

Minutes of School Committee Meeting 11/02/2017

A regular meeting of the Barrington School Committee was held on Thursday, November 2, 2017 in the School Committee Room. School Committee Chair Ms. Kate Brody called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Present were Ms. Brody, Mr. Alessandro, Dr. Douglas, Ms. Pine, Mr. Sarli, Mr. Messore, Dr. Dillon, and Mr. Fiore. Ms. Clancy was absent.

Pledge of Allegiance

Ms. Kellie Polando, Entrepreneurship/Technology Teacher, Barrington Middle School, led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Achievement Recognition

Mr. Messore announced the following achievements across the District:

The Barrington High School Girls Cross Country Varsity Team is the Rhode Island Interscholastic League "Class A" Champion.

The Barrington High School Girls Tennis Team was Runner-up in the Division 1 Rhode Island Interscholastic League Tennis Tournament.

The Barrington High School Stagemasters Drama Club attended the New England Theater Conference in Cromwell, Connecticut and received several awards: Junior Gabrielle Ellicott, 1st Place in Acting; Senior Evan Weinstein, 2nd Place in Acting; Sophomore Olivia Darling, 1st Place in Set Design; and Sophomore Patrick Sheehan, 2nd Place in Set Design.

Barrington High School's Chain Reaction Club organized a "Wear ORANGE on" event on October 25th Unity Day, to raise awareness on bullying.

Hampden Meadows School Nurse Melissa McDonald was recognized at the Rhode Island Healthy Schools Coalition Breakfast.

Spotlight on Teaching and Learning

Mr. Messore introduced Ms. Kellie Polando, Barrington Middle School Entrepreneurship and Technology teacher, who presented on the Entrepreneurship and Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics (STEAM) Studio class, co-taught with Ms. Rebecca Henderson, Barrington Middle School Robotics teacher. The classes support student learning and development of 21st Century skills including critical thinking, communication, collaboration and creativity, with a plan for the exploration of community partnerships. The students will share the prototypes for their businesses during the Shark Tank presentations on November 16th and 17th at Barrington Middle School.

Information and Proposals

Dr. Dillon introduced the building administrators present at the meeting who provided the Committee a report on the 2017-2018 School Improvement Goals. Present were Nayatt School Principal Ms. Tracey Whitehead, Primrose Hill School Principal Ms. Patricia Tolento, Sowams

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School Principal Mr. James Callahan, Hampden Meadows School Principal Ms. Tracey McGee, Hampden Meadows School Assistant Principal Mr. Gino Sangiuliano, Barrington Middle School Principal Dr. Andrew Anderson and Barrington High School Principal Mr. Joseph Hurley. Every building administrator presented on the work of School Improvement Teams, including improvement plans with goals for literacy, numeracy, and social emotional learning. The goals by school were identified with specificity based on its needs as identified by student achievement data; mid-year and end-of-year progress reporting will occur using common assessment data. New areas of focus for 2017-2018 include a restructured format of common planning teacher teams, goals to address gender achievement gaps, strategies connected to social emotional learning and mindfulness, and implementation of the 5 Point Scale. A brief question and answer period followed individual school presentations. Mr. Messoro congratulated the principals on their work to identify school goals to meet student needs and reach high levels of proficiency. He stated the Administration will continue to examine, with fiscal responsibility, its ongoing support for teaching and learning; this will include embedded professional development, instructional coach capacities, and the reallocation of personnel in enrichment and mathematics support programs. Ms. Brody thanked the principals for supporting excellence in teaching and learning.

Public Comments

Ms. Maura McCrann, 4 Woodford Road, expressed her appreciation for the presentation, with comments on the following components: a request for a partnership with families to reinforce the work on the 5 Point Scale at school, support for the work of the Health and Wellness Committee relative to the prevention work being done to address student stress and anxiety with a request for consideration of its expansion to a K-12 focus, support for consideration of a quarterly survey relative to the implementation of the Homework Policy at the High School level, the discrepancy in the gender gap noting the social emotional piece and the national data on young boys' difficulty with developing self-discipline and planning skills, and support for consideration of teaching executive function skill development at younger grade levels.

Ms. Gina Bae, 64 Governor Bradford Drive, member of the Strategic Planning Steering Committee and the Hampden Meadows School Improvement Team, asked Dr. Dillon for clarification relative to the relationship between the goals that will be defined in the new District Strategic Plan and the school improvement goals that are tied to the current Strategic Plan. Dr. Dillon explained that the 2017-2018 school improvement plans are in process and overall will not change for this year; however, additional strategies and/or action steps or strategy principles may be added based on the new strategic plan. Dr. Dillon stated that major changes will be implemented in the 2018-2019 school year and will be aligned to the new District Strategic plan.

