

### **Minutes of School Committee Meeting 11/30/2017**

A regular meeting of the Barrington School Committee was held on Thursday, November 30, 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, Ms. Clancy, Mr. Alessandro, Dr. Douglas, Ms. Pine, Mr. Sarli, Mr. Messore, Dr. Dillon and Mr. Fiore.

#### **Pledge of Allegiance**

Dr. Diana Siliezar-Shields, District Teacher of the Year and Barrington High School Science Department Chair, led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

#### **Achievement Recognition**

Mr. Messore announced the following achievements across the District.

The Barrington High School iCreate lab and deeper learning initiative was commended by the State Standards Committee.

65 Barrington students from both the High School and Middle School were selected by the Rhode Island Music Education Association to perform in the All-State Ensembles for 2018. Six Barrington students were accepted on multiple instruments.

Barrington High School Math teachers Jason Appel and Samuel Schachter will be presenting *Using Playlists to Support Self-Directed Learning* at the 2018 Blended and Personalized Learning Conference, April 5 - 7, 2018.

Nayatt School Nurse Nichole Collins, MEd, BSN, RN, NCSN has completed the NBCS certification program and is a Nationally Board Certified School Nurse. This accomplishment signifies her commitment to quality student care and lifelong learning.

#### **Information and Proposals**

Mr. Messore provided the first Bullying report as of November 30, 2017, noting two investigations at Barrington High School and one at Sowams School, with an outcome of one actual report of bullying.

Mr. Messore provided an overview of the Evaluation of Programs process developed by the Administration. This process includes a review of state and federal mandates, student needs, enrollment, relevance of course offering and assignments, per pupil expenditures by program, reallocation of existing resources, and the District's zero-based budget approach, all of which are used to inform data-based budget decisions based on program effectiveness. Discussion ensued on programs and resources that meet student needs and align with the Strategic Plan,

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reallocation and sharing of resources, the world language program at Barrington Middle School, and other metrics that might be used to evaluate programs.

Dr. Dillon provided an overview of the 2016-2017 New England Common Assessment Program (NECAP) science assessment results, as well as a review of the work that has been done to align the District's science curriculum to Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS). These efforts include an increase in scientific inquiry in all grades, the use of science notebooks, a new focus on engineering and science practices, and an emphasis on interdisciplinary connections between science and math and English. She introduced the building administrators and educators present at the meeting who provided the Committee the last report on the NECAP science assessment. Present were Hampden Meadows School Principal Ms. Tracey McGee, Hampden Meadows School Science Teacher Ms. Carrie Clegg, Barrington Middle School Principal Dr. Andrew Anderson, Barrington High School Principal Mr. Joseph Hurley and Barrington High School Science Department Chair Dr. Diana Siliezar-Shields. Discussion ensued regarding proficiencies and interventions. The Committee expressed its appreciation to the administrators and educators for their investment in their students and for being leaders in 21<sup>st</sup> century learning. Mr. Messor expressed his appreciation of the collaboration of the administrators and educators on decisions and accomplishments they have made over the last six years in the PK-12 science program.

Ms. Brody requested that there be a change in order of an agenda item under "New Business, School Committee" to address a field trip request.

Dr. Anderson presented a request for approval of the Barrington Middle School 8<sup>th</sup> Grade field trip to Washington, DC on May 31 – June 2, 2018. This trip will include visits to the National Museum of Natural History, Martin Luther King Memorial, National Mall, the Capitol, Mount Vernon, Arlington Cemetery and the Air and Space Museum. He noted the cost is higher than previous years due to an earlier departure time, and that scholarship funds are available to cover up to 50% of the cost so that all students will have the opportunity to participate.

**Ms. Clancy moved, and Mr. Alessandro seconded approval of the Barrington Middle School 8th Grade field trip to Washington, DC. The motion passed 5-0 with Ms. Brody, Ms. Clancy, Mr. Alessandro, Dr. Douglas and Ms. Pine voting in the affirmative.**

**Public Comment**

There was no Public Comment.

**Old Business**

**Superintendent and Staff**

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Mr. Fiore, Ms. Clancy and Mr. Larry Trim of Kaestle Boos Associates, Inc. provided the Barrington Middle School (BMS) Building Committee report, including a revised timeline which includes December 13 as the anticipated date to issue documents for Public Bid, the contractor bid/review phase from December, 2017-January, 2018, award of a contract in mid-February, 2018 and the start of construction in March, 2018. Mr. Fiore stated that he will be attending the State School Building Task Force meeting on December 7<sup>th</sup> to learn about and discuss consideration of state reimbursement incentives. A brief discussion ensued. The next meeting of the Barrington Middle School Building Committee will be held on Monday, December 18 at 7:00 p.m. at the Barrington Middle School Library.

