

Minutes of School Committee Meeting 5.9.2019

A monthly business meeting of the Barrington School Committee was held on Thursday, May 9, 2019 in the School Committee Room. School Committee Chair Dr. Megan Douglas called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. Present were Dr. Douglas, Ms. Severson, Ms. Bae, Ms. Clancy, Mr. McCrann, Ms. Kuo, Mr. Messoro, Dr. Dillon and Mr. Fiore.

Pledge of Allegiance

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

Achievement Recognition

Mr. Messoro presented the achievements of our Boys Basketball, Girls Basketball, the Life Smarts Team, Indoor Track, Girls Track, the Math Team and the Unified Basketball Team. Mr. Messoro also reported that the US News & World Report ranked Barrington High School #189 nationally and #182 as a STEM school for 2019.

Public Comments

Rachel Kovach, 26 Knapton Street read a statement to the School Committee expressing her concerns and issue regarding the new school start time.

Mr. Messoro thanked Ms. Kovach for her comments.

Student Representative to the School Committee Update, Ms. Josephine Kuo

Ms. Kuo, student representative update the Committee with the student report. This past week was the last School Improvement Team meeting. At the meeting, the group reviewed the Freshmen Orientation video which will be presented to the incoming freshmen on Tuesday, May 14th. The group also discussed the student voice video that the group is planning to give to the broadcasting journalism class. Also, the students are taking the AP exams this week and next week and on May 18th the Senior Prom is scheduled.

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Superintendent Report

FY20 Budget Update

Mr. Fiore reported to the Committee that the Budget Hearing was last night, May 8th and the meeting went very well. Next will be the Financial Town meeting scheduled for May 22nd.

Special Education/MTSS report

Ms. Matthes, Director of Pupil Personnel, and Ms. Reid, SEAC parent leader, gave a presentation to the Committee on where the District is on special education and also a brief presentation on the study that was done by an outside consultant regarding the special education program. In the presentation, Ms. Matthes explained what special education is and how a student would become eligible to receive special education. There are approximately 447 students (PK – age 21) receiving services. The District currently has 54 special ed and related services professionals on staff, 45 teacher assistants, a full time nurse in each building and 4 administration and support staff. Also, there are contracted staff with different agencies. At Hampden Meadows, Middle School and the High School the District has an Alternative Learning Program (ALP) which provides social and emotional support for students with emotional disturbances and autism diagnoses. Ms. Matthes went over the next steps they will be developing and also reviewed her recommendations for next school year.

Ms. Reid updated the Committee on the Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC). They have had 9 public meetings. On May 28th, they will have their award ceremony. In January, SEAC hosted a RIPIN workshop. In October, the discussion was around school safety. This was followed up with a meeting with the Superintendent, Ms. Matthes and emergency personnel. They will continue working on developing the Best Buddies program.

Barrington Middle School Building Committee Update

Mr. Fiore provided the Barrington Middle School Building Committee update. The outside is complete and the work inside is ongoing. The project remains on budget. The landscaping work is moving forward. The trailers will be removed so the landscaping can be completed before the fall.

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The thermal scan on the roof was done last night and found no exceptions. The furniture orders have been submitted and the technology department continue their work. The next Building Committee meeting will be Monday, June 10, 2019.

District Communication Plan

Mr. Messore informed the Committee that the District is working on a new website which should be up and running by July 1st. At the next working session, Mr. Messore would like to discuss the communication plan for the district, the new website, and the options that can be added to the website and where the communication is going in the future.

Transportation Update

Mr. Messore gave an update and notified the Committee that a communication will be going out to the community tonight or tomorrow on the schedule changes for next year and to remind the community that this is a draft and that there still could be revision to the schedule. The District is looking to align the pick up times to match the pick up times that are currently in place. The District is also looking into the sifting the starts of K-3 and the 4-5 schools to see if the District can better accommodate some of run times. This data will be reported out at the next meeting. Mr. Messore feels that the Two-Tier approach will be very efficient with the buses that were recommended which are the three additional buses.

Mr. Fiore mentioned that back in 2011 one of the studies quote that the initial cost to run this program was going to be \$150 per student but by adding the third bus but that we will be accomplishing this at a much lower cost.

