

**Minutes from the
Regular Meeting of the
East Bridgewater School Committee
on Thursday, April 25, 2019**

A meeting of the East Bridgewater School Committee was held on Thursday, April 25, 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 Gordon McKinnon, Secretary Rob Rhuda, Trista Higgins, Theresa Maltz, Tim McLaughlin, Superintendent Elizabeth Legault, School Business Administrator John Shea, and Recording Clerk Joanne Benner.

Motion to open at 7:01 PM: Maltz/Rhuda

Vote: 6 in favor

Also in attendance: Mrs. Gisela Morton, Principals Byrne and Gentile, Assistant Principal Noyes.

The attendees stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Guests:

- ❖ Mrs. Gisela Morton came to discuss diversity in East Bridgewater Public Schools. Mrs. Morton met with Superintendent Legault to discuss her ideas and concerns regarding diversity in East Bridgewater. Mrs. Morton shared that her oldest daughter had a difficult time when she attended high school here because she came from a charter school in Cambridge to our district which does not have much cultural diversity. When they moved to town they were fully aware of the community and knew there wasn't much diversity. They became involved in the community by coaching teams and participation in community events. Recently her 7th grader came to them and said she is having a bit of a hard time and would like to attend another school when she reaches grade 9. Her daughter said she would like to know what it is like to be taught by a black teacher and to be part of a more diverse environment. Mrs. Morton came to the United States when she was 17, from Cape Verde, raised herself and taught herself English. She learned the importance of education and put herself through college. Diversity is about inclusiveness and acceptance of each other; it is the beauty of being human beings. Our kids lack this piece of knowledge if diversity isn't taught and she doesn't want this to be just about her daughter or son. "I am a mother of my community and every child in this community." She assumes other kids want something different and decided to start by coming here and having a discussion of this issue; she wants to be part of the solution not part of the problem. We can start initiatives and groups bringing people together with their knowledge and shared diversity. It is about being together and embracing each other. Mrs. Morton and her family love East Bridgewater and have no intention of leaving. She doesn't want her children to feel like outsiders and wants them to embrace the community. Superintendent Legault is very happy that she has cracked the shell and would like to move forward with conversations on how to create a more diverse climate. She would like to involve the Director of Guidance, Mrs. Clifford so it can be shared throughout the district. Mrs. Morten said she appreciates them embracing the idea, we are in a great town, and she wants her children to be proud of the community. She looks forward to continuing the discussion and thanked the Committee for letting her come before them.

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. No comments at this time.

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Superintendent's Corner:

- ❖ The Superintendent gave updates on the spring trips to Paris and Yosemite National Forest. Our students were never in any danger from the fire at Notre Dame. While they were one of the last groups to go through they were back in their hotel when they learned of the fire. Mrs. Seele was in contact with Ms. Noyes throughout the trip and all 77 travelers were safe at all times. She said they were complimented by the tour guide for the great behavior and attitudes of the kids towards everything. On the flight home the attendant said the kids were so well behaved, mature, and nice to each other. Kudos to our parents for raising good kids and to the faculty and staff that interact with them every day. The Yosemite trip was a great success even though the kids got drenched a few days. It didn't stop them from wanting to participate and learn. There was a glitch as one chaperone and 3 students had their luggage lost. The company that works with them bought them new clothes and 1 student's things were never found and the company is issuing a full reimbursement even though it was the airlines fault. They will be coming to report on the trips in another month. We will continue to allow these trips and we are in talks of going to Washington, D.C. next year.
- ❖ Jamil Siddiqui, Teacher of the Year, will be honored in Washington, D.C. the week of April 29, 2019. He has been traveling around the Commonwealth speaking. The Teacher of the Year from each state will be there and one will be chosen as National Teacher of the Year. Mrs. Siddiqui requested to go with him and will use it a PD for our faculty returning with lots of pictures and writing about what they did and saw while there.
- ❖ Update on Massachusetts School Building Authority visit to the Central School, Tuesday, April 23, 2019. We have been in the queue for the last three years and are continued to being looked at by the MSBA. We are receiving a 56% reimbursement for the boiler project and have been invited to their June meeting. The Superintendent feels positive that the Capital Committee will promote projects to renovate the Central School and that Mr. Longo, Interim Business Administrator will be coming to a meeting. We filed a grant in February for the Central School roof and we will find out on June 26th if we are invited to the beginning of the program. The slate will be replaced with an asphalt roof along with trim and cupola repair. We will do a study on whether it would be better to do the projects over a period of time or all at once.

