

**Minutes from the
Regular Meeting of the
East Bridgewater School Committee
on Tuesday, September 10, 2019**

A meeting of the East Bridgewater School Committee was held on Tuesday, September 10, 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 Gordon McKinnon, Secretary Rob Rhuda, Trista Higgins, Theresa Maltz, Tim McLaughlin, Superintendent Elizabeth Legault, Assistant Superintendent Dr. Gina Williams, School Business Administrator John Shea, and Recording Clerk Joanne Benner.

Motion to open a 7:01PM: Maltz/Rhuda

Vote: 6 in favor

Special Guests: Music Director Ray Ponte, Dan Hatchfield, and the Marching Band performed for the Committee showcasing their new uniforms.

Also in attendance: Principals, Byrne, Gentile and Sylvia, Director of Technology Andrew LaMacchia, and community members

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. Robin Aylward came forward unhappy she did not receive a response to her concerns regarding her sons Chromebook.

Superintendent Legault's Community Corner:

- ❖ The annual East Bridgewater Business Owners Expo will be Saturday, September 14, 2019 from 10:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M., on the East Bridgewater Commons.
- ❖ ClearGov update – our representative shared that we have had 3826 page views and 900 users of the site. It gives the community a snapshot of what we are doing and provides transparency.
- ❖ Superintendent Legault met with the new Town Administrator Brian Noble today; he has been invited to attend a meeting. He took a tour of the buildings and the next MSBA request will be for a new roof for Central School followed by the windows. Mr. Noble could see that the building needs updating. The Mitchell school looked great and he was shown the boiler system and told that they want to take the old boiler offline and hook the system to the other side for energy efficiency. It is in the early stage of talks to convert an old shop at the Mitchell School for the Before & After Care program. Dr. Williams said it will be easier for parents to go around the building for drop off and pick up eliminating them having to go through the building.
- ❖ FY20 Bus Routes update – there has been a lot of work done on the bus routes these past few weeks. We have asked the bus company to continue letting students on the bus without passes because we continue to get applications for Free & Reduced, along with Sharing Forms, and need to get kids on the bus.

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.

Last Friday she met with Lucini bus, John Shea, and Joanne Benner to go over the appeals. She shared the appeals sheets with the Committee so they could see what we are dealing with. There are some that we will not adjust because they are not a safety issue and she will be making calls tomorrow. We cannot provide door to door service or go into every cul de sac. The police chief has reviewed appeals for us to determine if the request was a safety issue. The only way we could do all of the requests would be to raise prices to add buses or aids on the buses; she does not believe the community would like that.

Reports & Discussions:

- ❖ Chromebooks – The IT Department has been working diligently to resolve all Chromebook issues. Mr. Shea feels that we didn't do enough last year to support the students and is changing that. We didn't have enough extra Chromebooks to keep up with the demand while devices are in for repair. As we move forward we are purchasing HP devices moving away from Lenovo. We only have two IT guys that have to support the entire district and they worked on firewall issues, desktop issues, needed to find a company that could work on our bell system, and a vendor that could work on the alarm system because all of these were installed by out of state companies or companies that no longer exist. There are 145 Chromebook loaners, all students need to use a school issued device for testing, there are 9 nonworking Chromebooks at this time, 52 need to be plugged in to work, and 120 having charging or screen issues. Mr. LaMacchia said that the Lenovo devices are not a good match for students and that is why we are moving to HP. A motion to purchase 50 new Chromebooks using the school choice account was made by: Pennington/McLaughlin
Discussion- Mr. McKinnon asked if the account can support this purchase and remain in good standing and Mr. Shea said yes.
Vote: 6 in favor
- ❖ Open Meeting Law – please do not reply to all or send emails to everyone on the Committee because it violates open meeting law. Send the email to the Chair or Superintendent.
- ❖ School Committee Operating Protocols – this is something we review each year. There have been no changes since last year. Chair Pennington reminded everyone that Superintendent Legault is the official spokesperson for them. It is being considered to have a workshop to go over Robert's Rules of Order.
- ❖ New DESE Superintendent Evaluation Model- This new model came out on 8/15 and Chair Pennington is wondering if a workshop should be held to familiarize the Committee with it. The Superintendent said it is easier to understand and examples are given with an easier to follow rubric. Mr. McKinnon supports the idea of a workshop with Dorothy Presser and should be part of the orientation process for new members. The Chair will check and see when Ms. Presser would be available to come out.
- ❖ The MOU has been signed with the EBEA and they are waiting to ratify the contract. Once they are ready she will brief the Committee immediately and call a meeting so the contract can be signed.
- ❖ The principals gave an update to the School Committee on opening of schools.
 - Central School Principal Mrs. Byrne – Brian Kiely came in and conducted an electrical audit so they can hook up the newly purchased AC units. The money to purchase them came from the PTO. A room by room check was done and power strips and luxury items were removed. The Fire Chief and electrical inspector participated and were very helpful. We had a wonderful open

