Minutes from the
Regular Meeting of the
East Bridgewater School Committee
on Thursday, May 23, 2019

A meeting of the East Bridgewater School Committee was held on Thursday, May 23, 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, Secretary Rob Rhuda, Trista Higgins, Theresa Maltz, Superintendent Elizabeth Legault, Assistant Superintendent Dr. Gina Williams, and Recording Clerk Joanne Benner. Mr. McKinnon and Mr. McLaughlin were not in attendance.

Motion to open at 7:03 PM: Maltz/Rhuda

Also in attendance: Peter Spagone, Jr., Russell Dupuis, Jr., Noreen Cahill, Marielle Hardiman, Lisa Varrasso, Erin Fisher

Guests:

❖ Mr. Peter Spagone, Jr. updated the School Committee on the Skylur J. Spagone Memorial Fund. The fund has been servicing the community for 20 years and is shutting it down but will continue to support other programs in town. He has been working with Heather Craven and feels it is time to stop and allow them to take over. Skylur continues to be in our thoughts and he thanks the community for helping him turn a tragedy into something positive.

❖ Lisa Varrasso, Little Vikings Russell Dupuis, Jr., Bridgewater Savings Bank; Noreen Cahill & Marielle Hardiman, South Shore Bank; Rose Marie Culp, The Happy Frog. Mrs. Varrasso thanked the banks for their continued support and generous donations that helps to supplement the program and allows students in need to attend. She thanked Rose Marie Culp for her part in bringing the catalogs to life and at a great price. Parents of grades 7 & 8 students have shown an interest in a program for their kids and it is something that is being looked into for next year.

❖ Time has been scheduled for Margaret Driscoll and Maria Robinson, 7th grade teachers to request approval from the School Committee to take an out-of-state trip with grade 7/8 student council students to Canobie Lake Park, Salem, New Hampshire on June 5, 2019. The purpose of the trip is a celebration for all of the hard work that was done throughout the year by the kids. They would leave from the school at 7:30 AM and depart the park at 3:00 PM for a 5:00 PM return. There will be between 50-60 kids and there are currently 5 chaperones; more will be added if needed. Total cost for the students is $35.00.

Motion: Maltz/Rhuda

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. No-one came forward.
**Superintendent’s Corner:**

- The board of READS Collaborative looked at the former Travelers building at the Middleboro rotary to lease. They have given the go ahead to Dr. Craig. The building is in great shape and the kids deserve a better facility than the current one they are in.

- She received a letter of intent to retire from Gerri Quigley effective July 3, 2019. The Superintendent has accepted it and wants to thank Gerri for all of her time and hard work.

- Letters of resignation were received from Maria Robinson, 7th grade English Teacher and Jenna Dailey, Biology Teacher effective June 30, 2019. They are taking jobs closer to where they live and she wishes them well.

- P.C.C. update- $2,100 in scholarships have been received for tuition assistance. This money will allow 3 students to attend the program that otherwise wouldn’t be able to. Superintendent Legault is very thankful to have received the donations.

- The Superintendent recently attended the Massachusetts Association of School Superintendent’s annual spring meeting. The Commissioner came and asked how and what they would like to change and she feels he genuinely listened to them.

- Last night was the first meeting of the Superintendent’s Advisory Board and 15 students attended. They discussed AP courses, senior privileges, and what they thought instruction should look like. There was one 9th grader, one 10th grader, twelve 11th graders and one 12th grade student. They talked about the principal search and felt it was a good idea to have student participation. The next meeting is June 5th at 5:30 PM in the library.

- We think the price of school lunches will be increased next year and are waiting to hear from the state. Additionally, we need to look into creating a reserve account because we cannot use revolving accounts to pay for debt and there is several thousand owed in unpaid lunch accounts. The Superintendent would like to recommend that all families fill out the free and reduced lunch form because some may qualify and might not have otherwise been aware they did.

