

Wednesday, February 15, 2017
Bridgewater-Raynham Regional School Committee Meeting
Bridgewater-Raynham Regional High School
415 Center Street
Bridgewater, Massachusetts
Lecture Hall
Regular Meeting 7:00 P.M.
Agenda

7:00 P.M.

I. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES— January 25, 2017

III. CORRESPONDENCE/RECOGNITION

- A. Nancy Kirk, WIS Principal
- B. TJ2
- C. BRRHS Track Coaches

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

V. EDUCATIONAL REPORTS

- A. Student Advisory Council Report
- B. Wellness Advisory Report-Mrs. Fahey

VI. ADMINISTRATIVE AND SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. MSBA Update-Mr. Swenson
- B. Special Education Parent Advisory Council Report-Mrs. Scleparis
- C. Budget Subcommittee Update- Dr. Prewandowski
- D. Policy Subcommittee Report-Mr. Dolan
- E. Personnel Update- Ms. Gormley

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Course Selection Booklet-Ms. Watson
- B. Proposal of 2017-2018 School Calendar(First Reading)-Mr. Powers
- C. School Choice for 2017-2018 School Year-Ms. Macedo
- D. Request to Incur Debt for the Purpose of the MASC Feasibility Study-Mr. Connolly
- E. Acceptance of Gifts- Mr. Swenson
 - *Ocean State Job Lot Books to GMES
 - * Gift Card Donation to Raynwater Players-\$500.00
 - *\$1,200. BSU Grant to Fund BMS MCAS Boost Program

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Bridgewater-Raynham Regional School Committee

Open Session Minutes
(M.G.L. c. 30A, § 22)

Date: January 25, 2017 Time: 7:30 PM

Location: Library of Raynham Middle School located at 420 Titicut Road, Raynham, MA.

The Meeting was called to order by Chairperson Riley at 7:30 PM

The following Committee Members were present:

Mr. Michael Dolan, Member
Mrs. Lorraine Levy, Member
Mr. L. Anthony Ghelfi, Member
Mrs. Julie Scleparis, Vice Chair
Ms. Patricia Riley, Chairperson
Dr. Susan Prewandowski, Member
Mr. Jason Hammond, Member

The following Committee Members were absent:

Mrs. Michelle Williams

Also in attendance: Mr. Derek Swenson, Superintendent; Mr. Ryan Powers, Assistant Superintendent; Ms. Kathleen Macedo, Director of Business Services; Ms. Angela Watson, BRRHS Principal; Student Advisory Council: Nicole Driscoll, Student Council Chair; Andy Rose, Senior; Katie Swart, Junior; Mrs. Judith MacDougall, Recording Secretary; Mr. Richard LaBrie; two cable persons; and members of the audience.

Minutes:

MOTION: TO APPROVE THE OPEN SESSION MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 21, 2016, SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING.

The motion was made by **DR. PREWANDOWSKI.**

The motion was seconded by **MRS. LEVY.**

7 members having voted in the affirmative

0 members having voted in the negative

0 members having abstained

The motion passed.

CORRESPONDENCE AND RECOGNITION

BRRHS Hall Monitors-Mr. Swenson

Principal Watson was invited to the podium to explain a newly introduced program at BRRHS to combat the long standing issue of students smoking in the bathrooms. Assistant Principal, Warnock's brainchild was introduced in October and since its inception, has curbed the problem of "on campus smoking" and increased safety by utilizing student volunteers as Hall Monitors. The students receive community service credits for their participation in the successful program. The ten students who will be presented with certificates for serving 15 or more hours to date are:

J. Chartier - 24 C. Odih - 22 T. Pascarelli - 16 L. rego 15 C. Santos-Silva - 22
C. Sullivan - 24 N. Colocousis - 24 B DeAndrade - 25 K. Labollita - 19 K. McGonagle - 20

Mr. Swenson thanked the high school volunteers who have performed Hall Monitoring duties for BRRHS this year.

Senior Student, John Sweeney-

Senior student, John Swency, has been nominated for recognition by the Jewish War Veterans of the United States. The outstanding recognition is awarded to a senior who has exhibited community citizenship, respect for all, despite race, or creed. The student's scholastic and school attendance record are also considered. Ms. Watson expressed how proud she is of John's accomplishments.

EDUCATIONAL REPORTS

Student Advisory Council Report

The Student Advisory members Nicole Discoll, Katie Swart, and Andy Rose delivered the following monthly presentation:

Senior Class Update:

Mr. Hoy, Mrs. Kelliher, and the Class of 2017 Officers have been working tirelessly through various fundraising efforts to reduce the cost of senior events for students. This month the senior prom price has been set to \$45 per student, following the precedent of past classes. The selling of Red Nation, We Are B-R, and senior class t-shirts have been helpful, as well as the revenue produced from a successful, revived Powderpuff Football Tournament in November.

At a senior assembly hosted on Tuesday, January 10th at the high school, senior students received information to order their cap & gowns for graduation and the parent volunteer/donation sheet to support the Senior Lock-In Committee in their fundraising efforts and gathering volunteers to help execute a successful event.

