



BRAINTREE SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Lisa Fiske Heger, Chairperson
Thomas Devin, Vice Chairperson
George Kokoros, Recording Secretary
Cyril Chafe
Kate Naughton
David Ringius
Joseph Sullivan, Mayor

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

Monday, September 26, 2016
Liberty Elementary School

MINUTES

School Committee Present: Cyril Chafe/Thomas Devin/Lisa Fiske Heger/Kate Naughton/
David Ringius/Mayor Joseph Sullivan

Administration: Superintendent of Schools – Dr. Frank Hackett
Business Manager – Mr. Ed Cronin

Student Representatives: Deirdre Burchill/Lily Connolly/Kathleen Kilmain/
Erin McGinn/Matthew Pugsley

Recorder: Mary Ann Cuddahy

I. CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Fiske Heger called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

II. ROUTINE MATTERS

A. Consideration of Approval of Minutes: Open Session August 15, 2016

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY: Upon a motion by Mr. Devin and seconded by Mr. Chafe to approve the minutes for the Open Session of August 15, 2016.

ROLL CALL: AYES – 6

Mr. Chafe/Mr. Devin/Ms. Fiske Heger/
Ms. Naughton/Mr. Ringius/Mayor Sullivan

Consideration of Approval of Minutes: Executive Session August 15, 2016

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY: Upon a motion by Mr. Devin and seconded by Mr. Ringius to approve the minutes for the Executive Session of August 15, 2016.

ROLL CALL: AYES – 6

Mr. Chafe/Mr. Devin/Ms. Fiske Heger/
Ms. Naughton/Mr. Ringius/Mayor Sullivan

B. Introduction/Welcome New Student Representatives: Each student representative introduced themselves and spoke of their interests.

Deirdre Burchill: Deirdre introduced herself as a 17 year old senior at Braintree High School. She is currently the Vice President of the student body, captain of the girls' varsity field hockey,

ice hockey and lacrosse. She has committed to play lacrosse at Assumption College, majoring in physical education. When not participating in sports she likes to paint, listen to music and hang out with her friends.

Katie Kilmain: Kathleen “Katie” introduced herself as a senior at Braintree High School. She has been on BHS’s golf team for the past 3 years and plans on playing this upcoming spring. She is very interested in history and becoming a guidance counselor. She is part of BHS’s SADD Club. She works at Michael’s Craft Store in Braintree. She plays soccer for a club team in Quincy, where she has played for the past five years. One of her favorite things to do is to meet new people. She enjoys new challenges and looks forward to being a part of the School Committee for the duration of her senior year.

Lilly Connolly: Lilly introduced herself as 17 years old and a senior at Braintree High School. She has been the head of construction in the BHS Theatre Guild for 3 years, a member of National Art Honor Society and has represented BHS at student government day at the State House. She plans on pursuing mechanical engineering with a concentration in either environmental or aerospace in college next year.

Erin McGinn: Erin introduced herself as a senior this year, and is a second year student representative on school committee. She participates in multiple activities at Braintree High School including Best Buddies, Newspaper, Field Hockey, and Softball. She will be going into nursing and hopefully then going to graduate school for speech therapy to work with stroke victims. She is excited to participate in a second year on school committee and to what this year has in store for her.

Matthew Pugsley: Matthew introduced himself as a senior. He is predominantly interested in U.S. History and spends his free time volunteering at the Braintree Historical Society and participating in National History Day, a competition project where you get to present your independent research. He went to the State competition two years in a row.

- C. **Introduction of Director of English & Reading, Rock Roberts** – Dr. Hackett introduced Rock Roberts, new Director of English and Reading, to the School Committee, replacing Rebecca Fredericks in that role. Mr. Roberts comes to Braintree from Marshfield High School.

Dr. Hackett discussed that on the agenda is an update regarding the already approved Italy/Switzerland trip. Dr. Hackett requested that this update be taken out of order since Mr. Roberts is already at the podium and have Mr. Roberts also provide an update. Mr. Roberts introduced himself to the committee, indicating his excitement to be part of the Braintree Schools. Mr. Roberts and Ms. Rodd presented the update. Currently 41 students are registered to attend, one student withdrew and the seat has been offered to the next on the waitlist. Chaperones have been secured for the trip, which include an administrator and teachers. There will be a total of 6 meetings (student and student parent meetings) held between now and the actual trip.