Also, Mr. Fiore stated that the mini-bus that the District received capital funds for at last year's financial meeting has been put out to bid and will be trading in our 2005 bus.

Mr. Messore is interested in forming a transportation task force for this summer into next year. He would like to make sure that there will be a representative from all parts of the community, as well as the transportation coordinator and a couple of building administrators.

Approval of the RI Student Survey

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This is a yearly survey that is conducted through our collaboration with the Bay Team. Part of the State requirements is to have approval by the Superintendent and the School Committee. This data will be shared with the School Committee when Joanne Royley, Substance Abuse Counselor, does her presentation. Mr. Messore is formally asking the School Committee of their approval of the RI Student Survey for Grade 6 - 12.

Ms. Sevetson moved and Ms. Clancy seconded to approve the RI Student Survey, Grade 6 - 12. The motion passed 5-0 with Dr. Douglas, Ms. Sevetson, Ms. Clancy, Mr. McCrann and Ms. Bae voting in the affirmative for the motion.

SCHOOL COMMITTEE BUSINESS

Approval of Bid for EBEC Health & Training Supplies

Mr. Fiore advised the Committee that this is our collaborative bid that we share with the other East Bay Districts. Our responsibility is to gather bids for the Health & Training Supplies. This year we received two bidders.

Ms. Sevetson moved and Ms. Clancy seconded to approval of bid #19004 - EBEC Health & Training Supplies. The motion passed 5-0 with Dr. Douglas, Ms. Sevetson, Ms. Clancy, Mr. McCrann and Ms. Bae voting in the affirmative for the motion.

Field Trip Approval - Barrington High School Outdoor Club - Franconia, NH (5/24/19)

Ms. Sevetson moved and Ms. Clancy seconded to approve the field trip for the Barrington High School Outdoor Club to Franconia Notch State Park. The motion passed 5-0 with Dr. Douglas, Ms. Sevetson, Ms. Clancy, Mr. McCrann and Ms. Bae voting in the affirmative for the motion.

Mr. Messore advised that the field trip policy will need to be review at the Policy Committee. There will no longer be any fees charged to the students for field trips. The District will need to look at some of the field trips and how they are aligned to the curriculum and also what the budgetary obligation will be. Also, what the fundraising opportunities might be to support the student's trips.

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Discussion: Health & Wellness Advisory Committee Recommendation; re: Nutritional Guidelines

The Health & Wellness Advisory Committee at the April meeting split into working groups and came up with recommendations. The three recommendations were a trial of no chocolate milk in the K-5 schools for one year and see what the outcome of the trial is. Also, to redefine the sugar by weight for the snack foods at the Middle and High School. The third recommendation was to remove lookalike items offered (ex. rice krispie treats that are sold in school as not the same as those sold in stores). These items are reformulated to meet the school lunch guidelines. The School Committee will seek feedback from the community via a memo to be sent out from the Health and Wellness Advisory Committee requesting feedback to be sent to the School Committee by email. A decision will be made at the next business meeting on June 13, 2019.

Policy Second Reading: Religious Observance Practices and Accommodations Policy: Diversity Equity Inclusivity Advisory Committee met and made minor changes to the policy. The changes were more about word choice.

Ms. Clancy read the policy. Some edits were made.

Ms. Sevetson moved Ms. Clancy seconded to accept the Religious Observance Practices and Accommodations Policy. The motion passed 5-0 with Dr. Douglas, Ms. Sevetson, Ms. Clancy, Mr. McCrann and Ms. Bae voting in the affirmative for the motion.

Policy Second Reading: Diversity, Equity and Inclusivity Policy: Ms. Bae read the policy.

Ms. Sevetson moved Ms. Clancy seconded to accept the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusivity Policy. The motion passed 5-0 with Dr. Douglas, Ms. Sevetson, Ms. Clancy, Mr. McCrann and Ms. Bae voting in the affirmative for the motion.

Resolution regarding Gun Free Schools

Dr. Douglas read the resolution on Gun Free Schools. Some edits were made.

Ms. Sevetson moved Ms. Clancy seconded to approve the Resolution: Gun Free Schools with the adjustments of the bills. The motion passed 5-0 with Dr. Douglas, Ms. Sevetson, Ms. Clancy, Mr. McCrann and Ms. Bae voting in the affirmative for the motion.

