

MINUTES
MEETING OF THE BRAINTREE SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Monday May 9, 2016

7:00 PM

Braintree High School

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

Administration: Superintendent of Schools – Dr. Frank Hackett
Assistant Superintendent of Schools – Ms. Jennifer Fay-Beers
Business Manager – Mr. Edward Cronin

Student Representative: Edmond Bousaleh, Brian McDermott, Erin McGinn, Sarah Murphy

Recorder: Diane Intravaia

I. CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Fiske Heger called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m.

II. CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL

A. Consideration of Approval of Minutes: Open Session: April 25, 2016
VOTED UNANIMOUSLY: Upon a motion by Mr. Devin and seconded by Mr. Kokoros to approve the minutes for the Open Session of April 25, 2016.

ROLL CALL: AYES – 7

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

B. Communication and Commendations:

Student Representative, Ms. Sarah Murphy, presented this year's Braintree High School's (BHS) 2015-2016 yearbook to the School Committee. This year's theme is "The Town that Built Us". The yearbook includes different elements from Elementary, Middle and High School years. Ms. Murphy indicated there are 9 students on the Yearbook Committee and there are 389 students in the senior class. The committee worked very hard to ensure there were at least 3 pictures of each senior in the book. Mayor Sullivan thanked Ms. Murphy for her contribution to the yearbook and went on to wish both senior Student Representatives including Ms. Murphy and Mr. McDermott continued success. He hopes both will look back on their years at BHS fondly.

1. Teachers Appreciation Week – May 2-6, 2016
The Braintree School Committee and the administration extended their sincere thanks to all of the Braintree Public School (BPS) teaching staff. A Certification of Commendation was sent to each school as a small, yet sincere, token of how much the school committee values the teaching staff's dedication and exemplary service they provide.
2. Nurse Appreciation Week – May 6-12, 2016
The Braintree School Committee and the administration extended their sincere appreciation to all of the Braintree school nurses for all they do for the students of Braintree schools. The committee is very proud of the professionalism, the skill and the compassion demonstrated by the nurses. A Certification of Commendation was sent to each school nurse as a sign of how much the school committee values all of the Braintree school nurses and their dedication to BPS students and the exemplary service they provide.
3. Recognition of Service: BHS School Committee Student Representatives
Ms. Fiske Heger thanked each of the Student Representatives for serving on the School Committee. She expressed appreciation on behalf of the committee for their invaluable insight and input on various topics throughout this past school year. Each Student Representative was presented with a certificate for their service - Edmond Bousaleh, Brian McDermott, Erin McGinn, Sarah Murphy. Next year, Ms. Murphy will be attending Saint Anselm College in NH and Mr. McDermott will attending American University in Washington DC.
4. Michael Pelletier, BHS Teacher/Sheila Cawley, Liberty Teacher – Teacher Appreciation – Barnes and Noble Essay
Ms. Lily Tang, a student at BHS came forward to read her 1st place winning essay she submitted to the Barnes and Noble "My Favorite Teacher" Contest. She enthusiastically spoke of Mr. Pelletier and his ability to push and inspire students in his US History Class. Ms. Tang went on to say "his dynamic personality is the heart and soul of the class". Ms. Sargam Aggaral, a 7th grade student at South Middle School came forward to read her 2nd place essay she submitted. Her essay was about her 4th grade teacher Ms. Cawely at the Liberty School. Ms. Aggaral spoke of a memory she had with Ms. Cawely when completing a writing assignment in her 4th grade class. Leading up to 4th grade, Ms. Aggaral was not too fond of school but her perception of school changed after receiving praise and accolades on a writing assignment from Ms. Cawely. Congratulations to each of the students for their winning essays and to each of the teachers who have been recognized.
5. Dr. Gorman Lee, Director of Social Studies – ESGR Patriot Award
Ms. Fay-Beers spoke of Dr. Lee's continuous support of BPS teachers who also serve in the US Military. He works above and beyond putting together a Veteran's Day ceremony each year. Congratulations to Dr. Lee on receiving the ESGR Patriot Award.