Ms. Fiske-Heger asked if the students would be fundraising. Ms. Rollo stated that they do not fundraise for these trips, have never fundraised in the past and do not have anything scheduled. Mayor Sullivan spoke of the great opportunity this trip offers the students in terms of a learning experience. Mayor Sullivan, due to the state of our world today, questioned the level of security taken for this trip. Ms. Rodd explained that as of now there

have not been any formal conversations with the trip company, EF, as to security at this point. Mayor Sullivan stated he is supportive and he asked that they be sensitive of the world today. Mr. Roberts explained that from past experience, EF will make adjustments to work with the groups should concerns arise. BHS Housemaster Ms. Moynihan stated that the first time BHS went to England was during the Boston Marathon Bombing. EF was very responsive, provided a safe area to meet as a group and provided phones so students and chaperones could call home. At that time, they were immediately connected with Jim Lee. EF is located all over the world, with local hubs wherever the group goes. Groups are never left without their tour guide. Last year there were discussions about the Paris situation, and the position that EF takes is that unless there is a state of emergency declared by the United States State Department, EF does not cancel the trip. It is up to the school district whether they go on the trip. There are certain cut off periods for refunds and parents can also purchase trip insurance for their student.

Mr. Roberts thanked the School Committee and expressed that he is happy to be in Braintree.

D. Presentation of the New BPS Logo, Director of Art & Design, Heidi Larson Hurley

Dr. Hackett introduced Heidi Hurley, Director of Art. Dr. Hackett explained that Ms. Hurley did a tremendous amount of work in designing the new logo and wanted to recognize her for her work and asked her to discuss the meaning behind its design. Ms. Hurley explained that it has been an ongoing process this past summer. The group working on the logo wanted it to be different, to stand out and to be something that made the Town of Braintree proud. The concept behind the tree, with all different colors, size and shapes of hands for leaves which represents the uniqueness and diversity of all of our students, staff and families. The three words in the motto come from our Mission Statement: Achieving, Creative and Inclusive, and the logo is in the Braintree blue. Ms. Hurley explained that the concept for the new logo changed many times with the many people involved. The concept and idea behind the new logo was to make it unique to Braintree. Dr. Hackett thanked Ms. Hurley for the work.

Commendations - Recognition of Boys Cross Country Track Team – (Taken Out of Order)

Dr. Hackett requested Coach Wiggin speak on behalf of the Boys' Cross Country team so that the team as a whole could be recognized. Ms. Wiggin explained that a week prior, the team had a home cross country race with Dedham and Wellesley. Dedham had one runner with autism runner, and runner with Down syndrome, who both ran in the JV race. A number of Braintree boys noticed that about 7-10 minutes after they finished their race, the two special needs boys were running with their aids, staggered, but within two minutes of each other. The Braintree boys joined up with the two students and jogged them to the finish. The first Dedham student, John, got very excited and was fist pumping and the young men were great and cheered for him. The second boy, Aidan, was doing the same thing and they met him and jogged him to the finish, as well. One of the Dedham coaches took a video of Aidan finishing for Aidan's mom and posted it on Facebook. Fox 25 News got ahold of the Facebook post, with the mom thanking the Braintree boys for their show of kindness and consideration.

Ms. Fiske-Heger commended the team for their sportsmanship, indicating how very proud she was of what the boys had done to support the Dedham students. She congratulated the team and expressed how much it meant to the students and to the mom who posted it on Facebook.

Mayor Sullivan commented that their actions were a tremendous gesture and representation of the Town of Braintree and their families and the recognition that everyone needs help along the way. Mayor Sullivan thanked them for being good citizens of Braintree and demonstrating that to other communities. Mayor Sullivan also thanked Coach Wiggin.

E. Trip Requests 2016-2017

Dr. Hackett explained that there was detailed information in the School Committee packets summarizing trip requests for the current school year to be done all in one night. He explained that he could not guarantee that other trip requests will not be brought forth throughout the year, but the trips listed are what are currently known.

1. Trip Request – BHS METCO Students to Visit UNH (University of New Hampshire), October 14, 2016.

Dr. Hackett stated that the METCO trip to UNH, which was being organized via the Belmont METCO office, was cancelled after this information went out to School Committee.

