
**EAST PROVIDENCE SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
OPEN SESSION – September 14, 2021**

I. Call to Order Open Session

The East Providence School Committee met in Open Session on Tuesday, September 14, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. at East Providence City Hall Council Chambers. Mr. Monteiro called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m. Members present were Joel Monteiro, Chair, Jessica Beauchaine, Vice Chair, Max Brandle, Clerk, Jenni Azanero and Charles Tsonos. Also present were Superintendent Kathryn Crowley and Assistant Superintendent Dr. Sandra Forand.

II. Executive Session

Motion by Ms. Beauchaine, seconded by Mr. Tsonos and carried unanimously to move into Executive Session for the purpose of: Discussion regarding Human Resource Director's Contract 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. Re-Convene in Open Session (Regular Meeting)

Mr. Monteiro called the meeting to order at 7:31 pm. The Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence were observed. The Chair reported that no votes were taken in executive session only a vote of 5-0 to return to open session. Motion by Ms. Beauchaine, seconded by Mr. Brandle and carried by unanimous consent to seal the minutes.

Mr. Monteiro apologized in the delay for the open session meeting. The Committee followed the mandate for mask wearing in City Hall.

IV. Student Liaison – No presentation this evening.

V. Consent Agenda

Communications – Appointments effective 2021-2022 school year: Shira Pascal, Pre-K Teacher at the Early Learning Center & Oldham; Barbara Damaso, Science Teacher at EPHS; Natasha Furtado, Resource Teacher at Hennessey; Ellen Albanese, Guidance at Riverside Middle; Kristina Martin, Allied Health Teacher at CTC; Tracy Goddard, Reading Teacher at Hennessey; Alison Menard, Special Education Teacher in Self-Contained at Waddington; Melissa Cornell, Science Teacher at Riverside Middle; Lisa Sisson, Pre-K Teacher at Oldham; Heather Navarro, Special Education Teacher at Hennessey (1 yr. only); Sarah Carlson, Grade 2 Teacher at Kent Heights; Lisa Medeiros, Administrative Assistant at EPHS; Michael Churchill, Paraprofessional at Whiteknact; Kate Fitterling, Paraprofessional at Silver Spring; Alison Butler, Paraprofessional at Whiteknact; Bethany McCann, Paraprofessional at Whiteknact; Thomas

Boucher, Sr., Paraprofessional at Silver Spring; Samantha Farrar, Paraprofessional at Silver Spring; Doreen Silva, Paraprofessional at Hennessey; Kim Nunes, Paraprofessional at Waddington; Sonya Ellis, Paraprofessional at Silver Spring; April Ford, Paraprofessional at Whiteknact; Jesse Godfrey, Paraprofessional at Silver Spring; Tina Lake, Paraprofessional at Hennessey; Brian Lonergan, Director of Human Resources, TBD; Tatiana Cumplido, Paraprofessional at Kent Heights, effective 9/13/2021; Debbie Vieira, Custodian Nights at EPHS, effective 8/16/2021; and Sidonia Bolarinho, Custodian at Administration Offices and Myron J. Francis, effective 8/16/2021.

Correspondence – Enrollment in the district is at 5,173 students. East Providence High School has 67 new registrations so far.

Homeschool Requests – There were 74 requests to homeschool this month.

Approval of Minutes: August 10, 2021 Executive Session School Committee Meeting
August 10, 2021 Open Session School Committee Meeting
August 12 & August 20, 2021 Special School Committee Meetings
August 9, 2021 Building Committee Meeting

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

VI. PTO/PTA/EPLAC Reports

The East Providence Local Advisory Committee (EPLAC) meets throughout the year and their first meeting will be held on September 29th at 6:30 pm at Martin Middle School library. For any questions, contact EPLAC at EPLAC@epschools.ri.com.

VII. Public Comments I – Agenda Items – There were no comments.

VIII. Superintendent's Report

1. AP Scores – Bob Carrier, Assistant Principal at EPHS, will report at next month's meeting.
2. Transportation Update – Diana Clarkin – Superintendent Crowley reported that there is a great deal of difficulty with our bus drivers. Special ed buses are having trouble with timeliness. Drivers are contracting COVID and there is a shortage of bus drivers which is a statewide concern. A transportation update will be on the agenda for October. The district has vans to use for athletics. Diana Clarkin will give the committee weekly updates. Mr. Monteiro said the transportation invoices should reflect the level of service the district is receiving. Bussing issues for elementary schools should be communicated to parents. The Principals do send out an all call if buses are going to be late.

