, seconded by Mr. deSimas and carried unanimously to move into the main office conference room for the purpose of: Discussion regarding Personnel/Job Performance pursuant to RIGL §42-46-5(a)(1); 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 6:19 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 unanimously to seal the minutes.

IV. Student Liaison – Amy Gonzalez Cuello, an 11th grader at EPHS will be happily serving as the School Committee liaison for the 2026-2027 school year. She reported that this past Wednesday, they welcomed the freshman in for their first day of school before all grades reported on Thursday. It's been wonderful to see the hallways of East Providence High School filled with amazing students once again. Our Townies are settling into their classes, as they embark on a fresh new remarkable school year!

A pressing concern over the student body has been the state's policy, banning personal electronics in the school building during instructional times. With talk about potentially putting Yondr Pouches into effect, many students have expressed strong sentiments against the policy, hoping that cell phone expectations continue to remain as it had in the previous two years with the use of the phone holders. As the digital-age continues to advance, we must continue to adapt in accordance with these advancements. It is imperative that students continue to respect the measures enacted to ensure best engagement within the classroom to contribute to our stellar Townie environment.

Fall sports are in full swing, with the Girl's Tennis team starting their season off strong, undefeated. The Boys and Girls Cross Country teams had a great performance at the RI Injury Fund at Deerfield Park. Let's continue to cheer on our amazing fall sport athletes as they kick-off the school year strong!

Looking ahead, the Class of 2027 is hosting a Car Wash/Bake Sale this Saturday, September 12th from 10am to 1pm. Head over to Wing Stop on Thursday, September 17th and mention "EPHS Community Night" when you place your order to have a portion of the proceeds support the high school. East Providence High School's second annual Color Run will be held on Sunday, September 27th from 10am to 12pm. This fundraiser will directly benefit prom efforts for each Class Committee.

Motion by Mr. deSimas, seconded by Mr. Ferreira and carried unanimously to move up Public Comment on the agenda.

1. Jaelyn Torres - I attend East Providence High School as a Junior. I am a concerned student and the petition organizer for the prevention of the enforcement on Yondr pouches. I am writing this letter on the behalf of not only my school, but all the unheard institutions in the state of Rhode Island. I understand our rights as students. We kindly advise that you take heart in our feelings as students.

   I can attest to the impression of distraught on my classmates faces when the news about phone bans transpired. Students are viewing the change as punitive. The uncontrollable implementation of Yondr pouches bypasses the students' autonomy entirely. Our generation is noted for our connection to our cell phones. But, we will not under any circumstance be defined by it. Extending a chance is not luck, it is a quiet invitation to do better this time. Our optimal efforts will be implemented.

   The phone pouches on the wall are an example of our reliance, adaptation, and boundary-setting. By placing phones in the wall pouches, students are expressing responsibility for abiding by the rules of the school. Demonstrating willingness to engage in the classroom. Self-control creates a significant contribution to our compliance with regulations of the pouches, enabling progression for students to practice disconnecting from digital distractions. In contrast to the Yondr pouches which fosters an environment of distrust. Students being required to lock their property away the moment they enter the building communicates that *every* student is assumed incapable of focusing on respecting boundaries. During which an administrative strain is sparked. Consider my school for example, East Providence High School. Imagine managing one thousand students through entry lines every morning and afternoon unlocking stations. This demands significant daily staff time and supervision.

   In addition, high school is meant to assemble and progress our independence and self-management competencies. The action of revoking the choice to act accountable diminishes fostering maturity and chooses commanding absolute control. According to WPRI News, East Providence High School has invested $71,000 into the Yondr pouches. When I saw these digits, I was emptied of feelings excluding astonishment. This action was done without consulting the student body. It projects a view that the

students' perspectives are irrelevant and we feel managed and surveilled in opposition to our reason for being in that building, which is to learn and have fun.