2. Trip Request – Highlands Elementary School students to sing at the Providence Bruins Game, November 4, 2016.

Consideration of Approval of Highlands School to sing at Providence Bruins Game November 4, 2016:

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY: Upon a motion by Mr. Devin and seconded by Mr. Chafe to approve the trip request for Highlands Elementary Students to sing at the Providence Bruins Game on November 4, 2016

ROLL CALL: AYES – 6

Mr. Chafe/Mr. Devin/Ms. Fiske Heger/
Ms. Naughton/Mr. Ringius/Mayor Sullivan

3. Trip Request – South Middle School students to sing at the Providence Bruins Game, December 16, 2016.

Consideration of Approval of South Middle School students to sing at the Providence Bruins Game December 16, 2016:

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY: Upon a motion by Mr. Devin and seconded by Mr. Chafe to approve the trip request for South Middle School Students to sing at the Providence Bruins Game on December 16, 2016

ROLL CALL: AYES – 6

Mr. Chafe/Mr. Devin/Ms. Fiske Heger/
Ms. Naughton/Mr. Ringius/Mayor Sullivan

4. Follow-up presentation regarding the previously approved BHS Grade 11 & 12 students to Italy & Switzerland – April 12-21, 2017:

This trip was taken out of order and discussed by Mr. Roberts, Ms. Rodd and Ms. Moynihan. An update was presented as this trip had been previously approved.

5. BPS Grade 8 students to Washington, D.C. – April 18-21, 2017

Dr. Lee presented the proposed trip to the Washington DC in April. He explained the difference from last year is that only grade 8 students from East and South Middle Schools will attend (not 9th grade). The plan is to leave Tuesday, April 18th of the break and return on Friday evening the 21st. The other modification to the trip would be to visit Philadelphia the first day at Independence Hall and then move onto Washington DC. Dr. Lee is trying to

secure tickets to the African American Museum that just opened this past weekend. These tickets would be free but reservations would be required. The students attending this trip will do some fundraising to help defray costs for all students at East and South.

Mr. Chafe asked if there will there be enough teachers from both schools to attend this trip. Dr. Lee explained there will be two lead teachers, one from each school. Mr. Chafe asked about the tour fees and Dr. Lee explained that cost is based on total number of student travelers: the more students, the lower the cost. Goal is to have one full bus (45 to 50 students), and a waitlist would be established if there was enough interest. Dr. Lee understands that by moving the trip up to April it is a shorter payment time, but there will be a bigger effort on fundraising to defray the costs. Sign-up sheets will go out on Tuesday if the trip is approved. Ms. Fiske-Heger asked how many students attended the trip in 2015-2016. Dr. Lee explained that last year there were 87 students between the 8th and 9th grade who attended the trip.

Consideration of Approval of Grade 8 students from East Middle School and South Middle School to travel to Washington, D.C. from April 18-21, 2017:

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY: Upon a motion by Mr. Devin and seconded by Mayor Sullivan to approve the trip request for East Middle School and South Middle School grade 8 Students to travel to Washington, D.C. from April 18-21, 2017.

ROLL CALL: AYES – 6

Mr. Chafe/Mr. Devin/Ms. Fiske Heger/
Ms. Naughton/Mr. Ringius/Mayor Sullivan

6. BPS Middle School students to Quebec – May 18-21, 2017

Consideration of Approval of students from East Middle School and South Middle School to travel to Quebec from May 18-21, 2017:

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY: Upon a motion by Mr. Devin and seconded by Mr. Chafe to approve the trip request for East Middle School and South Middle School students to travel to Quebec from May 18-21, 2017.

ROLL CALL: AYES – 6

Mr. Chafe/Mr. Devin/Ms. Fiske Heger/
Ms. Naughton/Mr. Ringius/Mayor Sullivan

7. South Middle School Concert Choir, Band & Orchestra Students to Great East Music Festival – Friday June 2, 2017:

Consideration of Approval of South Middle Concert Choir, Band & Orchestra Students to attend the Great East Music Festival, Friday, June 2, 2017.

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY: Upon a motion by Mr. Devin and seconded by Mr. Chafe to approve the trip request for South Middle School Concert Choir, Band & Orchestra Students to attend the Great East Music Festival on Friday, June 2, 2017.

ROLL CALL: AYES – 6

Mr. Chafe/Mr. Devin/Ms. Fiske Heger/
Ms. Naughton/Mr. Ringius/Mayor Sullivan

F. Communications & Commendations

Communications:

- BHS Athletic Association Golf Tournament hosted its 17th annual golf tournament at the Braintree Municipal Golf Course on Saturday, September 24th to benefit the interscholastic athletic programs at BHS.
- Newsletters from the Flaherty, Highlands, Hollis, Liberty, Monatiquot, and Ross Schools were included in the School Committee packet. It was noted that Morrison does not produce a newsletter during the month of September.
- BHS Activity Bulletins for the weeks of September 12-16, 2016 and September 19-23, 2016 were included in the School Committee packets.

