

**Minutes from the
Regular Meeting of the
East Bridgewater School Committee
on Thursday, March 14, 2019**

A meeting of the East Bridgewater School Committee was held on Thursday, March 14, 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, Secretary Robert Rhuda, Jonathan Babcock, Theresa Maltz, Gordon McKinnon, Superintendent Elizabeth Legault, School Business Administrator John Shea, and Recording Clerk Joanne Benner. Mrs. Maltz and Mrs. Tessier arrived at 7:03 after the motion to open was made.

Motion to open at 7:02 PM: McKinnon/Rhuda

Vote: 4 in favor

Also in attendance: Science teachers Jean Sarson and Megan Krugger, Director of Guidance Karyn Clifford, Assistant Principal Tara Noyes, Director of Special Education John Phelan, Trista Higgins, Bill Pellegrino, Beth Pennington, SRO's Connors and Cacciatore, Student Advisory member Matthew Condon, Josie Albertson-Grove from the Enterprise, and community members.

The attendees stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

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. Bill Pellegrino came to the table to discuss the agenda item regarding student and faculty absenteeism. He teaches at South Easton and his principal has worked on improving attendance for a few years and he shared some ideas; such as: enforcement of hand book policies for students and incentives for teachers.

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

- ❖ Matthew Condon reported that Student Senate has March Madness beginning on March 18th. The spirit days are: Monday-Patriotic Day, Tuesday-Character Day, Wednesday-Tourist Day, Thursday-Outer Space Day, and Friday- Class Color Day. Key Club is hosting Mr. EBHS on March 22nd at 7 PM; the Foreign Language Honor Society had a successful foreign language week. The freshmen class lock in is March 15th, drama will be performing "The Addams Family" on March 29th, Deca students competed at the MA State DECA conference on March 7th and Mrs. O'Brien was personally recognized for her support of business students and the club. Music students will be attending the senior SEMSBA festival March 22nd and spring sports start on March 18th.

Guests

- ❖ A request from Jean Sarson, grade 7th science teacher and Megan Krugger, grade 7/8 science teacher to take grade 8, 9 and 10 students on an out-of-country trip to Costa Rica during the 2020 April break. Action is required by the School Committee to approve their request. The group will leave Boston and fly to San Jose. While in Costa Rica some of the things they will experience are night hikes, zip lining, rainforest, a volcano, and work on an organic farm.

Motion: Maltz/Tessier

Vote: 6 in favor

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The contents of all East Bridgewater school publications are available upon request in languages other than English.

Public Hearing – School Choice for 2019/20

Under the School Choice Law, every city, town, or regional school district is required to enroll non-residents under the school choice plan unless the school committee votes prior to June 1st not to participate for the following school year. The East Bridgewater School Committee will take oral and written testimony on the above-listed topic from all interested citizens and staff.

- ❖ Currently there are 45 students participating in school choice in grades 7-12. There are three (3) grade 7th students, five (5) grade 8th students, four (4) grade 9th students, nine (9) grade 10th students, thirteen (13) grade 11th students and eleven (11) grade 12th students.

Motion to open the hearing: Maltz/Babcock

Vote: 6 in favor

Mrs. Maltz wanted to know if we do not accept school choice can our students participate in other districts and they can. Superintendent Legault said we can only accept students in grades 7, 9, and 11 because of class size.

Motion to continue with school choice: Pennington/McKinnon Vote: 6 in favor

Superintendent's Corner

- ❖ Discussion on Faculty/Student absenteeism. As discussed during the budget presentation student attendance is part of our accountability for MCAS. We need to look at ways to reduce absenteeism be it from incentives and finding out the reason kids aren't coming to school. Assistant Principal Noyes has some good ideas and she is working with the behavioral specialists. It is important for kids to come to school. Faculty absences are related to maternity leaves, long term illness, personal days, and illness. The Superintendent said at some point we may need to look into increasing the sub pay. We budget \$150,000 for substitutes and have currently paid out \$98,000. We feel that there has to be a better use or method to utilize this money; she is going to look at ways on how to do this. It is challenging to create a sub pool and out of the 70 we had only 27 are actively accepting positions on a regular basis. In past years we had building based subs come in daily to cover and we may look at doing that again.
- ❖ Sydney Craven Memorial Fund Newsletter. The 4th Annual 5K Tutu Run and Sparklefest will be held on June 15, 2019. The Craven Fund is big advocates for the school and wants to be part of the solution in the town. Please come out and support this event.

New Business:

- ❖ Strategic Plan #2 – Social/Emotional – Karyn Clifford & Tara Noyes. Mrs. Clifford said that all the presentations they have held are on the district website in case a parent was unable to attend or would like to refer back to the information. The department held parent education series on topics like: growth mindset, bullying prevention, and dealing with anxious feelings and mood changes. Student presentations were on: self-esteem, resilience, and emotional control. They will continue with sending counselors to grade 6 so they can become familiar with the students, they will hold student orientations, and new this year will be a parent orientation program. Ongoing initiatives are the district and community wide summer reading theme, advisory mentoring, integrate and identify SEL competencies, and aligning the health, wellness and guidance curriculum. Discipline referrals have decreased by 31% over last year and out of school suspensions decreased by 23%. One thing that is on the rise is the referrals from the KIN program. From July 1, 2019 to March 13, 2019 they have received 102 referrals; last year there were a total of 55 received. Teachers are making course selection recommendations for 2019-2020 and the deadline for

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