The list of important dates for seniors has also been posted to the school website under the student tab. We look forward to a great senior year filled with memorable events.

TF Update:

On January 7th, the TF team received the new game for the 2017 FIRST Robotics Season entitled "First Steamworks," as this year's competition has teams pay tribute to an era where technology relied on steam power in order to prepare their airships for the ultimate long distance race. The team now has 5 weeks left to complete their robot, as it must be done by February 21st!

The team would also like to extend a large thank you to Mr. Woodie Flowers from Westwood, Ma. who is a retired MIT Professor and founding game design engineer. Mr. Flowers donated 150 antique items to the team so that they could auction them off to raise money for their competition season. All together the team was able to raise nearly \$5,000, which will help pay for one of their competitions! Thank for Mr. Flowers for your generous donation and continued support of TF!

Forensic Debate Team:

The Forensic Debate Team performed admirably at their debates on 1/4 at West Bridgewater and 1/11 at Silver Lake. They continue to research and prepare their plan in response to the resolve: "The United States Federal government should substantially increase its economic/diplomatic engagements with the People's Republic of China." They look forward to their upcoming debate at Hingham on 2/1 and are proud to again be hosting the League Finals at B-R on 2/15 (snow date 3/1).

NHS:

NHS donated over \$500 worth of toys to the Brockton boys and girls club before Christmas. NHS is also running a fundraiser where they collect coats, blankets, gloves, and other warm items. Those who donate will be rewarded with a cup of hot cocoa in the morning.

Math Team:

The BRRH Math Team has done an outstanding job this season. After a tough first meet where they finished in 3rd place, they have rallied back and WON the second AND third meets, which places them in a current tie for first place in their division. It will all come down to the final math meet on February 2 to decide the division champions. This year's team is comprised of 12 very hard-working students (Rachel Rego, Pat Morrison, Lexi Ferrini, Brianna Costa, Curtis Belanger, David Simon, Yen Chen, Brodie Byrne, Dan Enriquez, John Aronoff, Angela Demaral and EJ McCabe), who have done an excellent job representing our school.

Hockey Team:

After losing the first game of the season to the reigning D1 state championship team, a strong BR hockey season emerged with big wins against Medway, Brantree, and a tie to Duxbury won in OT to win the Island Creek Oyster Cup. After a bump in the road losing to Kaverian and a few other skilled teams, BR hockey was able to pull off a victory against Barnstable making our team 1-0 in league play. Currently with a record of 3-5-1 they look to get back on track with the second half of the season.

Basketball:

The Bridgewater-Raynham basketball team is currently 9-2 and 2-0 in league play. Their chemistry is great this year and everyone is playing strong team basketball.

Best of luck with the rest of the seasons, boys!

Cheerleading National Competition:

We want to wish the Bridgewater-Raynham Varsity Cheerleading Squad a huge congratulations for receiving third place at Nationals this year. The team traveled to Dallas, Texas this past weekend, where they finished in first place during the preliminary round and third place in their overall competition. It was a close competition with the first place team only beating the girls by .4 points and the second place team by .01 points! Great job ladies representing B-R and on your huge accomplishment of scoring third overall in the nation!

Agenda Item Change

Ms. Riley opened the floor for a motion to move the Transportation Bid to the next order of business.

MOTION: TO MOVE ITEM B, UNDER NEW BUSINESS, THE TRANSPORTATION BID FORWARD ON THE AGENDA.

The motion was made by MR. DOLAN.

The motion was seconded by MR. GHELFI.

The Chair called for a vote of the members.

7 members having voted in the affirmative

0 members having voted in the negative

0 members having abstained

The motion passed.

Transportation Bid

Bridgewater-Raynham Regional School District's Transportation contract with Lucini Bus Lines will end in June of 2017. The District followed procurement laws to create and advertise "Bid Specifications" to obtain a new Transportation contract with the most responsible bidder before the end of the present contract. The rationale of securing company before the end of the contract is to ensure that the District has dealt with any issues or concerns with the perspective bids, and provide the responsible bidder they time to transition before the release of the 2017-2018 bus assignments.

Ms. Macedo, Director of Business Services and Mr. Rich LaBrie, the Transportation consultant hired by the District to assist with the new Transportation Bid and contract, outlined the bid specification Mr. LaBrie possesses many years of experience in transportation. He worked closely with Ms. Macedo, Mr. Swenson, Mrs. Levy, and Mr. Dolan to ensure that the "bid specs" were written to reflect very clear and specific requirements.