The administration's deconstruction of trust involves questions of safety in an unpredictable world. In a time of fears of evacuations, lockdowns, and violence, students are distrustful of the institution as their baseline security. How can students contact loved ones if their only hope is locked away in an inaccessible, locked pouch? Which will ultimately encourage deception and lying. When mandated into a restrictive system, students are compelled to pivot alternative strategies. We need to allow our education system to evolve positively with technology rather than revert to restrictive measures. I am not seeking to interfere with the schools actions, but with all viewpoints considered this is my argument as to why you should benevolently reconsider the application of Yondr pouches in the state of Rhode Island. And in turn seek alternatives that balance technology and focus.

By signing this petition, you advocate for a more impartial approach where our voices stand strong and are proudly heard. I appreciate your time reading this letter and value your insights, as well as feedback.

2. Rene Ignacio spoke about the Yondr Pouches. She requested that the School Committee really take a minute to review the cellphone cases that were presented to them at the last minute. At the last meeting she left some information about Project Aware and a company called Locked-In that puts geofencing around the school. This will lock down phones from being used by students except for the Apps that the school department allows. She and Mr. Ferreira met with the person that designed this program. Project Aware is intended to build sustainable school-based mental health infrastructure, increase mental health awareness, improve early identification and connect students and families with appropriate support. Because of this purpose, she is concerned about the reported use of Project Aware funds to purchase cellphone pouches. She is asking the district to explain how the cellphone cases fit within the approved Project Aware budget and work plan, what mental health objective they serve and what outcome will be used to evaluate their effectiveness. $71K of grant money could be used for supporting students.

   Ms. Ignacio asked the district to confirm whether it currently has a board approved student suicide-prevention policy. The policy cannot be found on the website. If the policy exists, it should be clearly identified and easily accessible to families, students, staff and the public.

3. Chrissy Rossi stated that if students respond like adults, the district should treat them as such. A cellphone issue should be handled by teachers. Teachers aren't being supported by the administration. There is no need to punish every child in the school. She also asked the Committee if there is currently in place a five-year projection on the budget? The Budget commission suggests it was best practice. Superintendent Perry stated that the district does not have a five-year projected budget.

V. Budget Workshop III – Mr. Crowley, Mr. Piccerelli, Ms. Arruda
Superintendent Perry stated that this workshop is the third workshop and was presented two times prior. He will let Mr. Piccerelli, Interim Finance Director outline a budget. Another meeting will be scheduled to vote on the proposed school budget. Mr. Piccerelli will bring to the School Committee a balanced budget for FY2027. The challenge is that the projections are showing a FY27 deficit at $3.7M.

Mr. Piccerelli stated that the purpose of tonight's session is straightforward: to bring the Committee to a balanced budget for Fiscal Year 2027. That is the obligation in front of us and everything presented tonight is in service of it. The budget before the Committee assumes a four percent increase in the local aid appropriation. That assumption is the foundation of the revenue side of the FY27 budget.

The projections show that FY27 operating expenses will exceed available revenue. That is the reality of the numbers as they understand them today. A budget must balance, so in order to present the Committee with a balanced budget while being honest about the gap, they are showing the anticipated FY27 deficit as a negative expense line.

He stated that he wants to be direct with the Committee about what that means. This is not a way of making the gap disappear, but the opposite. It puts the gap on the face of the budget document, in a single visible line, rather than leaving it as an assumption buried underneath. The budget balances on paper and the amount by which it does not balance in practice is stated openly for anyone to see.

Mr. Piccerelli want to acknowledge that this is not how East Providence has historically presented its budget. This is new. It is not new to municipal school finance more broadly; other districts have used similar forms of presentation when facing the same circumstance.

The FY25 audit remains ongoing. He expects it will be completed by the fiscal year end. Once they have audited financials in hand, they will have an accurate staring point for FY26 and a firmer foundation for everything that follows.

He has previously presented to this Committee a projected FY26 deficit of $1.3M and anticipates that number coming down. The FY27 budget tonight differs slightly from the version given to the Committee yesterday. Following further discussions with department heads, some adjustments were made.

As the Committee knows, teachers' salaries account for roughly sixty percent of the district's budget. Union negotiations on salaries may impact this budget.

