Minutes of School Committee Meeting 2.25.2019

A business meeting of the Barrington School Committee was held Monday, February 25, 2019 in the School Committee room. School Committee Chair Dr. Megan Douglas called the meeting to order at 8:34 am. Present were Dr. Douglas, Ms. Sevetson, Ms. Clancy, Ms. Bae, Mr. McCrann, Mr. Messore, Dr. Dillon and Mr. Fiore. Absence was Ms. Kuo.

Mr. Messore explained we no longer required an Executive Session.

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

Mr. Fiore presented the updated FY20 budget, including the initiatives of instructional coaches for K-3 and 4-5, 2-tier schedule, SEL support, and ELA curriculum. He reviewed the potential savings identified, including renegotiation of a consultant contract, some special education savings, ELA curriculum savings through avoiding some previous purchases and adjusting the current purchase, a hold on some library purchases, enrollment-driven personnel changes, reorganization of special education services, and an adjustment in legal fees. With these adjustments, the new budget numbers are at 4.5% increase from FY19, down from 5.5% when presented last week.

At this time, it was felt that the administration would continue to look for other opportunities for savings, but that the two primary initiatives, schedule change and instructional coaches, are both good investments with substantial return on investments.

PERSONNEL

Ms. Sevetson moved, and Ms. Clancy seconded, to approve the Superintendent's recommendation to approve Cynthia Navarro's leave of absence from the World Language department at BHS for one year. There was no discussion. The motion passed 5-0, with Dr. Douglas, Ms. Sevetson, Ms. Clancy, Ms. Bae and Mr. McCrann voting in the affirmative.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

The next business meeting of the School Committee will be on Thursday, February 28, after the work session. At that time, we will review the budget again and vote. It was acknowledged by the Administration and the Committee that the budget is a work in progress.

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