Mr. LaBrie applauded Mr. Dolan and Mrs. Levy for the "inordinate amount of time spent reviewing the bid specs and looking out for the best interest of the District." Mr. LaBrie said that the final product reflects the hard work of both the School Committee members and staff. The District marketed the "BID" aggressively. Nineteen perspective companies were contacted, and five companies attended the "Bidders Meeting." Two companies bid on the contract. One was a van company that bids on the part of the Special Education contract and the other company bid on the entire package. The second company is the District's incumbent contractor, Lucini Bus Lines. Mr. LaBrie clarified that all of Special Education was bid as one package, as a single vendor. Likewise, for the larger buses. An alternative two option allowed for a single vendor to bid on both packages. Alternative two was created with the hope that an "economy of scale" would bring the price of the contract bid down by the one vendor bidding on both packages. Lucini Bus Lines was the lowest responsive and responsible bidder. Mr. LaBrie explained that this means that Lucini has the means to provide all aspects of the contract and that the company met all the requirements of the bid specifications. Several of the companies that chose not to bid were contacted and offered reasons for not

providing a bid on the contract. Two did not bid due to their comfort level hiring union drivers, one company stated the short profit margin, one the initial investment, and the last had recently garnered a contract with Barnstable Public Schools and did not have the resources to handle two such large contracts as a "startup" in the same year. Under Alternative Two, Lucini came in \$340,000 less than packaging out Alternative One. The contract price increase is 3.64 percent over the last contract. The consultant noted that statewide districts are seeing the rising cost of transportation as fewer transportation companies exist. Mr. LaBrie recommended the contract be awarded to Lucini of Bridgewater as a five year contract with a first year cost of \$4,355,180, exclusive of performance bond costs as it is optional.

Mr. LaBrie offered to answer questions.

Before opening the floor to questions, Ms. Riley asked Ms. Macedo if she mirrored Mr. LaBrie's recommendation.

Ms. Macedo answered in the affirmative.

Mr. Swenson was asked for his recommendation. He began his reply with a thank you to Ms. Macedo, Mr. LaBrie, Mrs. Levy and Mr. Dolan. The Superintendent expounded on the enforcement of the language within the contract and that the District's expectations have been articulated to the vendor. He finished by stating, "As Superintendent, I assure the School Committee and the community that the Bid Specs will be enforced by myself and Ms. Macedo and if they are not they will be reflected in the evaluation." Mr. Swenson then gave his recommendation to award the contract to Lucini Bus Lines.

Ms. Riley requested a motion be put to the floor.

MOTION: TO AWARD THE TRANSPORTATION BID TO LUCINI BUS LINES.

The motion was made by **MR. GHELFI**,
The motion was seconded by **DR. PRZWANDOWSKI**.

With a motion on the floor discussion ensued:

Mrs. Levy was granted the floor and presented the following statement:

"On behalf of the Transportation Subcommittee there are a few things that I would like to share so that we may have this on record as the School Committee meeting on January 25, 2017.

The specifications of the Transportation Contract are very clear on certain things that are outlined and I just wanted to read a few of them so that the public and everyone in attendance could understand some of these particular specifications.

*Mrs. Levy told Ms. Macedo that if she felt she should confirm any point, then please do so.

In Section Two under general information specifications outline that an experienced bus transportation manager will be assigned to the District and must be available to the District from 6:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. every school day. It is important that customer service is held at a high standard especially with a district of this size, with the number of students being transported.

In Section Six under Operational Information, the specifications outline that the contractor is required to conduct dry runs of all bus routes prior to the start of the school year in sufficient time to make driver changes so that improvements are made prior to the start of the school year. With this being said, even though we as a society rely on technology to assist us in driving routes nothing compares to an experienced bus driver and their knowledge of a bus route inside and out. These bus routes, should start before the school year and should obviously maximize right side pickups. Continuing in Section Six, in regarding right side pickups the specifications read: All students loading shall be right side in order to minimize students crossing streets to the maximum extent possible. Again, bus driver input to the manager is imperative in his directive. In addition, the section states that routes must be reviewed and approved by local police school resource officers prior to the start of the school year and be conducted annually during the term of the transportation contract. Lastly, with Section Six, as well, it states that the Director of Business Services or designee in charge of transportation shall have the sole authority to make or approve such changes deemed necessary in adjusting the number of buses, vans, assignments of students, groups or routes, times and dates, of any matter affecting the specific individual needs of students. These directives just stated

will assure the layout of the bus routes are practical and safe so that the District parents and students can be assured that the system will work efficiently."

Mr. Dolan presented one other specification as follows:

"The contract award recipient has to now have a recorded phone line at their office so that we(School Committee) can listen to those phone calls, if need be, and I think that is something worth noting".

Mrs. Scleparis asked if a five year contract is typical and what are the benefits. Mr. LaBrie answered the question by stating that it is typical for the contracts he writes. Under Massachusetts General Law 30B you may award a contract for a maximum of five years. Utilizing the five year rule, the bidders are able to amortize their equipment, thereby spreading their capital costs and lowering the per day, per bus cost so it is more cost effective.

Mrs. Scleparis noted that Mr. LaBrie mentioned that it was commonplace to receive one bidder. She asked if it was usual that the one bidder is the current vendor as in the case of the BRRSD contract.

Mr. LaBrie said that is in fact the case with the exception of one school district which did not receive a bid from their present provider.