Mr. Messore introduced Mr. George Finn, Director of Athletics and Student Activities, who provided an update to the Committee regarding his work on the Athletics and Student Activities Action Plan. This work includes the roll out of an "athlete experience reflection" questionnaire. Data received from this questionnaire will be incorporated in the development of the action plan. The Athletic Advisory Council is continuing its work to develop a philosophy statement, policies and procedures, and goals and objectives for Barrington High School athletes and students. Discussion ensued regarding the questionnaire and the reporting of results. Mr. Messore will provide quarterly updates to the School Committee.

Mr. Alessandro expressed his appreciation to Mr. Finn for his presentation to former Coach Frank Murgo, renaming the Barrington High School Gymnasium after him. Ms. Brody inquired about the formal dedication. Mr. Messore noted the continuing work to complete construction of the signage at the gymnasium. Mr. Finn state that, upon completion of construction, a dedication ceremony will be held at the High School.

Mr. Messore provided a Transportation update relative to safety and traffic at Barrington Middle School, including the ongoing collaboration with the Administration and the Barrington Police Department relative to bike safety, traffic patterns and potential improvements. The Administration will mobilize a plan for evaluation of bus ridership data in an effort to capture transportation efficiencies, and will provide the information to the Policy Committee to help in its discussion of the Transportation Policy. Discussion ensued on early pick-up times, idling buses, rider counts, potential impact of construction work in the spring, and external review of the data.

Mr. Messore provided an update on the status of efforts to offer child care options at Hampden Meadows School. Two vendors have requested information from the Administration to support compliance with regulations for licensure. Discussion ensued regarding a timeline and regarding unsanctioned vendor communications to families in the District. Ms. Brody requested the Administration communicate the status of the child care options to families in the District.

**School Committee**

There was no Old Business from the School Committee.

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**New Business**

**Student Representative to the School Committee Update**

Mr. Sarli provided the following information in his Student Representative Update:

- Advisory students are creating cards for patients in Hasbro Children's Hospital in recognition of Giving Tuesday
- Barrington Education Foundation (BEF) Showcase on Teaching and Learning is Saturday, December 9, 2:00 – 4:30 p.m.
- Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) are collecting donations for March of Dimes
- Superlatives for Seniors.

**Superintendent and Staff**

**Personnel**

**Ms. Clancy moved and Mr. Alessandro seconded approval of the recommendation of the Superintendent relative to the appointment of Mr. Brett Kearns, Yearbook Advisor, Barrington Middle School. The motion passed 5-0 with Ms. Brody, Ms. Clancy, Mr. Alessandro, Dr. Douglas and Ms. Pine voting in the affirmative.**

Mr. Fiore provided an overview of the Monthly Expenditures for October, 2017 in the amount of \$3,963,585.21. He stated that District expenditures are on target for the year. He reported that the Administration will not be making a recommendation for an additional educator at this time. A brief discussion ensued on the "Employee Benefits", "Substitutes", and "Social Workers" line items.

**Ms. Clancy moved and Mr. Alessandro seconded approval of monthly expenditures for October, 2017 in the amount of \$3,963,585.21. The motion passed 5-0 with Ms. Brody, Ms. Clancy, Mr. Alessandro, Dr. Douglas and Ms. Pine voting in the affirmative.**

Mr. Fiore introduced a discussion regarding the way in which the District procures legal counsel. He suggested that as the FY 18 operating budget is being developed, it may make sense to review legal services and fee structure options. Discussion ensued on past years' legal fees and services, and the recent decision by the Policy Committee to incorporate a review of all proposed policies by legal counsel. The Committee requested that the Administration provide historical reference data for continued discussion at its next meeting to be held on December 14.

Mr. Fiore confirmed that official District enrollment, as of October 1, is 3337, and noted that the Administration will present a district enrollment data report, including historical trends and future projections as reported by the New England School Development Council (NESDEC), at the next School Committee meeting on December 14. Mr. Messoro noted that Administration is communicating with the Town Manager regarding projects in town that may have an impact on

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future enrollment. Ms. Brody suggested that the demographic analysis completed as part of planning for the new Barrington Middle School may be a data source for future projections.

Mr. Messore reported on the recent 2-day Studer Education “Destination High Performance Conference” in Nashville, Tennessee that was attended by Ms. Brody, Mr. Alessandro, Dr. Douglas, Dr. Dillon, Mr. Hurley and Mr. Messore. This conference included Performance Excellence presentations from districts from across the nation; Barrington Public Schools was the only district in attendance from New England. These districts, as Studer Education partners, shared their experiences and promising practices with the development of systems approaches for continuous improvement. There was discussion regarding assessing and diagnosing strengths and weaknesses, and the use of these assessments to align goals, set priorities and create action plans. Also discussed was service excellence, the use of score cards, and shared common obstacles and successes in the quest for organizational excellence.

**School Committee**

Ms. Clancy asked for the Committee’s endorsement of the Final 100% Construction Documents presented by Kaestle Boos Associates, Inc. (KBA).

