

**Minutes from the
Regular Meeting of the
East Bridgewater School Committee
on Thursday, January 10, 2019**

A meeting of the East Bridgewater School Committee was held on Thursday, January 10, 2019 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 Hazel Tessier, Jonathan Babcock, Theresa Maltz, Gordon McKinnon, Robert Rhuda, Superintendent Elizabeth Legault, Assistant Superintendent Dr. Gina Williams, School Business Administrator John Shea, and Recording Clerk Joanne Benner. Mr. Babcock left the meeting at 8:00 pm.

Motion to open at 7:02 PM: Maltz/Babcock

Vote: 6 in favor

The attendees stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Also in attendance: John Phelan, Director of Special Education, Kate Byrne, Central School Principal, Andrew Gentile, G.W. Mitchell School Principal and Brian Duffey, E.B. Jr/Sr. High School Principal, Assistant Principal Deb Nichols, State Representative Allyson Sullivan

Public Comments:

- ❖ The public comment period is not an open public forum. Speakers may address topics on the agenda, items specified for public comment, or items within the scope of the School Committee's responsibility. The Chair asked if anyone here would like to comment and no-one came forward.

Report of East Bridgewater Jr/Sr High School Student Advisory Council: none in attendance

Report of the Standing Committees:

- ❖ Time has been scheduled for updates from any of the Subcommittees or Standing Committees. No updates at this time.

Superintendent Legault's Community Corner

- ❖ A.L.I.C.E. Parent Informational Session update. Superintendent Legault said there were about 100 people in attendance and would have liked it if more parents and community members had come to the event. It will be posted on the new district website that is being launched on January 22nd. In two weeks the schools will begin discussing A.L.I.C.E. training with the students; it will be tailored to individual age groups. We need to make sure kids are prepared in case there is an incident in one of our buildings. We are also aware of the stress this can cause and are working with the school guidance counselors and psychologists so they are prepared to help students that feel anxious. On February 6th at 6:30 Mrs. Byrne is meeting with the Central School PTA, Mr. Gentile will be discussing it next Wednesday with his PTA, and on January 22nd Mr. Duffey will be meeting with his parent council. The Enterprise did an article on the session and it did not do us justice having inaccurate statements. The Superintendent was not asked any questions or called regarding this and she would be happy to answer any questions they have. The minimal cost of \$500 was to train the trainers and then all staff in the three schools was trained as well as the police and fire departments. Another statement that concerned Dr. Williams was that programs like A.L.I.C.E. encourage

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people to run towards the danger; it is a last resort to use the counter approach and we are trained to not go towards the danger. If you want accurate information come to the source.

- ❖ Discussion on changing the day of School Committee Meetings from Thursday to Tuesday effective for the 2019/2020 school year. Superintendent Legault said as the week progresses events happen more often in the evenings and conflict with the School Committee Meetings on Thursdays. Five members of the Committee said Tuesdays would work for them and Mrs. Maltz said she would have to determine if it would work for her and report back. Mr. McKinnon feels the decision should be made sooner than later as people that may run for the two open seats should know what night the meetings will be held on.
- ❖ The assistant principals will be making calls over the next few weeks for kids that have overdue balances and are charging snacks. At this time there is over \$1,700 owed to the Food Service Department and we cannot allow it to continue to grow. Every student will be given a hot lunch. What is happening is students are charging a lunch then going back into line and trying to buy snacks. We will not allow a student to purchase a snack if their account is in the negative. Parents have the ability to restrict what a student can or cannot buy on the My School Bucks account.
- ❖ On January 23rd Tessa Ryan, School Psychologist and Karen Clifford, Director of Guidance will be hosting an informational meeting on anxiety and what a parent can do for their child. It will be at 6:30 pm in the auditorium.