Mr. Piccerelli stated that there are a few items for potential future cost reductions. These are not recommendations but are potential avenues for cost savings in future years. They are: limiting in-district CTC enrollment; not replacing retiring teachers, except where replacement is required; and layoffs on June 1, 2027. Each would carry consequences for programming and

staffing that would need to be examined carefully before anyone could responsibly recommend them. It is being offered here only as information.

The task before the Committee is to adopt a balanced budget for FY27. The document presented does that and it does it while stating the projected shortfall opening rather than obscuring it. The Committee went through some sections in detail and asked questions with regard to special education tuition and how the numbers may change based on students.

Mr. Ferreira stated that he did not approve the last budget and doesn't support any dollar amount that gets shifted from the students.

Mr. Crowley stated that the original numbers were based on actual people. The budget data is based on where students are and the cost associated to them. The numbers can change tomorrow. All these placements are under IDEA.

Ms. Beauchaine stated that there are 74 students out of district for special education placements which can go up. The District has to pay for these students no matter what.

Mr. deSimas inquired if there is a mistake with the data processing services. Mr. Piccerelli stated that it was a UCOA code that changed to new tech services.

Mr. Queenan confirmed that the District will be eliminating a $3.7M deficit over a five-year period and will have a comprehensive plan from the auditor general. Mr. Piccerelli stated that right now it is $2.M deficit and will know where we stand in twelve months. Mr. Crowley stated there is no revenue growth to match expenses. They need more revenue.

Mr. Queenan requested to start to have a framework before the Committee can approve a budget. 83% of the budget is fixed. He would like to have a strategic plan of goals and strategy in place to make that $3.7M in place to go down. Healthcare, electricity and transportation are not going to go down. He would like to see the beginning workings of a framework between the finance team and school committee. Mr. Piccerelli stated they have software where monthly the school committee will know. He reported that the department heads have done a great job with cost savings.

Mr. Ferreira inquired about putting a committee together to look at the cost of the school buildings and to look at funds to maintain the two buildings, the high school and Martin Middle School.

Ms. Beauchaine stated that it cost $1.2M for all electricity and they are looking to cut $3.4M. It's time to think outside the box and look at what costs the most money. Transportation is at $8M. The Committee needs to make hard decisions and may need to close a school. 83% of this budget can't be touched.

Mr. Luiz inquired about the Feasibility Study. Superintendent Perry stated they have not received it yet and are waiting. Mr. Luiz asked when the Study arrives, is there an expectation

to close a school. Dr. Perry responded that they haven't considered that for this budget and it is not happening this year.

Mr. deSimas inquired if budget items were coded properly. Ms. Arruda stated that each object code has instructions on where it belongs in the budget. It better represents the service stated.

Mr. Luiz asked if there was a consideration of cuts of recent vacated positions at the high school and middle school. Dr. Perry stated that he would not support cutting the Assistant Principal position at the high school or middle school. Positions were vacated since Jill Usenia became Principal at Martin Middle School. Michaela Frattarelli became a school counselor. They currently have two educators who are filling those positions. Those schools would not do well without an Assistant Principal. Even though the District is going through difficult economical times, that would not be his recommendation.

Mr. Ferreira stated that the stop arm camera money should be going to the school department. The Committee needs to cut and work on items that don't affect students.

Mr. deSimas stated that they need to keep in mind that there are too many variables that they can't control, need legislative change.

Mr. Luiz stated that he will reach out to the Mayor and City Council for the next budget workshop meeting. He also stated that there is no action item on the agenda to vote on the proposed budget this evening.

