



Braintree Town Council

Committee on Education & Library

One JFK Memorial Drive
Braintree, Massachusetts 02184

MEMBERS

Stephen C. O'Brien, Chairman
David Ringius, Vice-Chairman
Meredith Boericke, member

AGENDA

Tuesday, December 22, 2020

Starting Time – 5:30PM

REMOTE via ZOOM Webinar

Please click the link below to join the webinar:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83695674820>

Or Telephone:

Dial US: +1 312 626 6799

Webinar ID: **836 9567 4820**

International numbers available: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83695674820>

1. Pledge of Allegiance
2. Moment of Silence
3. Roll Call
4. Approval of Minutes
 - March 9, 2016
5. Old Business
6. New Business
 - 045 20 Councilor O'Brien: An Analysis of the 2020-2021 Pandemic School Reopening or take up any action relative thereto
 - 053 20 Councilor O'Brien: Maintenance Department Recommendation or take up any action relative thereto
7. Adjournment

Governor Charles Baker has declared a state of emergency in Massachusetts to support the state's response to COVID-19 (Coronavirus). According to the Town of Braintree's "Temporary Emergency Policy for Remote Participation Under the Open Meeting Law Pursuant to Massachusetts Executive Order of March 12, 2020," the Town Council will meet fully remotely for the health and safety of Councilors and the public during the Massachusetts State of Emergency. The Town Council will be using Zoom software to run meetings online for the immediate future. The Town continues to monitor the situation through the Health Department and specific questions should be directed to Jean McGinty, Public Health Nurse at 781-794-8094 or Marybeth McGrath, Director of Health, at 781-794-8095.



Braintree Town Council Committee on Education & Library

One JFK Memorial Drive
Braintree, Massachusetts 02184

MEMBERS

Shannon Hume, Chairman
Michael Owens, Vice-Chairman
Charles Kokoros

March 9, 2016 MINUTES

A meeting of the Committee on Education and Library was held in Fletcher Hall, Braintree Town Hall, on Tuesday, March 9, 2016 at 6:00p.m.

Chairwoman Hume was in the Chair and conducted the roll call.

Present: Shannon L. Hume, Chairwoman
Michael J. Owens, Vice-Chairman

Not Present: Charles Kokoros

Also Present: Frank Hackett, Superintendent
Lisa Heger, School Committee

There was a moment of silence for all those serving in our armed services, past and present, and the meeting was opened with the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

Approval of Minutes

- June 17, 2014

Motion: by Councilor Owens to Approve Minutes

Second: by Councilor Hume

Vote: For (2), Against (0), Absent (1-Kokoros)

Old Business

None

New Business

**Discussion: School Committee and Library Updates on the following:
School Department Goals**

Budget
School Building Committee Update
School Tours
Library Strategic Plan
Other

Chairwoman Hume stated the purpose for meeting tonight was to discuss issues and possibly meet on them in the future. I just wanted to get the information out there.

Chairwoman Hume welcomed Superintendent Frank Hackett and Lisa Heger of the School Committee to give an overview on what the School Department is doing.

Lisa Heger stated sub-committees of the School Committee have been re-organized. A new committee this year is the Policy Committee. We will review and update and establish policies that we do not have. We are discussing search and seizure policy and also flexible boundaries and where we might have to move kids in town due to schools having too many kids in them.

Councilor Owens asked what do you mean by flexible boundaries?

Frank Hackett, Superintendent stated right now we have fixed boundaries. There is no flexibility on where you will go to school when you move into a certain neighborhood. Our enrollment has increased particularly around Liberty School being one of them which is the smallest school. What we would be looking to do is for students moving into town who are new with no siblings they might fall into the flexible boundary. There will be areas that are fixed due to the way the buses run. It helps control and better manage the numbers.

Chairwoman Hume asked if there is a need for something for Liberty this fall. Are you looking at modular? Is it something you can fix within the building?