Commendations:

- *Heidi Hurley, Director of Art, New BPS Logo*
Dr. Hackett commended Heidi Hurley for work that she did on the new Braintree logo.
- *Rebecca Fredericks & Janice Weitbrecht - New BPS Website*
Dr. Hackett thanked Rebecca Fredericks and Janice Weitbrecht for the work that they have been doing on the soon to be rolled out website, and all who have worked very hard on this new site.
- *Lily Tang, BHS Student, Alexander Hamilton Scholar Award*
Dr. Hackett commended Lily Tang, who recently received the Alexander Hamilton Scholar Award. He stated that the Committee will all remember Lily from the meeting she attended last year: she makes quite an impression.
- *Henry Lee & John Newcomb, Summer Laborers at MSKC*
Dr. Hackett recognized Henry and John for the work they did over the summer at Monatiquot.
- *Skinner Overlook & Potting Bench - Summer Clean-up at Schools*
Dr. Hackett thanked Skinner Overlook and Potting Bench, who have done the summer clean up and beautification of the schools for us for years.
- *Quincy Credit Union - Luncheon Sponsor for New Teacher Orientation*
Dr. Hackett thanked the Quincy Credit Union, who have provided the luncheon for the New Teacher Orientation for several years.
- *BHS Show Choir @ Patriot's Day & BHS String Quartet @ Heritage Day*
Dr. Hackett recognized these two BHS groups for recent performances.

G. Gift Approvals

Ross Elementary School Donation

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY: Upon a motion by Mr. Devin and seconded by Mr. Chafe to accept as a gift to schools a check in the amount of \$16.00 from Harvard University to be used to be used as needed in support of the mission and vision of the Ross Elementary School.

ROLL CALL: AYES - 6

Mr. Chafe/Mr. Devin/Ms. Fiske Heger/

Ms. Naughton/Mr. Ringius/Mayor Sullivan

Ross, Morrison and East Middle Schools Donations

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY: Upon a motion by Mr. Devin and seconded by Mr. Chafe to accept as a gift to schools a donation of student school supplies (crayons, pencils to binders, filler

paper and a few backpacks), valued in the amount of \$175.00 from residents John Ward and Erin Brown for students attending the Ross and Morrison Elementary Schools and East Middle School.

ROLL CALL: AYES - 6

Mr. Chafe/Mr. Devin/Ms. Fiske Heger/
Ms. Naughton/Mr. Ringius/Mayor Sullivan

Monatiquot School Kindergarten Center School Donations

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY: Upon a motion by Mr. Devin and seconded by Mr. Chafe to accept as a gift to schools two checks in the amount of \$12.42 from cookbook donations and Scholastic, Inc. to be used as needed in support of the mission and vision of the Monatiquot School Kindergarten Center.

ROLL CALL: AYES - 6

Mr. Chafe/Mr. Devin/Ms. Fiske Heger/
Ms. Naughton/Mr. Ringius/Mayor Sullivan

Bay State Textile, Inc. Donations

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY: Upon a motion by Mr. Devin and seconded by Mr. Chafe to accept as a gift to schools ten checks totaling the amount of \$230.75 from Bay State Textiles to be used as needed in support of the mission and vision of the Braintree Public Schools.

ROLL CALL: AYES - 6

Mr. Chafe/Mr. Devin/Ms. Fiske Heger/
Ms. Naughton/Mr. Ringius/Mayor Sullivan

III. FROM LIBERTY ELEMENTARY PRINCIPAL, STAFF & STUDENTS (Taken out of Order, Approximately 8:00 p.m.)

Dr. Hackett invited Ms. Tara Boening, Principal of the Liberty Elementary School, to speak and to make her school's presentation. Ms. Boening explained that she would be inviting Ms. Linda Wells, 1st grade teacher at Liberty, to speak to the Committee on the capital school projects that have taken place over the summer at Liberty.