VI. Consent Agenda

1. **Communications –** Monthly enrollment numbers and technology data were included in the school committee packet.
2. **Home School Requests** – There were forty-six homeschool requests.
3. **Approval of Minutes**:
   - August 11, 2026 Open Session School Committee Meeting
   - August 21, 2026 Secretary Negotiations Meeting
   - August 25, 2026 Special School Committee Meeting/Budget Workshop I
   - August 10, 2026 Building Committee Meeting
4. **Personnel Report**

Appointments – Alison Lewis, Kindergarten Teacher at Orlo, effective 2026-2027 school year; Tessa Antunes, Grade 1 Teacher at Silver Spring, effective 2026-2027 school year; McKenzie De Simas, Paraprofessional at Pre-K/ELC Oldham, effective 2026-2027 school year; Danielle Martins, MLL Teacher (1 yr only) at Riverside Middle School, effective 2026-2027 school year; Courtney Lacerda-Joe, Paraprofessional at Whiteknact, effective 2026-2027 school year; Monica Lethbridge, Paraprofessional at Orlo, effective 2026-2027 school year; Matthew Gervin, Music Teacher at EPHS, effective 2026-2027 school year; Katie Mikolajczyk, Lunch/Recess Aide at Whiteknact, effective 2026-2027 school year; Arynne Bergeron, Lunch/Recess Aide at Myron J. Francis, effective 2026-2027 school year; Alana Gordon, Lunch/Recess Aide at Kent Heights, effective 2026-2027 school year; Madison Catanzaro, Paraprofessional at Whiteknact, effective 2026-2027 school year; Marco Mello, Custodian Nights at Waddington, effective 8/24/2026;

Scott Soares, Custodian Nights at Waddington, effective 8/24/2026; Cristian Ortiz, Custodian Nights at Riverside Middle School, effective 8/24/2026; Richard Cook, Culinary Arts Technical Assistant at CTC, effective 2026-2027 school year; Jessica Arruda, Interim Controller at EPSD Administration, effective 8/24/2026; Michaela Frattarelli, School Counselor at Riverside Middle School, effective 8/31/2026; Sydney Conwell, Kindergarten Teacher at Waddington, effective 2026-2027 school year; Jennifer Drake-Bohnwagner, Board Certified Behavior Analyst for District, effective 2026-2027 school year; Paul Valley, Paraprofessional at ALP/EPHS, effective 2026-2027 school year; and Jill Usenia, Principal at Martin Middle School, effective 8/31/2026.

Resignations – Eliana Corrales, Paraprofessional at Whiteknact, effective 8/6/2026; Michael Ashby, Psychologist at Myron J. Francis/Silver Spring, effective 8/6/2026; Nicole Worzel, Assistant Principal at Kent Heights, effective 8/11/2026; Melanie Hardy, Paraprofessional at Whiteknact, effective 8/7/2026; Melinda Germano, Paraprofessional at EPHS, effective 8/12/2026; Margaret Mcauley, Paraprofessional at Orlo, effective 8/17/2026; Laurie Marchand, Principal at Martin Middle School, effective 8/18/2026; Jessica Arruda, Administrative Assistant in Purchasing at Administration, effective 8/21/2026; Mackenzie May, Grade 5 Teacher at Kent Heights, effective 8/26/2026; Michaela Frattarelli, Assistant Principal at Riverside Middle School, effective 8/28/2026; Diane Bonalewicz, Lunch/Recess Attendant at Kent Heights, effective 8/31/2026; and Jill Usenia, Assistant Principal at EPHS, effective 8/28/2026.

Retirements – Patricia Furtado, Administrative Assistant in Pupil Personnel Services at Administration, effective 9/9/2026.

Leaves of Absence – Reading Teacher at Myron J. Francis, effective 8/26/2026.

5. **Bill List**

- Voucher No. 1094 dated 8/17/26 - $70,000.00
- Voucher No. 1095 dated 8/18/26 - $12,558.75
- Voucher No. 1108 dated 8/27/26 - $1,584.00
- Voucher No. 1109 dated 8/27/26 - $85,592.70
- Voucher No. 1123 dated 9/8/26 - $42,746.81
- Voucher No. 1124 dated 9/8/26 - $413,461.17

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

- Ai3 Basic Services MMS - $59,078.54
- Ai3 Basic Services MMS - $14,262.97
- Peregrine Group – MMS - $50,600.00
- Peregrine Group – Wadd - $21,780.00
- Shawmut – MMS - $2,517,009.86
- Shawmut – Wadd - $99,277.52
- Willscot - MMS – $2,900.46
- PODS - MMS - $233.20
- Blind King – Wadd - $46,720.00
- Stephen Turner, Inc. – MMS - $2,835.00
- Stephen Turner, Inc. – Wadd - $525.00
- Stephen Turner, Inc. – MMS - $5,613.22
- Stephen Turner, Inc. – Wadd - $1,476.50

Total $2,822,312.27

Motion by Mr. deSimas, seconded by Mr. Queenan and carried by a vote of 4-1 to approve the consent agenda as submitted. Ms. Beauchaine voted nay.

