

**Minutes from the
Regular Meeting of the
East Bridgewater School Committee
on Tuesday, November 26, 2019**

A meeting of the East Bridgewater School Committee was held on Tuesday, November 26, 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, Tim McLaughlin, Ciara Lonergan, Superintendent Elizabeth Legault, School Business Administrator John Shea, and Joanne Benner Recording Clerk. Theresa Maltz was not in attendance.

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

Vote: 5 in favor

Also in attendance:

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

- ❖ Time has been scheduled for a report from the East Bridgewater High School Student Advisory Council to the School Committee by Ciara Lonergan. Ms. Lonergan said the students know that the school ID's are to identify them but feel using them as a swipe to pay for lunch would be beneficial. She said there are continued concerns about Chromebooks; that some students do not have working ones and that some need to be plugged in to work. In reference to the Vision of the Graduate she feels it is important to have student input. Superintendent Legault said she would look into the process of using ID's at the registers. She would need additional information on the Chromebooks so she can get to the root of that. As far as the Vision of the Graduate, it came from NEASC and was worked on a year and a half ago by the former principal, teachers, and the sub-committee. Ms. Legault will speak to Mr. Sylvia and the sub-committee about getting student input. Ciara said there will be a bake sale during the lunches tomorrow, LGBTQ Club will be hosting a holiday social, congratulation to the band for qualifying for district, the NHS induction is on 12/3, the Math Team will host a competition on 12/5, the Blood Drive will be on 12/6, and Tri M will be having a caroling fundraiser on 12/19 and 12/20.

Report of the Standing Committees:

- ❖ Update from all Standing and Subcommittees. The Budget Sub-Committee will schedule a meeting within the next few weeks. The Policy Sub-Committee did some minor tweaks on section A and is working on section B. The Goals Sub-Committee will be doing some updates starting in December or January. Mr. McLaughlin said the Philosophy Sub-Committee remains a work in progress.

Superintendent Legault's Community Corner:

- ❖ Superintendent Legault thanked the Mitchell School PTA for inviting her to their meeting. She brought some requests back with her that she is going to look at.
- ❖ Brian Noble, Town Manager will meet with her and John next week to start the budget process. The schools are a bit different when it comes to budgeting so it will be developed by her, Brian Noble, John Shea, and the sub-committee.

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- ❖ The bonfire is tonight and it is packed with kids and adults. The Superintendent thanked all of the athletes that participated in helping the younger kids play games. Thank you to Chief Harhen for his continued support of this event and the Department for being there to ensure safety for all.
- ❖ The Hall of Fame held its first induction on Saturday. It was a tremendous night that was well attended and enjoyed by all. Tom Kenney and John Shea worked very hard on this event. Congratulations to all of the inductees.
- ❖ Review FY20 goals and Evaluation and Indicators, revised #'s 2, 3, and 6. The Superintendent and Committee had previously reviewed the goals and decided a few changes should be made. After reviewing the changes it was agreed to vote on accepting the goals, 1-6.
- ❖ October 1, 2019 report. The current student enrollment is: Central School 568, Mitchell School 639, Jr/Sr High School 1,010 with the total enrollment being 2,217. Enrollment overall is down by 34 students and it is normal to see fluctuations over the years as some classes will come in with more kids than others.
- ❖ Tomorrow is a ½ day of school for the entire district. We look forward to the winter concerts when we return and December and January will be very busy months.
- ❖ The 1.5 billion dollar Student Opportunity Act and she is confident we will do well. Most of the money will go to the urban districts. There are parameters to where the funding goes and what we can use it for; the push is for academics and social and emotional supports.

Reports & Discussions:

- ❖ First reading on proposed changes to the Meal Charge Policy, File: EFD. Chair Pennington spoke with Jim Hardy and he said it is not necessary to have a 3 reading process of policies before adopting them. If there is a new policy it goes before the Committee for review and can be voted upon at the next meeting. The Committee agreed this is how it should be done moving forward.
- ❖ John Shea gave a report on:
 - FY20 Budget – As of 11/22/19 there is a non-salary balance of 163,894 and a salary balance of 13,115,479 for a total available balance of 12,279,373. There are a few concerns he has that he would like to share regarding significant increases in the SPED budget. There is a projected 34,605 increase over what was budgeted for therapy services. We will keep a watch on the encumbrances and, sometimes as the year progresses, they can be reduced. Next is the rise in homeless transportation costs. Last year we paid out 24,900 and this year it is projected the amount of 89,394 which is an increase of 64,494. There is a large increase in the number of homeless students; we have some traveling from as far as North Boston. He will continue to monitor this and will come up with a plan. He did speak with the Town Manager and he agreed that the money that is reimbursed to the town for homeless transportation should not stay in the general fund but be returned to the school. This will be done by putting an article on at town meeting to move the money. These issues are a perfect example of why we created the SPED reserve account.
 - Revolving Accounts- The school lunch account is down over last year because it paid for tables and a combi oven; these are capital projects. There is a negative in the SPED tuition revolving account that will go away when he does some re-classing. We will discuss the Little Vikings line on whether

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which was planned prior to being hired as an employee with the East Bridgewater School District. Superintendent recommends approval of Mrs. Escalera's request.

Motion: McKinnon/McLaughlin

Vote: 5 in favor

- ❖ Action is required by the School Committee to approve disposal of elementary desks and chairs.

Motion: McLaughlin/McKinnon

Vote: 5 in favor

Motion to close at 8:03 PM: McKinnon/McLaughlin

Vote: 5 in favor

Respectfully Submitted by,

Joanne M. Benner
School Committee Clerk

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