3. The Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for the new high school is being planned for Monday, October 25th at 10 am which is a statewide PD day. Students will be on virtual learning. An open house to tour the new high will be held on Saturday, October 30th.
4. The Townie Pride Parade was going to be canceled this year due to parking issues at the high school. The high school would like to have their homecoming football game on their own field. Mr. Monteiro said it is a district/community event and can be held at Pierce Field. Alternative plans will be made.
5. Special Education Update – Leslie Anderson – Will report at October meeting.
6. Social Emotional Initiatives – Leslie Anderson – Will report at October meeting.
7. Facilities Update – Anthony Feola thanked the facilities department for doing a fabulous job this summer cleaning and moving furniture. The school buildings were opened on time. There is a meeting on Friday with City engineers to discuss the issue with puddles at Waddington School. The Martin Middle School roof is in the Strategic Plan and on hold due to the price of \$4 mil. Railings need to be replaced in the back stairwell and is scheduled for next summer. The HVAC system is running but won't last long. Mr. Tsonos asked if the district is putting money away to address the issues in the middle schools. Superintendent Crowley stated that 3% of the budget has to be put in for maintenance and a capital improvement line item. They are looking at windows right now and there is an RFP for chimney issues. Mr. Feola stated that there are issues with the availability of product. Every classroom and office has air filters which are being monitored. The work orders are sent by Principals and evaluated by their priority.

IX. Human Resources Report

Superintendent Crowley read the list of appointments. She will send the name of the Vision Specialist who was appointed.

Resignations – Heather Cote, Grade 2 Teacher at Kent Heights, effective 8/21/2021; Virginia Keneally, Paraprofessional at Martin Pre-K; Tina Lake, Paraprofessional at Hennessey; Lynn MacDonald, Paraprofessional at EPHS; Natalie Wieczarek, Paraprofessional (Lay-off); Danielle Turnbull, Paraprofessional (Lay-off); Robin Seel, Paraprofessional (Lay-off); Kerrie Wray, Paraprofessional (Lay-off); Cailin Halpin, Paraprofessional (Lay-off); Lynn Stumpff, Paraprofessional (Lay-off); and Jaclyn Quaine, Paraprofessional (Leave of Absence).

Motion by Ms. Azanero, seconded by Mr. Tsonos and carried by unanimous consent to approve the resignations as submitted.

Retirements – Anthony Guglielmi, School Psychologist at Whiteknact & Orlo, effective 12/31/2021; and Bruce Zarembka, Paraprofessional at EPHS, effective 9/10/2021.

Motion by Mr. Tsonos, seconded by Ms. Azanero and carried by unanimous consent to approve the retirements as submitted.

Leave of Absences – Custodian at Myron J. Francis.

Motion by Ms. Beauchaine, seconded by Mr. Tsonos and carried by unanimous consent to approve the leave of absence as submitted.

Non-Renewals – None

Recalls – Effective 2021-2022 school year – Susan Tavares, Paraprofessional at Silver Spring; Marisa Braga, Paraprofessional at Silver Spring; Shannon DosSantos, Paraprofessional at Hennessey; Karen Cahir, Paraprofessional at Whiteknact; Stacy Brown, Paraprofessional at Whiteknact; Kathline Levesque, Paraprofessional at Whiteknact; Sheila Souza, Paraprofessional at Whiteknact; and Kelly Raposa, Paraprofessional at Silver Spring.

Motion by Ms. Beauchaine, seconded by Ms. Azanero and carried by unanimous consent to approve the recalls as submitted.

X. Director of Finance Report – Mr. Enos presented the monthly financial report. There was an oversight expense for the Student Assistance Program for \$28,000. Work needs to be done on chimneys at Hennessey and Silver Spring and is part of the five-year Plan. On the agenda is approval for RFP for masonry repairs to the chimneys at Hennessey and Silver Spring elementary schools.

XI. Policy Committee Report – Ms. Beauchaine

1. Face Coverings Amended Policy – 2nd read – There was no discussion.
2. Discussion on updating the dress code – Ms. Beauchaine asked the Committee to please review the policy on dress code. Current plan states students cannot wear shorts all year round. Pagers and MP3s can be removed from the policy which are outdated. Dress code policy at the middle school regarding shorts needs updating. It's part of the student handbook. Also requesting input from the middle and high schools.

XII. Building Committee Report – Mr. Bradner was scheduled to give a report this evening but there was a delay with open session so Mr. Monteiro went through the OPM report from the September 13th Building Committee meeting. The demolition work of the old high school is two months ahead of time and they are in a great position financially. Hoping to have the School Committee meeting in the auditorium of the high school in October. Mask mandates will be in effect and enforced. Mr. Bradner will be asked to attend the October meeting.

XII. Discussion Items

1. Naming of Library Media Center – Mr. Cahoon and Mr. Amoroso, members of the Building Committee, reinforced their recommendation of the naming of the library media center after Superintendent Kathryn Crowley.
2. Chartwells Food Service – Ms. Beauchaine
This will be on the agenda next month.
3. Vision Screening – Mr. Tsonos
School nurses will be doing vision screening. Head nurse, Diane Wallace, provided a schedule.
4. Ventilation Systems in the Elementary Schools – Mr. Tsonos
Mr. Feola addressed ventilation systems in his facility update.