The Budget Subcommittee met on January 18, 2017, and were provided a similar presentation. Dr. Prewandowski reported that, at its meeting, the Budget Subcommittee voted to recommend awarding the contract to Lucini Bus Lines.

The chair reiterated the motion on the floor and called for a vote of the members:

A member of the audience requested the opportunity to speak. The gentleman wished to express an opinion on Lucini Bus Lines. Ms. Riley and Mrs. Levy told him that Public Comment came later in the evening.

5 members having voted in the affirmative

0 members having voted in the negative

2 members having abstained

The motion passed by a 5-2 majority vote.

Ms. Riley thanked Mr. LaBrie for his services.

Big Day for PREK Report Card Rubric-

Mrs. Medeiros introduced Kathy Russo, Lead Teacher. Kathy drafted the changes to the rubric. The report card was updated to reflect the Big Day rubric. Over two professional development days, the Preschool staff worked on the report card to make the improvements. Ms. Russo outlined the various new formatting items on the report card and how they align with the Big Day Rubric.

ADMINISTRATIVE AND SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPORTS

Bridgewater Joint Town Council Meeting Report- Ms. Riley

Due to its charter a joint meeting of Bridgewater Town Council, Finance Committee and School Committee is held annually. This year it was held on January 24, 2017. Mr. Swenson, Mr. Dolan, Mrs. Scleparis, Dr. Prewandowski, and Ms. Riley attended the meeting. The Bridgewater Town Council provided a history of its finances and an update of their budget process. Ms. Riley expounded on the importance of working with Bridgewater as the School District moves forward with any repairs and/or rebuild of the Mitchell Elementary School.

MSBA Report

Mr. Swenson reported that Diane Sullivan of MSBA has kept in touch with him and that during a working meeting in November, she informed the attendees that the District would receive a letter by the end of December if they were not considered for MSBA project assistance. The Superintendent stated that the District did not receive that letter, but did receive a phone call last week acknowledging that Bridgewater-Raynham Regional School District is still in the pipeline for possible funding assistance. A final determination will be made on Wednesday, February 15, 2016. If BRRSD is chosen to participate in the program, there are four possible start dates, March 1st, April 1st, May 1st, or June 1st. Mr. Swenson said that the District would shoot for the March 1st date. During the nine month cycle, the District will work with MSBA representatives to review its programmatic needs and enrollment projections. The next step would include obtaining the approval of funding from the Town of Bridgewater to move forward with hiring of a project designer. The Superintendent brought the information to the Joint Town Council meeting on January 24th and to Mr. Dutton's attention for a possible addition to the Town Meeting agenda. Mr. Swenson will

report the outcome of the MSBA meeting at the February 15, 2017, School Committee meeting.

Budget Subcommittee Update

Dr. Prewandowski reported that the Budget Subcommittee met on January 18, 2017. The Subcommittee conducted a lengthy discussion of Mr. Swenson's FY18 Proposed Budget, a monthly substitute report that showed a decrease in substitute use across the district in excess of \$39,000. The Budget Subcommittee Chair had two voting items to recommend to the full School Committee.

MOTION: TO APPROVE THE HIRING OF A MAINTENANCE STAFF MEMBER WITH AN

ELECTRICAL LICENSE.

The previous electrical license was held by Mr. Baroncelli who recently retired. To outsource the electrical needs of the District would be quite costly.

The motion was made by **DR. PREWANDOWSKI**.

The motion was seconded by **MR. GHELFI**.

Discussion on the motion:

Mrs. Levy asked the length of the contract. Mr. Swenson said that it would be a Custodial Union position and would follow that contract.

The chair called for a vote of the members:
7 members having voted in the affirmative
0 members having voted in the negative
0 members having abstained
The motion passed.

MOTION: TO RAISE THE MINIMUM WAGE FROM \$10. TO \$11.

As a municipality, the District is not obligated by law to increase the wage. However, Dr. Prewandowski pointed out, that by raising the minimum wage the District would be competitive in the hiring of candidates for its BASE program.

The motion was made by **DR. PREWANDOWSKI**.
The motion was seconded by **MR. GHELFI**.

Discussion on the motion:

Mrs. Levy asked if the raise would be retroactive.

Ms. Macedo answered that it is not retroactive.

The chair called for a vote of the members:

6 members having voted in the affirmative

0 members having voted in the negative

1 members having abstained

The motion passed.

Mr. Dolan's wife is employed by the BASE Program. Therefore, he felt that he should abstain from the vote.

North River Collaborative

Dr. Prewandowski offered information on the annual and audit reports and gave the North River Collaborative FY18 Budget figure as \$16,850,582, which represents a 2.7 percent increase from last year. Presently, the Collaborative Board of Directors is run like a School Committee. Recently, members have discussed a restructuring of the Board of Directors. The interest is to replace the School Committee members with Superintendents. The Board would work similar to the READS Collaborative Board. Dr. Prewandowski will keep the School Committee members posted on the final decision.
Fiduciary responsibility and oversight pitfalls were briefly discussed.