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Proposed changes to Chapter 16 regarding school governance

Dr. Douglas reviewed with the Committee what is being outlined in the changes for Chapter 16. RIASC is looking for feedback regarding the school governance changes. In Massachusetts, the school governance model puts more responsibility into the hands of the building principals. However, there is still a strong relationship with Administration and the schools. The proposed changes in RI is different from what they do in Massachusetts. Some of the difference are that the principals would be in charge of the facilities and the school improvement teams, and would be involved in hiring and possibly firing teachers. Concerns were that the principals already have a very full plate and although everyone has been going through training, facilities is not part of the training at this time. Dr. Dillon would like the decisions that are made as a team remain, so that when a student moves from one building to the next, there would not be any negative impact due to the lack of coherent consistency, which we have been striving for.

The building principal should be the educational leader of the building, working in conjunction with Administration. The same is true regarding the facilities management. These are things that were highlighted as different from Massachusetts.

One of the other things that they would like to change regarding the School Committee was to take the responsibility for approving personnel appoints away from the School Committee.

Follow up of Educational Forum on Two-Tier Schedule Initiative

Mr. Messor advised the Committee that communication has gone out to the community. Each of the groups at the Community Forum reported out the comments that were said and what the discussions were at their table. A revised FAQ from what was originally done two years ago has been sent and updated the website with the new FAQs.

Ms. Clancy read a statement to the Committee regarding her thoughts and concerns with the school start time.

Ms. Sevetson moved Ms. Clancy seconded to amend the School Committee minutes and the Executive Session minutes of 3/28/2019. The motion passed 5-0 with Dr. Douglas, Ms. Sevetson, Ms. Clancy, Mr. McCrann and Ms. Bae voting in the affirmative.

PUBLIC COMMENT

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No public comment.

CONSENT AGENDA

School Committee Minutes: April 8, 2019

School Committee Minutes: April 11, 2019

School Committee Minutes: April 25, 2019

Personnel

Jamie Testa, Cheerleading Advisor - Fall, 2019 - Barrington High School

Christine Waring, Hampden Meadows - Grade 4 - Leave of Absence

Elizabeth Alexander, ELL Department Coordinator/Chair - Resignation

Approval of Homeschooling Request

Ms. Severson moved and Ms. Clancy seconded to approve the Consent Agenda. The motion passed 5-0 with Dr. Douglas, Ms. Severson, Ms. Clancy, Mr. McCrann and Ms. Bae voting in the affirmative for the motion.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Advisory Committee reports for next meeting

Membership of the Advisory, Receive charges for next year

Superintendent Evaluation - set up times

Senior Project update

Bullying Report

Financials

Summary District Report

Update on Library Services

Two-Tier Schedule update and Evaluation procedures

Summer plans

The next business meeting will be June 13, 2019

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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Dr. Douglas recognized that was National Mental Health Awareness Day (5/9/19).

Mr. Messory recognized National Teacher Appreciation. He would like to recognize our educators in our district and nationwide who provide a quality education and support for our students. Also, National Nurse Appreciation Week. He would like to recognize our six nurses in the district and thank them for the support they give are students and our community.

Ms. Sevetson moved and Ms. Clancy seconded to adjourn at 9:53 p.m. and to convene in Executive Session pursuant to Rhode Island General Laws 42-46-5 (a) (2) for Sessions pertaining to collective bargaining with National Education Associations Barrington (NEAB) and pursuant to Rhode Island General Laws 42-46-5 (a) (3) for discussion regarding the matter of security including but not limited to the deployment of security personnel or devices . The motion passed 5-0 with Dr. Douglas, Ms. Sevetson, Ms. Bae, Ms. Clancy and Mr. McCrann voting in the affirmative.

The executive session was adjourned at 10:28 pm and the minutes were sealed.

Dr. Douglas reported that no votes were taken in Executive Session.

Ms. Sevetson moved and Ms. Clancy seconded to adjourn the regular meeting at 10:29 pm. The motion passed 5-0 with Dr. Douglas, Ms. Sevetson, Ms. Bae, Mr. McCrann and Ms. Clancy voting in the affirmative.