Frank Hackett, Superintendent stated yes but no more than it is currently. Liberty would look the same next year as it did this year. It is very tight. We would benefit from additional space there now. A portable unit which is not modular would cost about \$200,000. It is not the best way to spend money. I have met with the staff and they are frustrated. They are looking for some more immediate relief. We do not have a lot of options.

Lisa Heger listed sub-committees of the School Committee: Collective Bargaining, Policy, Budget, Legislative Liaison, BASHY, SEPAC, Petersen Pool Sports Complex. There is also a task force on Substance Abuse lead by Dave Ringius. Frank Hackett stated we are trying to identify staffing for wellness to the middle school and hit the kids with wellness to deliver curriculum on those topics.

Chairwoman Hume stated this has been presented to us as a Council and we will be working on that also but it falls in your hands – you the School Department.

Frank Hackett stated yes it does. I know everybody wants more and we need more but I do not want to be working under the assumption that there's been nothing. The biggest first step is to map out what we are doing in the broad health and wellness not just opioid but prevention. Kids who do not feel good about themselves don't do drugs. Our second step program and bullying prevention, after school program and how do we connect kids to school are all the first steps.

Chairwoman Hume asked that all to be put together and send it to the Council. Council now has their own Opioid committee and it would be helpful if everyone is sharing information.

Councilor Owens stated this partnership has been suspended until it completes the restructuring.

There was no leadership to guide that through. There will be a relaunch of the new partnership. We need to coordinate all together or not be that effective. We need to address the issue of awareness.

Frank Hackett stated there are a lot of people working really hard. We have an obligation to coordinate with what the town is doing. I hope we take steps in unison. I will do everything if the funding is available.

Frank Hackett stated we will be working to revise goals and objectives over the next few months.

Councilor Owens asked what is going on with the technology?

Frank Hackett stated the amount of work over this past year has been tremendous to completely rewire every school. We are almost one to one with students and devices meaning at any point during the day a student can access a device. It has been tough getting a Technology Director. Job posting went out twice. We want someone with teaching and learning and technology background. We essentially split the position.

Chairwoman Hume stated we do have a copy of the Draft Budget but this will be discussed at the Ways & Means and this could change before the Budget meetings.

Chairwoman Hume stated East project is going forward.

Frank Hackett stated there still needs to be a lot of discussion about this. We will form advisory committees with parents, teachers, guidance counselors, etc. We will ask if spaces are located correctly to bring grade 5 up.

Chairwoman Hume stated there will be a tour of Liberty during the day to see the daily movement.

Lisa Heger stated when Councilors show up to schools it speaks volumes.

Chairwoman Hume stated the Library Strategic Plan is on Saturday, March 19th in Logan Auditorium.

Chairwoman Hume stated Kristen Zechello, ADA Coordinator for the Commission on Disabilities toured all schools except Flaherty and will identify areas where they are not in compliance. There will be a report on this.

It was unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at 6:48p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan M. Cimino
Clerk of the Council

Documents provided for Meeting

- June 17, 2014 Minutes
- FY17 Budget Draft

Refer to the Education & Library Committee

- 045 20 Councilor O'Brien: An Analysis of the 2020-2021 Pandemic School Reopening or take up any action relative thereto
(referred October 20, 2020)

October 14, 2020 email from Councilor O'Brien:

For referral to the Education & Library Committee, an analysis of the 2020-2021 pandemic school reopening. The council would like to congratulate all involved, information relative to concerns from residents about middle school communication and plans related to the High School as it relates to health and safety of the students.

October 27, 2020 email from Councilor O'Brien

For referral to the Education & Library Committee, an analysis of the 2020-2021 pandemic school reopening. The council would like to congratulate all involved, request information relative to concerns from residents about middle school communication and plans related to the High School as it relates to health and safety of the students.

The intention is to thank school authorities and teachers for their effort. So far as the reopening, there were concerns noted by residents related to communication and health/safety. This will provide school leadership an opportunity to shed light on those issues for residents that may have concerns and want to ensure plans are in place for student safety and success. An additional focus will be relative to students that may not be technology equipped.