**Ms. Clancy moved and Mr. Alessandro seconded to approve the final 100% Construction Documents presented by Kaestle Boos Associates, Inc. for inclusion in the Barrington Middle School Project Bid Package. The motion passed 5-0 with Ms. Brody, Ms. Clancy, Mr. Alessandro, Dr. Douglas, and Ms. Pine voting in the affirmative.**

Mr. Fiore provided the following dates relative to the bidding process: bid advertisement beginning on December 13, mandatory pre-bid meeting for potential bidders on December 20, questions from contractors due by January 5, 2018, responses to questions from contractors due by January 12, and final bids due January 19, 2018. Mr. Fiore announced that the Rhode Island School Building Task Force meeting will be held on December 7 from 4:30 – 6:00 p.m. in Conference Room A, Department Administration Building.

Mr. Messore provided an update on implementation of the Communication Policy, including a summer Administrators Communication Workshop facilitated by Communications Consultant Chris Horan, staff training, design and use of social media, school newsletters, and a community bulletin board. He reported on the Administration’s work with Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) presidents to solicit their feedback, including a proposed second meeting. He stated that Administration is developing a document for parents to be distributed through school newspapers regarding different communication tools and how to use them. Discussion ensued. Mr. Sarli expressed concern regarding the use of Twitter versus other platforms that have a stronger following. Dr. Douglas reported that she is researching Instagram and seeking student assistance on other forms of communication.

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Ms. Brody raised the topic of School Committee members' personal contact information to be published in the Town calendar. This information is due December 8. Dr. Douglas voiced her concern with providing her personal contact information for the calendar, and requested a school email account be setup for school related business. Discussion ensued on the use of Google numbers and school email accounts. Ms. Brody requested the Administration follow up with each Committee member after the meeting.

Ms. Brody requested that Mr. Fiore share with the Committee an overview of the process Tiverton Public Schools used to evaluate and update its website.

Ms. Brody introduced for discussion the idea of a community forum on electronic cigarettes and vaping, given the increase in use among youth. She requested that the Health and Wellness Committee provide a recommendation regarding educational strategies for youth and the community. Mr. Messore noted the Health and Wellness Committee's proactive work. Upcoming events include a discussion of vaping at the Barrington High School Parent Association meeting on December 5, discussion regarding use and identification of e-cigs and vaping at Barrington High School's Faculty Meeting on December 12, a week-long focus on student awareness in December, and the Bay Team's efforts to plan with Barrington High School, Barrington Middle School, and Hampden Meadows School for a Spring Community Forum on vaping identification and dangers.

**Public Comment**

There was no Public Comment.

**Decision Items**

**Mr. Alessandro moved and Dr. Douglas seconded approval of the Consent Agenda.**

Dr. Douglas noted two corrections.

**The motion passed 4-0 with Ms. Brody, Mr. Alessandro, Dr. Douglas and Ms. Pine voting in the affirmative. Ms. Clancy abstained as she was not present at the November 2, 2017 meeting.**

**Discussion Items**

Mr. Messore reported that the next School Committee meeting on December 14 will be the annual Organizational Meeting. He will present District Enrollment Data at this meeting. He also noted that "Approval of 2018-2023 Barrington Public Schools Strategic Plan" should be moved to February 8 on the list of "2017-2018 Tentative Dates and Topics."

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Ms. Brody added that a Health & Wellness Committee update, a Budget Forecasting Committee report, a first read of a policy formerly known as the Non-Discrimination Policy, and of the School Internet Filtering Policy should also be included.

Ms. Brody proposed a Lead, Educate, and Promote the Profession (LEAPP) presentation by lead teachers.

**Announcements**

Mr. Messore announced Barrington Education Foundation's "Extraordinary Teaching and Learning: A Student Showcase" on December 9th, 2:00 – 4:30 p.m.

Dr. Dillon announced the December 11 Parent/Teacher Conferences for grades K-5 and Professional Learning for grades 6 – 12.

**Ms. Clancy moved and Mr. Alessandro seconded adjournment of the regular meeting at 10:30 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 5-0 with Ms. Brody, Ms. Clancy, Mr. Alessandro, Dr. Douglas and Ms. Pine voting in the affirmative.**

**Ms. Clancy moved and Mr. Alessandro seconded adjournment of the Executive Session at 11:15 p.m. and sealing of the minutes. The motion passed 5-0 with Ms. Brody, Ms. Clancy, Mr. Alessandro, Dr. Douglas and Ms. Pine voting in the affirmative.**

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

**Ms. Clancy moved and Mr. Alessandro seconded adjournment of the regular meeting at 11:17 p.m. The motion passed 5-0 with Ms. Brody, Ms. Clancy, Mr. Alessandro, Dr. Douglas and Ms. Pine voting in the affirmative.**