Minutes from the
Regular Meeting of the
East Bridgewater School Committee
on Thursday, June 6, 2019

A meeting of the East Bridgewater School Committee was held on Thursday, June 6, 2019 at 7:00 PM in the Anne Kennelly Hynes Library in the East Bridgewater Jr/Sr High School. The meeting was opened and the Committee went into Executive Session to return to the regular meeting at 7:00 PM. In attendance were: Chair Ellen Pennington, Co-Chair Gordon McKinnon, Secretary Rob Rhuda, Trista Higgins, Theresa Maltz, Superintendent Elizabeth Legault, Assistant Superintendent Dr. Gina Williams, School Business Administrator John Shea, and Recording Clerk Joanne Benner. Mr. Rhuda arrived at 5:36 after the Executive Session was called to open.

I move that the School Committee meet in executive session, pursuant to Massachusetts General Law’s chapter 30A section 21(a) for purpose (3), to discuss strategy with respect to and in preparation for collective bargaining with the East Bridgewater Education Association, because an open discussion may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the School Committee.

Motion to open at 5:34: McKinnon/Maltz

Roll Call:
Pennington, yes
McKinnon, yes
Higgins, yes
McLaughlin, yes
Maltz, yes
Rhuda, not in attendance

The motion has passed. The School Committee will now meet in executive session, pursuant to Massachusetts General Law’s chapter 30A section 21(a) for purpose (3), to discuss strategy with respect to and in preparation for collective bargaining with the East Bridgewater Education Association, because an open discussion may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the School Committee. The School Committee will be returning to open session this evening.

The School Committee returned to the library at 7:03 PM and continued with the previously opened meeting.

Also in attendance: Principals Andrew Gentile and Kate Byrne, Assistant Principals Tara Noyes, Deb Nichols & Deb Duprey, Jennifer McPartland K-12 Curriculum Facilitator, Jay Phelan Director of Guidance, Patrick Leonard Athletic Director, Attorney Nick Dominello, teachers and community members.

2019 RETIREEs:

✓ The School Committee acknowledged the retirees and thanked them for their years of service to the district.

Christine Alles – Gordon W Mitchell School, Grade 6th Teacher – 2004-2019 (15 years)
Christine DeLorenzo – Central School, Kindergarten and 2nd Grade Teacher, 1977- November 2018 (41 years)
Gerri Quigley, Central School, Adjustment Counselor, 2008-2019 (11 years)

The East Bridgewater Public School System is committed to ensuring that all of its programs and facilities are accessible to all members of the public. We do not discriminate on the basis of age, color, disability, national origin, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender or gender identity.

The contents of all East Bridgewater school publications are available upon request in languages other than English.
The East Bridgewater Public School System is committed to ensuring that all of its programs and facilities are accessible to all members of the public. We do not discriminate on the basis of age, color, disability, national origin, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender or gender identity.

The contents of all East Bridgewater school publications are available upon request in languages other than English.
Report of East Bridgewater Jr/Sr High School Student Advisory Council:

- Delaney Lyons gave a report from the East Bridgewater High School Student Advisory Council to the School Committee. Delaney shared that all clubs have held elections for new officers. She thanked Mr. Siddiqui, Senate Advisor, for being there for them every Wednesday. Additionally she thanked all of the other teachers that are advisors for the time they give the students. It is the end of the year and things have wrapped up so there isn’t any more to share.

Superintendent's Corner:

- New Jr/Sr. High School Schedule. 21 teachers went to West Bridgewater and Plymouth North because they use the proposed block scheduling the JrSrHs wants to implement. It is a four day schedule with rotating blocks; the teachers were concerned that if they didn’t rotate the periods it would become stagnant. There will be four blocks per day that run about 77 minutes with a 10 minute break. Other schools have a break time and they feel it is important, too. There will be a 30 minute power block for directed learning and students can seek out teachers for make-up work, questions, or to just check in with their teachers. They also plan on using this time for assemblies, and advisory; guidance will be working out the details over the summer. SPED will use the time for resources and to get services met. Mrs. Clifford said in the 7 years she has been in East Bridgewater this has been an ongoing discussion. Directed learning will be eliminated, it will allow for AP labs for students taking more than 2 AP courses. It allows for stronger access to cooperative learning while reducing lecture style instruction and obtaining the vision of the graduate. It will allow for internships in the second semester, teachers and students will create stronger relationships. There will be less movement in the hallways and decreased conflicts in the halls. Mr. Phelan thinks it allows students with disabilities to get intervention they need and allows educators to use the Universal Design Learning (UDL) they’ve been working on. Dr. Williams said it is not our role to develop the schedule but our job to support it. They have invested a lot of money and time in UDL trainings. Katie Novak, who is a guru on the UDL method, said it cannot effectively run without a block schedule. If we wait another year it will be another year lost in learning. She is a parent with 3 students in the district and as a parent feels it would be another year lost for them to be able to access this education. Mr. McLaughlin said the block scheduling is done in his district and it is well liked. He feels it would be good to hold an open forum for parents to come and ask questions and voice concerns.

- Jr/Sr. High School Principal search update. Dr. Williams said they screened the 27 applicants down to 12 based on their qualifications and what we need; it was then moved to 8. From the 8 they had 7 return their calls and 6 show interest in being interviewed. There was a panel made up of staff, a school committee member, students, the athletic director, and herself. From there 3 were moved to the second round. It is going to be held next Tuesday with a different panel: the Superintendent, Mr. Shea, Mr. Phelan, Mrs. Clifford, Mr. Ortenzi, and Mrs. Asci. Reference checks will be done and they hope within the next two weeks to be in contract negotiation with a new school principal.

- Graduation Ceremony – it was held last Sunday and it was a beautiful day. Superintendent Legault thanked Mr. Ortenzi and the DPW for all of the work they did.

- Reminder, Town Meeting, Monday, June 10, 2019 at 7:00 PM. The Superintendent has spoken to Mr. Longo and she is confident that the district’s certified budget will go through.

- A letter of resignation was received from Danielle Randall, Instructional Support Assistant from Central School effective June 30, 2019. We wish best of luck.
New Business:

- **Strategic Plan #1 – Curriculum & Instruction**
  - Jennifer McPartland & Deb Duprey –

  Deb Duprey - NWEA MAP growth, 70% of students in grades K-2 in ELA and Math classes will meet or exceed their projected growth as determined by NWEA MAP norms. 70% of students in grade 3-6 in Math will meet or exceed their projected growth as determined by NWEA MAP norms. 60% of students in grade 3-6 ELA will meet or exceed their projected growth as determined by NWEA MAP norms. 55% of students in 7-9 ELA and 7-9+ Math classes will meet or exceed their projected growth as determined by NWEA MAP norms. We are doing wonderful things as educators pushing our students to do their best and providing opportunities for them.

  Jennifer McPartland – We found out that the state was going to update the health frameworks and shifted the Wellness cycle into next year. Teachers have been digging in and getting used to changes and talking about potential programs to pilot for the curriculum. For 2019-2020 History/SS & Foreign Language the frameworks were finalized in 2018. We are currently reviewing resources and pilot option for the fall and there will be a heavy focus on civics in grade 8.

  Deb Duprey – The district spent time on writing in all 3 schools this year. There was significant progress made at the Central School using 9 common writing prompts and rubrics per grade level. For the 2019-2020 the Mitchell School will be using the 9 common writing prompts and rubrics per grade level across content areas. At the JrSr High School there will be exploration of embedded literacy standards into content areas.

  The theme for summer reading 2019 is responsibility. All students will be required to do summer reading and at the Central School the book is Pigsty by Mark Teague. The Mitchell and JrSrHs will have recommended titles and free choice to choose a book on their own.

- **Strategic Plan #2 – Social/Emotional**
  - Karyn Clifford

  In 2018-19 they had trainings on how to break free from depression, social emotional learning, and trauma intervention. Parent and community education centered on social emotional learning, anxiety and depression, transitions, and mood changes. Presentations for grades 7 & 8 were done for resilience, self-esteem, bullying and emotional control.