6. Parent Donation, Andrew Mauriello – Mimio/BOXLIGHT
Dr. Hackett thanked Mr. Mauriello for his very generous donation of 30 MimioBoard 77" Interactive Whiteboards totaling a monetary value of \$32,380. Dr. Hackett is grateful BPS is now in a position, thanks to the recent technology grant, to receive and be able to utilize this donation.
7. SEPAC Meeting Minutes from March 17, 2016 were presented.
8. DESE Commissioner Chester visited BHS on May 6, 2016 along with a contingent of staff from the state Digital Connections Partnership to observe and learn how the BPS has implemented technology resulting from the grant award. The Commissioner was impressed with how far the BPS had come in such a short period of time, and commented on our success.
9. School Newsletters from May 2016, and the BHS Activity Bulletin for May 2-6, 2016 were presented.

C. Trip Requests

1. Braintree History Day Team – National History Day Contest June 12-16, University of Maryland, Dr. Gorman Lee
Dr. Lee stated BHS had a number of teams participating in the Massachusetts History Day, and three teams participated in the Regional Contest which took place in Brockton in March. Two of the three teams advanced to the State Contest in April. One of the two teams that participated in the State Contest finished 2nd and therefore qualified for the 37th National Contest which takes place June 12-16 at the University of Maryland, College Park. Dr. Lee is requesting approval for the team to attend the National Contest. Mayor Sullivan inquired as to whether this was the first time BHS students attended this event. Dr. Lee stated back in 2008 a BHS student went to the National Contest. Dr. Lee confirmed for Mayor Sullivan that the students would miss school on those days.

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY: Upon a motion by Mayor Sullivan and seconded by Mr. Devin to approve a trip for a team of BHS students to attend the 37th National Contest at the University of Maryland, College Park on June 12-16.

ROLL CALL: AYES -7

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

2. BHS Freshman Class Student Council: Lake Canobie, June 10, Salem, NH, Headmaster Jim Lee
The BHS Freshman Class Student Council requests the permission to offer a student trip to Canobie Lake Park in Salem, NH to members of the BHS Freshman Class. The trip would take place on June 10th. The price for the trip is \$45 and that includes admission to the park and transportation on Braintree

school busses. The trip will be chaperoned by BHS faculty and staff at the minimum rate of one chaperone per twelve students.

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY: Upon a motion by Mr. Kokoros and seconded by Mr. Devin to approve a trip for the BHS Freshman class for a trip to Canobie Lake Park in Salem, NH on June 10th.

ROLL CALL: AYES -7

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

III. PRESENTATIONS:

A. FY17 Legislative Update, Representative Mark Cusack

Ms. Fiske Heger welcomed and introduced Representative Mark Cusack as he came forward. Representative Cusack stated that he has the pleasure of representing Braintree, Randolph and Holbrook in the Massachusetts House of Representatives. He is in attendance tonight to present an update to the committee and the public on the funds the town of Braintree can expect to receive for education from this year's budget.

Representative Cusack highlighted a number of slides indicating the growth of state aid to Braintree over the past few years. For FY17 it is projected the state aid will be approximately \$22.7 million, which includes approximately \$16.2 million for Chapter 70 funding, which is money specifically earmarked for the public school system. The remaining net funds include approximately \$5.5 million of Unrestricted General Government Aid (UGGA) and just under \$1 million for Chapter 90 and other state road money.

Overall the State contribution with regards to Chapter 70 (educational assistance) is \$4.61 billion, which is an increase of 2.2% from last year. The Circuit Breaker funding (Special Education) is at \$276.6 million, which is an increase of 5.6% and the McKinney Vento (transportation required funding for homeless families) is being funded \$8.35 million a 0% increase.

To conclude Representative Cusack presentation with regards to education he noted the State's funding towards Higher Education:

- \$508M for the University of Massachusetts system
- \$252M for Community Colleges
- \$247.8M for State Universities
- \$96.6M for the State Scholarship Program
- \$4.75M for the STEM Starter Academics
- \$1.6M for Inclusive Concurrent Enrollment

Mr. Devin confirmed with Representative Cusack the overall economic health of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts is improving with Innovation and Tech leading the way. Home sales are improving and jobless numbers are down. Representative Cusack stated the one area there appears to be little to no movement

is income growth. Mr. Devin thanked Representative Cusack for all of his efforts and diligent work and commented on how impressive it is for him to be so well versed in so many different areas and topics.