Policy Subcommittee Report-

The Policy Subcommittee met on January 10, 2017. Mr. Dolan, Dr. Prewandowski, Mr. Ghelfi, and Mrs. Scleparis were

joined by Mr. Swenson, Ms. Keohan, and Mr. Fox. Policy sections A & F were the focus of the meeting, but Policy EEA was also addressed. Mr. Dolan brought the following recommendations to the full School Committee:

Policy EEA – Transportation Services for Students.

MOTION: TO REMOVE “Due to the close proximity of the Merrill and Laliberte elementary schools, the Merrill school will be used for said calculation for both schools”

The motion was made by **MR. DOLAN.**

The motion was seconded by **MRS. SCLEPARIS.**

7 members having voted in the affirmative

0 members having voted in the negative

0 members having abstained

The motion passed.

Policy AC – Harassment Policy

Motion to update: Section IV. INVESTIGATION BY REMOVING PERSONS NAMES AND REPLACING WITH TITLES TO READ AS:

The *Harassment Investigator's are:* Assistant Superintendent, 166 Mt. Prospect Street, Bridgewater, MA 02324 (508-279-2140) and Human Resource Manager, Office of the Superintendent, 166 Mt. Prospect Street, Bridgewater, MA 02324 (508-279-2140) appointed by the Committee to investigate charges of *harassment*. The *Harassment Investigator shall* be a person both employees and students feel comfortable approaching with such a charge

The motion was made by **MR. DOLAN.**

The motion was seconded by **MRS. SCLEPARIS.**

7 members having voted in the affirmative

0 members having voted in the negative

0 members having abstained

The motion passed.

Policy AD – Mission Statements

MOTION: TO MOVE POLICY AD FROM THE FIFTH POLICY IN THE SECTION TO THE FIRST BY CHANGING IT'S LETTERING TO AA.

The motion was made by **MR. DOLAN.**

The motion was seconded by **MRS. LEVY**

The Chair called for a vote of the members..

7 members having voted in the affirmative

0 members having voted in the negative

0 members having abstained

The motion passed.

Policy ADDA – CORI Requirements

Information only: The inaccurate cross reference in policy ADDA will be removed. No action required.

Policy ADF – Wellness Policy

MOTION: REMOVE THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT FROM THE POLICY “REVIEW AND REVISION OF THIS POLICY SHALL OCCUR BY THE SCHOOL HEALTH ADVISORY COUNCIL AND THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS OR DESIGNEE, AS NEEDED BUT NO LESS THAN EVERY TWO YEARS” AND REPLACE IT WITH “REVIEW AND REVISION OF THE PROCEDURES

SHALL OCCUR BY THE DISTRICT'S NURSE LEADER AND THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS OR DESIGNEE, AS NEEDED BUT NO LESS THAN EVERY TWO YEARS".

The motion was made by MR. DOLAN.
The motion was seconded by MR. CHELFI.

The Chair called for a vote of the members.
7 members having voted in the affirmative
0 members having voted in the negative
0 members having abstained
The motion passed.

Policy ADFE – Wellness Policy – Procedural Guidelines

MOTION: TO REMOVE ADFE FROM THE POLICY MANUAL ON THE GROUNDS THAT IT IS A PROCEDURAL STATEMENT AND NOT POLICY.

The motion was made by MR. DOLAN.
The motion was seconded by MRS. SCLEPARRIS.

The Chair called for a vote of the members.
7 members having voted in the affirmative
0 members having voted in the negative
0 members having abstained
The motion passed.

Review of Section F - to include KF and KF-R as Mr. Fox attended the meeting.

Policy KF – Use of Facilities

MOTION: TO ADD IF SANDING AND/OR SNOW REMOVAL IS REQUIRED WHEN A COMMUNITY GROUP IS SCHEDULED IN THE BUILDING ON A DAY WHEN SCHOOL ACTIVITIES ARE NOT SCHEDULED THE COST WILL BE BILLED TO THE GROUP USING THE FACILITY. SNOW MUST BE REMOVED WHEN ACCUMULATION REACHES AN AMOUNT WHERE REMOVAL IS DEEMED NECESSARY BY THE DIRECTOR OF FACILITIES OR THE SUPERINTENDENT.

The motion was made by MR. DOLAN.
The motion was seconded by MRS. LEVY.

Discussion on the motion:
Mrs. Levy asked that the update be added to the Building Use Permit.
The Chair called for a vote of the members.
7 members having voted in the affirmative
0 members having voted in the negative
0 members having abstained
The motion passed.

MOTION: TO MOVE POLICY KF TO SECTION F AND CHANGE IT'S LETTERING TO FG.

The motion was made by MR. DOLAN.
The motion was seconded by MRS. LEVY.
The Chair called for a vote of the members.
7 members having voted in the affirmative
0 members having voted in the negative

0 members having abstained

The motion passed.

Policy KF-R - Rules Governing Rental and Use of School Property

MOTION: TO ADD “NON-MEMBER TOWN GROUPS AND COMMERCIAL ORGANIZATIONS MUST PAY IN FULL UPON APPROVAL OF APPLICATION.” TO THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT.