OFFICE OF THE TOWN COUNCIL

Maintenance Department Recommendation

Honorable Mayor Charles Kokoros,

Braintree District 4 Town Councilor Stephen O'Brien would like to invoke the following Charter Legislation and calls for consolidation of the Municipal Maintenance Department under one department:

4-5.3. Charter allows for the Town Council to establish a central municipal maintenance department

The school committee shall provide ordinary maintenance of all school buildings and grounds, but the town council may, by ordinance, provide for the establishment of a central municipal maintenance department which may, subject to the approval of the school committee, include maintenance of school buildings and grounds.

This change would require modification to both your budget and specifically the Braintree Schools budget. As per Dr. Hackett, Braintree Public Schools back in 1972 budgeted 28 Maintenance staff and a separate number of 88 Custodians. Since that time, while there has been a reduction in building use, Braintree Schools and the School Committee have degraded that department to 6 Maintenance staff and 39 Custodians (FY2020). This may explain why some school buildings have, in the eyes of residents and teachers, degraded.

Maintenance under one department for Municipal buildings with a dedicated leader and a team approach has already provided cost savings and benefits to the Town of Braintree.

Working with our Town's Internal Auditor, we have identified maintenance line items across various departments' budgets. Consolidation to one central department is the recommendation and makes absolute sense given the needs of the Town, I know you will do the right thing and consolidate beyond what is recommended here.

I formally request the Chief Of Staff work with our Town Solicitor to craft the necessary "ordinance" as needed while this is being considered by the Town Council for action.

This move makes sense and should occur in the FY2022 budget year.

Regards,

Stephen C. O'Brien
Town Councilor
Representing District 4
Braintree Town Council

Town of Braintree					
Maintenance and Repair (Building/Equipment) Costs					
FY21 Budget					
Department/Division				FY21	Budget
Name	Dept #	Division #	Budget	Pg. #	
Elections clerk elections.....	162	16104	14,000	24	
Police station maint police bldg maint.....	211	21002	45,000	34	
Police equip maint.....	210	21003	85,000	35	
Police communications.....	210	21005	30,000	37	
Police harbormaster.....	210	21009	2,000	41	
Fire station maint bldg maint.....	221	22002	25,000	44	
Fire equip maint.....	220	22003	85,338	45	
Fire boat.....	220	22009	2,000	51	
Inspection equip maint.....	241	24103	1,500	53	
Highway DPW facilities/equip maint.....	421	40002	143,000	60	
Cemetery DPW equip maint.....	491	40003	108,190	62	
Highway DPW sidewalks.....	421	40008	29,400	67	
Highway DPW snow and ice.....	421	40011	42,824	70	
Cemetery DPW cemetery.....	491	40013	2,225	72	
Town Bldg Maint DPW town hall maint...	192	40014	25,469	73	
Parks DPW rec & community events.....	650	40015	75,000	74	
Elder affairs equip maint.....	541	54102	6,370	79	
Elder affairs bldg maint.....	541	54103	3,700	80	
W/S wastewater sewer bldg maint.....	436	43602	1,500	89	
W/S wastewater sewer equip maint.....	436	43603	10,000	90	
W/S wastewater sewer pump stations....	436	43604	28,640	91	
W/S admin & gen water admin.....	439	43801	9,970	96	
W/S water bldg maint.....	438	43802	30,000	98	
W/S water equip maint.....	438	43803	25,000	99	
W/S water system rehab.....	438	43804	10,000	100	
W/S water treatment division.....	438	43805	23,904	101	
W/S water tri-town.....	437	43807	1,500	103	
Golf course bldg maint.....	630	63002	15,000	108	
Golf course equip maint.....	630	63003	25,000	109	
Golf course cart operations.....	630	63006	60,000	112	
Stormwater bldg maint.....	640	64002	500	117	
Stormwater equip maint.....	640	64003	4,000	118	
School custodial services.....	300	0110	13,000	12	
School maintenance department.....	300	0290	1,022,948 *	26-27	
Total.....			2,006,978		

* Costs include salaries directly related to school maintenance