Mayor Sullivan expressed appreciation to Representative Cusack for all the work he has done for Braintree over the last few years. Mayor Sullivan indicated the two speak on a regular basis and Representative Cusack is very mindful of the issues which are important to Braintree. Mayor Sullivan highlighted the level of assistance Representatives Cusack provided the School Committee with regards to their relationship with the MSBA and their ongoing plans with East and South Middle School. In addition he also highlighted Representative Cusack's ability to secure \$150,000 with regards to support on the Opioid health issue that Braintree and many other communities are currently facing. He thanked Representative Cusack sincerely for all of the work he has done thus far and will continue to do for the Town of Braintree.

Dr. Hackett was complimentary to Representative Cusack's presence throughout his past 7 months of serving as Superintendent. He expressed his appreciation for his visibility, his candor and his willingness to ask questions about what is needed by BPS. Dr. Hackett is especially grateful for Representative Cusack's efforts in securing the Circuit Breaker funding.

B. Wipro Science Education Fellowship – Dr. Betsy Clifford

Wipro Science Education Fellowship is sponsored and by Cosmic (Center of Science and Mathematics in Context) at the University of Massachusetts Boston. The Program goals are to create and support a corps of teachers and leaders, to institute a culture of active and reflective instruction, to improve teacher's quality through vertical alignment within content and horizontal alignment within grade bands, meeting in small groups and professional development in order to increase student achievement.

The program structure for Year 1 is teacher fellows meet regularly and participate in professional development focusing on classroom instruction, adult learning, reflective practices and leadership. Fellows work with vertical team for the first semester and a horizontal team for the second semester to complete a lesson study. The structure for Year 2 is fellows work with a mentor and their district coordinators complete an individualized growth plan that has a clear vision and identifiable benchmarks.

Dr. Arthur Eisenkraft, distinguished professor of Science Education Professor of Physics, Director, Center of Science and Math in context (COSMIC), University of Massachusetts Boston presented Commendations to the following participants for Cohort 1: Dr. Meaghan Germain (BHS Chemistry), Dr. Jessica Passeggio (BHS Biology), and Mr. Adam Smith (BHS Biology). For Cohort 2 the following participants received Commendations: Ms. Gina Achin (South Middle 8th grade), Ms. Sandra Dzidzic (BHS Biology), and Mr. Lea Lewis-Santos (East Middle 7th

grade). And finally the following Cohort 3 participants received Commendations: Ms. Melanie Chiles (Flaherty 4th Grade), Ms. Mary O'Donnell (East 6th and 8th Grade), and Ms. Amy Thornton (BHS Biology). Dr. Eisenkraft also presented a Commendation to the Braintree School District for their support for the Wipro Science Education Program and their participants.

- C. Braintree High School 2015/2016 -- School Improvement Plan, Headmaster Jim Lee
Mr. Lee began his presentation by reviewing the System-Wide Objectives. They are as follows: Curriculum, Instruction, & Assessment, Parent & Community Involvement, Professional Development, Technology, Physical Facilities, Funding and Other. For each objective, he provided specific details of the areas of focus within.

He went on to highlight an issue BHS is facing with regards to the increasing class sizes projected for the next few years. Next year's incoming freshman class is projected to have 420 students. It appears in 2017-2018 BHS will have an overall projected 1,617 students enrolled. Mr. Lee indicated there will be implications to this increase of student enrollments such as class sizes and staffing.

BHS's school mission statement is Involvement. At BHS it is the feeling that every student should have a sense of belonging. Mr. Lee stated there are over 30 student groups which are made up of various clubs and activities. In addition, there are over 800+ student athletes participating on 73 teams. Beyond the clubs, activities, and sports there are school-wide activities such as performances, senior activities, Dodge ball tournament, Night at the Theater, Battle of the Bands, etc.

The School Improvement Objectives and Strategies are: Improve MCAS performance, specifically for subgroups, Address implications of NEASC postponement and determine next steps in process: NEASC visit is scheduled for October 2017. Other objectives include: alignment of the curriculum to the Common Core; provide professional development and parent education around the new schedule; enhance the technology use of students through curriculum integration, course offerings and protocols; and assess and improve curriculum offerings through the Program of Studies.