VII. Superintendent's Report

1. Opening of Schools - Dr. Perry reported that the opening of the 2026-2027 school year was a success. Two days of purposeful preparation for staff, clear and consistent communication with families and buildings that were ready on day one combined to produce a smoother transition than was anticipated.

Day one was the districtwide professional development. Teachers returned for a full day of professional development on Monday focused on instructional priorities for the year. Day two was the districtwide convocation. The Governor, Secretary of State, Senate President and other esteemed guests greeted educators, and their presence was a meaningful acknowledgement of the work our staff does on behalf of East Providence students.

With regard to transportation and arrival and despite the ongoing road paving on Pawtucket Avenue, most buses arrived on time and there were few complaints regarding drop-off.

Principals communicated with parents through ParentSquare throughout the first week and sent consistent updates. Families knew what to expect and when to expect it, and that steady flow of information contributed directly to a smoother opening than anticipated.

Superintendent Perry received reports from teachers that buildings were clean and ready and staff expressed appreciation for the additional time they had to get into their classrooms and set up for the year.

Registrations are still coming in and many of the classrooms are at capacity. This will require them to take a close look at programming, staffing and school populations going forward so that class sizes remain manageable and resources are best aligned. Transportation routing remains an active area of work.

Despite some challenges, they are poised to build upon a successful opening. The focus now turns to establishing the routines that make schools run well so that they can provide as many opportunities as possible for students to enjoy school and to find success.

2. **Facilities/Building Committee Update** – Dan Carpenter

East Providence High School

- The auditorium stage was repainted by our in-house painters.
- Expansion-joint work on the running track continues this fall with the far side of the track. The design has been holding up well, and we will be monitoring it throughout the winter season.

Waddington

- New kitchen, hallway, and gymnasium flooring was completed.
- Blind King was able to install all new window shades before the start of school, bringing a fresh, updated look to the classrooms and building.

Riverside Middle School

- Exterior railings around the building have been painted.
- Sidewalks around the building were re-caulked.

Silver Spring

- Work continues on refinishing cabinets and installing new sinks and countertops in classrooms. Three rooms have been completed, with more planned as funds become available.

Francis

- Pawtucket Hot Mix completed the new sidewalks on Saturday, August 22 — a significant improvement to the safety of students and staff walking around the building.
- This was the final piece of our RIDE project funding, which allowed improvements at Hennessey, Orlo, Francis, Kent Heights, and Riverside Middle School over the past year.

Orlo

- All new concrete sidewalks have been completed, loamed, and seeded.
- Thank you to all City DPW crew members involved for their collaboration in completing this project.

INSPECTIONS

Playgrounds, fire alarms, sprinklers, exhaust hoods, Fire Marshall and building inspector inspections were all completed throughout August.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

As we enter a new school year, I would like to recognize our custodial and maintenance staff for the work they did this summer. We have a great crew of people who work together to get the job done for students, staff and the community. Photos of this summer's work are attached.

SUMMER PROJECTS COMPLETED

The following projects were completed districtwide over the summer of 2026.

