

**Minutes from the  
Regular Meeting of the  
East Bridgewater School Committee  
on Tuesday, September 24, 2019**

A meeting of the East Bridgewater School Committee was held on Tuesday, September 24, 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, Trista Higgins, Theresa Maltz, Tim McLaughlin, Superintendent Elizabeth Legault, Assistant Superintendent Dr. Gina Williams, School Business Administrator John Shea, and Recording Clerk Joanne Benner. Mr. McKinnon and Mr. Rhuda were not in attendance.

Motion to open a 7:02 PM: Maltz/Higgins

Vote: 4 in favor

**Guest:**

- ❖ Lisa Varrasso, K-12 Student Activities Director, would like to present to the School Committee the opportunity to have all the students in the district fingerprinted free of cost by NY Life. Mrs. Varrasso had the opportunity to meet someone that works for NY Life and as a result asked if they could do fingerprinting of the students in East Bridgewater. They will do this at no cost to the district and it is an added measure of security for the students. She is willing to work alongside and stand in as the adult if a parent cannot be available when a group is being done. The time frame she is proposing would fall between 10/12-10/25/19 with both day and evening availability. The time frames are in discussion. Chair Pennington made a motion, with parents' permission, to move forward with this event.

Vote: 4 in favor

Also in attendance: Jay Power, Riley Costello for Student Senate, Athletic Director Patrick Leonard

**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. None came forward.

**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. Riley Costello reported that the school year is running pretty smoothly and that the students have adjusted well to the new schedule. The focus is on Homecoming which will begin next week. They have planned the spirit days: a pajama day, sports day, pink day for breast cancer awareness, tie dye day, and ending with blue and gold day. They are very excited because rehearsals have begun for a boy's powder puff cheer leading team. A bonfire is scheduled for Tuesday and that will depend on if the EEE curfew is lifted or not. Superintendent Legault said two consecutive days of 32 degrees is required for a frost which will kill off the mosquitoes; she doesn't believe that will happen. She spoke with the A.D. today and he feels the night before the Thanksgiving game would be a good substitute. Mr. Sylvia has been at a training the last two days and he will discuss it with him when he returns. Riley thinks that would be a good alternative. If the powder puff game can't be held outdoors they are going to hold an indoor volleyball

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game. Hallway decorating will begin on Thursday and the theme is Disney movies. The Homecoming dance will be on Saturday; it will be a semi-formal Fall Ball.

### **Superintendent Legault's Community Corner:**

- ❖ FY20 bus transportation update – the appeals have begun to slow down and at this time there are 3 that are still under review. John and Joanne have done a tremendous job working with Lucini Bus. The administrative assistants at all schools have done a great job as well. There are 170 families that qualify for busing due to eligibility for free or reduced meals; all families are asked to fill out a Sharing Form so food service can legally notify the transportation department of their status. The fee structure of \$125 for the first child, \$65 for the second child, and \$35 for the third, with a family cap of \$225 has not increased in five years. We are pro-family and we cannot keep the fees this low if people expect door to door service which we cannot afford as a district. We know many places in town are without sidewalks and that doesn't impact routing unless it is deemed unsafe by the police department. The due date for payment was 4/30/19 and 148 students signed up after that date making it very difficult to properly assign them to buses which in turn created more appeals. Bus routes are created before the start of the school year and we cannot continue to work this way. Mr. McLaughlin suggested changing the fee structure for those that pay after the due date in the hopes it would get them to do so sooner. Mrs. Benner said it was done in the past and the Committee felt that was good to know and will consider it. An online appeals form opened when the routes were posted with a cutoff date of August 4<sup>th</sup>; there were 26 appeals submitted after the deadline. It was asked the Mr. Shea do an audit on when people paid and signed up for free or reduced and come back with that information in January.
- ❖ FY20 Fall Coach Appointments. List available upon request
- ❖ FY20 Advisor Appointments. List available upon request.
- ❖ FY20 School Committee strategic plan and business meeting calendar. A calendar of dates for when a business meeting will be held and a curriculum meeting held was given to the Committee. These are subject to change in the event of unforeseen circumstances. Chair Pennington pointed out that the October 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting is being changed to a workshop to review the new superintendent evaluation with Dorothy Presser. They will also need to discuss the MASC resolutions, please review pages 26-30, so at that meeting Mr. McKinnon can vote based on the Committee's recommendations.
- ❖ FY20 Homecoming Bonfire, Tuesday, October 1st @ 6:00 PM, depends on if curfew is lifted. See above student senate report.
- ❖ Last night Superintendent Legault, Chair Pennington, and Committee member Ms. Higgins met with Representative Michelle Dubois to discuss the new chapter 70 formula. Two weeks ago Senator Timilty did it in Stoughton. It is the new formula and promise act for students. Superintendent Legault is hearing that it will pass but as we get closer lobbyist are coming after some of the funding.

### **Reports & Discussions:**

- ❖ Legislator tour of school buildings – Chair Pennington facilitated a tour of the school buildings with Senator Timilty, Representative Michelle Dubois, Representative Allison Sullivan, and a representative for Mr. Brady attended. Chair Pennington apologized to the Committee for not extending an invitation to them.

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Motion to close at 8:19 PM: Maltz/McLaughlin

Vote: 4in favor

Respectfully Submitted by,

Joanne M. Benner  
School Committee Clerk

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