The School Council priorities are to acquire additional staff to maintain class sizes and offer more electives for students, update science labs and art rooms, explore community service graduation requirement, and improve general cleanliness of BHS.

Mr. Lee concluded his presentation and remained for any questions or further discussion.

Ms. Naughton acknowledged the Jersey barriers out in front of BHS as an effort to deter individuals from parking in the fire lane. She commended Mr. Lee's efforts in trying to keep the lane free. She did however note there are still some individuals

who are ignoring the barriers and maneuvering around them. Mr. Lee recognizes the ongoing issue and stated it has truly been a full community effort to keep the school safe and the fire lanes open at all times. Mayor Sullivan noted quite often the School Safety Officers are on hand to advise individuals to follow the rules as well.

Mayor Sullivan also spoke about the solar arrays at BHS and noted although the capture of energy goes back to the grid the value of the amount of captured energy comes back through the town to the school department. Mayor Sullivan hopes to do more solar arrays in the future.

Mayor Sullivan asked Mr. Lee to provide his opinion with regards to parents of students who continue to juggle their daily busy lives in an effort to support their children and asked what Mr. Lee has seen over the course of his 4 years at BHS. Mr. Lee stated that in Braintree the students and parents value their education. The students and parents put the work in that some other individual in other locations may not be willing to put in. BHS academic performance is the result of the hard work of students and teachers to collaboratively get to the end result and in the background there are families that support the notion that education is going to get you where you want to go. Mr. Lee hopes going forward the town continues to look at how BPS can supply the resources and tools necessary to the students and teachers so they can maximize their efforts and allow the students to be in the best position to be successful.

Mr. Lee confirmed for Mayor Sullivan it is realistic to make Community Service a graduation requirement. The major obstacle he sees is the sheer number of students that will need to fulfill the obligation. Mr. Lee feels it is more the logistics that need to be worked out, i.e. where are the safe and meaningful opportunities for 400 students. Mr. Lee stated the council will continue to explore the Community Service graduation requirement topic.

Ms. Fiske Heger asked Mr. Lee what the plan is for next year to prepare the students for changes to the schedule. Mr. Lee stated he already had a parent meeting, although it was not too heavily attended there were many parents that did attend. There will be a meeting with each individual class that is not graduating to talk about the upcoming schedule changes for next year and going forward.

- D. Overview of DRAFT Plans for Grade 8 to BHS Transition, Headmaster Jim Lee
- Mr. Lee reminded the audience up until this coming year, the first day of school was always for just freshman. The day allowed for an orientation type setting for the incoming 9th graders. The issue this created is the last day of school is poorly attended. All final exams are over and there is really no educational experience to drive the kids in to school. Mr. Lee indicated by transitioning to a full day of school for everyone, it allows the high school to maximize all 180 days from an instructional standpoint. Mr. Lee proposed the overview and instruction which has been provided to the freshman class on the first day of school in the past will now

be delivered over the course of two days to freshman. One of the two days would be at the end of this current school year by bringing both middle schools (on separate days) over to BHS and provide the freshman a tour, allow them to meet with their counselors, housemasters, Athletic Director and get an overall general sense of how the building functions. The second day would be to bring the freshman in to school at the regular start time (7:35 a.m.) on the first day of school and bring everyone else (upper classman) in on a delayed start (10:00 a.m.). This earlier start would allow time for all remaining areas of instruction for the incoming freshman class.

Many of the School Committee members felt this proposal was a good idea for a number of reasons. They noted the ability to maximize all 180 school days, in addition to relieving potential anxiety on part of some of the freshman class by allowing them to come for a tour of BHS at the end of this school year rather than waiting for the start of the next school year.

Mr. Lee confirmed for Ms. McGinn the proposal does include a peer presentation from Student Council and the time to meet with members of the Student Council as they have in past years.

IV. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

A. Gifts to Schools

Braintree Public Schools

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY: Upon a motion by Mr. Devin and seconded by Mr. Kokoros to accept as a gift to schools a donation of 30 MimioBoard 77" Interactive Whiteboards totally monetary value of \$32,380 from Andrew Mauriello, BOXLIGHT.