Ms. Wells introduced herself and reminded the committee that she spoke last spring about some of the conditions at Liberty School at that time and the concerns that they had. Ms. Wells expressed her pleasure to be again speaking to the Committee and on behalf of the Liberty staff, thanked the School Committee for the improvements that have been made. Ms. Wells mentioned all of the new flooring, the media center, the math and ELL small group rooms, the new conference room, and the room they were in for the School Committee meeting (the cafeteria). She commented about the painting projects the new furniture, white boards, sinks, and counter tops; this all makes a huge difference to the children that they serve each day, as well as to the staff. She shared that all are very grateful for making this possible in such a dramatic and timely fashion. Ms. Wells stated she would be remiss if she didn't mention their custodian, Frank Reynolds. She expressed her gratitude to Frank as he was wonderful, very patient and did his hardest to make rooms available to the teachers as soon as possible. Dr. Hackett thanked Ms. Wells and also pointed out Frank Reynolds again and expressed both his and Ed Cronin's appreciation for his work on the Liberty renovation project.

Ms. Boening introduced 5th grader students Monica, Stephanie, Chris, Abby and Harshith and explained these students would be presenting to the committee a new project that will be taking place at Liberty.

The students explained that Podcasts are audio recordings that get published on the internet and can be accessed using a computer or a portable media device. Podcasts are handy ways to get information and are available when and where you want to listen. As 5th graders at Liberty School, the students make the morning announcements each day. During these announcements important information is given to the school community and podcasting them would be a great way to share the announcements with the entire school community and not just to people inside of the building. In the morning the announcements will be recorded and will be published using an application called Podbean. The link for Podbean will be available on the Liberty website. Families near and far will now be able to hear their student's announcements. As the school year goes on, the students will brainstorm ways to include more information such as the vocabulary word of the week, fun fact Friday and up to the minute things going on at Liberty School. The students told the Committee they would be happy to answer any questions.

Ms. Boening explained that Stephanie is in charge of Fun Fact Friday. Stephanie told the committee that in the American Language, the word "set" has over 400 definitions!

Mayor Sullivan wanted to make a comment, as well as thank Ms. Wells for her advocacy and those who work at Liberty, as well. The Mayor went on to recognize that in the past year, the Town put forward \$1million for capital improvements for the school system. The Town had been putting forward \$700,000 annually for the past 8 years and \$1 million for this fiscal year, which is funded by the Town budget. The Town has been playing catch up and continues to move forward in terms of the Capital Plan. He thanked Dr. Hackett and Mr. Cronin for their work, planning and scheduling the Liberty improvements. He stated that school capital projects are a real priority, and was grateful that they are finally becoming noticeable and making a difference throughout the entire community. He stated that he appreciated Ms. Wells thanking the Committee because it is important for the entire community to come together. He expressed that we are fortunate to have neighborhood schools, and that they are structurally sound but need attention. As we look at realigning 5th grade into the middle schools, we have to have this community conversation over the next few months about the importance of the educational value that we not only currently offer but that we want to grow. Over the summer, we announced that our high school was ranked as the 15th highest academic achieving high school in Massachusetts by *Newsweek* Magazine. There are 222 public high schools in Massachusetts, placing us in the top 10%. *Newsweek* also ranked us in the top 500 nationally. Academic achievement at BHS, funneled through the elementary and middle schools gives us a caliber of academic excellence we want to promote. We are making the investments on the capital side to catch up to the achievements we are already having in the schools. He again thanked Ms. Wells and the administration for their work.

IV. FROM SUPERINTENDENT AND STAFF

A. Presentation of Resolution Against Lifting the Cap on Commonwealth Charter Schools [NO ACTION], Taylor Sturtevant, BEA President

Dr. Hackett invited Taylor Sturtevant, President of the BEA, to speak on the resolution that MTA is proposing against listing the cap on charter schools in the Commonwealth. Mr. Sturtevant introduced Mike Tafe who is working for the Save our Schools initiative through the MTA. Mr. Sturtevant explained that currently 125 school committees have voted in favor of supporting the MTA on this vote. The resolution states that if we vote no, it eliminates an unlimited number of charter schools to occur. Right now there is cap. The bill on the ballot will propose to relinquish the cap, allowing as many charter schools as possible, allowing 12 per year and that they could go anywhere. The MTA and BEA are urging the committee to vote no in order to keep the cap in place. Mr. Sturtevant explained that if students go to charter schools, money from our public schools goes to charter schools following those students. Braintree has lost about \$200,000.00 for students going to charter schools. The town has no choice or control over that money once a student enrolls in a charter school. As a School Committee, if a student goes to a charter school, you have no control over that money. The schools can lose a lot of money, which will cause a lot of chaos. The teachers do not go through as rigorous accountability as public school teachers. Mr. Tafe asked that the committee consider this vote in supporting the No vote.

