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**Easton Wings of Hope**

# Press Release

## **Easton Wings of Hope presents School Committee with commitment to fund the Middle School Late Bus.**

### **Easton, Massachusetts, September 8, 2016:**

At the September 8<sup>th</sup> School Committee meeting, members from Easton Wings of Hope were in attendance to present the Coalition's commitment to cover the costs for a late bus at Easton Middle School for the upcoming school year.

In presenting the donation, EWOH's steering committee member Colleen Less stated that the EWOH's support of the initiative was unanimous because it provides necessary transportation for many students to take advantage of structured activities after school. Unsupervised time during the middle school years can increase the risk of involvement in problem behaviors like substance abuse. The longer we can delay a young person's first experience with alcohol or drugs, the less likely they are to have long term consequences related to substance use.

Exact details will be worked out the school administrators, however the \$10,800 donation from EWOH should allow the late bus to run four days a week from October to May. The grant was made possible by generous donations to Easton Wings of Hope from community members and businesses.

After a vote by the School Committee to accept the donation, EMS Principal Luke Carroll thanked the group, saying "It's really incredible that this was able to happen. Students in middle school are facing the most difficult choices during those years and this will allow all students to be able to participate in structured activities where they are having fun and meeting with friends." Superintendent Dr. Andrew Keough also acknowledged that "[w]e have kids [in Easton] who desperately like to stay after school longer and this will allow them to take advantage of the many clubs and after school activities."

*Easton Wings of Hope is a community coalition working to reduce youth substance through education, awareness and policy change. The coalition was started by Easton residents Kristin and Christopher Harrison in January 2015 and partnered with the Old Colony YMCA as a non-profit.*

For more information about Easton Wings of Hope, please visit [www.eastonwingsofhope.org](http://www.eastonwingsofhope.org), like them on Facebook or email [info@eastonwingsofhope.org](mailto:info@eastonwingsofhope.org)