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.

house with many in attendance. Mrs. Byrne thanked the administrative assistants for all the behind the scenes work they do over the summer along with the exceptional custodial work getting the building ready. The boiler project is well underway with an anticipated completion date of Columbus Day weekend. The annual 1st grade lunches are being held this week and next. Summer reading was a success with the theme being responsibility.

- Mitchell School Principal Mr. Gentile – School opening was great and he was fortunate this year in only having to fill one position which is Mollie King a 6th grade teacher. Having consistent staff helps to address initiatives and creates a like-minded environment. He gives credit to his administrative assistants and custodial staff for all of the hard work put in to create a smooth opening. The teachers and staff are prepared, motivated, and exude positive energy. MAP testing is starting this week and he will meet with teachers to review the assessments. He received preliminary MCAS results and will carefully review them to see where our students are, look at the curriculum, and identify needs. They are piloting a new social studies program and material for grades 4-6. Last year SRO Connor's worked with 6th graders rolling out a wellness curriculum and he met with her at the end of last school year. This year the program will be more organized and more comprehensive with added instruction. The PTA is hosting a pizza picnic on Friday and next Wednesday will be the first PTA meeting of the year.
- JRSRHS Principal Mr. Sylvia – Mr. Sylvia praised the custodial staff, administrative assistants, and cafeteria workers. The teaching staff has adapted very well to the new block scheduling; it has been reported that the blocks pass quicker than anticipated. They held an ice cream social for the seniors on their last first day of school. Class meeting were held last week to go over basic school rules regarding cell phones and headwear. He has spent time focusing on speaking with new staff to help with their needs. The Viking Block is an incredible addition allowing things to get done without taking away from academic time. Next week MAP testing will begin for 7-9th grade during the Viking Block. On 9/19 the Boston Red Sox is hosting a STEM education day presented by NASA and we have about 40 kids attending followed by a complimentary game. On 9/26 the junior class will be visiting colleges and Homecoming week starts on 9/30. The Homecoming Dance has the potential to be more of a semi-formal. On 10/4 progress reports will be uploaded and 10/9 is picture day. There were a couple of obstacles with the new schedule. Lots of students didn't have a complete schedule because they exhausted courses and needed to create more. Mr. Sylvia decided to collapse classes that had less than 12 students in them. He then utilized staff members to create a second section of something they were already teaching. He made this decision based on what they had and not to harm any student but to utilize resources. They are looking at dual enrollment and to see if there is online enrollment we can offer students. Our goal is to correct this now and not to have it happen in the future.

Action Items:

- ❖ Action is required on the School Committee Meeting minutes from the August 26, 2019.
Motion: McKinnon/Rhuda Vote: 5 in favor, McLaughlin abstained
- ❖ Action is required, after review, to approve accounts payable warrants 9SV dated 8/28/19 and 11SV dated 9/11/19.
Motion: Maltz/McLaughlin Vote: 6 in favor

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.

- ❖ Action is required on payroll warrant 10PS dated 9/3/2019.
Motion: Maltz/McKinnon Vote: 6 in favor

- ❖ Action is required by the School Committee to approve the sale of surplus desks and chairs from the Gordon W. Mitchell School. Mr. Shea said there are desks and chairs in the Mitchell School that have been there for years and we need permission to surplus them. There is a process by which it is done and he feels there needs to be a policy in place. He will put together a policy with the 30B regulations for the next policy meeting.
Motion: tabled until after policy meeting

- ❖ Action is required to accept the School Committee Operating Protocols.
Motion: Maltz/Higgins Vote: 6 in favor

- Motion to close at 9:16 PM: McLaughlin/Rhuda Vote: 6 in favor

Respectfully Submitted by,

Joanne M. Benner
School Committee Clerk

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.