Ms. Gina Bae asked about the school specific employee and parent surveys, if those results will be tied into each school's improvement goals. Dr. Dillion stated that once the new strategic plan is in place, building administrators and school improvement teams at every school will work through survey results and focus group data to develop future school improvement plans.

Mr. Messoro noted that Studer Education is providing leadership professional development sessions for district administrators as one component of its work on strategic planning with the Barrington Public Schools.

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Old Business

Superintendent and Staff

Mr. Fiore provided an update on the Barrington Middle School (BMS) Building Project, including a synopsis of four meetings relative to Technology, coordination and planning with the Town of Barrington and Public Safety land proposed timing for a public safety meeting, review of the Collaborative for High Performance Schools (CHIPS) program criteria and goals; and phasing for the construction process. Mr. Messore stated that recent meetings with the Owners Project Manager and Kaestle Boos Architects have addressed design and education program needs for all curricula areas. The next BMS Building Committee meeting will be held on November 13th at 7:00 p.m. at Barrington Middle School.

Mr. Messore reported that the information from the Strategic Planning Steering Committee meeting on October 18th relative to the focus group themes has been posted to the Barrington Public Schools website. The next Strategic Planning Steering Committee meeting will focus on the analysis of quantitative data and the development of a draft of the strategic plan; the meeting will be held on Thursday, November 9th at 4:00 p.m. at the Barrington High School library.

Mr. Messore provided an update on Transportation including a report on the first week of use of the recently completed high school access road and its positive impact on bus schedule efficiencies and traffic patterns at Barrington High School dismissal. The Administration will continue its evaluation to evaluate the traffic patterns at Barrington Middle School and will provide a report at the November 19th School Committee meeting. A brief discussion ensued on the safety and traffic issues at Barrington Middle School.

School Committee

There was no Old Business from the School Committee.

New Business

Student Representative to the School Committee Update

Mr. Sarli included the following information in his Student Representative Update: students are excited about the new access road, and The Talon, Barrington High School's newspaper, published its first print copy since 2014 and has resumed publication on a quarterly basis.

Superintendent and Staff

Personnel

Mr. Alessandro moved and Dr. Douglas seconded approval of the recommendation of the Superintendent relative to the appointment of Ms. Jennifer Bergevine, Advisor, Gender Equality and Awareness Club, Barrington High School. The motion passed 4-0 with Ms. Brody, Mr. Alessandro, Dr. Douglas and Ms. Pine voting in the affirmative.

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Mr. Alessandro moved and Dr. Douglas seconded approval of the recommendation of the Superintendent relative to the appointment of Ms. Elaine Dickervitz, Advisor, Spanish Club, Barrington High School. The motion passed 4-0 with Ms. Brody, Mr. Alessandro, Dr. Douglas and Ms. Pine voting in the affirmative.

Mr. Alessandro moved and Dr. Douglas seconded approval of the recommendation of the Superintendent relative to the appointment of Mr. Mark Dumas, Coach, Freshman Boys Basketball Team, Barrington High School. The motion passed 4-0 with Ms. Brody, Mr. Alessandro, Dr. Douglas and Ms. Pine voting in the affirmative.

Mr. Alessandro moved and Dr. Douglas seconded approval of the recommendation of the Superintendent relative to the appointment of Mr. Zachary Quaratella, Advisor, Chess Club, Barrington High School. The motion passed 4-0 with Ms. Brody, Mr. Alessandro, Dr. Douglas and Ms. Pine voting in the affirmative.

Mr. Alessandro moved and Dr. Douglas seconded approval of the recommendation of the Superintendent relative to the appointment of Mr. Matthew Sage, Advisor, Allied Medical Professionals Club, Barrington High School. The motion passed 4-0 with Ms. Brody, Mr. Alessandro, Dr. Douglas and Ms. Pine voting in the affirmative.

Mr. Alessandro moved and Dr. Douglas seconded approval of the recommendation of the Superintendent relative to the appointment of Mr. Patrick Scott, Advisor, The Talon, Barrington High School. The motion passed 4-0 with Ms. Brody, Mr. Alessandro, Dr. Douglas and Ms. Pine voting in the affirmative.

Mr. Messore announced the Leave of Absence of Ms. Eliza Pylotis, Mathematics Department, Barrington High School.

Mr. Fiore provided an overview of the Monthly Expenditures for September, 2017 in the amount of \$3,673,274.43, with no significant variances. He noted that potential need has been identified for an additional staff position at the elementary level to support student services and, after further evaluation by the Administration, it will be addressed at a future School Committee meeting.

