
**EAST PROVIDENCE SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
OPEN SESSION – November 9, 2021**

I. Call to Order Open Session

The East Providence School Committee met in Open Session on Tuesday, November 9, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. in the auditorium at East Providence High School. Mr. Monteiro called the meeting to order at 6:32 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 Superintendents Dr. Forand and Dr. Bowler.

II. Student Liaison – Grant Wosencroft highlighted events from the high school.

III. Consent Agenda

Communications/Correspondence

Appointments – Maura McElroy, Paraprofessional at Whiteknact, effective 10/25/2021; Bethany Barron, Paraprofessional at Whiteknact, effective 10/25/2021; Casey Thomas, Paraprofessional at Silver Spring, effective 11/15/2021; James Perry, Math Teacher at EPHS, effective 11/1/2021; Michael Werth, Math Teacher at EPHS, effective 11/3/2021; Nicole Perkins, Paraprofessional at Martin Middle School Pre-K, effective TBD; Melanie Lane, Social Worker for the District, effective 11/22/2021; Jennifer Latagne, Paraprofessional at Waddington, effective 11/15/2021; Lea Rose DeVargas, Paraprofessional at Waddington, effective 11/15/2021; and Miranda Jacavone, Special Education Teacher at Hennessey, effective 11/15/2021.

Homeschool Requests – There were 15 requests to homeschool this month.

Approval of Minutes: October 12, 2021 Executive Session School Committee Meeting
October 12, 2021 Regular School Committee Meeting
October 11, 2021 Building Committee Meeting

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

IV. PTO/PTA/EPLAC Reports – Ms. Beauchaine reported that the East Providence Local Advisory Committee (EPLAC) were working on their By-Laws at the last EPLAC meeting. They will be presenting their Board members at the next School Committee meeting. EPLAC meetings are held on the last Wednesday of every month except this month which will be held on Wednesday, November 17th at 6:30 pm.

V. Public Comments I – Agenda Items – There were no public comments.

Discussion Item - Chartwells Food Service was moved up on the agenda.

Ms. Beauchaine wanted to know if they are fully staffed for breakfast and lunch in the district. Melissa Read reported that there was a deficit at the beginning of school. Currently 57% of students receive free lunch and 37% receive free breakfast.

Mr. Monteiro introduced Chris Murphy, Physical Plant Manager for the high school. Mr. Murphy outlined the custodial maintenance plan for the new high school. Custodial staff duty sheets are being put together. Completion of the high school building will be when it is accepted by the district and every item has been checked off.

VI. Superintendent's Report

1. RICAS and SAT Scores – The Superintendent invited the Principals and Coaches to share their RICAS testing results. East Providence had the highest rate of distance learners in the state last year. The District has their own assessment tool i-Ready and are using the data from this assessment. Only half of the students in East Providence took the RICAS tests. There is a decline in the test scores throughout the state. The Principals presented their RICAS scores and what they are doing in their buildings to move forward and address the needs of the students. A test score is only one indication of how a student is doing. Mr. Black reported on Martin Middle School and Dr. Perry reported on Riverside Middle School. Kelly Vasey, ELA coach, reported on the ELA scores for the whole district. Crystal Monteiro, Math coach, reported on the math scores for the district. They work very closely together with the teachers. Lisa Pita reported on Whiteknact and Orlo Avenue Elementary Schools. Karen Moore reported on Waddington Elementary School. Fatima Avila reported on the scores for Silver Spring Elementary School. Lloydanne Leddy reported on her scores for Kent Heights and Anne-Marie Scott reported on Myron J. Francis scores.

Elementary principals meet once a month and collaborate and share with each other. This year the new math curriculum is rolling out.

Ms. Beauchaine read a statement on state testing. She did not want the testing results presented to the School Committee this evening and thanked the principals and coaches for all their hard work.

Mr. Tsonos thanked all the teaching professionals in the district for everything they do especially during these hard times with the pandemic.

2. High School SAT Scores & Initiatives – Principal Gibbons and the Leadership Team reported on the SAT and PSAT data at the high school. They also spoke about several initiatives that are being instituted and additional health pathways at the Career & Technical Center. Several initiatives include a partnership with Navigant Credit Union, WIN Block which is held on each scheduled white day, XELLO a 4-year personalization

program for students through the student counseling department to help guide students through their high school experience and development of seven different committees which will be teacher led and directed. Internships is a goal to include in WIN block.

Mr. Hanlon is currently working on a partnership with CCRI and Evergreen regarding the health pathways.

3. Update on 504 Plans – Dr. Bowler discussed the 504 Plan process. A 504 Plan is a plan of accommodations to ensure academic success and access to the learning environment if there is a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities. Accommodations change how students learn the materials. Modifications change what a student is taught or expected to learn. 504 plans are reviewed every year and are team-based decision.