EPHS	Running track expansion-joint work ½ track other ½ this fall.
EPHS	Auditorium stage repainted
EPHS	New kitchen oven installed
MMS	Stage hardwood replacement and refinishing
RMS	Sidewalk caulking refurbishment
RMS	Exterior hand railings painted
Waddington	Gym, hallway, and kitchen flooring replacement
Waddington	New window shades — Phase 2 sections
Waddington	Dishwasher replacement
Orlo	New curb and concrete sidewalks
Francis	New asphalt sidewalks
Francis & Orlo	Loam and seed around new sidewalks where needed
Silver Spring	Cabinet refinishing, countertops, and sinks
Silver Spring	Rotted toilet mount replaced — upstairs boys' bathroom

Kent Heights	Grease trap replacement
Hennessey	New ADA parking spaces painted
Hennessey	New library shelving
Whiteknact	Time-out room padding installed in Room 20
Administration	Admin foyer painted and refreshed
Administration	Superintendent's office painted
Districtwide	Three new custodians hired for vacancies at Hennessey, Silver Spring, and EPHS; bid conducted August 26, with remaining RMS and Waddington positions that were filled by the new hires.

Mr. Luiz inquired about the number of employees needed for Pre-K. Mr. Carpenter stated that currently there are two existing people and looking at two spots at the new Pre-K. He will review the day person's duties before a decision is made for a second person.

Mr. Carpenter confirmed that Martin Middle School's lights are on at night for security reasons. Lights are on motion sensors. The custodians leave at 11pm so lights are on from 11pm to 6am.

Mr. Ferreira inquired about the need for two plow trucks and five snowblowers. Mr. Carpenter stated that the expense for those items are included in the budget for next year. He received a grant for $25K and purchased a new sander.

Mr. Ferreira requested everyone's budget and a list of what the maintenance/custodians need. Mr. deSimas stated that the last budget requests were received on a drive. Ms. Arruda responded that the sheets were changed and revamped. The sheets will be secured and shared with the Committee. Utilizing the platform of OpenGov will be beneficial.

Building Committee Report - September 2026

Martin Middle School

- The new parking lot has been completed and is open for use, including striping and numbering of parking spaces.
- Exterior brick and siding work continues.
- Interior sheetrock is being taped and mudded on the 1st floor, with approval to start on the 2nd by the building inspector. Window testing was completed.
- MEP trades work continues throughout the project.
- Grading, loam, and seeding of the Brown Street hill is being completed for soil retention.
- A meeting was held with Mayor DaSilva, Superintendent Perry, Building Committee Chair Vinhateiro, Anne DaSilva of Peregrine, the contractor, and myself to discuss the addition of a new basketball court area behind the school on the city-owned soccer field property. A potential area was chosen, and to be reviewed by the Building Committee for approval.
- Procurement of documents and drawing costs went before the Building Committee for vote and approval on September 3rd.

Waddington

- New gym, kitchen, hallway, and stair flooring was completed.
- All new window treatments were installed in the remainder of the school by Blind King.

- The 11-month walkthrough took place on August 17th. Peregrine, Shawmut, Building Committee Chair and I were all on hand and have developed a punch list of remaining items.

3. Finance Update – This report was included in the Budget Workshop session.

Motion by Ms. Beauchaine, seconded by Mr. deSimas and carried unanimously to have a second public comment.

1. Caitlyn, who is representing the East Providence Local Advisory Committee addressed the Committee to announce that EPLAC is excited to begin a new year meeting with families and the School Committee. The Chair and Co-Chair were unable to attend tonight's meeting, however, they are excited to begin a new school year working closely with families, as well as, the school department. They have already met with Dr. Perry who has expressed great support and a commitment to working with EPLAC. They look forward to collaborating with him and the Special Education department. The first meeting will take place on Tuesday, September 29th in the library at Kent Heights at 6:00pm. Feel free to bring your children as they are all inclusive and all are welcome. Monthly updates will be found on ParentSquare.

VIII. Policy Committee Report

1. Staff Hiring Policy Proposed Revision – 2nd read

Mr. deSimas stated that the only change in the policy was a clause to get out of the contract for fiscal reasons. Each model contract shall also include the following standard provision: ***Additional Grounds for Termination:*** *The Committee may terminate the agreement before its expiration in the event of a fiscal exigency, a substantial decline in student enrollment, consolidation, significant budget reductions, loss of funding, or other financial circumstances beyond the control of the Committee that materially affect the District's ability to sustain the position or services covered by the agreement.*

The Superintendent keeps the power to appoint people to positions, but the contract itself, including compensation, would be subject to Committee approval. Mr. deSimas stated that the district's attorney recommended the language and is now adding it to all contracts that he drafts for non-union employees. It will be a standard practice going forward. Terminations can be made by the School Committee.

