

**Minutes from the  
Regular Meeting of the  
East Bridgewater School Committee  
on Tuesday, February 11, 2020**

A meeting of the East Bridgewater School Committee was held on Tuesday, February 11, 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, Trista Higgins, Theresa Maltz, Tim McLaughlin, Ciara Lonergan, Superintendent Elizabeth Legault, Assistant Superintendent Dr. Gina Williams, School Business Administrator John Shea, and Clerk Joanne Benner. Mr. Rhuda was not in attendance.

Motion to open the regular meeting of the School Committee to enter into Executive Session returning to open meeting was made at 7:04 PM

Pennington/McLaughlin: Roll Call Vote unanimous; Rhuda not in attendance (roll call in Executive minutes)

Also in attendance: Principals Byrne, Gentile, and Sylvia, Assistant Principal Deb Duprey, K-12 Curriculum Facilitator Jen McPartland, Karyn Clifford, staff, community members

**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. Ms. Lonergan said that the email sent out explaining the reasons for MAP testing was very helpful. The LGBTQ Club is having a bake sale during all lunches, the Unity Club is hosting Spirit Week, and Student Senate is making plans for March Madness.

**Superintendent Legault's Community Corner:**

- ❖ Superintendent Legault asked the principals to attend this evening to give updates and answer any questions.
  - Central School Principal Byrne is happy to share they will be adding an additional 5 day full day preschool class and will continue to run the other existing programs. The section was added after securing enough students to fund it as it is a tuition based program that pays for the teachers and ISA's. The kindergarten search is in its initial stages and should be completed by the end of March. There have been 127 students identified and that number could increase; she will keep the Committee posted once she has identified the staffing needs. There was some concern that the classrooms this year had enrollments of 26 students and the size is actually 19-22 students per class.
  - Mitchell School Principal Gentile said they had just finished up the second round of MAP testing. Mrs. McPartland is meeting with teachers and discussing goal settings. They have finalized the MCAS schedule and shared it with the staff; it will go out to parents soon. He thanked the Committee for supporting the budget and adding the positions to the Mitchell School. They will have a significant impact on improving programming particularly in the SPED area. Adding teachers as opposed to assistants will improve the quality of education.
  - JRSRHS Principal Sylvia said tonight there is a college planning night with about 50 families in attendance. A lot of great information is being shared and he will have it loaded onto the website. As we approach the winter break they are busy finalizing the Program of Studies. He has been working with Mrs. Clifford on a presentation to the students that will happen on March 3<sup>rd</sup> through the 9<sup>th</sup>. We are establishing that 9<sup>th</sup> grade students take business and computer classes in their rotation. Parent conferences are in a couple of weeks and every student will receive a level recommendation for next year. Mr. Bosh is working with Mrs. Clifford to establish a schedule for MCAS and staff training on the MCAS 2.0 will be in the first week of March. There have been 28 disciplinary actions related to vaping so far this school year; some are repeat offenders. They will be working with EB Hope and are creating a tiered offense based on the number of incidents. This will include an education program held in extended detention and a reflection will need to be written.

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- Director of Special Education Phelan – grades 4, 5, and 6 have two SPED teachers in the classroom and they will bring one to grade 3. This supports best practice and learning especially with UDL. Social and Emotional Learning is huge across the country at this time. The numbers are jumping and diagnosis for anxiety is being made as early as kindergarten. Mr. McLaughlin asked what the model is for grade 3 SPED? Mr. Gentile replied that for years the model was a pull out setting and the students were taught exclusively by a SPED educator and an ISA covered the class. It is his opinion that bringing in another certified teacher to plan and deliver instruction will take the quality of service to another level. We have already seen positive results because of the changes.
- Guidance Director PreK- 12 Clifford shared that she has received final approval on the District Curriculum Accommodation Plan (DCAP). This is district applied and will allow teachers across the district to provide a wide range of Tier 1 interventions or accommodations for students. She is working with Dr. Williams on bringing a documentary here, “Angst”, to have viewings in March; they will be for the community, a prescreening for parents, and then shown to grades 9-12. They are receiving support for this from EB Hope and it is about anxiety. Mrs. Clifford just shared the information with the principal and will solidify the dates and times. We will continue with PE for all 7 & 8<sup>th</sup> graders along with PE for 9<sup>th</sup> graders as it’s a requirement. The maximum class size is 44, which is a high number, and to accommodate all of them we use 2 classrooms and bring ping pong tables into the lobby. With the addition of a 5<sup>th</sup> person the case load can be shared. Next year if we continue it will lower the numbers into the 30’s. Mr. Sylvia said that after meeting with the PE teachers they will incorporate mini lessons in the classroom and then rotate those kids back into the gym. This will meet the health and wellness expectations and alleviate the numbers.
- ❖ Update on Insight – Superintendent Legault told the Committee we are in discussion over the contract with Insight. They are an out of state company, which was recently sold and is now called Kelly, that didn’t encompass something and it is out of our hands. We are waiting for an update from our attorney’s and still hope to be able to utilize them for this year. Ms. Higgins asked what happens if there isn’t coverage for a class. Mr. Sylvia said that they request staff members and lead teachers to cover the class during their prep time.

### Reports & Discussions:

- ❖ Strategic Plan #1A Curriculum & 1#B Instruction, Jennifer McPartland & Deb Duprey. Mrs. McPartland said we are in a 6 year curriculum review cycle and are evaluating current materials. The health wealth and guidance standards are still not finalized and should be some time this year. Currently working on history, social studies, and foreign language pilots; the teachers are working on evaluations of the programs. They are asked to look at the usability and if it aligns to the standards. They will meet with pilot teachers and the teachers that will be using the programs next year. Next year is a huge year for ELA with a lot of moving parts that encompass every content area. We are getting samples of pilots to have in place for the fall. Mrs. Duprey shared there are district and school based UDL teams that meet and decide on focus areas. Mr. Gentile presented a rubric at the staff meeting and has asked they rate themselves again for growth in areas of focus. They are also looking at different resources to challenge different groups of students providing options for students to get information that is challenging. She is personally interested in feedback to students: what did you do a good job on? We want to take them to the next level with continuing improvement. Each UDL team has a different focus. At Central School they look at practice in small groups with upcoming lessons and applying practices. At Mitchell School it is about providing options and sustaining effort. The JRSRHS are looking at all of the practices and setting personal goals. Mrs. McPartland update them on MAP that was completed a couple of weeks ago; the information was sent out and well received. Student growth is a big discussion across the district and now is the perfect time to readjust practices. Starting tomorrow she will work individually with students and ask what their goal for growth is. Mrs. Duprey ended with saying there are lots of opportunities for PD. They have started a Book Club that has lots to do with UDL practices and enhanced discussions in the area. The staff earns PDP’s for participating and they have opened it up to other districts.

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