ROLL CALL: AYES -7

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

Braintree High School donation

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY: Upon a motion by Mr. Devin and seconded by Mr. Kokoros to accept as a gift to schools a check in the amount of \$1,200.00 from the Braintree Integrated Preschool PTO to be used to purchase IPADS for the Integrated Pre-school Program.

ROLL CALL: AYES -7

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

Highlands Elementary School donation

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY: Upon a motion by Mr. Kokoros and seconded by Mr. Ringius to accept as a gift to schools a check in the amount of \$50 in memory of Barbara Swain, who was a volunteer at the Highlands School.

ROLL CALL: AYES -7

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

Monatiquot School Kindergarten Center donations
VOTED UNANIMOUSLY: Upon a motion by Mr. Devin and seconded by Mr.
Kokoros to accept as a gift to schools a check in the amount of \$1,461.50 for
participation in the second MSKC Apparel Fundraiser and first Bay State Textiles
check.

ROLL CALL: AYES -7

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

B. Update on Status of East Middle School Project

Dr. Hackett had the opportunity to meet with the MSBA last week. He stated the East Middle School Project went from a straight renovation to a reclassification of a renovation plus an addition (adding classroom space). The process is back to a feasibility phase, which requires confirmation of projected enrollment. It is critical the projected enrollment numbers are accurate. Dr. Hackett is expecting this week to receive an Enrollment Certification, which is the actual number the project will be designed for going forward.

In addition, Dr. Hackett had the opportunity to speak to the MSBA about the South Middle School plans. He felt the MSBA was receptive in understanding the South renovations are part of the overall future plan with BPS. It was noted there are a lot of projects submitted to the MSBA and the South project will be rated with all of the other projects submitted. Dr. Hackett did feel the MSBA was pleased to see BPS working towards a comprehensive plan for K-12.

C. Appointment of Linda Cordes as Transportation Coordinator

Dr. Hackett is pleased to announce Linda Cordes has accepted the Transportation Coordinator position upon Patti Rupprecht's retirement at the end of this school year. Dr. Hackett and Mayor Sullivan both spoke of the importance of this position and how they are confident Ms. Cordes will do a wonderful job.

V. SCHOOL COMMITTEE

- A. BSD Subcommittee to Review Opiate & Drug Deterrence Policies, David Ringius
Mr. Ringius reminded the community in December the School Committee voted to create a subcommittee to review the opiate and drug deterrent policy within BPS. Mr. Ringius indicated the committee has met several times and they continue to work on the two prong mission set out for them. First mission is to identify and review what the current state of education programming is within BPS as to the opiates and drug deterrent policy that exist. In reviewing the current policy, the second mission is to create a non-binding action plan for consideration by the school committee of possible policies or adjustments to current policies. The next scheduled meeting is Thursday May 19th. The subcommittee expects to present their full findings at the June 13th School Committee Meeting. In addition, Mr.

Ringius stated the town has created its own subcommittee on this topic and is looking at it from an overall town perspective as well.

B. Policy Subcommittee Update

Mr. Kokoros stated the Policy Subcommittee met this evening and four topics were discussed. Two of the four topics will have a first read at the next school committee meeting on May 23, 2016. The first topic is the Flexible Boundary Zones and the second topic is the Parental Leave Policy. In June the Policy Subcommittee will discuss the Student Discipline Policy and the Acceptable Internet use Policy.

C. Consideration of Summer Meeting Schedule

Ms. Fiske Heger stated the school committee typically meets once in July and once in August. At this point there are no dates noted. Ms. Fiske Heger asked school committee members to let her know of any vacation dates planned so the July and August School Committee dates can be set.

VI. CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

Ms. Naughton would like to acknowledge the cast and crew of the BHS Theater Guild. They performed A Night of Theater on April 29th. Ms. Naughton noted some of the plays which were performed were written by BHS students, Aiden Doherty, Emily Finnigan, Errica Moran and Brendan Naughton.

Ms. Fiske Heger noted the next meeting is on Monday May 23rd at the Liberty School. The following meeting is June 13th at the Hollis School.

VII. ADJOURN

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

ROLL CALL: AYES – 7

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

Time: 8:50 P.M.

George Kokoros
Recording Secretary

