Minutes from the
Regular Meeting of the
East Bridgewater School Committee
on Thursday, May 9, 2019

A meeting of the East Bridgewater School Committee was held on Thursday, May 9, 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, Tim McLaughlin, Superintendent Elizabeth Legault, Assistant Superintendent Dr. Gina Williams, School Business Administrator John Shea, and Recording Clerk Joanne Benner. Mrs. Maltz was not in attendance.

Motion to open at 7:02 PM: McKinnon/Higgins

Also in attendance: Delaney Lyons, Jenifer Dias and Benjamin Healey- grade 8 Social Studies Teachers, Deborah Seele - East Bridgewater Jr/Sr High School Foreign Language Teacher, Jean Sarson and Megan Krugger - Science Teachers, Karyn Clifford, Director of Guidance.

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 at this time.

Guests:

❖ The School Committee congratulated Delaney Lyons for being chosen to attend the International Career Development Conference (ICDC). Delaney is the first East Bridgewater student to attend this competition and qualified based on superior performance at the district and state levels in her business event. Mrs. Jo-Ann O’Brien and Delaney attended the ICDC Conference April 27 -30, 2019 in Orlando, Florida. Thirteen students qualified to attend the state competition in Boston and from there five from each event are eligible to attend the ICDC competition. The DECCA members are proud of Delaney’s dedicated time and effort that qualified her for this competition. Delaney said this was her first year joining the club and she is very glad she did. They are hoping to increase membership in their chapter. She said that at the competition they are given a business problem or idea and have ten minutes to solve it and present it in front of a judge. Mrs. O’Brien feels that this club is not just for business students as it teaches life skills, too.

❖ Jenifer Dias and Benjamin Healey, grade 8 Social Studies Teachers, came to request approval from the School Committee to take an out-of-state trip with grade 8 students to Washington, DC, June 8-11, 2020. The Committee agreed that this would be a wonderful opportunity for the students and Superintendent Legault said she was happy to see someone pick up this trip again. The will visit Arlington, Capitol Hill, have an option to take a cruise on the Potomac River, and when they visit Philly do an evening walking tour. All meals, activities and fees, admissions, and night security guards are included in the cost. Online payment plans and budgeting options are available. A $99.00 deposit is required with the full cost being $775.00.

Motion: McKinnon/McLaughlin

Vote: 5 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.

Deborah Seele, East Bridgewater Jr/Sr High School Foreign Language Teacher, came to request approval from the School Committee to take an out-of-country trip with Foreign Language students to Spain and Italy during the April break in 2020. In Italy they will visit Rome and Florence from there it is a short plane flight to Madrid and then on to Barcelona on the high speed train. For this trip they would leave on a Thursday instead of a Saturday and she wanted them to be aware of that. Dr. Williams said there isn’t an objection to them leaving on a Thursday as this is learning from a distance. Mrs. Seele said she wants to keep the group total to 37-39 and it is intended as a perk for students to continue to take higher level language classes; the preference will be for juniors and seniors to go.

Motion: Rhuda/McLaughlin  
Vote: 5 in favor

Deborah Seele presented to the School Committee an overview of the trip to Paris, France. Mrs. Seele said that several times on the trip they were complimented on the behavior and maturity of the students that went; we can be proud of how good the kids are. The first day they visited Notre Dame and were saddened when they returned to their hotel and saw it was on fire. Riley Costello and Delaney Lyons felt being with teachers for that time and getting to know them on a human level meant a lot. They also forged stronger bonds with their friends and made some new ones. It is nice to travel and learn about other cultures and they would consider attending higher education abroad after this experience.

Jean Sarson and Megan Krugger Science Teachers presented to the School Committee an overview of the trip to Yosemite National Forest. The group flew into Las Vegas and made their way to Death Valley staying at an amazing hotel with a horse ranch. They took a 3 ½ mile hike from the top of the valley floor to 282 feet below sea level. It was a beautiful time of year to go the desert was in bloom, temperatures were in the 80’s and the climate was dry. The student to chaperone ratio was 1:7. They went to Alabama Hills, Mariposa Grove in Yosemite, did rock climbing, and saw lots of water falls. From there they went to Monterey Bay, the Santa Cruz Boardwalk and on to the Pacific Ocean. Their last day was in San Francisco where they visited Alcatraz, walked on the Golden Gate Bridge, and had dinner at Fisherman’s Wharf.

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. Delaney Lyons said it is the end of the year and things are wrapping up. The Jr. Prom went well, they are holding a yard sale this weekend on the Common, and the sophomores held a bake sale. All of the clubs are in the process of electing officers for the following year. Music will be holding their annual Pops Concert this weekend.

Correspondence:

The Committee received an invitation for Senior Honors and Awards Night and Celebration of Accomplishment for underclassmen. Mrs. Higgins said she can attend the Senior Honors on the 29th and Mrs. Pennington said she can attend the Celebration on June 11th.

Legends & Legacies of East Bridgewater Bench Dedication honoring Teresa Capachione and Susan Silva/EB Hope will be held on June 21st at the community center from 5:30-7:00 PM.

Pre Town Meeting Forum, Monday, May 20th at 6:30 PM. Mrs. Polese is going to post as a meeting as the entire Committee is welcome to attend. This meeting is to go over the warrant articles.
**Superintendent’s Corner:**

- A Future Teacher Signing Ceremony will be held on, Friday, May 10th at 9:30 AM in the Dr. Judith Riordan Performing Arts Center. All are welcome to attend. It is being held in conjunction with teacher appreciation week. Senator Timilty, Representatives Sullivan and Dubois are attending. The students that are signing invited a teacher that was influential to them and their decision to become a teacher.