Payment can be made online at www.bridge-rayn.org, or with a bank check or money order that shall be made out to the Bridgewater-Raynham Regional School District.

The motion was made by **MR. DOLAN**.

The motion was seconded by **MRS. SCLEPARIS**.

Discussion on the motion:

Mrs. Scleparis asked Mr. Dolan to clarify who would be considered a “non-member town group”. Mr. Dolan gave examples.

Mrs. Levy asked if the fee for building rentals was on the form. Ms. Riley answered in the affirmative.

The Chair called for a vote of the members.

7 members having voted in the affirmative

0 members having voted in the negative

0 members having abstained

The motion passed.

MOTION: TO MOVE POLICY KF-R TO SECTION F AND RENAME FG-R.

The motion was made by **MR. DOLAN**.

The motion was seconded by **MRS. LEVY**.

The Chair called for a vote of the members.

7 members having voted in the affirmative

0 members having voted in the negative

0 members having abstained

The motion passed.

Mr. Dolan finished his report by stating that **FF and FAE** were tabled until the next Policy meeting.

The Policy Subcommittee will meet on February 7, 2017, at 6:30 p.m., in the Superintendent’s Conference Room and will encompass Sections B and C along with Policies FAE and FF.

FY17 Quarterly Budget Update-

The School Committee members were provided a copy of the Budget Report Summary. The report covered the previous quarter. Ms. Macedo, Director of Business Services noted that changes have been nominal. A few items of note are the encumbrance for the upcoming audit, substitute accounts are in good shape with a sufficient balance, the budget freeze remains in place, the Transportation lines for Out of District placements are being watched. The overall budget is at a healthy balance. The heating line has been reduced due to the warmer winter conditions. The electricity line will cap over a million dollars this year. Ms. Macedo rounded out her report by saying that the budget was in good standing and that she will remain vigilant in her oversight.

Enrollment Data-

Ms. Keohan provided the School Committee the October 1 Seat Count for 2016. The Seat Count represents the number of students in each building, in each seat on October 1, 2016, as reported to the State of Massachusetts.

Mitchell Elementary - 1,010

Williams Intermediate- 792

Bridgewater Middle School -506

Merrill Elementary School - 324

LaLiberte Elementary School - 500

Raynham Middle School- 691
 Therapeutic Day Program- 11
 BRRHS -1480
 Itinerant (service only) - 15
 Excel Program - 32
 Out of District - 56
 Total Enrollment 5,417

Mr. Dolan asked if the number was more or less than last year. Ms. Keohan said that the numbers reflect an increase of 55 students.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

The School Committee had no unfinished business.

NEW BUSINESS

Approval of Fiscal Year 2018 Preliminary School Budget –

Mr. Swenson presented a total FY18 Preliminary School Budget of \$72,829,092. Highlights of the Superintendent's Budget include:

Budget Assumptions, Budget Cost Drivers, Cost Avoidance Measures, Special Education Out of District Trends, Districtwide Average Class Size, Personnel Requests, and Budget Lines. A complete copy of the presentation is available on the District's website at bridge-rayn.org/files/1814/8604/6155/Preliminary_FY18_Budget_-_Website_PDF.pdf

The purchase of Chromebooks and the necessary technology upgrades, including increased bandwidth is built into the budget proposal. The High School will pilot the Chromebook program if the funding is approved as part of the budget. As part of a personnel request, the Superintendent added three School Adjustment Counselors/Social Workers to address the increase in social emotional issues.

Upon completion of the presentation, a motion was put forth.

MOTION: TO ADOPT THE FISCAL YEAR 2018 PRELIMINARY SCHOOL BUDGET.

The motion was made by **MR. DOLAN**.

The motion was seconded by **MRS. LEVY**.

Discussion on the motion:

The School Committee members posed questions regarding the budget proposal.

Ms. Riley mentioned that it was pointed out by the Bridgewater Town Council that the School District takes the biggest bite out of the Town budget. The Chair acknowledged the fact stating that it was the duty of the School Committee to do its part in ensuring the best education for the students of Bridgewater and Raynham. Not to do so would be a disservice to the member communities.

Mrs. Sclerparis requested that a copy of the final line item budget be sent to the Bridgewater Town Council.

If the FY18 Preliminary Budget is adopted, it will be the "School Committee's Budget". The Budget Subcommittee will work closely with the administration to put forth a fiscally responsible final budget that supports the needs of the District. The final numbers will be submitted to the Towns of Bridgewater and Raynham for approval.

The Chair called for a vote of the members.

7 members having voted in the affirmative
0 members having voted in the negative
0 members having abstained

The FY18 Preliminary Budget was adopted by the School Committee.

Subcommittee Assignment-

Ms. Riley asked Mr. Ghelfi to replace her on the Negotiations Subcommittee. Negotiation sessions are about to begin between BRRSD and BREA. Mr. Ghelfi will be an invaluable asset and will bring his professional experience as both an educator and a School Committee member to the table.