**New Business:**

- Strategic Plan #4
  
  Erin Fisher – Technology, 2018-2019 wrap up. Mrs. Fisher has become a board member for both MassCue and EBCam and enjoys being on both. Tori Cameron received a $3000 grant from MassCue for the STEAM lab and it is an organization that is very supportive of educators. Recently she created and “Escape Room” to help students study for MCAS. Each room has a problem that needs to be solved and when it is you get to move to the next room until you unlock the last room and escape. She has a site called FISH Online to get new ideas out to staff and a blog Fishin on a Mission. Mrs. Fisher has been attending common planning times and professional learning communities at the schools. She will meet with each grade to close out google classroom, end of the year tech, and prep kids for next year. An addition made recently is Positive Sign Thursday. Many schools around the state participate in this program and on the last Thursday of school they are all going to post the same message.
Gina Williams reported on:

- Alternative Learning Days - Snow Bags, the PD Academy put together the proposal she shared with the Committee. If there is a snow day students will have the opportunity to participate in virtual learning opportunities that will count towards the 180 days of instruction. We would like to put it out in early fall so parents can have access to it. We will not debate that it compares to learning in school but we also know that staying late into June tends to be nonproductive. The major theme for next year would be social emotional learning and we feel it is a good time for the district to have this theme. We would submit a plan to the state for approval pending School Committee approval. It would be up to the Superintendent what days would be used as an alternative learning day. If a student doesn’t do the work they are considered absent; it will count as a work day for staff because they prepare and facilitate the work. The first year would be a pilot one. We would then survey parents, students, and teachers to determine if we should continue and what changes may be needed. The Committee likes the proposal and Dr. Williams will share this with the PD Academy and will return in early fall with a plan.

- Professional Development – EBJSHS late start, Dr. Williams said that time got away from them and feels they are not ready to do this for next year.

- Panorama Education – earlier in the year it was mentioned that they would like to participate in this program. It allows us to take all of the data we collect and house it in one place. District, building, grades, Dibels, MAPS, and Iready data will be together. We will be able to look at academic success, attendance, behavior, and social emotional health from a survey perspective. There are times we are meeting and need to pull information from all different places. The software color codes in thresholds that indicate if a student is on track, at risk, or in need of attention; trends will be shown with an upward or downward arrow. The first part will be a roll out plan then Jen McPartland and the IT team will be involved setting up what assessments we want in there. A survey for grades 3-11 is being developed pertaining to social and emotional wellness on how they feel about the school culture and climate as well as school relationships with students and teachers. An electronic link will be sent to every student’s Chromebook and their English teacher will facilitate them doing the survey. The platform has surveys for parents and teachers, too.

**Action Items:**

- Action is required on the School Committee Meeting minutes from the May 9, 2019. This was tabled due to not having a quorum; Mrs. Maltz was not in attendance at the meeting and two members are absent to night.

- Action is required on payroll warrant 49PS dated 5/15/2019.  
  Motion: Maltz/Rhuda  
  Vote: 4 in favor

- Action is required, after discussion, on approval process for one-time spending from revolving accounts. The Chair would like to table this until the rest of the Committee is available to vote. A motion to table was made by: Maltz/Rhuda  
  Vote: 4 in favor

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- Action is required, after discussion, on distribution of diplomas at graduation. A motion was made to table this until there is a full Committee.
  Motion: Maltz/Rhuda  Vote: 4 in favor

- Action is required, after discussion, on the request from a staff member to present her daughter with her diploma at graduation. Mr. Rhuda feels there are many ways a family can celebrate graduation but that there is real value in having the institution give out diplomas. Superintendent Legault said the two most important days in a student’s life are the first day of Kindergarten and graduation day. For thirteen years they stay with people, their teachers, for long periods of time that are not their mother and father. It is important to her to hold this to the highest degree.
  Motion to deny the request: Maltz/Rhuda  Vote: 4 in favor

- Action is required, after discussion, on the request from a graduating student to have Mrs. Marie Principe present her with her diploma at graduation. The student had a very strong case as to why she would like Mrs. Principe, her teacher, present her diploma.
  Motion: Maltz/Rhuda  Vote: 4 in favor

Motion to adjourn at 8:49: Maltz/Higgins  Vote: 4 in favor

Respectfully Submitted by,

Joanne M. Benner
School Committee Clerk