East Bridgewater School Community Mission Statement
The East Bridgewater Public Schools provides a comprehensive curriculum that prepares students to be critical thinkers, problem solvers, and effective communicators ready to assume their positions as responsible productive citizens.

School Committee Minutes

Minutes of the Regular Meeting
of the East Bridgewater School Committee
on Thursday, February 12, 2015

A regular meeting of the East Bridgewater School Committee was held on Thursday, January 29, 2015 at 6:30 PM at the Anne Kenneally Hynes Library in the East Bridgewater Jr/Sr High School. A motion to adjourn to Executive Session was made by McKinnon/Kitchenham. In attendance were Chair George McCabe, Co-Chair Jennifer Kitchenham, Secretary Ellen Pennington, Keith Boyle, Gordon McKinnon, Superintendent Moretti, and Recording Clerk Joanne Benner. Heather Graham was not in attendance. Also in attendance were teacher Kathi Nickandros and community members.

Mr. McCabe opened the meeting at 7:38 PM with The Pledge of Allegiance.

REPORT OF THE STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL- none at this time

CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED- none at this time

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEES- Mrs. Kitchenham stated that the interviews with Mr. Littlefield and Ms. Legault went extremely well. Both of the candidates are very competent and either one could successfully serve our community. Reference calls were made on both candidates and an additional wealth of knowledge on them was obtained.

Co-Chair Jennifer Kitchenham would like to make a motion to vote on a new Superintendent. A roll call vote was taken.

Motion: Kitchenham/Boyle  Vote: 5 in favor

Gordon McKinnon - Ms. Legault
Ellen Pennington – Ms. Legault
Jennifer Kitchenham – Ms. Legault
Keith Boyle – Ms. Legault
George McCabe- Ms. Legault

Ms. Legault’s appointment will be made pending successful contract negotiations.

Jennifer Kitchenham has made a motion to enter into contract negotiations with Ms. Legault.

Motion: Kitchenham/Boyle  Vote: 5 in favor
OLD BUSINESS

- Action is required on the minutes from the School Committee meeting held on January 29, 2015. Minutes presented.
  Motion: Kitchenham/Boyle  Vote: 5 in favor

- Action is required on accounts payable warrant 34V dated 2/18/15. Warrant presented.
  Motion: Pennington/Boyle  Vote: 5 in favor

- Action is required on payroll warrant 34P dated 2/18/15. Warrant presented.
  Motion: Kitchenham/Pennington  Vote: 4 in favor, McCabe abstained

Mrs. Kitchenham left the meeting at 7:55 PM to call each candidate and apprise them of the vote.

- Second (2nd) Reading of the Proposed Changes to the School Committee Policy on Student Transportation Fees (File: EEAA) Mrs. Kitchenham shared that as a result of busing issues for the last few years there will be changes made to try and rectify them. The following recommendations are being proposed:
  - The fee for the first child will go from $250.00 to $300.00
  - Second child from $125.00 to $150.00
  - Subsequent children from $0 to $50.00
  - The family cap will go from $350.00 to $500.00

  All payments must be received prior to June 1st of the current school year. Any payments received after that date will be assessed a $50.00 administration fee.

- FY16 Transportation - Superintendent Moretti presented a packet on FY16 Transportation Options. The largest numbers of students transported attend the Middle School and this is where the majority of issues arise. There are 81 bust routes for both the morning and afternoon session at a cost of $993,330.00. The town has appropriated $800,000.00 leaving a balance of $133,330.00. If the district followed the state guidelines of transporting grades K-6 outside of the two mile limit and those available for free transportation the number of buses could be reduced to 9. It would be an estimated reduction of $428,000.00 resulting in an approximately $400,000.00 in savings.

- Second (2nd) reading of the proposed changes to School Committee Policy on Entrance Age, file: JEB (information) Children that are five years of age on or before September 1st are eligible to enter kindergarten. Children who will be six years of age on or before September 1st will be eligible to enter first grade. Both of these will be changed to read: eligible on or before August 31st.

- FY15 Budget Update – The athletics projected deficit is $120,000.00 which will be offset by $70,000.00 in School Choice funds and a Legal Service transfer of $20,000.00. This will reduce the deficit to $30,000.00. The regular transportation deficit remains at $135,000.00. SPED will have a projected deficit of $170,000.00. If we are successful in getting the General Fund Transfer of $91,000.00 this will reduce the deficit to a projected $79,000.00. The Food Services

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Department has a projected revenue surplus of $25,000.00 as does the Extended Day Care Program. Mr. Moretti will be able to give another update around April 1st.

Mr. Margie, Finance Committee Member was under the impression that a revolving account had not been set up and that is why the transfer from the general fund to the tuition account has not occurred. Mr. Moretti explained the account was set up in June of 2014 and that they have a letter from Mr. Samia stating that once the account is established the transfer would happen; to date it hasn’t. Mr. Margie will look into this and report his findings back to the Committee.

NEW BUSINESS

- Action is required on the Mark Connor Memorial fields.
  Motion: Pennington/McKinnon  Vote: 4 in favor

- Food Service Status Report – As of January 30, 2015 the Food Services Department has a positive balance of $13,000.00 with all bills and invoices having been paid. Mr. McKinnon requested a more in depth report showing the income versus costs along with Federal funding, labor costs, and food costs.

- FY16 Budget- The FY16 budget, as presented, represents a 2.7 million increase over this fiscal year. This will be problematic as Mr. Samia has directed a 3% increase to departments. There is a lot of work to be done to reduce the projected increase; additionally Mr. Moretti has recognized that the district relies too heavily on revolving accounts to offset the operational budget. As a result he has chosen to move all costs that have relied on the collection of fees into the operational budget. The facilities budget has greatly increased in direct correlation to the new building. This building is highly technical and many operations are run by computer requiring outside services. The Pupil Personnel budget has increased by $600,000.00 as a result of students moving in requiring outside placement. A study was conducted to see if the Central School classes could be moved to the Middle School resulting in the closing of the Central School to reduce costs. The Middle School, even with the moving of the modular classes, cannot handle the number of classrooms needed. To address the staff, and parental concerns, of the learning centers at the Jr/Sr High School we would need to add an English, Science, Art and two Foreign Language teachers. This is not included in the budget numbers given. Between now and town meeting a lot of work will need to happen to align the budget closer to the 3% recommended.

- Possible Operational Override- Superintendent Moretti has watched the town struggle these past two years and in his opinion he does not see the issue going away. His recommendation would be for an override in the amount of $1,500,000.00. With this funding he would eliminate all fees, hire a full time Director of Educational Services, add teachers, increase the facilities budget and place the appropriate funding in the Out of District tuition budget. On a home valued at $300,000.00 this would increase the tax rate by approximately $325.00 per year.

- Action is required on the courses submitted by the EBEA Staff Council.
  Motion: Kitchenham/Boyle  Vote: 5 in favor
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Motion to adjourn at 8:58 PM by Kitchenham/Boyle 8:58      Vote: 5 in favor

Respectfully submitted by,

Joanne M. Benner
Recording Clerk