New Business:

- ❖ Reports from Kate Byrne, Central School Principal and Andrew Gentile, Gordon W. Mitchell School Principal, and Tara Noyes, Jr/Sr High School Assistant Principal.
 - Mrs. Byrne said there are 107 children enrolled in Pre K and there is a short waiting list; if there is enough enrolled we may consider adding a class. There is 146 children registered for Kindergarten and they are the class of 2032. The One Central Book is A Chair for my Mother and continues with the theme of resiliency. Spring assessments will be from 5/6-5/26 and they will capture the growth from fall to now using MAP. There is also a year-end Dibels assessment. With the data collected they will analyze and decide what worked well and where adjustments need to be made. Student placement will be the third week and May and she collaborates closely with Mr. Gentile; there will be a transition night on 6/5/19 at the Mitchell School for the students to learn about 3rd grade. There are many special events that will be coming up: Kindergarten Patriotic concert on 5/23 at the Jr/Sr HS, field trips to the zoo and biomes, on 5/31 the second graders will be singing the National Anthem at the Brockton Rox, and field day is on 6/7 along with and end of the year BBQ at the athletic field.

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- Mr. Gentile shared that they finished MCAS ELA in all grades. There are a handful of students that need to do make ups and the effort put forth by the students was excellent. Next week is math MCAS for grades 5 & 6, then grade 3, followed by grade 4 the next week. Grade 5 is also taking the science MCAS. There is a lot of testing going on but it is running smoother since the implementation of computer based testing as opposed to paper testing. In the fall and winter assessments were done and they will be again this spring allowing them to compare growth. The MAP data is incredibly useful and informative; he feels it was a great investment by the district. After each administration we have the opportunity to meet as groups and make decisions based on the data. The STEAM lab has been the greatest addition to the school in all of his time here. Victoria Cameron took a program that didn't exist and made it into one that excels. She was a finalist for MA STEM Teacher of the Year.
- Ms. Noyes said grade 8 is finishing ELA MCAS and will move onto math and biology. Mrs. Clifford did an amazing job and it ran extremely well. This is the first year it was all online and the IT Dept. did an amazing job making sure there were backup devices as needed. There is an alcohol prevention program being run through the nurse's office that became an initiative from the Dept. of Ed in 2017. Students are asked if they have any concerns and are directed towards support if needed. There was a pre-prom meeting this week and Patrick Nevins from the D.A.'s office spoke about social hosting and Chief Allen spoke on making good choices. There will be an Art Show this weekend on Friday and Saturday and the band will play during it. On Monday MARC will come out for a presentation for grades 7-10 as a follow up to the bullying campaign. The Grand March and prom is on 5/3 at Indian Pond, AP exams will be given the 2nd and 3rd week of May, and the Credit for Life Fair is on the 17th along with the blood drive. Classes have been picked for next year and we are looking at new scheduling; we will visit West Bridgewater and may implement the schedule they use lengthening class time.

❖ John Shea, School Business Administrator, discussed the following with the School Committee:

- a. FY19 Operating Budget Summary, comparison at this point of time this year to last. As indicated by the numbers we are tracking similar to last year and he is confident we will remain on budget.
- b. Non Salary Expense – Softright Report, principal's report gives more detail to each account line by school showing amendments, encumbrances, expenditures, and unencumbered balances. There are some negative line items where the accounts have been overspent.
- c. Proposed FY19 Reallocation – the ORC recommended that as line items are overspent adjustments should be made to accurately represent what is being spent in that account. The Committee will need to approve the adjustments and the effect is zero on the budget. He sent this to the principals for the review and asks that they vote on making the adjustments.
Motion: Maltz/Rhuda Vote: 6 in favor
- d. Revolving Account Summary, comparison to where we were last year at this time. All of the accounts are in good standing.
- e. Monthly Local Aid Report, he misspoke at last meeting and wanted to update them that the school choice tuition is monthly and not quarterly.
- f. School Choice Advisory Memorandum, there has been discussion on what the funding from school choice can or cannot be spent on and this memorandum gives a really good advisory.

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