There is a discrimination statement on the bottom of the district's letterhead and the statement can be found in all elementary handbooks.

4. LEAP Initiative – A Learning Equity & Accelerated Pathways (LEAP) Task Force was formed by RIDE. Dr. Forand, Dr. Bowler, Mr. Enos and the Superintendent met with RIDE to discuss this new District Support Program being recommended for East Providence. Several other districts have been chosen to participate as well. Depending on the amount of money that is received from ESSER III, RIDE will match it to put into this initiative which is a two-year commitment. RIDE will schedule an initial meeting with the district team and conduct a press release. Benefits for participating in this initiative include money to the district, participation in workshops and district support. An MOU will need to be executed. Superintendent Crowley feels we have asked enough of the Principals so she will support this initiative with district leadership from central office. Mr. Monteiro said there are so many initiatives being rolled out by district leadership already. The Committee would like to review the Memorandum of Understanding.

Superintendent Crowley said that due to the lack of substitute teachers, on December 8th they would like to give the PK-8 students a distance learning day so teachers can participate in curriculum PD. There will be another distance learning day for PK-11 students on January 14th. All seniors will be in school for PBGR on that day. The school calendar will be updated to include these two additional PD days and brought before the School Committee for approval.

5. Additional Night Custodian – The Superintendent requested a new custodial position for the district.

6. Transportation Report – Payments held back for bus shortages - Ms. Clarkin reported that the District receives a credit for buses that are not being used for transportation. The cost for each bus to run each day is \$443.68. At the beginning of the year it was a problem having drivers out but has improved the last few weeks. All routes are being covered but when drivers call out, there is a shortage. Oceanstate has been good with providing coverage but Statewide is having issues getting coverage. Transportation was provided by either a double run or a combined run when there were three days when a bus was not provided for students. Delivery times where students were late were because of sub drivers, especially late at the end of the day due to the high school and middle school running tight.

VII. Human Resources Report

Superintendent Crowley reported that as of Friday the only vacancy is a math teacher at Riverside. Kent Heights and Orlo para positions have been filled but there are two open para positions at the high school. Taking an ad out in The Post and posting help wanted signs at each school. There is a critical shortage of employees. The two HR secretaries are looking up past substitutes to see if they are interested in coming back. Elementary Principals are sharing building-based paras.

Resignations – Brian Lonergan, Human Resources Director, Effective 10/18/2021; and Alison Corbeil, Paraprofessional, Effective 10/22/2021.

Motion by Ms. Beauchaine, seconded by Mr. Brandle and carried by unanimous consent to approve the resignations as submitted. An exit report will be provided.

Retirements – None

Leave of Absences – None

Non-Renewals – None

Recalls – None

Rescindments – James Folino, Math Teacher at EPHS and Carolyn Plouff, Paraprofessional at Whiteknact.

Motion by Ms. Beauchaine, seconded by Ms. Azanero and carried by unanimous consent to approve the rescindments as submitted. Mr. Monteiro wants to look into the need for having the School Committee approve rescindments when they don't approve appointments.

VIII. Director of Finance Report – Mr. Enos presented the monthly financial report. This budget report ends fiscal year 2021 as of November 5, 2021. Final numbers will be given in January 2022. In the 53000 series speech therapists, occupational therapists and psychologists

have increased needs in services so they had to hire additional staff to cover services. In 55000 series the out of distance special education tuitions are shown in FY 2021. Charter Schools has a slight reduction in expenses compared to last year. Revenue changes in State aid final number was increased. Ended the year quite well.

ESSERIII – Dr. Bowler and Mr. Enos have a zoom meeting tomorrow morning for the ESSER III rollout. The District is anticipating receiving \$11.8 million. ESSERIII funding is for before and after school activities for all students which include field trips, summer programs, enrichment programs and supplies.

IX. Policy Committee Report – Ms. Beauchaine will wait until there is a Human Resources Director to have a meeting. She is working on a dress code policy for students.

X. Building Committee Report – Mr. Monteiro gave an overview of the OPM report from the November 8th Building Committee meeting. Demolition of the old high school should be completed by end of the month. The Building Committee spoke about extended warranty and service contracts to protect the investment of the taxpayers.

XI. Discussion Items

1. Naming Request for John (Sandy) Gorham – Mr. Monteiro on behalf of an EP Resident There will be a space recognizing all coaches under the name of Sandy Gorham. The first passage will be to create a space and agree to the name and the second passage will be to approve a design.
2. Chartwells Food Service – Ms. Beauchaine
This item was moved up on the agenda.
3. Long Term Teacher Substitutes' Salary – The District is currently paying \$100 per day and recommending \$225 per day. There was some discussion on what is considered a long-term sub. Recommending retired teachers rate increase to \$275 per day. Building based subs are in the buildings every day whether there is a shortage or not at \$100 per day. Recommending \$225 per day for the building-based subs.