The Chair requested a motion for the appointment.

MOTION: TO APPOINT MR. GHELFI TO THE NEGOTIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE.

The motion was made by MRS. SCLEPARIS.

The motion was seconded by MRS. LEVY.

The Chair called for a vote of the members.

7 members having voted in the affirmative

0 members having voted in the negative

0 members having abstained

The motion passed.

Long-Range Planning Committee

Ms. Riley suggested the creation of a Long-Range Planning Committee. The purpose of the committee is to address the concern surrounding the growth in both member towns and how the growth will impact our schools. The Committee will seek the assistance of local town administrators.

Ms. Riley appointed Mrs. Scleparis, Mr. Dolan, Mr. Ghelfi, and Ms. Riley to the Long-Range Planning Subcommittee.

The Chair requested a motion in support if the appointments.

MOTION: TO SUPPORT THE APPOINTMENT OF THE ABOVE NAMED MEMBERS TO THE LONG-RANGE PLANNING SUBCOMMITTEE.

The motion was made by MRS. LEVY.

The motion was seconded by MR. DOLAN.

The Chair called for a vote of the members.

7 members having voted in the affirmative

0 members having voted in the negative

0 members having abstained

The motion passed.

504 Manual Update Approval-

The 504 Manual is updated annually. Ms. Thomas & Mr. Tzovolos outlined the changes to the 2017 504 Manual. Mr. Swenson thanked the pair for their efforts.

MOTION: TO APPROVE THE 504 MANUAL UPDATES.

The motion was made by MRS. LEVY.

The motion was seconded by MR. DOLAN.

Discussion on the motion:

Dr. Prewandowski asked if the District was legally obligated to update the manual each year. Mrs. Thomas said that it was good practice to update annually. The Special Education Administrators consult with legal counsel for legal updates before making the changes.

The Chair called for a vote of the members.

7 members having voted in the affirmative

0 members having voted in the negative

0 members having abstained

The motion passed.

Declaration of GMS (RMS) Desk Surplus
Mr. Fox addressed the School Committee to seek a vote to approve a *declaration of surplus* for four desks located at Raynham Middle School.
MOTION: TO DECLARE THE FOUR DESKS AT RMS AS SURPLUS.

The motion was made by MRS. LEVY.
The motion was seconded by MR. DOLAN.

The chair called for a vote of the members:
7 members having voted in the affirmative
0 members having voted in the negative
0 members having abstained
The motion passed.

The Superintendent took a moment to commend the new Director of Facilities on the outstanding job he doing.

Acceptance of Gifts & Grants

Mr. Swenson requested the acceptance of the gifts and grants listed below:

GMSPA

* Chromebooks

* Chromebook Charging Stations

* Wiggle Chairs

* Seat Sacs

Friends of Williams

*Two Chromebook Carts

*Four Wiggle Cushions

BSU University and Community Partnership Grants

* \$4,175.00 for Elementary Field Trip to BSU's "FAC Production of Mary Poppins"

* \$5,000.00 to "T12 Robotics Team-Robot Build"

* \$2,370.00 for "Bridgewater Middle School Science Fair 2017"

MOTION: TO ACCEPT THE ABOVE MENTIONED GIFTS AND GRANTS AS OUTLINED BY MR. SWENSON.

The motion was made by MRS. LEVY.

The motion was seconded by MR. DOLAN.

The chair called for a vote of the members:

7 members having voted in the affirmative

0 members having voted in the negative

0 members having abstained

The motion passed.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mrs. Levy excused herself as a School Committee member and stepped to the podium to join Jennifer Mackin-Bruce for the "Public Comment" segment of the agenda.

Mrs. Mackin-Bruce and Mrs. Levy presented a check in the amount of \$2,000. The money represents the required parent fundraising contribution required to allow the Middle Sport Schools Program to continue. The two Co-Chairs of the Middle School Sports Committee will step down at the end of the school year, but hope that parents will continue to support the program. Mrs. Levy added her appreciation of Ms. Mackin-Bruce and the continuation of Middle School Sports.

Mr. Thomas Nixon addressed the School Committee to express his concern over the awarding of the Transportation Contract to Lucini Bus Lines. The community member described a legal issue involving a bus driver. The gentleman said that he felt obligated to inform the School Committee of the issue.
Ms. Riley directed the speaker to contact the Office of the Superintendent and advised him that the School

Committee could not respond to allegations at its meeting.

Mrs. Levy thanked the gentleman for his input and reiterated that he should contact Mr. Swenson.

Mrs. Christine Smith thanked the School Committee for their continued efforts in working with MSBA to come up with a long term plan for the Mitchell Elementary School. She spoke of the impact to students across the district and commended the staff for their dedication to the students. Mrs. Smith gave a reminder that the students are still displaced and that the situation is working because there are talented people making it work. Through staff changes and the increased enrollment the Mitchell works due to its leadership. The parent took a moment to thank Principal Letendre and Assistant Principal Martes. Their leadership is a shining example for dedication to the students and the families of the Mitchell Elementary School.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADJOURNMENT

The Chair entertained a motion to adjourn at 9:33 PM.