Mr. Queenan asked why, if there is a policy committee, only one person worked on this policy. Mr. deSimas stated that the committee was in transition and that the issue needed to be addressed. The School Committee has the authority to propose and put forth a policy. They needed to have oversight on this. There were contracts that were extended two years out that the Committee should have been aware of.

Motion by Mr. deSimas, seconded by Mr. Ferreira and carried unanimously to move up Action Item No. 5, Staff Hiring Policy – 2nd read to approve.

Motion by Mr. deSimas, seconded by Mr. Ferreira and carried by a vote of 3-1 to approve the second read of the Staff Hiring Policy as submitted. Ms. Beauchaine and Mr. Queenan voted nay.

2. Personal Electronic Devices & Cell Phone Policy – 2nd read
Mr. Luiz requested this item be tabled to reconvene the Policy Committee to come up with a different policy and will be inviting Principal Black to attend.

Motion by Mr. deSimas, seconded by Mr. Ferreira and carried unanimously to table this item.

IX. Public Comments – This item was moved up on the agenda.

X. Discussion / Action Items

1. Appointments/Removals of Building Committee Membership – Mr. Luiz stated that the following people have been removed from the Building Committee: Laurie Marchand, Alexandra Gonzalez and Karen Moore. Dr. Forand resigned. The additional members are Superintendent Perry, Jill Usenia and Mark Piccerelli.

2. Provide all School Committee Members with Individual Read-Only Access to the District's Financial Management System – Mr. deSimas

Motion by Mr. deSimas, seconded by Mr. Ferreira and carried by a vote of 4-1 to table this item. Ms. Beauchaine voted nay. Legal counsel needs to be consulted. Ms. Beauchaine is concerned with confidentiality.

3. Advance Distribution of School Committee Meeting Materials in Digital and Hard Copy no Later than 48 hours before a Scheduled Meeting – Mr. deSimas

Motion by Mr. deSimas, seconded by Mr. Ferreira and carried unanimously to approve advance distribution of School Committee meeting materials in digital and hard copy no later than 48 hours before a scheduled meeting as submitted.

4. Paving Project Completion Dates, Contractual Penalties and Collection of Amounts Owed – Mr. deSimas

Mr. Carpenter reported that paving projects were completed on time and penalties were involved. All remaining invoices are being held by the school department. Since May 5, 2026 a $1500 per day penalty per contract took place. Changes to Orlo scope of work changed the overall completion date which started in April 2026 and completed August 14 – 74 days late = $111,000. Myron J. Francis was not started or completed before May 5 and June 30th completion dates – completed August 22, 79 days late = $118,500. Total in penalties per contract - $229,500. The total cost of all projects with reimbursement factored in is $237,196.02. This will be presented to legal counsel for review as to the next steps.
No vote needed.

Mr. Ferreira stated he had two previous requests on who from school department requested $5M from the City. It's all paid back but he would like to know how this happened. This is his third request.

5. Staff Hiring Policy – 2nd read

This item was moved up on the agenda.

6. Personal Electronic Devices & Cell Phone Policy – 2nd read

This item was moved up on the agenda and tabled.

7. Agreement for Professional School Psychological Services
Motion by Mr.deSimas, seconded by Mr. Ferreira and carried unanimously to approve the Agreement for Professional School Psychological Services as submitted. Ms. Anderson stated that this agreement is a shift from a salary position to a contractor to work with two elementary schools. They hired a contractor last year and was well received. School Psychologist position was posted last year and all summer.

XI. Announcements – Mr. Queenan announced that Myron J. Francis will have a skate night next Wednesday and the kids are super excited.

XII. Adjournment
Motion by Mr. deSimas, seconded by Mr. Queenan and carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 8:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Corsi, Executive Assistant

Anthony Ferreira, School Committee Clerk