The Committee needs more information on rate increases for substitute teachers. The day to day teacher substitutes' increase was approved last month. Mr. Enos will have more information from other districts for the next School Committee meeting.

4. Paraprofessional Substitutes' Salary – The District is currently paying \$12 per hour and proposing \$15.00 per hour and will need to look at long term sub para increases.

5. Resolution on Change to RIGL §16-7-40 (c) and (d) – Mr. Monteiro

This resolution is on extended reimbursement on housing aid across the state and asking the Rhode Island General Assembly to support the extension of increased school housing ratio.

XII. Action Items

1. Bill List:

Voucher No. 1051 - \$28,217.75

Voucher No. 1052 - \$62,576.46

Voucher No. 1053 - \$1,833,163.26

Voucher No. 1001 - \$252,637.17

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

2. Naming Request for John (Sandy) Gorham

Motion by Mr. Tsonos, seconded by Ms. Azanero and carried by unanimous consent to approve the creation of a coaches' recognition space and naming of that space for Sandy Gorham as submitted.

3. Long Term Teacher Substitutes' Salary

Motion by Ms. Beauchaine, seconded by Ms. Azanero and carried by unanimous consent to table this item until the December meeting.

4. Paraprofessional Substitutes' Salary

Motion by Mr. Tsonos, seconded by Ms. Azanero and carried by unanimous consent to approve the paraprofessional substitutes' salary increase as submitted.

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

5. Ai3 Invoices for Services

Motion by Mr. Tsonos, seconded by Mr. Brandle and carried by unanimous consent to approve the Ai3 October 2021 Invoice for Basic Services in the amount of \$29,484.68 and Extra Services in the amount of \$7,419.50 as submitted.

6. Peregrine Invoice for Services

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

7. Gilbane Invoice for Services

Motion by Mr. Tsonos, seconded by Mr. Brandle and carried by unanimous consent to approve the Gilbane Construction Co. October 2021 invoice for services in the amount of \$2,810,053.07 as submitted.

8. Stephen Turner, Inc. Invoice for Services

Motion by Mr. Tsonos, seconded by Mr. Brandle and carried by unanimous consent to approve the Stephen Turner, Inc. October 2021 invoice for services in the amount of \$14,134.50 as submitted.

9. Thielsch Engineering Invoice for Services

Motion by Mr. Tsonos, seconded by Mr. Brandle and carried by unanimous consent to approve the Thielsch Engineering October 2021 invoice for services in the amount of \$6,560.00 as submitted.

10. Construction Invoices for EPHS

Motion by Mr. Tsonos, seconded by Mr. Brandle and carried by unanimous consent to approve the EPHS construction invoices for October 2021 in the amount of \$2,926,651.75 as submitted.

11. Invoices for Furniture, Fixtures & Equipment

Motion by Mr. Tsonos, seconded by Mr. Brandle and carried by unanimous consent to approve the furniture, fixtures & equipment October 2021 invoices in the amount of \$439,618.22 as submitted.

12. City Reimbursement to EPSD for Utility Expenses

Motion by Mr. Tsonos, seconded by Mr. Brandle and carried by unanimous consent to approve the City of East Providence invoice for reimbursement to the school department for utility expenses and equipment for \$83,363.14 as submitted.

13. Creation of an Additional Position in the Custodian Bargaining Unit

Motion by Mr. Tsonos, seconded by Ms. Azanero and carried by unanimous consent to approve the creation of an additional position in the custodian bargaining unit.

14. Resolution on Change to RIGL §16-7-40 (c) and (d)

Motion by Mr. Tsonos, seconded by Mr. Brandle and carried by unanimous consent to approve the East Providence School Committee Resolution on Change to RIGL §16-7-40 (c) and (d) as submitted.

15. Purchase of Two Vans and One Trailer for Career and Technical Center

Motion by Mr. Tsonos, seconded by Ms. Azanero and carried by unanimous consent to approve the purchase of two vans and one trailer for the Career and Technical Center as submitted. Funding is from RIDE.

16. Employee Resignation and Agreement

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

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

XIV. Announcements – Happy Thanksgiving and Happy Veterans Day. There will be a Veterans Day celebration sponsored by the City at 11 am.

XV. Adjournment

Motion by Ms. Azanero, seconded by Ms. Beauchaine and carried by unanimous consent to adjourn the meeting at 10:13 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Sharon Corsi
Administrative Assistant



Max Brandle
School Committee Clerk