

**Minutes from the  
Regular Meeting of the  
East Bridgewater School Committee  
on Tuesday, February 25, 2020**

A meeting of the East Bridgewater School Committee was held on Tuesday, February 25, 2020 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, Ciara Lonergan, Superintendent Elizabeth Legault, Assistant Superintendent Dr. Gina Williams, School Business Administrator John Shea, and Recording Clerk Joanne Benner.

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

Vote: 6 in favor

Also in attendance: Erin Fisher, Tori Cameron, faculty and staff

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

- ❖ Time was scheduled for a report from the East Bridgewater High School Student Advisory Council to the School Committee. Miss Lonergan said that tomorrow night will be an Evening of Jazz from 3-7 PM, Tri-M is participating in their annual Relay for Life fundraiser, Senate is planning for March Madness, NHS is planning a dodge ball event, the Junior Class is hosting a lock-in, and the Senior Class will be having a “pie a teacher” event.
- ❖ Ciara Lonergan reported on her trip to Los Angeles, California, where she went to protest the entertainment industry regarding climate crisis. She was there from 2/6-2/10/2020 and participated in discussions pertaining to the climate crisis. Ciara participate in the Fire Drill Friday protest with Jane Fonda and on Saturday against the Oscars. While many actors actively support climate control the industry as a whole has been proven to be detrimental with this event.

**Superintendent Legault’s Community Corner:**

- ❖ Superintendent Legault received a letter of intent to retire from Maureen Ledoux, Mitchell School teacher effective June 30, 2020. Maureen has been in our district for 18 years and we wish her the best.

**Reports & Discussions:**

- ❖ Strategic Plan #4, Technology – Erin Fisher & Victoria Cameron, we are exploring Touchview Boards for the Central and Mitchell Schools as the boards we have are 20+ years old and in need of an upgrade. The PTO is possibly going to support us with purchasing them. Professional Development continues; we went to Foxboro and in March some of our staff will go to Medfield. Mrs. Fisher is currently running the Book Club with Mrs. McPartland which focuses on UDL. She continues to visit classrooms to support the teachers with tech. The EB March tech day will have 42 workshops and 38 presenters. Out of this number 22 presenters are EB teachers and there will be 16 outside presenters. An invitation was extended to the School Committee to come and attend. It is at the Mitchell School from 8:00-2:30. Mrs. Cameron received grant money last year and she decided to spend it to make STEAM available for more classrooms and to be more accessible. She created a mobile STEAM cart that teachers can sign out and use the resources in their classrooms. Mrs. Cameron has talked with Mrs. Byrne and hopes to create a cart for the Central School. Mrs. Fisher goes to classrooms to support the teachers using the gadgets on the cart; it consists of low tech and high tech gadgets.

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By having the carts STEAM can be integrated into every subject area pushing 21<sup>st</sup> century skills. She passed out and displayed some of the items used on the cart. Recently Mrs. Cameron was awarded a grant from Whole Foods and she has published a book of games and puzzles. Dr. Williams has purchased some for the Committee to look at and will have her sign them and they will be raffled at PD day.

- ❖ FY20 Budget update – at this point in time we are tracking closely to last year and Mr. Shea is confident we will remain on track and within budget this fiscal year.
- ❖ Revolving Account update – there hasn't been much of a change over last month. He will make the journal adjustment to remove the negative balance in the SPED tuition in revolving account. Some salaries came from there and should have been in another line.

**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. Chair Pennington read a brief statement pertaining to the parameters of public comment.
  - Katie Lowe came tonight to support the teachers; she feels they are not being heard. Mrs. Lowe is a parent of 2 children in the district and it is important to her that they receive the support to be successful in all aspects of life. It is important that the teachers be heard.
  - Heather Fowler-Wechter is a 3<sup>rd</sup> grade teacher, 26 year veteran of the district, and a proud graduate of EB. She is speaking tonight on behalf of the EBEA. Two weeks ago they attended the School Committee meeting in a quiet, respectful show of unity. Today they are here again to be a collective voice requesting a fair contract. The EBEA feels that having the current contract overlapping with the arbitration has been a lengthy process and taken a toll on moral. The teachers want to inspire and educate the students. They are also humans and feel the weight of school violence, instability, and lack of wellness. We need to work for a fair contract so we can move forward as a district and continue to collaborate and give each student the education they deserve.
  - Matt Krugger is here in support of the great teachers in East Bridgewater. He lives in town and is a tax payer feeling the teachers deserves a raise because the cost of living continues to go up. They go above and beyond and should get a raise.

**Action Items:**

- ❖ Action is required on the School Committee Meeting minutes from the January 28, 2020 and February 11, 2020.  
Motion to approve the minutes from 1/28/2020: McKinnon/McLaughlin Vote: 5 in favor, Maltz abstained  
Motion to approve the minutes from 2/11/2020: Maltz/Rhuda Vote: 5 in favor, Rhuda abstained
- ❖ Action is required, after review, to approve accounts payable warrant 35SV dated 2/26/2020.  
Motion: Maltz/Rhuda Vote: 6 in favor
- ❖ Action is required on payroll warrant 34PS dated 2/19/2020.  
Motion: McLaughlin/Higgins Vote: 6 in favor

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- ❖ Action is required on the request of Elizabeth Sharp to extend her maternity leave for an additional week due to child care reasons. This time would be taken as unpaid leave. The Superintendent recommends approval of Elizabeth Sharp's request.

Motion: Maltz/McKinnon

Vote: 6 in favor

- ❖ Action is required to approve the request from Ray Ponte, Music Director, to take the Senior Jazz Band and Rhythmix students on an out-of-state trip to the University of New Hampshire Jazz Festival in Durham, NH on Friday, March 14, 2020. Principal Sylvia recommends approval of Mr. Ponte's request

Motion: Maltz/Rhuda

Vote: 6 in favor

- ❖ Action is required by the school committee on the request of Ray Ponte, Music Director, to take an out-of-state trip with the high school band/chorus students to Canobie Lake Park in Salem, New Hampshire after they perform at the Great East Music Festival in Woburn, MA on Friday, May 29, 2020. Principal Sylvia recommends approval of Mr. Ponte's request.

Motion: Maltz/McLaughlin

Vote: 6 in favor

Motion to close at 7:43 PM: Maltz/McKinnon

Vote: 6 in favor

Respectfully Submitted by,

Joanne M. Benner  
School Committee Clerk

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