XII. Action Items

1. Bill List:

Voucher No. 1042 - \$4,954.00

Voucher No. 1043 - \$650.00

Voucher No. 1044 - \$40,427.78

Voucher No. 1046 – \$1,922,116.22

Motion by Mr. Tsonos, seconded by Ms. Azanero and carried by unanimous consent to approve the warrants as submitted.

2. Naming of Library Media Center

Motion by Ms. Azanero, seconded by Ms. Beauchaine and carried by unanimous consent to approve the naming of the library media center after Superintendent Kathryn Crowley as submitted.

3. Face Coverings Amended Policy – 2nd Read

Motion by Mr. Tsonos, seconded by Ms. Azanero and carried by unanimous consent to approve the Face Coverings Amended Policy as submitted.

4. RFP for Masonry Repairs to Chimneys at Hennessey & Silver Spring

Motion by Mr. Brandle, seconded by Mr. Tsonos and carried by unanimous consent to approve the RFP for masonry repairs to the chimneys at Hennessey and Silver Spring schools.

5. New Paraprofessional Positions

Motion by Mr. Tsonos, seconded by Ms. Beauchaine and carried by unanimous consent to table this item after a recount as long as it doesn't impact any of the recalls and hires listed to date.

6. Director of Human Resources' Contract

Motion by Mr. Tsonos, seconded by Ms. Azanero and carried by a vote of 4-to 1 to approve the contract for the Director of Human Resources as submitted. Ms. Beauchaine voted nay.

Mr. Monteiro reported that the following invoices have been approved and vetted by the Building Committee last evening.

7. Ai3 Invoices for Services

Motion by Ms. Tsonos, seconded by Ms. Azanero and carried by unanimous consent to approve the Ai3 August 2021 Invoice for Basic Services in the amount of \$122,474.84 and Extra Services in the amount of \$545.00 as submitted.

8. Peregrine Invoice for Services

Motion by Mr. Tsonos, seconded by Ms. Azanero and carried by unanimous consent to approve the Peregrine Group August 2021 Invoice for services in the amount of \$59,000.00 as submitted.

9. Gilbane Invoice for Services

Motion by Mr. Tsonos, seconded by Ms. Azanero and carried by unanimous consent to approve the Gilbane Construction Co. August 2021 invoice for services in the amount of \$5,890,222.56 as submitted.

10. Stephen Turner, Inc. Invoice for Services

Motion by Mr. Tsonos, seconded by Ms. Azanero and carried by unanimous consent to approve the Stephen Turner, Inc. August 2021 invoice for services in the amount of \$20,713.11 as submitted.

11. Thielsch Engineering Invoice for Services

Motion by Mr. Tsonos, seconded by Ms. Azanero and carried by unanimous consent to approve the Thielsch Engineering August 2021 invoice for services in the amount of \$2,963.13 as submitted.

12. Construction Invoices for EPHS

Motion by Mr. Tsonos, seconded by Ms. Azanero and carried by unanimous consent to approve the EPHS construction invoices for August 2021 in the amount of \$6,095,918.64 as submitted.

13. Invoices for Furniture, Fixtures & Equipment

Motion by Mr. Tsonos, seconded by Ms. Azanero and carried by unanimous consent to approve the furniture, fixtures & equipment August 2021 invoices in the amount of \$1,182,162.69 as submitted.

XV. Public Comments II – Non-Agenda Items – There were no comments.

XVI. Announcements – Mr. Monteiro announced Friends of Townie Athletics is still open for ordering bricks through December 1st.

Ms. Beauchaine thanked everyone in the district on behalf of the School Committee for stepping up for the students and doing wonderful things.

Dr. Forand said the next virtual parent workshop on “Recognizing Anxiety and Depression in Your Child or Adolescent” will be on Wednesday, October 13th at 6 pm.


There will be a vaccine clinic tomorrow at Martin from 5-8 pm and Riverside on Friday from 5-8 pm. The Fire Department is putting on the clinics.

XVII. Adjournment

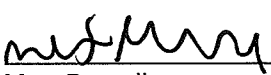
Motion by Ms. Azanero, seconded by Mr. Tsonos and carried by unanimous consent to adjourn the meeting at 8:55 p.m.

Mr. Monteiro said the meeting was delayed this evening due to residents opposing mask wearing. They are in a city building where masks are mandated by the Mayor and couldn’t continue their meeting. He thanked all for their patience.

Respectfully submitted,



Sharon Corsi
Administrative Assistant



Max Brandle
School Committee Clerk