New Business:

- ❖ Verbal reports from John Phelan, Director of Special Education Director, Kate Byrne, Central School Principal, Andrew Gentile, GW Mitchell School Principal and Brian Duffey, EB Jr/Sr. High School Principal.
 - John Phelan, Director of Special Education said the PPS Department is working on the topic of anxiety and social and emotional needs of the students. This is a big topic across the country. We are in the process of setting up collaboration, through NRC, and local colleges on an internship program where a social worker intern comes in 3 days a week to help students with anxiety, and stresses, and then teaching coping strategies. This will allow students to better focus on school work and will be available to any student in the district. It is set to be implemented for next school year. Mr. Phelan said West Bridgewater, Carver, and Abington are some of the schools utilizing this and it has helped the counselors as they are seeing double digits on a weekly basis.
 - Kate Byrne, Principal Central School. Mrs. Byrne began by thanking Brian Kiely and the Superintendent for the new front doors and new interior doors that create an enclosed foyer and has increased security. At this time it is still in development to operate both doors on separate magnetic switches that would confine people in the foyer space as they are processed through Lobby Guard. Winter assessments are underway with MAP, Dibels, and phonic screening. MAP is a wonderful tool that allows for student growth and individualizes instruction where we can celebrate successes and make adjustments to ensure success. In January formative assessments with the professional staff will begin. As we start term 2 we have a new “One Central Book” titled Brave Irene. This book continues with the yearlong theme of resiliency. The next PLC meeting is on the 25th and she will meet with the teachers in grades K-2 and examine finalized writing action plans. They will identify what has been accomplished and what the next step should be. The Central School has a

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partnership with Bridgewater State University and she meets monthly with the dean. The new initiative is to bring in support in the area of math. Dr. Emmons and 3 second grade teachers will collaborate and determine how they will work with the 3 second grade teachers and the students. They will develop lesson plans which allow the college students to gain skill and their support, in turn, allows teachers to reach everyone. There will be additional A.L.I.C.E. training on the 18th on phases 2, 3, and 4.

- Andrew Gentile, G.W. Mitchell School Principal. 2018 was a definite success and he is happy with where 2019 is heading. It is exciting that we are all talking about the same things and it illustrates the way we are in sync. This is his 12th year in East Bridgewater and unquestionably the last 3 have been the best in a lot of ways. Mr. Gentile feels it is in a big part to the leadership from Central Office and the connections that have been built between the buildings. Tomorrow he will be releasing A.L.I.C.E. materials to parents with the next phase being classroom discussions; they will be using the same book the Central School uses. The teachers, at grade levels, have had a lot of discussions on how to approach this topic with consistency and sensitivity while being real with the kids. He would rather have kids be nervous as we go through this than to be unprepared should an event occur. MAP testing is underway with all students completing reading; next week will be math, followed by language. We can use the data to specifically target areas that need development or provide challenges to those that need it. All teachers at all levels are working on writing prompts and he thanked Jen McPartland for having a huge part in the process. The reason for the focus on writing is a result of the MCAS data that was analyzed. We can pay specific attention to it and he expects to see results. Kids are expected to speak in complete sentences and to speak in formal language. Tomorrow teachers are going through a Fit Money training that was piloted last year with grades 4&5. There are 6 lessons that have been developed and it is provided to them free of cost along with teacher training. This program applies math to real world circumstances discussing credit cards, interest rates, and they set up a store front to buy and sell goods. Last year it was rolled out when MCAS was done and his hope is with the new math program this year teachers will be able to implement it throughout the year. The Department of Education recently put out expectations that school districts include financial literacy. Mrs. Kallenberg has started a Green Team that is looking for ways to recycle throughout the building. The MCAS scheduling is in process and he hopes to have it finalized by January 21st so it can go out to parents.
- Brian Duffey, Jr/Sr HS Principal. There are a large number of students that were inducted into NHS, seniors are waiting to hear about their college acceptances, and many students are on the honor and high honor roll. A big focus is a direct response to NEASC on curriculum mapping and expanding across all areas. The teachers are doing a good job of identifying and using the standards, engaging activities along with rigorous common assessments. A goal for next year is to increase rigor and review of student data coming together with each other to work collaboratively on teaching strategies. The biggest piece that resulted from the NEASC visit is to change from core values to vision of the graduate. We have a working draft for this and the next step is to have students see it and make it a document that lives in the school. The district has done a really great job of financially helping grades 7-12 by purchasing a number of new novels and replacing older ones. The Universal Design for Learning PD that staff attended was really incredible and a teacher shared with him that by utilizing choice boards it has heavily increased engagement in the classes. Central Office has been instrumental in the social and emotional wellbeing of students with trainings for staff thereby creating a more empathetic staff. He publicly thanked Dr. McCann and is

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