Mr. Alessandro moved and Dr. Douglas seconded approval of monthly expenditures for September, 2017 in the amount of \$3,673,274.43. The motion passed 4-0 with Ms. Brody, Mr. Alessandro, Dr. Douglas and Ms. Pine voting in the affirmative.

Mr. Messore reported on the visit of Commissioner Ken Wagner and Deputy Commissioner Mary Ann Snider, Rhode Island Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (RIDE), to Barrington Middle School on October 20th as the first stop on their statewide tour. He stated the

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focus was on the integration of mathematics across curricula areas, with visits in the classrooms of mathematics related courses, including the co-taught Entrepreneurship/Technology class and the Industrial Arts class. Dr. Dillon commented on the positive feedback shared by Commissioner Wagner and Deputy Commissioner Snider about the high level of student engagement that they witnessed during their visit. Mr. Messore reported that the Commissioner will be returning to the District to learn more about and follow up on the districtwide work with the Lead, Educate and Promote the Profession (LEAPP) initiative as it relates to the 2012 Race to the Top grant to the Barrington Public Schools. He will provide the Committee with an update about the Commissioner's future visit and suggested that the two teacher leaders of the LEAPP program share a presentation with the Committee at a future meeting.

School Committee

Dr. Douglas reported on the October 26th Budget Forecasting Committee meeting and the development of a formal document for use as a planning reference for the municipal and school budget forecasting process. The discussion included content and format including strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats (SWOT) over the next several years. Dr. Douglas will be drafting the document for its introduction at the next Budget Forecasting meeting on December 7th. The goal is to have a formal document to present to the Committee on Appropriations, School Committee and Town Council by mid-December or early January; it is intended for additional use as an information resource document for the community.

Mr. Alessandro provided a report on the November 1st Health & Wellness Committee meeting, including discussion relative to the following topics: a PreK-12 Social Emotional Learning Task Force, a synopsis of the Rhode Island Healthy Schools Coalition Breakfast, and the first report of the Student Assistance Counselor. The next Health and Wellness Committee meeting will be held at 8:30 am on December 6th at Barrington Middle School.

Public Comment

There was no Public Comment at this time.

Decision Items

Mr. Alessandro moved and Dr. Douglas seconded to approve the Consent Agenda. The motion passed 4-0 with Ms. Brody, Mr. Alessandro, Dr. Douglas and Ms. Pine voting in the affirmative.

Discussion Items

Mr. Messore reported that the next School Committee meeting on November 16th will include a report on the Barrington Middle School Building Project and the Student Achievement Data report.

Dr. Douglas requested an update on the World Language Educator Search at Barrington Middle School.

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Ms. Brody suggested that the next regular meeting agenda include Athletics & Student Activities Action Plan Expectations as an opportunity for recalibration of the discussion to ensure clarity for the ongoing work to expand communication and support knowledge for student athletes and their families.

Announcements

Mr. Messore announced that, as part of the first cohort of the Lighthouse Schools Grant program, Barrington Middle School will hold a Hackathon on November 7th at 2:30 p.m.

Dr. Dillon announced that Barrington High School will be participating in the PBS Quiz Show Competition, November 11th and 12th. Ms. Brody requested that information be provided to the School Committee with additional information about the competition.

Mr. Messore announced a Panel Discussion as a follow up to the *Screenagers* film will be held on November 8th at 7:00 p.m. at the Barrington Middle School Library.

Mr. Alessandro expressed his appreciation to the Town of Barrington Department of Public Works for the efficient job they did removing the downed trees from the school grounds after the recent storm.

Mr. Messore announced that he sent a letter to the Town Manager, Police and Fire Department Works thanking them for their collaborative effort in working to resume the opening of all schools and keeping the streets and students safe after the storm.

Mr. Alessandro and Dr. Douglas seconded adjournment of the regular meeting at 10:35 p.m. to convene in Executive Session pursuant to Rhode Island General Laws Section 42-46-5 (a) (2) pertaining to collective bargaining or litigation, or work sessions regarding matters pertaining to collective bargaining or litigation. The motion passed 4-0 with Ms. Brody, Mr. Alessandro, Dr. Douglas and Ms. Pine voting in the affirmative.

Mr. Alessandro moved and Dr. Douglas seconded adjournment of the Executive Session at 11:05 p.m., and to seal the minutes. The motion passed 4-0 with Ms. Brody, Mr. Alessandro, Dr. Douglas and Ms. Pine voting in the affirmative.

Ms. Brody stated that no votes were taken in Executive Session.

Mr. Alessandro moved and Dr. Douglas seconded adjournment of the regular meeting at 11:06 p.m. The motion passed 4-0 with Ms. Brody, Mr. Alessandro, Dr. Douglas and Ms. Pine voting in the affirmative.