

Minutes of School Committee Meeting 1.17.2019

A work session was held Thursday, January 17, 2019 in the Barrington High School Library. School Committee Chair Dr. Megan Douglas called the working session to order at 7:00 p.m. Present were Dr. Douglas, Ms. Severson, Ms. Clancy, Ms. Bae (7:26) Mr. McCrann, Ms. Kuo, Mr. Messori, Dr. Dillon and Mr. Fiore.

Pledge of Allegiance

Ms. Josephine Kuo, Student Representative to School Committee, led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

STRATEGIC PILLAR: Efficient System and Resources

Mr. Messori gave an introduction to the Committee on the budget process and the changes in the budget process this year. This year, the District has incorporated all the administrators in the budget discussion, as well as incorporating the work that the District has done this year with the strategic plan. Mr. Messori highlighted some of the strategic plan strategies and goals.

- Flexible learning spaces
- Decision making processes
- Input from the public
- The process being transparent

Mr. Fiore gave a presentation on the FY20 operating budget. In his presentation, Mr. Fiore present the enrollment update, the budget framework and the FY20 challenges along with the priorities.

The enrollment review this year is similar to what has been used in the past. The District has used NESDEC (New England School Development Council) to assist with enrollment projections. The District also uses the actual enrollment of the current year and also takes into consideration the anticipated summer enrollment. Lastly, research shows that there could be an increase in enrollment from 3 to 5% with the opening of the new middle school. Mr. Fiore reviewed the class sizes for each of the grades and what the District is expecting moving forward.

A discussion regarding the enrollment projection ensued with the Committee and Mr. Fiore.

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Budget framework revolves around achieving excellence in learning and teaching. The way the District budgetarily gets there is by making sure the decisions are student-centered. The budget process this year will be using a zero based budgeting process for all the schools, monitoring the enrollment, and by being, per usual, fiscally responsible.

Also, the budget framework discussions take into consideration the return on investment. This is through the per pupil expenditure which the data ranks Barrington over 10% below the state average, students receiving a comprehensive high level educational learning, the high level of participation in Advanced Placement courses, the SAT results, and the high district performance relative to other RI Districts on RI Comprehensive Assessment.

A discussion ensued with Mr. Fiore regarding the facilities and how things are prioritized. Mr. Fiore talked about engaging a professional, through the Facilities Advisory Committee, to prioritize the most important and those that are going to be the most costly. Also, with the budgeting process, the Director of Facilities will present a budget. In his budget will be items that he feels will need to be looked at and possibly replaced in the short term.

The budgetary challenges are adhering to the district strategic plan, the enrollment, meeting student needs, the out of district tuition the transportation system, and changing the educational landscape. Also, the federal and state mandates, the pension and medical increasing rates and the state funding formula.

The meeting broke into two work sessions to discuss the budgetary priorities for FY20. Group one was with the K-5 Principals and group two was with the middle and high school principals.

The budgetary priorities include: instructional coaches for K-3 and 4-5, schedule change to a two-tier system which aligns BMS/BHS with medically recommended school start times, increased consistency of social emotional supports across all of the schools, program evaluation at BHS related to computer sciences and at BMS related to world languages and health, and the need to update the ELA curriculum across the District.

Listening Session and Group Discussion

Dr. Daft felt that there are a lot of educational priorities. She felt the priorities should be looked at on where the money will be best spent. Dr. Daft feels we need to move forward and invest in all our students and set priorities. Also, we need to be listening to the administrators.

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NEW BUSINESS

Dr. Douglas reviewed the governing principles which were adopted last summer by the School Committee. Dr. Douglas addressed that in the past with the norms and standards there was a discussion, a vote and then signatures. Dr. Douglas asked what the committee preference would be going forward. Would they like a discussion and then a vote or a discussion, vote with signatures. A discussion regarding the governing principles between the committee members ensued.

Ms. Sevetson moved and Ms. Clancy seconded to reaffirm the governing principles. The motion passed 5-0 with Dr. Douglas, Ms. Sevetson, Ms. Clancy, Mr. McCrann, and Ms. Bae voting in the affirmative.

A discussion regarding the decision making policy and protocol between the committee members ensued.

CONSENT AGENDA

Ms. Sevetson moved and Ms. Clancy seconded to accept the consent agenda. The motion passed 5-0 with Dr. Douglas, Ms. Sevetson, Ms. Clancy, Mr. McCrann and Ms. Bae voting in the affirmative.

Ms. Sevetson moved and Ms. Clancy seconded adjournment to convene in Executive Session pursuant to Rhode Island General Laws 42-46-5 (a) (1) for sessions pertaining to Superintendent Evaluation. The motion passed 5-0 with Dr. Douglas, Ms. Sevetson, Ms. Clancy, Mr. McCrann and Ms. Bae voting in the affirmative.

The executive session was adjourned at 10:06 pm and the minutes were sealed.

Dr. Douglas announced no votes were taken.

Ms. Sevetson moved and Ms. Clancy seconded to adjourn the regular meeting at 10:07 pm. The motion passed 5-0 with Dr. Douglas, Ms. Sevetson, Ms. Bae, Ms. Clancy, and Mr. McCrann voting in the affirmative.