  For 2019-20 they will continue with Break Free from Depression holding a parent/community night, do staff training, and a pilot for students in grades 8 & 12. Community service will be promoted and there will be an interactive community resource database. We will have social work interns through a partnership with NRC. A parent orientation for students going into grade 7 will be on June 12th at 6:30 pm.

- **Strategic Plan # 3 – Professional Development**
  - Gina Williams & Deb Nichols
We had over 85 staff request PD that was funded through the Title IIA grant totaling $45,888. Some of the trainings were: ALICE, UDL, Steam, Ready Math, iPads in the Classroom, and Google Classroom. Many of the trainings were done by our staff and there were approximately 100 opportunities for in house PD. For summer 2019 there will be mini grants for Responsive Classroom Training, Creating Choice Boards, and AP training. In 2019-20 the curriculum review cycle will be Social Studies & Foreign Language. Instructional practices year two of UDL training, mentor training, the development of “EB University”, and an “Alternative Learning Day” initiative.

- Report from John Phelan, Director of Special Education. Mr. Phelan said that this year they were definitely moving in the right direction with inclusion for all students. UDL is really helping all learners. Having the social work interns will be great and he has heard wonderful things about them. He will continue to move forward with inclusiveness in the next school year.

**Action Items:**

- Action is required on the School Committee Meeting minutes from the May 9, 2019 and May 23, 2019. 
  Motion to approve minutes from 5/9/10: McLaughlin/Rhuda
  Vote: 5 in favor, Maltz abstained
  Motion to approve the minutes from 5/23/19: Maltz/Rhuda
  Vote: 4 in favor, McLaughlin, McKinnon abstained.

- Action is required, after review, to approve accounts payable warrant 50V dated 6/5/2019.
  Motion: McKinnon/Maltz
  Vote: 6 in favor

  Motion: McKinnon/McLaughlin
  Vote: 6 in favor

- Action is required, after discussion, on distribution of diplomas at graduation. The Superintendent feels the importance of this event needs to be upheld and that the diplomas should be given out by the School Committee. Ms. Higgins asked if there was a policy and Superintendent Legault said it is an advisement. Mr. McKinnon feels some sort of an outline should be created for future School Committee members to follow. The Committee is going to table this action item pending the drafting of protocol to be added to the operating protocols.

- Action is required for the School Committee to vote to state publicly that it does support or not support Petitioned Article 11, which seeks to amend the Town’s By-laws requiring the process for voting on the School Committee’s budget and to forward to the Town its statement of endorsement or no endorsement. Chair Pennington said it is not advisable to waive attorney client privilege. Mr. McLaughlin would like to make a motion waive attorney client privilege so we discuss this. Mr. McKinnon agrees with McLaughlin that they need to discuss it prior to voting on it.
  Motion: McLaughlin/Maltz
  Vote: 5 in favor, Pennington no

Mr. McLaughlin said there is a process in place when town’s bylaws are amended the Attorney General looks at it for conflict of interest; our attorneys advised there could be conflicts. There was concern that the town manager won’t be better to work with. It was pointed out that the attorney’s letter said it is highly unusual to get as far as town meeting without an agreement being made. Mr. McKinnon feels a better working relationship with the town needs to happen to get things resolved before town meeting. This will go before the town to be voted on it is just to be on the record if we do or do not endorse this. Mr. McLaughlin made a motion to amend the language to decide whether to support or not support the article.
Motion to accept change of language: McLaughlin/Maltz  
Motion to support or not support: McLaughlin/Maltz  

Roll Call:  
Maltz, support  
Rhuda, not support  
McLaughlin, support  
McKinnon, not support  
Higgins, not support  
Pennington, not support  

- Action is required, after discussion, on the recommended changes to the Central School and Gordon W. Mitchell School FY20 Student/Parent Handbooks.  
  Motion: Maltz/McLaughlin  
  Vote: 6 in favor  

- Action is required to accept the donation of $75.00 from Amica Companies Foundation to Mrs. McGovern’s classroom for supplies.  
  Motion: Rhuda/Higgins  
  Vote: 6 in favor  

Motion to adjourn at 9:43: Maltz/McLaughlin  

Vote: 6 in favor  

Respectfully Submitted by,  

Joanne M. Benner  
School Committee Clerk