Dr. Hackett stressed that the Committee does not always act on the vote the same night, but that it would be taken into consideration and possibly voted on at the October 24, 2016 meeting.

Mayor Sullivan commented that the per student cost of educating a student in Braintree goes with the student should they move to a charter school. Mayor Sullivan feels we are becoming aware of this conversation publically and will take it under advisement and vote on it at the next meeting.

Mr. Devin stated that he has heard that charter schools can exclude students with whom they choose not to educate. Mr. Sturtevant explained that Mr. Devin is correct and that they do not always take on students who need assistance. Mr. Devin explained that the charter schools are not always inclusive.

Dr. Hackett explained that he believes that competition is good, that it makes everyone better when you have something you have to shoot for, but that the fundamental issue is that it is not a level playing field. He went on to say that as good as we are in the Town of Braintree; the playing field is not level for us when we are competing with charter schools and that is fundamentally unfair. If you are going to educate children and use public dollars for the same purpose, the rules ought to be the same and they are not.

B. Technology Update, Rebecca Fredericks, Interim Director of Curriculum & Instructional Technology

Dr. Hackett introduced Rebecca Fredericks in her new position as Interim Director of Curriculum & Technology and Tom Fallano, Coordinator of Technology, to provide an update regarding technology. Ms. Fredericks went over the summary included in the member's packets. Ms. Fredericks compared two years prior (2014) to our current school year (2016) in terms of the increased staffing, infrastructure set up and devices that have been deployed system-wide.

	2014	2016
Staff	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Director 2. Network manager 3. One full-time technician 4. Two part-time technicians 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Director (software/applications) 2. Part-time Coordinator (hardware/support) 3. Network manager 4. Three full-time technicians 5. One part-time technician
Infrastructure	Limited Wi-Fi availability	Widespread Wi-Fi availability
Devices	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Desktop labs 2. Netbook carts and labs 3. Some individual iPads 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. iPad carts and tubs 2. Netbook carts 3. Chromebook carts 4. Chromebook sets 5. Desktop labs 6. iMac labs

Ms. Fredericks discussed the history of the technology department in terms of funding stating that in 2015, the \$1.2 million Department of Elementary and Secondary Education/Office of Digital Learning Digital Connections grant for infrastructure made significant improvements to our network, including district-wide access to Wi-Fi.

Ms. Fredericks went on to say that in 2015, thanks to Mayor Sullivan's support of capital technology funding, BPS has improved their inventory of student devices significantly, adding iPad and Chromebook carts (sets of 30) at each elementary school, three Chromebook carts and a cart of netbooks at each middle school, and 360 Chromebooks in classroom and media center deployments at the high school.

In 2016, the district has accomplished the following:

- Launched Google Apps for Education and the Google Classroom learning management system.
- Began to move from #2 pencils and Scantrons to the Grade Cam scanning app.
- Introduced digital learning resources including BrainPOP, MobyMax, and JogNog.

Ms. Fredericks explained that in 2016-2017, the district will continue to grow their device inventory across all levels, with a focus on Chromebooks and iPads, while seeking to build, maintain, or upgrade at least one Windows-based desktop lab in each building. In 2017, the high school will launch an expanded and staff-supported Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) initiative. This will grow to include the middle schools in future years. In conclusion, Ms. Fredericks stated that the curriculum continues to expand to include digital access and resources for all students in all disciplines.

Ms. Fredericks introduced Mr. Fallano who added specific numbers related to devices. There are now 537 iPads in inventory. Two years ago iPads were just sprinkled around and BPS was mainly a PC shop. Two years ago there were 1800 PC's, now there are 768 chrome book devices and 69 android devices, increased by 1300 more devices. Staff is maintaining over 300 devices not including printers, network switches, etc. Mr. Fallano appreciates all of the funds received to improve the system. At a cost of \$1.2M, the schools were completely rewired for the wireless

system. Mr. Fallano feels the schools have a very strong infrastructure, with a very competent network manager, Evan Fernandes, and 3 full-time technicians who did an amazing job this summer. Mr. Fallano is proud of the staff and what they have done.

Dr. Hackett stated that where this department is now, compared to what it was is at this time last year, is directly tied to Mr. Fallano and Ms. Fredericks and their leadership developing an IT team. Dr. Hackett explained that at the start of school there were 400 help desk tickets and they are down to 99 at this time. He stressed that they deserve a tremendous amount of credit, and that the IT team is capable and customer service orientated, and he truly appreciates their work.

