

**Minutes from the
Regular Meeting of the
East Bridgewater School Committee
on Tuesday, January 28, 2020**

A meeting of the East Bridgewater School Committee was held on Tuesday, January 28, 2020 at 7:00 PM in the Anne Kenneally Hynes Library in the East Bridgewater Jr/Sr High School. In attendance were: Chair Ellen Pennington, Co-Chair Gordon, McKinnon Secretary Rob Rhuda, Trista Higgins, Tim McLaughlin, Ciara Lonergan, Superintendent Elizabeth Legault, Assistant Superintendent Dr. Gina Williams, School Business Administrator John Shea, and Recording Clerk Joanne Benner. Theresa Maltz was not in attendance.

Motion to open a 7:02 PM: Rhuda/McLaughlin

Vote: 5 in favor

Report of East Bridgewater Jr/Sr High School Student Advisory Council:

- ❖ Ciara Lonergan, from the East Bridgewater High School Student Advisory Council, reported to the School Committee. Ciara said someone told her the lunch ladies are turning students away because of debt and the advisory group feels all students should get a lunch. Superintendent Legault responded all students do get a lunch it is students whose accounts are in debt and try to purchase a la carte items that are turned away. Last year there was a debt of \$5,500 that the school district had to pay back because students were charging. As a result, it was decided that snacks will no longer be allowed to be charged. No student will be turned away from getting a meal. Also, students do not like the amount of time being taken away from the Viking Block for MAP testing. Dr. Williams explained that the Viking Block was established precisely for these kinds of things to not take away from content time. The LGBTQ Club is having a bake sale during lunches and the Unity Club will be present black history month; they will also host a spirit week.

Report of the Standing Committees:

- ❖ Update from the Subcommittees and Standing Committees. Chair Pennington asked if there was an update on the Educational Philosophy subcommittee and Mr. McLaughlin said not at this time and hopes to have one for the next meeting. The Budget Subcommittee has been meeting to discuss the FY21 budget and the Public Hearing will be on February 4th at 7:00 PM in the auditorium. The School Committee Goals Subcommittee met to review sections A & B and they are still being finalized.
- ❖ Action is required by the Superintendent Evaluation Subcommittee on the minutes from the October 17, 2019 meeting.
Motion: McKinnon/Rhuda Vote: 3 in favor
- ❖ Action is required by the School Committee Goals Subcommittee on the minutes from the October 21, 2019 meeting.
Motion: Higgins/Pennington Vote: 2 in favor

Superintendent Legault's Community Corner:

- ❖ Chromebook update – there are currently 50 surplus Chromebooks and if a student is having a problem they need to go to the IT office during Viking Block to exchange out their device.

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- ❖ FY21 Budget Timeline – On Tuesday, February 4th at 7:00 PM the FY21 Budget Public Hearing will be held. Superintendent Legault, Dr. Williams, and School Business Administrator Mr. Shea will present the FY21 budget. The following week on February 11th the School Committee will be asked to vote on the proposed budget. During the time between the meetings they will be available for the Committee for any questions they may have.
- ❖ Governor’s Budget – During the State of the State address last week the Governor spoke about the education foundation budgets and increasing aid for the Student Opportunities Act. Next year the state aid we will be receiving is pushed up approximately \$266,000 for the district. This money goes to the town and then we work together to allocate the funds. It is used for many things such as: curriculum, facilities, salaries, and any other school related expenses.
- ❖ The Viking Sports parents are holding a meat raffle on 2/19/20 from 1:00-4:00 at Kenny O’Brien’s Pub and Grill at Carriage Crossing. The money goes directly to support the students.
- ❖ The Superintendent met today with EB Cam’s Ann and Russ, along with AD Leonard, to discuss uploading sports videos to YouTube. The athletic department is not happy that other teams can look at the plays and feel it is a disadvantage to our students. So it has been asked that EB Cam no longer upload sports videos to YouTube.
- ❖ A letter of intent to retire was received from Sandra Tramontano, Gordon W. Mitchell School Occupational Therapist effective May 13, 2020. It was asked if this would create issues for covering services and the Superintendent said no as they are already in search of a new therapist.
- ❖ Dr. Williams shared a survey with the Committee that will be handed out to students in grades 6-10 and grade 12. This survey will be completed anonymously and is tied to the amount of funds we will receive from the substance abuse grant through EB Hope. It will be done on 2/11/20 during the Viking Block.

Reports & Discussions:

- ❖ Mr. Shea said that a few meetings ago it was approved to move forward with using the Arbiter pay system. What wasn’t discussed was that it makes us capable of paying the officials as soon as the next day. That said, the School Committee needs to approve all payments, and per the school attorney, the Municipal Modernization Act gives the Committee the power to approve one member to sign off on the payments which will then go before the body. The AD will go into the system and approve the officials. Then Mrs. Benner will go in and approve them for payment. There is an action item on the agenda for this.
- ❖ Chapter 70 summary – The Governor’s budget shows the calculations on the breakdown of the foundation budget and the minimum aid required by the town. As you can see the aid went up by \$266,587 which is the highest in over 6 years. He had estimated it to go to \$400,000 but the rates changed making the calculation lower than in the Student Opportunity Act; that is why my original estimate was higher.
- ❖ FY20 Budget update – we are in a good place and unless something unexpected comes up we will be on budget.
- ❖ Revolving Account Update Revolving – the funds remain financially healthy. The school lunch account is down slightly over last year due to purchases, painting of the cafeteria, and new equipment. Circuit Breaker will drop down to around \$500,000. We are hoping to break even in Preschool. SPED tuition in is in the

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❖ Action is required by the School Committee to accept the very generous donation from Raytheon in the amount of \$1,000. This donation was awarded to Victoria Cameron, GW Mitchell School’s STEAM teacher for being a finalist in Raytheon’s STEM Teacher of the Year for 2018/2019 school year.
Motion: McKinnon/Rhuda Vote: 5 in favor

❖ Action is required by the School Committee to accept the very generous donation from South Shore Bank in the amount of \$1,450 to support the purchase of t-shirts for the FY20 Little Vikings Summer Institute Program.
Motion: McKinnon/Rhuda Vote: 5 in favor

❖ Action is required by the School Committee to approve disposal of technology equipment from the district.
Motion: McKinnon/McLaughlin Vote: 5 in favor

Motion to close at: Rhuda/McLaughlin Vote: 5 in favor

Respectfully Submitted by,

Joanne M. Benner
School Committee Clerk

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