MOTION: TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 9:33 PM.

The motion was made by **MRS. LEVY**.

The motion was seconded by **MR. GHELFI**.

The chair called for a vote of the members:

7 members having voted in the affirmative

0 members having voted in the negative

0 members having abstained

So adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dr. Susan Prewandowski, Secretary Clerk

Minutes Approved On:

Judith A. MacDougall, Recording Secretary

Supporting Documents:

FY18 Preliminary Budget Presentation
504 Manual Updates
October 1 Enrollment Report
Quarterly Budget Report

MESPA Blog: Principals Supporting principals

January 28, 2017 January 28, 2017 by mespa2016

Peer Buddies: An Opportunity to Make a Difference

by Nancy Kirk, Principal of the M.G. Williams Intermediate School, Bridgewater, MA



Speech and Language Pathologists (SLP) assume many responsibilities within the school setting. Their duties include but are not limited to the evaluation and diagnosis of communication disorders, the evaluation and development of long and short term goals and determining and providing services for eligible students. These alone are very time consuming tasks especially when you consider the high caseload numbers many SLP's service.

The Williams Intermediate School houses 792 students in grade 4-6. Barbara, our SLP, has been working with us since 2012 and began her career in 2001. Every year we host a Holiday Read where district staff and community members come in and read to each classroom, just prior to the Holiday break. Each person is asked to begin by telling the students about their jobs and how they became interested in that line of work. Barbara did just that when she read to the 6th grade class she was assigned to in December of 2015.

After Barbara read her story, several students approached her about the work she did and asked if they could work with her and her students. Surprised by their interest, Barbara jumped at the opportunity and created the "Peer Buddies Program". Prior to the students working in the program there were several requirements. The students needed to be in good academic standing, have a good attendance record, no discipline referrals and each student was required to write a paper explaining a specific communication disorder, with the treatments, assistive technologies used and possible interventions that would be effective in the classroom. Barbara felt it was important for the students to have a basis of information in order to make a connection with the group of students she was working with.

Once the 6 students met the requirements, they were ready and excited to begin working with the students. With Barbara's assistance the students developed mini-lessons that included, interviews, games, book clubs, scavenger hunts and functional food activities. Once per 5 day cycle, during Academic Support Block, these students reported to Barbara and were assigned 1 or 2 students to work with. It is important to note that the 6 student volunteers were working with 6 students from a



sub-separate classroom, grades 4-6, with a wide range of disabilities. Barbara was able to model lessons and activities so that the volunteers had a better sense of how to conduct a “lesson”.

Peer Buddies has been a learning experience for everyone involved even for the students who passed by and saw their peers working with students from the sub-separate class. Barbara is an extraordinary SLP who has found many creative ways to work with students in the classroom as well

as in small groups and one on one. The 6 role model students were inspired by the work they did, were proud of themselves and had an appreciation for and clear understanding of the struggles students with disabilities face. They learned very quickly the importance of being there for others, especially when the others wanted and needed so much from them. The students in the sub-separate class loved meeting with their buddies and talked about them incessantly in school and at home.

Barbara has created a community of learners within our large school community. She has been able to inspire students on her caseload and several who are not. This was not a planned initiative but was a spur of the moment idea that took hold. We talk about teachable moments all the time in education and if each one of us is able to grab on to that moment and create something that is inclusive of all students and fosters an environment that is accepting and nurturing of all, we can really make a difference.



Nancy Kirk was the assistant principal of the Williams Middle School (5-8) in 2004 and became principal in 2007. In 2008 the district reorganized and Williams Middle School became the Williams Intermediate School (4-6) and at that time Nancy was appointed principal. Having been accustomed to middle school students, grade 4 was new territory. However, it was an easy transition. This continues to be a great experience for Nancy and she loves the current arrangement. Born and raised in Connecticut, Nancy moved to Massachusetts in 2001. During her time at the Williams Nancy has experienced 5 moves, with students located in 3 different buildings, due to

construction and grade reorganization. Those were hectic times but with an outstanding staff, great students and supportive parents they were able to settle in and become “A Caring, Cooperative and Respectful Community of Learners”.

Are you interested in sharing your ideas, insights and questions? If so, click [here](http://goo.gl/forms/ONyILRvIjp) (<http://goo.gl/forms/ONyILRvIjp>) to sign up for a post. Julie Vincentsen, Principal of [Ruggles Lane School](http://www.qrsd.org/our-schools/ruggles-lane-school/) (<http://www.qrsd.org/our-schools/ruggles-lane-school/>), will reach out with specifics. Are you interested but nervous because you’ve never blogged before and don’t know where to begin? Don’t worry – as long as you know how to use Microsoft Word you will be up to this challenge. We write for our communities all the time – this just changes your audience. You probably could even take a current newsletter you’ve written and repurpose it for your colleagues.