Ms. Fiske-Heger congratulated them and how far they have come with the technology, and to the Mayor with the grant. Upon request, Mr. Fallano explained to Ms. Fiske-Heger the ability IT has to fix problems by remotely accessing computers. Mr. Devin stated he is very impressed. He thanked the Mayor for the funding and Mr. Cronin and Dr. Hackett for choosing Ms. Fredericks and Mr. Fallano. Mr. Devin asked what a help desk ticket is and Mr. Fallano explained

Mayor Sullivan expressed appreciation to both Mr. Fallano and Ms. Fredericks and for the effort that has been made, stating that it is nice to see money well spent. Mayor Sullivan stressed they bring credibility to the priority of expenditures and he strongly encouraged them to keep going.

C. From the Superintendent

1. Strategic Planning Update

Dr. Hackett stated that as the Committee knows, they extended the strategic plan for one more year with Dr. Hackett's arrival in mid-September of 2015. The focus for this year is to work from the existing plan, which has served the BPS very well, to look forward to the next five (5) years, with the goal of bringing a new plan to the Committee for consideration of approval prior to the conclusion of the 2016-2017 school year.

The leadership team (directors, principals, assistants, housemasters and headmaster), all met together at a full day workshop on August 30th. They did several activities in and around the current plan, (BEST: Braintree Exceptional Schools of Tomorrow). The team read 3 separate books over the summer, which served to provide us with current and best practices in education. The team did an audit of every single strategy that was listed on the plan and developed a shared understanding of the architecture of the new plan.

In moving forward, the team will develop goals, objectives to support those goals, and action plans for implementation for the next five (5) years. and strategies to carry out the objectives. Dr. Hackett gave a sample of what it will look like: a vision Statement, mission statement, core beliefs, curriculum instruction and assessment and then goals to support. To date, the team confirmed the continued use of the BEST mission statement, and might slight revisions to the values and beliefs section of the BEST plan. In addition, they worked on the 7 goal areas of the BEST plan, and determined by the end of the workshop day that the new plan would include the following four goal areas:

- Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment
- Family & Community Engagement
- Culture of Learning and Innovation
- Wellness

The full leadership team will serve as the steering committee for the development of the plan, and will be meeting in October, December, February and April and June. Several members of that team will be part of a new Strategic Planning Design Team (SPDT), which will be charged with developing the process for plan development, including designing opportunities for feedback and input from the school-community. In addition, to address our Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment goal, a Curriculum Design Team (CDT) was established, which will investigate best practices for curriculum development and develop structures and processes for moving our efforts in curriculum forward. The CDT will make recommendations to the full leadership team at their December of 2016 meeting. Dr. Hackett expressed that this is a lot of information quickly but wanted the Committee to understand the direction the BPS leadership is taking with this most important work.

Ms. Fiske-Heger asked if they will get copies of the slides presented at School Committee and if Dr. Hackett would go back to slide one to show the logo. Dr. Hackett promised the committee a copy of the slide presentation on the strategic plan and shared the logo with the committee.

2. Brief Overview of 2015-2016 Assessment Results

Dr. Hackett asked Ms. Fredericks to present an overview of the state assessment results, which were released today, including DESE accountability levels .

- Morrison school, which was a level 2 school in 2015, is now a level 1 school due in part to increased number of students meeting proficiency in math and science
- BHS was level 2 in 2015 and remains a level 2 school in 2016. The level 2 designation is primarily related to the high needs subgroup and their performance in science. Ms. Fredericks reminded the Committee that 2016 was a transition year in our move to offering science MCAS as a 9th grade test (physics) from the 10th grade (biology) test, and that now feels that this shift will take some time for adjustment. She also stated that BHS is being somewhat penalized by having a record low dropout rate when the DESE made its baseline calculations several years ago, as we continue to be measured against that number.
- All other schools remained at a level 1 status, but the district is listed as level 2 because BHS at a level 2 (districts are given the rating of the school with the lowest level).

The results from last year demonstrate significant achievements at each school, with many students showing strong growth. BPS is already preparing for MCAS 2.0, which will include some online testing.

Dr. Hackett noted that a detailed report will be presented at the next meeting.