- A coordinated effort between Mrs. Fisher and Mr. Savage’s journalism class was recently done to create a video, “What is Your Why”. This video asks teachers, staff, and administrators the question, “Why are they doing what they do.” It can be viewed on YouTube, the district website, [www.ebps.net](http://www.ebps.net), and the district Facebook page.

- Five years ago Brian McCann tweeted out a positive message to students on a Thursday and it has continued on. Mrs. Fisher learned of the initiative and has brought it to our district.

- Superintendent Legault invited the drama students to have lunch with her; they talked about and array of events that go on in school. She asked them if they felt like they had a voice in school and the majority answered not really and she asked if they want a voice to which the answer was yes. The Superintendent is planning to put together an advisory council for next year made up of students to give them a voice. Students want to be on interview committees when new faculty is being hired. One of the girls meeting recommended that an application be created and that you would need to fill it out to participate. We have an articulate group of students that want to and need to be heard; it is important the kids have a voice. She would also like for there to be a student member on the School Committee.

**New Business:**

- Discussion on Advanced Placement classes and class offerings. Mrs. Clifford, Director of Guidance put together a packet for the Committee. The first page is a snapshot of East Bridgewater AP testing; 228 exams were taken last year. To receive college credit a score of 4 or 5 needs to be obtained. The second page digs little deeper giving scores by category then subject. Page three has the same information comparing East Bridgewater scores to Massachusetts scores. The last page has an X next to each test we do not offer. Dr. Williams said next year’s curriculum review is around social studies and foreign language. Our biggest road block is not having foreign language below grade 9. To become competitive we need a better foundation and a plan in place to offer foreign language at lower levels. To do this we would need more staff. Over the summer we are going to do a five year personnel plan. In order for a teacher to teach AP courses they need to take courses and training specific to the content and participate in refreshers. Superintendent Legault said there has to be accountability in place. Prerequisites are set to get into an AP course and they aren’t being held to. It is all right to take a CP course and a student shouldn’t be set up for failure by being let into an AP course and not being ready for it.

- Discussion regarding M.G.L. C 30A, Sec. 21, Executive Session. Chair Pennington shared a document on the 10 reasons why they could/should have an executive session.

- Update on Day on the Hill – last Wednesday Mrs. Higgins and Mrs. Pennington met with our state legislatures to advocate for additional funding, discussed unfunded mandates, and requested more funding. Chair Pennington said she wants Medicaid reimbursement to come back to the school district and not go into the town’s general fund. Mrs. Higgins said MASC handed out packets of talking points to give the legislatures. A key take away for her was when the state auditor talked about the cost for transportation for...
6,800 children in foster care with 45% of them being on an IEP. DCF is supposed to request 50% reimbursement federally and they have not been submitting for this. This is the explanation for why they have not been refunding school districts.

**Action Items:**

- Action is required on the School Committee Meeting minutes from the April 25, 2019.  
  Motion: McKinnon/McLaughlin  
  Vote: 5 in favor

- Action is required, after review, to approve accounts payable warrant 46V dated 5/8/19.  
  Motion: McKinnon/Higgins  
  Vote: 4 in favor, Pennington abstained

- Action is required on payroll warrant 45PS dated 5/1/2019.  
  Motion: McKinnon/McLaughlin  
  Vote: 5 in favor

- Action is required by the School Committee to identify George T. Wilkinson Inc.’s general contractor bid as the lowest responsible and eligible bidder and is therefore awarded the contract for MSBA Project #201700830005 Central Elementary School Boiler Replacement Project for the contract price of $759,619.  
  Motion: Rhuda/McLaughlin  
  Vote: 5 in favor

- Action is required, after discussion, to change the day that school committee meetings are held from every 2nd and 4th Thursday to every 2nd and 4th Tuesday for the FY2020 school year. Many school activities occur towards the end of the week and administration and Committee members can’t attend as a result. There is a draft of meeting dates for Tuesdays/Thursdays attached. Chair Pennington amended it to read keeping the first meeting in August to a Thursday.  
  Motion: McKinnon/Rhuda  
  Vote: 5 in favor

- Action is required, after discussion, to approve the East Bridgewater Music Parents Association’s request to sell old marching band uniforms for $40 each as a fundraiser to support a new scholarship program that was started this year. Mr. McKinnon asked to know how many are sold and what revenue they took in.  
  Motion: McKinnon/McLaughlin  
  Vote: 5 in favor

- Action is required by the School Committee to approve the request of George McCabe, former School Committee member, to present his granddaughter, Megan Ghelfi, her diploma at the graduation ceremony on June 2, 2019.  
  Motion: Higgins/McKinnon  
  Vote: 5 in favor

- Action is required, after discussion, moving forward the School Committee will only allow former School Committee members the ability to present a family member with their diploma. The Committee feels some guidelines need to be developed to move forward with this and have tabled action until the next meeting.  
  Motion: Pennington/McKinnon

- Action is required by the school committee on the request of Tara Noyes, Assistant Principal, to approve Ray Pontes' request 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 Lexington, MA on Friday, May 31, 2019.  
  Motion: Higgins/McKinnon  
  Vote: 5 in favor
Chair Pennington requested a moment of silence for Loretta Ring who passed away recently. Mrs. Ring was an educator for 33 years, a counselor in Avon and East Bridgewater. After retiring she spent 12 years on the School Committee and 9 years on the Conservation Commission.

Motion to adjourn at 9:39: McLaughlin/McKinnon  

Vote: 5 in favor

Respectfully Submitted by,

Joanne M. Benner  
School Committee Clerk