3. Enrollment Update

Dr. Hackett provided enrollments as of September 21, 2016. We are up 76 students across the school system. BHS has increased by 58 students with the graduating class being smaller than the freshman class. At the elementary level, we had the following increases: Morrison up 23, Ross up 15 and Flaherty up 7, with 6 of them in grade 3 which necessitated adding an additional section in August. Dr. Hackett stated that elementary class sizes are very good.

Mayor Sullivan stated that class size vs. space is a distinction that needs to be made: our student to

teacher ratio is very good. To Dr. Hackett's point, some schools have significant growth, which becomes a challenge; however, the new flexible boundary zone policy has allowed us to better manage enrollments.

4. Fall 2016 BHS Athletic Coaches & Trainer

Dr. Hackett provided the Committee with the list of fall athletic coaches Dr. Hackett also included the revised Athletic trainer job description, which ties into the substance abuse coordinator information Mr. Devin requested at the last meeting.

V. NEW BUSINESS: CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL

1. Revision to Narcan Policy

Director of Nursing, Laurie Melchionda, reviewed the change to the Narcan policy, which now includes both the Athletic Director (AD) and Athletic Trainer (AT) in order to allow these positions to administer Narcan at athletic events if a nurse is not available. Ms. Melchionda has authorization as the school nursing director, by the Department of Public Health, Dr. Nedelman our School Physician and the Board of Health, to train staff in Narcan administration

Dr. Hackett stressed that this is an addition to the existing policy. Mayor Sullivan would move to approve with a comment. He thanked Ms. Melchionda who he just appointed to the Braintree Health Board to help us town-wide as a community. Mayor Sullivan mentioned that unfortunately, a non-Braintree resident just succumbed to the disease today. None of these overdoses have taken place in our schools. We were the 36th community going with Narcan in our school system. 19% of school aged children have parents suffering from this disease, and he reminded everyone that Narcan is a safety mechanism.

Consideration of Revision to Narcan Policy to Include Athletic Department Staff:

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY: Upon a motion by Mayor Sullivan and seconded by Mr. Devin to approve the Revision to the Narcan Policy to Include Athletic Department Staff.

ROLL CALL: AYES - 6

Mr. Chafe/Mr. Devin/Ms. Fiske Heger/
Ms. Naughton/Mr. Ringius/Mayor Sullivan

2. School Seasonal Influenza Vaccination Program

Ms. Melchionda stated that the BPS would like to offer free influenza vaccinations to grades 6 to 12. This would be the 8th year that the BPS has offered free vaccinations. Our middle and high school nurses collaborate with our principals/headmasters and the Braintree Board of Health. Last year, 450 students participated, which was the largest number we have ever experienced. If approved, a packet will be sent to all families.

Consideration of Approval for the Nursing Department to administer the School Seasonal Influenza Vaccination Program.

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY: Upon a motion by Mayor Sullivan and seconded by Mr. Devin to approve the School Seasonal Influenza Vaccination Program.

ROLL CALL: AYES - 6

Mr. Chafe/Mr. Devin/Ms. Fiske Heger/
Ms. Naughton/Mr. Ringius/Mayor Sullivan

VI. FROM THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE

A. Update on the East Middle School Project, School Building Committee Representatives

Dr. Hackett discussed that the School Building Committee met earlier this evening with the architects and owners' project manager to review updates and project schedules. The project grown significantly in scope with both the inclusion of 5th grade students and the additional space needed to appropriately program for existing students. EMS will be partially funded by the MSBA by at least 50%, but we are hoping to reach the high 50% mark. The project, as currently designed, will renovate all existing spaces in addition to adding space: one of the major goals is to ensure that existing spaces look and feel new.

Our timeline is tight, with a significant submission of materials due to the MSBA by November 7th. Due to the increased scope, the project schedule has shifted a bit, and it is now likely construction would begin in the spring of 2018.

VII. CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

Ms. Naughton announced that on Tuesday, September 27th, California Pizza Kitchen is sponsoring a Theater Guild fundraiser.

Mr. Chafe mentioned the DAV fundraiser, the Frost Bite open, will be on November 4, 2016. The DAV is looking for sponsors and golfers, and that those interested should contact the DAV.

VII. ADJOURN


VOTED UNANIMOUSLY: Upon a motion by Mayor Sullivan and seconded by Mr. Devin to adjourn.

ROLL CALL: AYES – 6

Mr. Chafe/Mr. Devin/ Ms. Fiske Heger/

Ms. Naughton/Mr. Ringius/Mayor Sullivan

Time Adjourned: 8:40 p.m.


George Kokoros
Recording Secretary